

to general practice some discrimination between market varieties of apples, pears and plums, and those of higher flavor probably, but not so common on account of not carrying so well, or from some other such cause. Such discrimination in our prize exhibitions would go far to introduce a very general cultivation of apples and pears, which at present, for several reasons, are in abeyance. We might surely blend the profitable, the beautiful, and the pleasant, the interest of the nurseryman—the adornment of the orchard and table both of the farmer and professional man.

Another point of attention in fruit culture that is to advance its best interests, is the inculcation of the more general practice of thinning the fruit. Being myself one of the greedy sort, I am perhaps the last man who ought to lecture other growers on their failure in securing good fruit. I am so impressed, however, from various reasons, of the urgent propriety of thinning out, that I cannot but make brief mention of it.

We have all noticed the fine fruit on our trees in the season when it is not bearing heavily. This year, for example, I had a Seckel that bore a heavy crop last year and was allowed to do so. The tree did its own thinning this last season, and only produced a few specimens: the consequence is, that the crop is exceedingly large and handsome—in fact the largest Seckels I ever produced—good results to the tree as well as to the fruit—the tree will bear more generally year after year—the fruit is infinitely finer—and the amount in weight is not far short of a great crop of poor fruit. By a judicious system of thinning, I have also noticed—in having it practised on one tree—that we get rid, to a large extent, of the apple and pear moth worm. This is not a small advantage, for if the thinning out be done just when the moisture of late spring and early summer begins to fail, the tree is much helped in maturing the good fruit, and pests are prevented coming to maturity, and so strengthened to bury themselves for future depredations.

The preserving of fruit and lengthening out its period is an important question to the fruit producer. Much talk, trouble, and money has been expended, but much, almost everything, remains to be done. We believe in burying them in the earth. In the preservation of grapes, we have heard of charcoal water being employed, the stems of the fruit-bearing vine being put into bottles containing the water. The expense and trouble connected with such a process will ever go far to prevent its common use. Our neighbours across the lines have come nearest obviating the difficulty by the use of their preserving cans. Ingenuity, however, will yet discover cheaper and more common means for preserving grapes beyond the season.

Mr. Reid, of Port Dalhousie, has produced a grape that seems to me in advance of any other, as admirably suited for a raisin grape. When exhibited at St. Catharines last week, it seemed to me to have all the characteristics of a good drying grape. The production of such a grape may be of no pecuniary advantage to the producer, but assuredly the country will profit by its general introduction and cultivation.

The fostering of the labour of the Hybridizer has received attention from this Association. This branch of the art of gardening has been long known and practised by the nations of antiquity. What an endless store of observation and production is opened up to us through this wonderful process. We are believers in natural selection as well as in the nicest manipulations of art, and fine seedings are to be looked for from both sources.

An Act of Parliament to enforce the destruction of moth-eaten fallen fruit is much needed. The insect pests are making rapid strides among our crops of fruit. We trust that the Commissioner of Agriculture will give this subject the attention it demands, and should the present Agricultural Act require amendment get a clause inserted, making it imperative on all fruit growers to destroy fallen fruit.

I cannot close without thanking you, gentlemen, for your kind indulgence throughout my year of office. I shall always look back with honest pride to the uniform urbanity with which you treated me, and in retiring into the ranks of our Association from which your distinguished consideration elevated me, will only feel too happy in furthering, to the utmost of my ability, the best interests of your Association.

With devout thankfulness to the Giver of all good for permitting us to prosecute the arts of peace—having driven the ruthless invader from our border—and to enjoy the peace, happiness, and plenty which crown the labours of the agriculturist and horticulturist