

es; so we contend that man's intelligence used in selecting proper pedigrees and carrying out certain crosses according to design, would be far more prolific of good results, than depending upon the possibility of insects accomplishing (seemingly by chance) the same results.

Van Mons, in the improvement of fruits and flowers, believed in the "natural method," his theory being simply to "sow and sow," and we agree; simply suggesting that intelligent design take the place of seeming chance. The superiority of intelligence, both human and divine, is characterized by design. So in this case, it should be characterized as well as utilized, in planning and carrying out these crosses according to ends desired.

STRAWBERRY EXPERIENCE.

The strawberry season of '86 has been conspicuous for its length, the abundance of the crop, and low prices. It commenced June first and ended July 10, a week later than usual and lasting that time on to raspberries. During all that time strawberries formed a prominent feature of our three daily meals, very much to our satisfaction and enjoyment. In fact the only real satisfactory portion of the crop has been that consumed at home; the resulting profits, though not measured by dollars and cents, were none the less real. The quality of the crop may be likened to that of a modern barrel of faced apples—good at both ends and poor in the middle. For the first quarter, the weather conditions were favorable for a slow, well-developed maturing of fruit of the best quality. Then followed 10 days of dull, rainy, misty and foggy weather, out of 14. This was a little too much of a good thing; the berries were gorged with water, the flavor impaired, and rust and rot attacked the plants and berries. During the last quarter less moisture and more sunshine prevailed, and the berries assumed their normal condition as to quality, and maintained it to the close of the season.

The Crescent proved my earliest berry and was very productive and lasted till July 1, maintaining a fair size to the end and proving perfectly healthy. While the quality is not of the best, yet when served with sugar and cream (or without cream), cake, good bread, and genuine butter, as they usually are, I have never yet seen Crescents refused. I only wish every table in the land could be well supplied with as good.

The Sharpless stands at the front as one of our largest and most attractive berries; but it is not very productive, and a large portion of the fruit rots before ripening during such weather as prevailed this season. The quality is not high, but as it has less acidity than some others, it pleases many tastes when fresh and not too ripe. Its popularity seems to be on the wane.

Jersey Queen has proved to be one of the largest, handsomest and most productive of our late sorts. The plants are vigorous and

healthy, and the fruit is of good quality, though acid. This acidity would be toned down in a drier season and there would be less loss from rot.

Manchester was large, late and immensely productive, but it blighted so badly that the bulk of its crop was lost. It has never been so badly affected with me before. If the tendency proves permanent the variety must be discarded.

The Atlantic disappointed me early in the season, in its promises, and later it disappointed me in doing even better than it promised.

The Jewell proves to be one of the most vigorous and productive, as well as the largest and handsomest varieties; but the excessive moisture proved too much for it in matted rows. Blight and rot injured it severely, though in single rows it withstood these troubles. While its flavor is not of the best, its other qualities promise to make it a leading popular sort.

The preceding four varieties composed my last picking, and closed the season.

Durand's Prince maintains its position as the best of all I have fruited this season, and gave a good crop. I was surprised to see the Editor of the *Rural* report that it ripened unevenly. I have never seen any tendency of that kind, either on my grounds or elsewhere, and I incline to think it a break on the Rural Grounds, that will not prove permanent.

Downing. This old favorite bore a light crop and was badly affected with blight.

Lard's (Vineland) Seedling bore a large crop of medium-sized, soft berries of only medium quality. The foliage and fruit stalks are very tall, exceeding any other I have.

Cumberland Triumph sustained its reputation as a large, early, productive family berry of very good quality.

Mrs. Garfield, a light cropper, is a good looking berry of indifferent quality.

Daniel Boone is a much better cropper but too poor in quality to be recommended.

EARLINESS IN STRAWBERRIES.

Another year's experience in strawberry culture bears me out in the belief that there is more in soil and situation, than in the variety, as to earliness. I had two beds last season, which contained the same varieties. One bed is level and the third year from the virgin soil. The other slopes to the south-east and is a sandy soil seven years old. Neither of the beds received any stimulants to hasten maturity. The first ripe berries were picked from the latter bed May 13. At that time I enjoyed the entire market, selling at twenty five cents per quart. The first ripe berries were picked from the other bed when the berry season was well started and prices came down to 5 and 8 cents per quart. Thus we see the season was

lengthened by soil and lay of land, rather than by the variety, with a handsome profit from the first berries.

This season the bed facing southeast had ripe fruit May 6. My customers would require if they were raised under glass, as they were so early. The level bed came in on the 13th, and still there were no berries other than mine in the market. This season I have a young bed lying rather north, in its first fruit season, that had not a ripe berry on May 17.

These beds were each set from a bed set with one dozen each of nine varieties, —viz., Big Bob, Windsor Chief, Miner's Prolific, Cinderella, Crystal City, Captain Jack, Sharpless, Glendale and Crescent. These were cultivated for plants alone, and the three beds were set from them. I consider the Crystal City a worthless variety in any soil.

Kentucky. THOS. D. BAIRD.

SIXTY-FIVE years of observation have established in my mind the following as facts: (1.) That apple trees occupying very rich ground do not bear fruit every year. (2.) The buds grow one season and produce the fruit of the next. (3.) An experiment of ten years' duration convinced me that an orchard could be made to bear every year by an application of manure to the ground the trees occupy, from the 15th to the 25th of each May. This dressing must be in proportion to the condition of soil as to richness and size of trees—poor soil and large trees requiring much more manure than good soil and small trees. It should be lightly worked or forked in as far out as the branches extend.—N. J. Rice, Monroe Co., N. Y.

It is stated that by a careful analysis it has been found that apples contain a larger amount of phosphorus, or brain food, than any other fruit or vegetable, and on this account they are very important to sedentary men who work with their brain rather than muscles. They also contain the acids which are needed every day, especially for sedentary men, the action of whose liver is sluggish, to eliminate effete matters, which, if retained in the system, produce inaction of the brain, and indeed of the whole system, causing jaundice, sleepiness, scurvy, and troublesome disease of the skin.

THANKS.

Who gives anything, food or clothing, to a beggar, and does not expect thanks? Yet how many who receive God's daily bounties, ask every morning for God's daily bread, forget to give God thanks.