

SUCCESS WITH ENGLISH GOOSEBERRIES.

MR. EDITOR,—The gooseberry season being now nearly over, I shall give your readers a few words regarding some experiments which I have been making with English varieties of that fruit. I have been testing forty different kinds, and am convinced that with generous treatment and careful pruning, with a view to renewing the wood, the only thing to be dreaded is *overbearing*. If the bushes are not allowed to rest, by stripping them almost entirely of their fruit, at least once in eight years, there is a great likelihood of the bushes becoming exhausted, and eventually dying. This has been my experience with the Crown Bob, Whitesmith, Red Warrington and Ocean Wave, which I have grown for the last fifteen years.

During that time I have had an abundant crop every year, except with the exhausted bushes, and have had no trace of mildew on any of the English sorts. I feel persuaded that on a clay or clay loam soil with proper care mildew need not be feared; on sandy soil or a sandy loam I have no experience and cannot speak.

I know of no other small fruit which will give such abundant crops or so well reward the labor of its cultivator.

I am in favor of training the bushes to a single stem of about eight inches from the surface of the ground to where they branch out. I have tried stems fifteen inches high but found

the plants were not so vigorous in growth, did not bear so heavily, and were not so long-lived. The nearer the ground, while securing a free circulation of air under the branches, the better.

The severe frost this spring caused a good many of the blossoms and partly formed fruit to drop off, and the intense heat in July injured many more, causing them to whiten on the side exposed to the rays of the sun, and by and by to drop off, while others not so badly scalded by the sun were so injured that they did not mature properly. The Industry suffered most from the heat. Fully one-half dropped off and the remainder were so injured that I failed to get a single good berry. My experience of this variety leads me to believe that it has been greatly over-estimated. It has not yielded such large crops nor is it equal in quality to the most of the English sorts which I have tested.

The following tabulated statement, which will be found on the next page, is the result of my experience :—

The others, I have not their names or have not sufficiently tried them to decide on their merits.

In conclusion I would suggest that some of our hybridizers would be rewarded by hybridizing with the pollen of some good English variety on the best American, and would confer a great boon upon those whose soil is sandy.