

OUR FINE FRUITS.

BY H. GOEGGINGER, RIGA, RUSSIA.

Among the rich assortment of fine apples which we cultivate in the Baltic Provinces, there are, unfortunately, only comparatively few kinds which can be called winter fruits.

The Reinettes, which in Western Europe belong to the very best winter fruits, have to hang on the tree until and during October, but as our climate does not permit this, these apples do not become ripe with us and fade in stock. In consequence they are tasteless, felty, sour, and have not that fine flavor which they have in countries with a long autumn.

The maturity of the fruit is generally analogical with the ripeness of the wood. The trees grow until late in the autumn, and therefore are sure to freeze in a somewhat severe winter. We in the North, therefore, can only use such fruits as become tree-ripe in good time, and can be taken from the tree in September, and at the same time those whose young shoots are then sufficiently turned into wood in order to stand a severe winter.

To this kind belongs, without doubt, the "Antonovka apple," which is often found and much liked in Russia, but which seems to be little known as yet in our Provinces.

Large lots of this variety go to the Russian cities and are sold there at high prices. It is seldom found on the markets of Riga, but realises from 40 to 50 per cent. more than the "Serinka."

HOME.—The Antonovka is spread over all North and Middle Russia, and grows to perfection in the provinces of Witebsk and Varoneesh.

LITERATURE.—Lucas describes it in the illustrated monthly journals, and believes it to be the same as the "Possart's Nali-vaia," which is described in the manual of pomology, but wrongly so—the Russian pomology by Regel gives a splendid drawing and a good description of it. It belongs to the "Calville" family.