

sensible of the importance of planting evergreens for beauty and shelter in a climate like ours, where usually the grass is brown and the deciduous trees are leafless for six months in the year. The deciduous trees that were planted around the common a few years ago look healthy and thriving, and are rapidly conferring a park-like beauty upon what was before a bare howling wilderness. The addition of some spruces or firs or Scotch pines judiciously placed would greatly increase the adornment in the winter season. A row or two of neat formal spruces inside the railings of the old Province Building would lighten up the city with a Christmas garniture that would gladden many an eye in the dull time of year.

THE ANNUAL GRANTS TO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES are usually paid about this time. The Board have for several years been striving to make the distribution earlier in the season, to meet the convenience of societies; but it has been found impracticable to do so. Whilst one half of the societies are urging the Secretary to send them their warrants, to enable them to draw their allowance, the other half have not completely complied with the requirements of the Act, and thus it is impossible to calculate the rateable proportion to which each is entitled. Many Secretaries seem to think that they have merely to mail their Return to the Secretary of the Board, and wait for their warrant by return mail. The Committee appointed by the Board to adjust the grants for the year, have nearly completed their work, and in course of a few days we hope to forward warrants to all societies entitled to receive them. A list of grants to societies for 1870 will appear in our next number.

With the beginning of a new year, changes take place in PERIODICAL LITERATURE. The old and respectable *Gardeners Chronicle and Agricultural Gazette* of England, comes out in a new and improved type, but the selection of general news, which used to be so useful to Colonial readers, is dropped. The French journal *L'Illustration Horticole*, which has so long and so well illustrated the garden Botany of Europe, is now to be edited by M. E. Andre, who is said to be more of a gardener than a scholar, and the periodical will therefore probably change its character. The *Canadian Naturalist* will be published quarterly. Most of the Halifax newspapers are now dailies.

We observe that there is a little teapot tempest about CHLOROPHYLL, the green colouring matter of plants, arising out of a spectral lucubration which was supposed to settle the character of that substance. Those who suppose that the

endochrome of diatoms is so simple in its chemical character as to be identifiable with chlorophyll will probably find they are mistaken. A great deal of work has to be done in reference to chlorophyll besides peeping at its spectrum, before we can establish even approximately its true chemical character.

WE would direct the special attention of our readers to the detail of experiments with CRUSHED BONES given in another column by H. E. Decie, Esq. It will be seen that the results justify every word that has been written in our columns in reference to bone manure. Mr. Stanford manfully runs the Mill, notwithstanding the low demand made upon it by our farmers; crushed bones, fine and coarse, are always to be had at a reasonable price, either at the Mill, Four Mile House, or at his store near the Police Office, and we hope that Agricultural societies will interest themselves in sustaining the Mill, and enable their members to profit by it. It was established through the efforts of the Agricultural Board, and it is now for the local societies and the farmers to sustain it.

THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR FOR 1869.

Continued from last No.

MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS.

The exhibition in this department was under the circumstances a good one, although owing to delays on the railroads many articles did not reach the Fair at all. The show of mowing and reaping machines was as usual, very fine, as was also the case with ploughs, horse-rakes and drills. The display of stoves was unprecedentedly large and interesting. The exhibition of machinery in motion was far below former years.

GRAIN AND VEGETABLES.

The new regulation of the Society requiring all entries to be made three weeks prior to the opening of the exhibition, operated no more disadvantageously in any department than in that of farm products.

The past season has been unusually backward, and the weather, in many portions of the State, unfavorable to the early growth and ripening of the products of the soil; consequently, many would-be exhibitors in Nos. 22 and 23, were not prepared in the middle of August to decide upon the propriety of becoming exhibitors.

Of this, abundant evidence was had in the innumerable regrets made us by tillers of the soil, that they had not completed their entries, as previously contemplated.

Tardiness of the season precluded entirely the idea of any considerable or

even fair exhibition of Indian corn. So of Buckwheat and Potatoes; and in many portions of the State, farmers were at the time of the Fair still engaged in harvesting their oats and flax.

DAIRY—SUGGESTIONS ON MAKING AND MARKETING OF BUTTER AND CHEESE.

The exhibition of butter and cheese was not large, but most of the specimens were of good quality. As the Fair was located in a section of the State where the dairy interests have not been much developed, probably we could not expect an extensive show of dairy products. One fact, however, was manifest, that soils and counties not hitherto known for the production of butter and cheese, can be made to yield a superior article, Saratoga county having taken the prize for two successive years; and that the entire State of New York is peculiarly adapted to this purpose. Success is not so much a question of soil, as climate. Some of the butter exhibited, put up in large crocks and tubs, was partially spoiled, which leads me to suggest to the butter makers of the State more care in skimming milk and packing. Too much sour milk is often mixed with the cream, which causes rancidness. This, with the sudden changes and extreme temperature to which butter is subjected, is, no doubt, the fruitful cause of so much poor butter and therefore of great losses to farmers. Fully two-thirds of all the butter going to market is affected, and sells at a depreciated price. It is generally the case that the bottom of tubs of butter is the poorest, giving rise to the suspicion of fraud, when the fact is that, in packing the successive layers are more exposed to the atmosphere than the top of the firkin, which is carefully covered with salt when filled. The system of preparing and marketing butter in warm weather, in this State, can be improved. The butter is injured in packing, and being sent forward in ice cars, is subjected to a low temperature, and then unloaded and carried to the market probably in a broiling sun, which sudden and violent change is enough of itself to ruin the best article. Families in hot weather buy a few pounds at a time, which in turn is again exposed together with that remaining in the firkin. No wonder nearly all butter is in a spoiling state when it reaches the table of the consumer. In Pennsylvania a better practice prevails. The butter is made into pound rolls, nicely stamped and packed in tin pails with a reservoir in the bottom and on the top, filled with ice the whole then packed in a wooden tub with a close fitting cover. In this way the butter can be kept at nearly an even temperature, and retailed to the consumer in a fresh and excellent condition, netting the producer from at least forty to fifty per cent more than by the system of whole firkins and ice cars as we have