



FIG. 2182. MUSK MELON.

Our Affiliated Societies.

TORONTO JUNCTION.—An interesting meeting of the Toronto Junction Horticultural Society was held on Friday evening, the 20th inst., in the High School, upon which occasion Mr. J. B. Spurr gave a paper on "Melons," practically illustrated by about forty specimens, embracing several different varieties. In the collection were watermelons with red seeds, black seeds and white seeds, red flesh, pink flesh and yellow flesh, golden rind, black rind, and rind with dark and light stripes, also muskmelons and cantaloupes in great variety, some netted and others with smooth skin, some red flesh, others with green flesh; oval melons, round melons, melons with ribs, melons without ribs, button melons and long melons like huge bananas. Mr. F. C. Colbeck, president of the society, occupied the chair, and around the long table were a number of interested listeners. Mr. Spurr's lecture dealt first with the early history of the melon, and traced the development of the netted musk melon from the rough and warty exterior of the cantaloupe, the first form of melon introduced into Europe, so named from the Castle of Cantaloupe in southern Italy. In the gardens around which the melons were first grown from seed introduced from Armenia. The lecturer had with him melons grown from seed which had been imported from Syria, Germany, England, the Transvaal, California and many American and Canadian localities. The largest watermelon grown was the Australian watermelon, which matured in the latter part of August and weighed 23½ lbs. Only one hill of this variety was planted, none of the fruits were thinned out and the vine matured nine large fruits. The Australian melon is a red seeded variety with

deep red flesh and was pronounced the best flavored by those who were present. It is not claimed for it that it grows to a large size.

The Cuban Queen, which sometimes grows to a weight of 90 lbs., did not go more than 22 lbs. This watermelon is late in maturing and not especially adapted to the Canadian climate, although of excellent quality where sufficient heat is at command to mature it properly.

Another large watermelon did not succeed better than some of the common watermelons grown from seed purchased in the stores in the previous summer. About 22 lbs. was as large as this melon grew. Ice Cream, Dixie, Fair Oaks hybrid, Golden Rind and a white seeded variety from Syria were also grown, also Green and Gold, a very sweet melon, rather under-size, with bright yellow flesh and yellow seeds.

Among musk melons few of great size were exhibited. All the large Montreal Market, Pride of Alaska and Perfection melons had been stolen out of the garden a short time previously. Of these the Montreal Market would probably have been the largest; but the Perfection melon, seed of which was imported from the Transvaal, might have equalled it. The Perfection melon is illustrated in the photogravure accompanying this article and is the large netted melon so conspicuous in the picture. This melon tipped the scales at 17½ lbs. To the right is a cantaloupe, Cantaloupe Von Trevana, to illustrate the difference between a cantaloupe and a melon, and on the table are two mature melons of the Jenny Lind variety to contrast with the large netted one. In the background is a spray of the wild aster, *Aster Multiflora*, which