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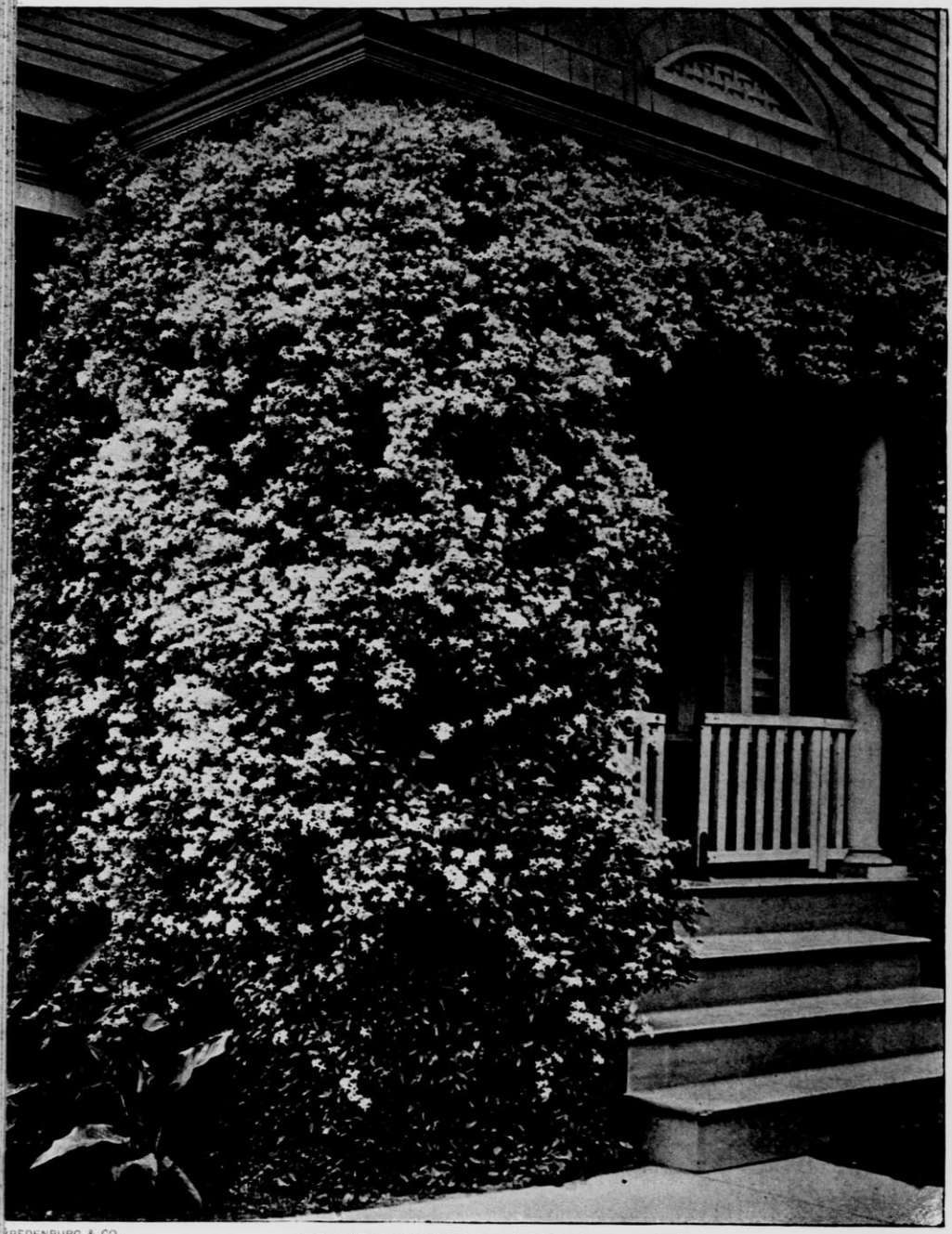


FREDENBURG & CO.,
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

CLEMATIS PANICULATA.

The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

VOL. III. MAY, 1898. NO. 3.

CLEMATIS PANICULATA.

The true Wisconsin woman remembers her "marcies," so she is thankful that we have rugged vines like the Wild Grape, the native Woodbine and the Bittersweet, which can withstand the rigor of our most pitiless winters. Nevertheless she has missed from her vine-wreathed veranda the gracefulness and fragrance of the sweet southern climbers. It really seems that at last her patient waiting has been rewarded, and that we have found, in Clematis paniculata, a fragrant, flowering vine hardy enough to endure our Wisconsin winters.

Writing for The Independent, in 1893, Eben E. Rexford says: "Among the vines there is nothing of recent introduction that equals the new clematis, *C. paniculata*. This variety has all the freedom of growth characteristic of *C. flammula*. If it grows ten or twelve feet in such a season as the late one, from a spring-set plant, there's no telling what it will do in a favorable season, after becoming well established; and that is what it has done with me. The foliage closely resembles that of *C. flammula*, and the effect of the plant, when in bloom, is much the same when seen at a distance; but a closer inspection shows that the flowers are in panicles rather than flat masses. They are white, with a bunch of feathery stamens standing up from the center of

each flower. These give the clusters a delicate, airy look that is very pleasing. The branches are literally covered with flowers. Judging from one season's experience with this plant—and that season a most unfavorable one—I believe this to be one of our very best vines for veranda use. Certainly it is one of our most beautiful ones, when in bloom. It is excellent for cutting, as it lasts well, and retains its fragrance."

This was five years ago. Yesterday, in reply to my inquiry, I received a Postal Card from Mr. Rexford saying: "Clematis paniculata has proved entirely hardy with me," (near Appleton).

Mr. Cranefield of our Wisconsin Experiment Station has been told that this climber is hardy and satisfactory in Minneapolis.

The testimony of Currie Brothers, of Milwaukee, is: "Not only is it exceedingly handsome but it is also perfectly hardy in any exposure, requiring no protection in the most severe winters. The growth of the plant is rapid, quickly covering walls, arbors, trellises or old tree stumps. The leaves are small, dark green and glossy. The flowers are medium in size, pure white and most deliciously fragrant, and are produced in wondrous profusion in the early fall months."

A writer in *American Gardening* says: "Clematis paniculata is never troubled by insects; just a small spray of flowers will scent a room, and for bordering bouquets nothing could be prettier."

My only fear is that, like the Cosmos, it may be too late in blooming. M. C. C. J.

Baraboo, Wis.

"The much-abused spider is now said to be an excellent preventive of destructive insects. Dr. Keller, of Zurich, Switzerland, says spiders destroy more noxious insects than all the insect-eating birds put together."

CAMPBELL'S EARLY GRAPE.

At the meeting of the American Pomological Society last September, George W. Campbell, of Delaware, Ohio, gave the history of this grape. Mr. Campbell said that he had spent thirty or forty years in endeavoring by crossing and hybridizing, to improve our American grape, but was determined not to introduce a new grape unless it was in some important respect better than the varieties we already had. After discarding thousands of seedlings, he at length found one which pleased him. Later he introduced it to the public as "Campbell's Early." It was originated in 1885.

Mr. Campbell says of this grape: "The season and hardiness of Campbell's Early admits of its being grown wherever the Concord succeeds, as it is nearly two weeks earlier, and in vigor, foliage, and hardiness is equal to that variety. It has a more tenacious skin and handles without breaking, and is never known to crack. It is unsurpassed in its shipping and keeping qualities, and it never shells. The skin is thin but firm, and there is no acid taste beneath it. The seeds are small, few in number, and are free from the pulp. The fruit stems are very stout, the bunches are large, close, and generally shouldered; the berries are about the size and color of Moore's Early, but are of a higher flavor."

A few of our Wisconsin growers have already fruited Campbell's Early, and so far as we have heard, they regard it with favor.

While we advise our readers to *plant cautiously* of all unproven varieties, we hope that this new grape will be given a fair trial in all parts of our State, so that we can know by experience whether it equals the Concord in hardiness and quality, and excels it in earliness.

M. C. C. J.

Put it down as a solid principle that you will quit talking about yourself, and either say something good of the other fellow or keep your mouth shut.

THE COLUMBIAN RASPBERRY—ORIGINATOR'S METHOD OF GROWING IT.

My fields are of a sandy loam, with a clay subsoil. Any land is suitable for the Columbian that will produce a good crop of wheat or corn. I prepare the ground as early in the spring as it is fit to work, by plowing and thoroughly pulverizing the soil, using some fifteen loads of stable manure to the acre; I also use every other year about half a ton of unleached wood ashes, and six hundred pounds of ground bone thoroughly worked in the soil, per acre. Fertilizing must be governed by the condition of the soil. I mark rows 4x8 feet and set plants 4 inches deep, spreading the roots and covering them with fine dirt pressed firmly; then add more dirt, leaving that mellow and nearly two inches lower than natural surface, which will fill up by cultivation; this better enables the bushes to withstand drouth and wind. Start the cultivator without delay, covering the field once a week, running close to the plants, but *not more than two inches deep*, leaving the ground mellow and smooth. Cultivate both ways until the growth of bushes prevents in the narrow way; this leaves little work for the hoe. The foliage, as the bushes become large, keeps out weeds in the hills. The frequent stirring of the soil and the deeply penetrating roots of the Columbian, will enable it to withstand a severe drouth with little injury. All fruit bearing canes, the year of setting, should be removed as soon as buds appear. Pinch back new canes when sixteen inches high; this produces a stocky cane, sending out vigorous branches, from which tip plants are obtained. The Columbian does not "sucker," and to produce new plants, bend down the new canes and bury the tips three or four inches in the ground, nearly perpendicularly; this is done between August 20th and September 5th, and substantially covers the first season's management. I leave the field in this condition through the winter.

The second year, in early spring I dig the tip plants, preparing the best for market, and the balance are reset for transplants; trimming the bushes two to three feet high,

the lateral branches about ten inches from the main stem. At this time fertilizers can be applied, broadcast. Give thorough cultivation to within a few days of fruiting time, follow with straw mulch at the rate of about two tons per acre. The expense of mulching I consider money well spent, as it covers the fine earth bed immediately after the last pulverizing implement leaves it, serves to retain moisture, keeps weeds down, makes a fine carpet for the pickers, and prevents beating the berries into the dirt by rain. It is not necessary to stake the bushes in this method, and I discarded stakes years ago as too expensive and destroying the beauty of the field. Fruiting season in this section (Oneida, New York), begins near the 8th of July and lasts about five weeks, at the close of which all the old fruit wood should be cleaned from the field and the straw raked up close to the bushes and left there. This is nearly worth its cost as a fertilizer. Use the cultivator as often as necessary during the season to keep the field clean. Trim the following spring.

A larger crop of berries could be produced by permitting a greater growth of bush. I have treated my fields for the sole purpose of *producing plants*, that being of the first importance to me; but if I were growing the Columbian for fruit principally, I should permit a higher growth of cane and not trim so closely in the spring; but with my method of trimming I can confidently count upon 3,000 to 4,000 quarts per acre, and that amount, by increasing the size of the bush and proper fertilizing, could be doubled. From a single bush which I had permitted to grow without heading back, and tied to stakes I have gathered in a single season enough berries to have produced in a field of like bushes (set 8x8 feet) 16,000 quarts per acre. The method here given for field culture can be applied to garden growing, and a larger growth allowed the plants by not heading back until the canes are 5 or 6 feet high, thus making a very ornamental bush. Bushes 8 to 12 feet high can be produced by supporting them with stakes, which will bear fruit from the ground to the top.

J. T. THOMPSON in The Strawberry Culturist.

COLUMBIAN RASPBERRY IN MICHIGAN.

[From the Michigan Fruit Grower.]

We fruited the Columbian last season, and being anxious to learn all we could about it, we gave it close attention and came to the conclusion that it was a very meritorious variety. It is so similar to Shaffer in many respects that that variety can be taken for comparison. In the first place, it is destined to take the place of that variety, because it is much hardier; seems to be able to stand any amount of freezing without a blemish; its canes are twice as large and stand up better, and will bear twice the amount of fruit. The fruit is nearly, if not quite, identical. We noticed one little fault with it, and that is, it sticks to the haulm a little closer than we would like, but then none of them are entirely perfect.

We recommend the Columbian for home use or near market; they are a little soft, and must be handled quickly. The appearance of these berries is a little against them, but there is no trouble in selling them when people once find out what they are. They have the characteristic of retaining that true, fresh flavor when canned.

They propagate from tips only, but do not root as readily as the black varieties, presumably because the wood does not ripen up as early. We set some last spring that only had one small root, but they are all there now; every one is a good, big hill. O. A. NUMMER.

Ionia, Mich.

THE MILLER AND LOUDON RASPBERRIES.

Our question "Who in Wisconsin is testing the Miller raspberry?" has received no answer. But we will quote from The Michigan Fruit Grower the experience of a prominent Michigan horticulturist:

"Taking all points into consideration, the Miller will prove to be one of our best market berries. It's a strong, healthy grower, even on very light soils; the fruit is medi-

um to large in size and a very bright red in color, and the firmest of all red raspberries, standing up after long, heavy rains better than any other variety so far fruited with me; it is also very hardy in cane and immensely productive, ripening during a long season.

The Loudon is also another almost perfect raspberry. This is a little larger-sized berry than the Miller, but not quite as bright red in color. It is a very strong, stalky grower; canes are more like small trees and but few in a hill; does not sucker and produce so many weak canes as does the Cuthbert, and can be picked and cared for much cheaper than the latter. The fruit is very large, fine shape and color, and does not crumble or run down in size as some do; very firm; also productive and cane very hardy. Considering all points, it promises to become our leading berry for market.

The Eureka blackcap is another excellent fruit. This is a fine grower, very productive, large size, and a week earlier than the Kansas, which has always been my best black raspberry and is yet, except not being quite so early as the Eureka for early market.

BENTON GEBHART."

STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

By the Originator of the Warfield Strawberry.

SOIL AND PREPARATION.

Any soil that will grow sixty bushels of corn per acre will produce good strawberries, but a deep, sandy loam is best; never use manured or sod ground. It should be well drained. Plow in the fall eight or ten inches deep, making the land in beds, two rods wide. It is desirable to have land free from weed seed. In the spring, plow the bed again as soon as the ground will work well. Work the beds down firmly. It is very important that the surface is made smooth as well as firm. Mark off the rows 3½ feet apart, with a good hand marker, 9 rows on each bed. Cross mark

the bed 2 feet apart. Cultivate both ways until the first of July, then stop cultivating the narrow way, and form the matted row.

PLANTING.

Use good, strong plants grown from new beds planted for that purpose. Dig up the whole row; in so doing you will have good, strong plants. Trim off all dead leaves, runners and buds, if far enough advanced. Early in spring is the best time to plant. Slant the hole very little, firm the soil around plants; set the crown even with the surface; roots spread fan shaped. Better cut the roots to three inches in length than to have them curled up in the ground. I prefer setting every third row to some good, staminate variety. In this way you can keep each kind to itself, which I consider important, if you wish to obtain best prices in the market.

CULTIVATION.

This should begin a few days after planting. With any good tool, loosen the ground well between the rows, then with hoes, scrape off all the weeds. Be careful not to loosen the plants. Never allow a crust to remain long after a rain. Work often, but never when wet. Shallow cultivation forms a dust mulch; this prevents the moisture from escaping. I use a one-horse drag between the rows with good success. Thin out the runners to not less than 3 or 4 inches apart, and cover the rest with fine dirt, and keep up cultivation between the rows until the last of September.

MULCHING.

This should be done as soon as the nights are cold enough to form ice. Cover with straw or any material free from weed seed or chess. This should be raked off as soon in the spring as freezing is over, and left between the rows, tramping it down well.

MARKETING.

Have nice, clean packages, well seasoned. Damp or wet boxes are apt to mould the berries. Put none but good,

sound berries in the boxes, and each berry having a half-inch stem, and see that the boxes are filled with equally good berries all through to the bottom. Don't allow the pickers to keep the berries out in the sun long after they are picked. Let the small pickers have 4-quart hand crates. Pick every day, and it is better if they all can be gathered by 10 a. m. Patronize only one firm in a town. Keep up your reputation by always sending the consignee a good article. You can't force people to buy your berries, but you may tempt them to buy fine berries in boxes well filled.

B. C. WARFIELD in Our Horticultural Visitor.

Sandoval, Ill.

REPORT ON THE TRIAL ORCHARD AT WAUSAU TO DATE.

Spent the time from April 12th to 16th at the above orchard. Put in three hundred grafts of the following kinds, Wealthy, Utter, Kaump, Okabena, Newell, Longfield, Wolf River, and N. W. Greening, besides a few for experimental purposes. Only lost two trees the past winter by mice, where the protectors were broken.

I find the past season's growth of most trees excellent. Duchess, Hibernal, and Newell are starting slowly, while N. W. Greening, McMahan, Dudley's Winter, Peerless, Repka, Wealthy and Patten's Greening all seem to be at home on that timber soil. Mankato, Rollingstone, and Aitkin Plums have made fine growth.

In experimental plat three trees that are strangers to me have attracted my attention by their fine growth and appearance and I wish to make inquiries about the fruit of each. The Juicy Burr is by far the handsomest Russian in the orchard and as it was sent by Geo. J. Kellogg I would ask him to tell us about the apple. The Crampton No. 2, sent by Prof. Goff, is another fine tree and I hope the Professor will tell us, or refer us to the originator who can tell our readers about the apple. The Lind Center sent by Mr.

Barnes is another of fine appearance and I hope A. D. will describe the fruit for us. So far, of root grafts the Wolf River has stood the best of any and the Utter the poorest.

Have the ground all ready to set one acre of Plums and one acre of Cherries next week. Had a number of visitors while there and several said they would like some trees if they thought they would grow as well as those do. I find a few apple and plum blossom buds. Hope to be able to make a favorable report of the behavior of the orchard the coming summer. Used the Virginia as a stock for grafting, and will continue the setting of nine varieties in the top working experiment that will give us the work of three different seasons to judge from.

I am expecting a proposal from the manager of a land company in Northern Wisconsin something like this:—We to select a site on their land; the state or the nurserymen to furnish the trees, and we to superintend planting and caring for same; they to furnish land and labor. This, if properly located, would be a great benefit to the locality where it is placed. There seems to be more interest in the native plums this spring than ever before. The Aitkin trees I have secured are as fine a lot as I ever saw. Surprise is fine also.

Following the foregoing I will say from April 26 to May 1, I attended to the planting of one hundred forty-five cherry trees and one hundred thirty plum trees. So that our ten acres at present is about all occupied.

The cherries furnished by President Kellogg were twenty-five Montmorenci and one hundred Early Richmond. Mr. A. L. Hatch sent two Dyehouse, six Valdimir (a Russian) and six Kentish; all the foregoing were fine trees. I set twenty Cheney, twenty De Soto, ten Aitkin, ten Ocheeda, ten Wyant, ten Rollingstone, ten Mankato and ten Hawkeye in orchard, and for experiment set four Surprise, two Comfort, two Gaylord, two Harris, two Marcus, two Weaver and two Pilot. Mr. Henry Tarrant, the new member of the orchard committee, sent the Flushing Spitzen-

berg for trial, and G. J. Kellogg and Sons sent the Boughton Sweet, the Dickey Sweet, Aurora Belle and Jones' Mammoth, which were planted in the experiment plat.

My plan now is, if trees do as well this year as formerly, to make arrangements to hold the summer meeting of 1899 or 1900 at Wausau, thereby giving the members of our Society a chance to see the new Trial Orchard.

A. J. PHILIPS,
Secretary of State Horticultural Society.

May 2, 1898.

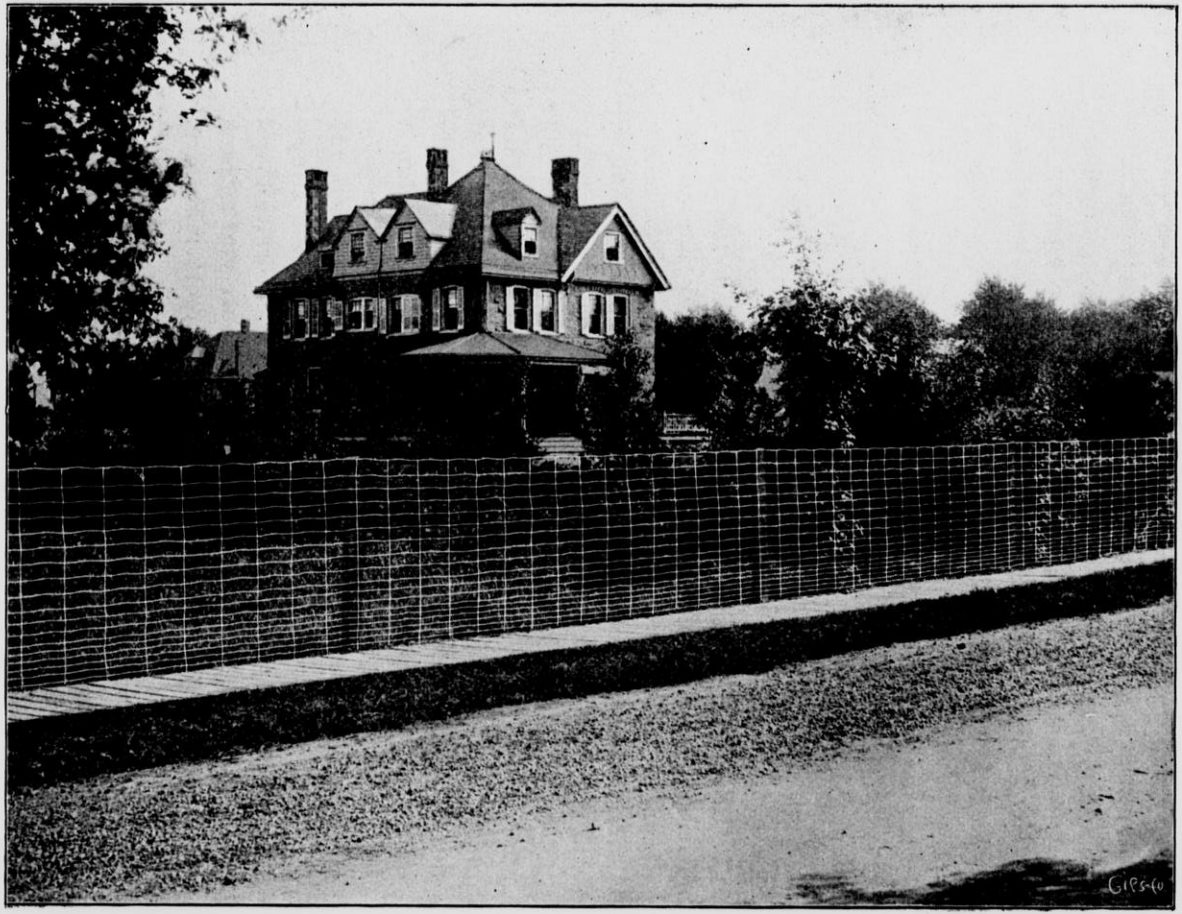
EFFECT OF A GOOD FENCE.

How shall we keep the boys and girls on the farm? This question has been discussed a great many times at the Farmers' Clubs and Granges, and it seems as though no solution has been found as yet, and perhaps we have not looked at it from the proper direction.

In our judgment, it seems as though we ought to find out *why* they want to go away, and *what* they see in other places that they desire. We have noticed that after a visit to the city or suburbs they come home and tell how nicely everything was arranged, how beautiful the surroundings, how clean and nicely trimmed the lawns, fences all in good shape, and everything in perfect order.

Now isn't it a fact that our lack of order and our stinginess about the home has much to do with their desire to get away? Wouldn't it pay us to paint the house, put a porch on it, and furnish the porch with good comfortable arm chairs, lay out a flower garden and care for it, get a lawn mower and grow a lawn instead of "haying the door yard?" These things are worthy of our earnest consideration, and we believe that if put in practice would operate in the right direction.

The cut on next page shows a good farm residence in the proper condition, and while our houses need not be so large or elaborate in their appointments, the same care



Farm Residence Showing Page 19—58 Inch Fence.

could be taken of the premises, the shrubbery trimmed up, the lawn mowed, and a nice Page Fence, like the one shown, could be cheaply and easily erected by any or nearly all of us; then we believe that the boys and girls could compare their homes with those in cities and villages and not to the disparagement of their own; then they would be proud of their homes, and be pleased to invite their friends there, and would want to stay on the farm.

We cannot forbear calling special attention to the Page Fence, which is made at Adrian, Michigan, shown opposite, for while the Page Fence Co. do not claim this particular style to be ornamental (this has 19 horizontal wires, with 16 cross wires woven into every rod in length, and is 58 inches high), it certainly is an ornament, and plenty good enough for most any farm home. It does not obstruct the view, and is really a paradox for it safely encloses and thoroughly discloses at the same time. Their illustrated catalogue will be sent to any person asking for it. ***

A STRAWBERRY TALK.

Franklin Johnson.

Competition in the growing of strawberries for market is so keen that he who would succeed financially must have his plans well laid. In the following discussion of the subject I shall endeavor to keep constantly in mind three propositions: First, Where horse power can be used to advantage it is cheaper than man power. Second, The fruit buds for one season's crop are always formed the previous season. Third, The most expensive operation in growing strawberries is the harvesting of the crop.

While horse power cannot be applied *directly* to the harvesting of strawberries, *indirectly* it may facilitate that work. It is less work to pick a quart of large berries than a quart of small ones, hence whatever tends to increase the size of the berries lessens the work of harvesting. The size of the

berries may be increased by thorough cultivation with horse power, and by judicious thinning of the plants. It also greatly facilitates the picking to have the plants in straight, even, well-trimmed rows that are free from weeds. This condition can be produced with less hand labor than is sometimes imagined.

In selecting land for strawberries any good corn ground will do. Avoid wind swept knolls and take two years for *the preparation of the soil.* A strawberry plant will grow all right on a freshly turned sod, but such land is liable to be infested with the white grub, and the white grub does not share with the grower,—he takes the whole crop. With us corn is a favorite preparatory crop, because it so readily assimilates coarse, fresh manure, is so easily kept free from weeds, and leaves the land in such excellent condition.

In manuring land for strawberries we apply stable manure before the corn is planted. While cultivating the corn we consider that we are not cultivating simply for corn but also for the strawberries that are to follow. At the last cultivation of the corn sow with rye. We aim to keep the soil covered summer and winter with some growing crop. The growing rye conserves the fertility of the soil during the Fall, Winter and Spring and by the middle of May has made a growth that if turned under will assist in conserving the moisture of the soil during the summer.

In plowing land for strawberries keep it level—that is, as free from ridges and dead furrows as possible. After plowing, compact the soil with a roller or clod-crusher, and harrow until it is very smooth and finely pulverized.

Set only strong vigorous plants. Plants should be prepared for setting by trimming to two or three leaves and by shortening the roots to three or four inches. If plants are properly handled no harm results in keeping them three or four days before setting. In fact, if the weather is dry, plants that have been heeled in, in the shade, for a couple of days, will not wilt as readily as freshly dug plants. We use a garden line in marking and a spade in setting. Make

the rows three and a half feet apart and set plants eighteen inches apart. We aim to set as early in the spring as we can, after the ground is in proper condition. Excellent results sometimes follow setting as late as June. The late setting has this advantage that the blossom buds can be picked off when trimming the plants.

The matted row system is in general use here in Wisconsin and is probably the system best adapted to our needs. The conditions that bring success are similar in all systems. The differences are mainly in the ways of bringing about those conditions. Those who practice "Hill Culture" set their plants from July to September. Plants set in September will produce as fine berries as plants set in July but not as many of them. We are working for large quantities of fruit as well as for large specimens, and so we aim to have the runners from these plants take root in July or as soon thereafter as possible. The first runners are apt to be weak and ought to be cut off for that reason, if for nothing else. As soon as the plants are set we cultivate with a "Breed Weeder," and repeat the operation whenever a crust begins to form on the surface, and as often as once a week whether there is a crust or not. For two months after the plants are set there is no hand work except picking blossom buds and cutting runners.

Sometimes we give deeper cultivation between the rows with a one horse cultivator, but we have the Weeder follow the cultivator. As the Weeder takes two rows at a time we can pass over the bed rapidly. The Weeder leaves a loose, finely pulverized surface that prevents evaporation. In the absence of any means of irrigation it is important that we save the moisture that is in the soil. Whenever a crust forms on the surface of the ground evaporation becomes very rapid and the growth of the plants is also checked. Incidentally this treatment destroys all weeds as soon as the seeds begin to germinate, and it does this so effectually that very little hand weeding has to be done later in the season.

If runners are kept cut until the middle of July they will then cover the ground quickly and should become well

rooted by the middle of September. When there are plants enough to well cover the rows the putting forth of more runners should be checked, and the energy of the plants directed to the formation of fruit buds for the ensuing year. Now it is some work to keep the runners trimmed until the close of the season but if the grower goes at it with energy and with a definite idea of just what he wishes to do it can be done. A rolling coulter on each side of the cultivator will keep the space between the rows clear. It is often a good plan to take a sharp hoe and cut out the old plant. This ought always to be done if the old plant shows signs of dying. This not only tends to check the putting forth of new runners, but assists the new plants in coming to maturity. It often happens that the old plant draws upon the vitality of its offspring. This is especially noticeable where a white grub gets to sucking at the root of an old plant. I think too, that sometimes the old plant draws upon its offspring for strength with which to send forth more runners.

With me the cultivation of the plants ceases when the plants are covered for the winter. I feed them some the next spring by giving them ashes at the rate of fifty or sixty bushels to the acre. Sometimes, too, I apply ashes soon after the plants are set. I cover the plants in November whether the ground is frozen or not. I think I have had plants injured by freezing in the fall. A freeze in the fall that hurts the foliage injures the next season's crop. The Editor says this article is long enough, so I will say nothing about varieties or about picking.

Baraboo, Wis., May 2, 1898.

STRAWBERRY NOTES.

The leading strawberry growers, East, West, North and South, all agree on one point,—that to insure clean strawberries the ground on each side of the matted rows must be mulched with some clean material in the Spring before the berries form. Marsh hay appears to be the pre-

ferred mulching material. Mr. Jerolaman, of Delaware, uses sea-marsh hay and the fresh grass clipped from lawns. He lets the clippings lie in the sun a few hours until wilted but not dry. This mulch not only keeps the berries clean, but gives them that much-talked-of "varnished look," known at our house as the "Jerolaman gloss."

At the American Institute last summer, T. J. Dwyer, of Cornwall, N. Y. (a grower with a national reputation), said of Spring cultivation: "A few inexperienced growers, and, in fact, too, a few that should know better, never cultivate their beds during the spring months. This is a great mistake. We plow between the rows as early in spring as the ground is fit to work, and use the cultivator as often afterwards as is necessary to keep the ground mellow, right up to the time when they are in full bloom. This spring cultivation increases both the size and yield of fruit. If you have a matted row about sixteen inches wide you have the very best thing for fruit, and will have ample room for horse and cultivator between the rows."

Mr. Dwyer said he considered Marshall, Brandywine and Parker Earle the three leading varieties of the time. For dollars and cents he would put Lovett's Early in place of Brandywine. His experience with Parker Earle agrees with the report of our Wisconsin Experiment Station. This is Mr. Dwyer's opinion, as quoted in American Gardening: "Parker Earle is also a comparatively new berry. The plants of this variety have a tendency to make enormously large hills or stools. From two to three hundred berries and blossoms are often found on a single plant. Of course, a variety that sets such a large amount of fruit needs a large amount of food and drink to bring all to perfection. When this is provided there is no more profitable variety than the Parker Earle. The fruit is firm, of light red color, with a short neck, averaging in size about like the old Charles Downing."

The same authority quotes E. W. Wooster, the noted strawberry "man from Maine" as giving the following list of strawberries for a succession: "By selection of varieties, soil, situation and fertilizers, mulching and cultivating we can make our season cover six weeks of profitable pickings. Of the staminates, the Beder Wood is probably the most popular very early variety for the northern states, followed by the Lovett, Beverly and end with the Parker Earle. Of the pistillate, Warfield, Haverland, Bubach and Princeton Chief. These are general purpose market varieties which have a wide range of popularity. The two-to-five-dollar-a dozen novelties which the introducers claim to be the very earliest or the very latest are not to be considered yet. High ground with light soil on a southern slope is the earliest. Nitrogen and spring cultivation will force maturity. Clay soil on a northern slope is the latest; mulching will retard maturity."

"Greenville is a 'splendid berry' if fertilized by Lovett's Early; plant three or four rows of the former to one of the latter."

"IRRIGATE WITH YOUR RAKE."

Under the above caption *The Montana Fruit-Grower* quotes from one of Prof. Bailey's new books: "I wonder if you have a watering pot? If you have, put it where you cannot find it, for we are going to water this garden with a rake! We want you to learn, in this little garden, the first great lesson in farming—how to save the water in the soil. If you learn that much this summer, you will know more than many old farmers. You know that the soil is moist in the spring when you plant the seeds. Where does the moisture go to? It dries up—goes off into the air. If we could cover up the soil with something, we should prevent the moisture from drying up. Let us cover it with a layer of loose, dry earth! We will make this covering by raking the bed

every few days—once every week anyway, and oftener than that if the top of the soil becomes hard and crusty, as it does after a rain. Instead of pouring water on the bed, therefore, we will keep the moisture in the bed.

"If, however, the soil becomes so dry in spite of you that the plants do not thrive, then water the bed. Do not sprinkle it, but water it. Wet it clear through at evening. Then in the morning, when the surface begins to get dry, begin the raking again to keep the water from getting away. Sprinkling the plants every day or two is one of the surest ways to spoil them."

The Fruit-Grower adds: "This seems like a good, common-sense method, and we are going to test it in our own garden this spring. If we can succeed in holding the moisture in the ground it is surely better than irrigating with the cold water from the snows in the mountains. We will try it at any rate."

ASPARAGUS FOR JULY AND AUGUST.

A correspondent writes: "I have a summer resort for a market and asparagus sells high during July and August. How can I work it to get shoots at that time?"

Do not cut it in the spring, but cultivate often until your summer resort opens and market is ready. Then mow it off close to the ground and the new shoots will quickly come up. You can then cut clean until middle of August and then let it grow until it freezes. I know of no plant which will bear cutting the tops off as long as asparagus, not even the Canada thistle, but you can kill it in that way. If the tops grow in the spring the roots will get their strength and be ready to force a vigorous growth, provided there be plenty of moisture. The shoots are largely water and if ground dries out they will grow slow, and be very tough and woody. Some scheme of irrigation would be very profitable for it. July and August cutting will soon destroy the vigor of the bed and should be continued no longer than

necessary, as the plants must have leaves to digest their food and assimilate it. Every plant without leaves during the growing season is like an animal without air—it's only a question of time as to when it will die."

R. M. KELLOGG in American Gardening.

ASPARAGUS.—"It should be borne in mind, that a plentiful supply of water will almost double the yield, should dry weather prevail. Manure in some liquid or quick acting form is also beneficial, especially to old beds that may be getting somewhat played out."

REMEDY FOR MELON BLIGHT.

Pinch off the end of the vine two or three leaves beyond the first melon or cucumber set on the vine not later than the time the fruit comes into blossom. This stops the rank growth of the vine and throws the substance to the fruit for a few days, until laterals get started from the vine. In the meantime the fruit has got such a start that, as a rule, it don't blight.

Vines treated this way are more fruitful, as fruit sets on the laterals later, and by this time the vine is not rank enough to cause blight.—Michigan Fruit Grower.

AN OPEN LETTER—TO A NURSERY COMPANY OF WESTERN NEW YORK.

GENTLEMEN:—

Your voluminous communication of Jan. 11, and your "Hurry Call" postal of the 19th both received. In reply I will say that they make me exclaim like the old prophet, "There are two things, yea three, that I do not comprehend."

First, I cannot comprehend how nurserymen of high standing and supposed honor and responsibility will stoop

to the methods employed to secure agents to sell nursery stock in a section of the country where they know,—if they have any practical knowledge of horticulture,—that nine-tenths of such stock will not live to produce fruit, and therefore will be a worse than total loss to the purchaser. The farmers of Wisconsin and the Northwest have spent thousands of dollars for eastern-grown stock which is not adapted to our severe western climatic conditions, hence is worthless here. If no fruit tree from the East had ever been planted in this State there would be ten bearing fruit-trees now where there is one today. The continual failures with eastern-grown trees have utterly discouraged thousands of tree planters, and you hear on every side the oft repeated cry, "It is no use; you can't grow fruit," regardless of the fact that hundreds *are* growing fruit, with home-grown trees.

Second, I cannot comprehend why any person who resides in this western country will, under any consideration, send the name of a friend or acquaintance to any eastern nursery who may be enquiring for names of persons to act as agents; for every man acting as local agent of such eastern nursery is taking money from his town or locality for the enriching of parties at a distance without giving a just return to his friends and neighbors.

Third, I cannot comprehend how any one who has good common sense will ally himself or herself with any man or men to rob his neighbors and friends of their hard-earned money, upon any such scheme as the sale of eastern nursery stock at exorbitant prices; when good reliable nursery stock can be procured from growers near by, whose knowledge of adapted varieties will prevent the setting of sorts unfit for the climate, at prices that are a mere fraction of those asked by the agents of eastern nurseries.

In closing I will say that I am not "open for an engagement," for I would beg or starve before I would stoop to the worse disgrace of selling the accursed eastern fruit trees to the long-suffering and discouraged tree-planters of the West.

You will see by the above that you need not "hold the position open for me," as you so kindly offer to do. Neither will I send you the name of any one whom you might persuade to start out in an effort to swindle and rob his fellowmen. I remain Yours, etc.,

L. H. READ.

Grand Rapids, Wis.

SOUTHERN TREES NOT BEST FOR NORTHERN PLANTING.

I was in Pulaski County, Indiana, in March. During my few days visit there I saw something of the disadvantage to Wisconsin growers of planting southern grown nursery stock. On March 7, I went out into the country with my friend and got six large ash trees and then helped him set them out in front of his lot. I must say that I never set trees when the ground was in better condition than it was then and there.

Now I know that there is nursery stock sent up into Wisconsin from nurseries still further south than this point, where at this early date they have already begun digging and packing. Of course this stock will be subject to a great many changes of rough weather before our Wisconsin ground is in such condition that we can plant it. The trees would be injured and set back before we could get a chance to set them out.

Therefore it is always best to buy of our nearest nurseryman or else of some reliable grower farther north than we are. By buying from our nearest nursery we get better acclimated stock and generally varieties that are better adapted to our soil and climate.

We have had a splendid winter and a good spring, and the indications are that we shall have an abundance of fruit of all kinds this summer.

Who are the Committee of Observation for this year? I have heard of several new varieties of Apples, Plums, and Raspberries, that I am going to investigate, and if I find

them as represented they should be reported to the committee for further investigation.

E. C. ALSMEYER.

Arlington, Wis.

GLEANINGS FROM THE WINTER MEETING.

Mr. Philips:—Prof. Hanson, now at Washington, reports that he has seen the Bismark apple bear in Germany and some other foreign countries. Its only value is its novelty. As a humbug it is a success. Do not buy many trees.

The Reports of Local Horticultural Societies were interesting and suggestive. The Omro and Grand Chute reports appeared in the April Horticulturist. Dr. Loope reported a Society of a hundred in Eureka; they hold a meeting the first Saturday of each month; were "the only local Society that dared to have a Chrysanthemum Show last fall."

The Waupaca Society holds frequent meetings. Have picnics in the summer, and last winter held a Winter Fair in connection with the Waupaca Poultry and Pet Stock Association.

Mrs. Campbell reported a live society composed of ladies. They meet four times a year, holding their annual meeting the first Tuesday in January.

Mr. Geo. Kellogg thought that meeting from house to house is the best way of maintaining a live society.

Mr. Stickney:—We use Hellebore for currant worm. We apply it in solution with a force pump having two nozzles; it takes three men to operate,—one to pump. Hellebore will kill the worms; we buy 25 to 50 lbs. at a wholesale druggist's. But as I am a man who readily sees good in things, I will say that currant worms are good, as they eat up other people's currants and leave ours alone!

After much discussion a motion was carried appropriating $500 of the Society's funds for an exhibit of fruit at the Exposition in Omaha. Details to be arranged at the meeting of the Executive Committee in June.

Some of our readers will be disappointed at having to wait for the Annual Report to see Prof. Bailey's lecture on Pruning. At Prof. Bailey's request Secretary Philips sent the stenographer's report to Prof. Bailey for correction. When it reached Ithaca the Professor was on his way to Germany. Mr. Philips ordered the report to follow him, but it will be some time before it is back in America ready for publication.

In discussing the subject of Pruning, Mr. Plumb said June was about the right time, though if the orchard was old and required severe pruning it ought to be done in March.

Mr. Babcock:—I once asked a man when was the best time to prune and he said, "I never enter my orchard without my jack-knife and when I see a limb that needs pruning I cut it off."

Mr. Philips:—I think Prof. Bailey made one very favorable statement,—that is, prune regularly every year; do not wait four or five years and then kill your orchard.

Mr. Dartt:—If you prune every year it will never be necessary to cut any large limbs.

NOTES ON SPRAYING.

Not only will spraying preserve the apples from scab, but the June drop is reduced, as it prevents the attack of the scab on the blossoms and young fruit. In years when rain prevails at the time of blooming, there will often be no crop of fruit on unsprayed trees, while the sprayed trees will have a full crop. The loss of a crop from lack of spraying will in such a season often amount to thousands of dol-

lars, as they would sell for a high price. The present year, 1897, the trees of most varieties bloomed profusely, but few fruits set where the trees were not sprayed, while sprayed trees have a full crop. The unsprayed trees are almost defoliated by the scab and are in poor condition to develop fruit buds for next year. Even though they may bloom, they will be so weak that they cannot bear a good crop.

The apple worm cannot always be killed by spraying, and many orchardists are of the opinion that it does not pay to spray for it. Many have the same idea regarding the canker-worm, but by spraying in time and thoroughly, it is not difficult to control. Comparison of sprayed orchards with unsprayed will show that it has paid from 500 to 1,000 per cent. Even though little effect can be seen, the benefits from a single year will often repay the cost of spraying for ten years. Those who make apple growing a business spray their trees and find it profitable.—PROF. W. J. GREEN of Ohio, at meeting of American Pomological Society.

"The apple scab may be held in check by applying a fungicide. The first application should be made before the disease appears." Bordeaux Mixture is commonly used. To make this: Dissolve 6 pounds of copper sulphate in 4 gallons of hot water; in another vessel slack 4 pounds of fresh quick-lime in 4 gallons of (hot or cold) water. When both are cool, pour the contents of the two vessels together and add enough water to make 45 gallons of the whole. Metal vessels, other than those of brass or copper, should not be used. The hot water is recommended only to hasten the dissolving of the copper sulphate. Cold water may be used by suspending the sulphate therein, in a sack of coarse texture, a day or two in advance. To avoid excess of lime a chemical test may be used as follows: Pour only half of the slacked lime and water into the copper sulphate solution; stir well, and add a few drops of a 20 per cent solution of potassium ferrocyanide. If a rich, reddish-brown color is produced, add more lime. Continue to test and add lime

until the reddish brown color no longer appears. Then add a little more lime, as a slight excess of lime is desirable. A bright, clean knife-blade may also be used as a test. If a slight film of copper forms upon it when placed in the mixture, more lime is needed. The Bordeaux Mixture is preferably strained before using, and should be kept well stirred during its application. Apply with spray pump.—Prof. Goff's "Principles of Plant Culture," page 169.

Paris green should not be added to simple copper sulphate solution.

Tobacco water, made by filling a pail with tobacco stems, covering with hot water, and when soaked, diluting four times, is good for soft-bodied insects.

Wood, earthen or brass vessels only should be used for mixing copper compounds. Barrels are most handy.

Do not spray while trees are in blossom.

It is not safe to use London purple for peach and plum trees, unless the grower can test the mixture for acidity. Paris green can be safely used.—Michigan Fruit Grower.

BETTER THAN SPRAYING.

Wormy apples may be prevented by placing barrels half filled with water in the orchard just as the trees are about to open their blossoms. The moths, which fly between sunset and 10 p. m., can be captured easily by suspending over the water in the barrel a lighted lantern. They are then attracted by the light and eventually find themselves in the water; 10 lanterns to 40 trees is ample. I tried this plan and succeeded beyond question. Last season I omitted to do it, and got caught with the worm again. This season I do not propose to be caught, so am getting ready my barrels and lanterns. My contention is that the moth is captured before she has deposited her eggs in the expanded blooms.—American Gardening.

PROTECTING HIGH PRICED STRAWBERRY PLANTS FROM THE WHITE GRUB.

To the Editor of American Gardening:—

At this time when strawberry growers are buying new high-priced plants, I doubt not many would like to know how to protect them from the white grub that eats the roots and kills the plant. When the Marshall was first introduced at $10 per dozen plants, I set out four dozen in pots or baskets made of common screen wire netting, such as we use to keep the flies from our houses. Cut the wire into pieces about six or eight inches square and fold from the center, then turn over the two ends one-half inch and stay them with a piece of wire. Open at the top and set it into the ground even with the top, then set the plant in it; the roots can grow through the netting, but they will be protected in the enclosure from the white grub, and if the worm should eat all the roots that grow out of the wire, there will be earth enough in the enclosure to give a good growth. It will not only save the plants, but a lot of vexation also, and in some cases, it will save the breaking of the third commandment. Old netting will do if there are not large holes in it.

S. H. Warren, Weston, Mass.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Janesville, April 9, '98.

Ed. Horticulturist:—

The winter of 97-98 was the most remarkable winter in forty years. No long-continued severe cold weather; and an early snow-blanket which stayed on all winter protecting vegetation, then melted gradually so that the ground drank it all in. We always have our May freeze, there has been but one exception in forty years; but on the whole, the cold snaps do not effect fruits in the north as much as they do in the south. From the early spring weather we can draw no conclusions. All we have to do is the work the

season demands; when the ground is right to plant, then plant, and put in the cultivator when it is needed. We have cultivated some ground twice already (April 9) and have been planting since March 20. We are setting fields of strawberries a month earlier than usual; perhaps we miss it,—we have had new beds freeze to injure when planted in May,—but the early transplanted plants will stand a better chance than the late ones. One day's work at the right time killing weeds is worth four times its cost later on.

GEO. J. KELLOGG.

April 29.

We rejoice in the finest Spring we ever had, ground in the nicest condition. Spring's work a month ahead of most seasons. First apricot bloom to-day; brown thrush arrived the 27th. We are nearly through planting potatoes, all through setting grafts and strawberries, have already cultivated parts of the nursery four times. Everything loaded for fruit. Frosts continue which insures a good crop. All things lovely and we are happy.

GEO. J. KELLOGG & SONS.

ED. HORTICULTURIST:—

Please say in May number that if any who have paid one dollar as annual members have not yet received the 1897 Annual Report, they should send me a postal card saying so; for sometimes Reports go astray, then I send duplicates.

Never saw my orchard in better shape. Fruit buds in abundance.

A. J. PHILIPS, Secretary,
West Salem, Wis.

There is one thing you can always depend upon when a man says a good thing, and that is, if you hang around him you will hear him say it again.—Atchison Globe.

INVITATION FOR THE SUMMER MEETING.

Given at the Winter Meeting in Madison.

The Grand Chute Horticultural Society instructed me to extend to you an invitation to hold your midsummer meeting with them, in Appleton, provided you will let them set the time. They have long had a feeling that they have not been fairly dealt with. You know that at Appleton and Green Bay our berries are not ripe for ten days or two weeks later than yours farther south; consequently when you set the time for the meeting we have no berries to exhibit.

Mr. Smith, of Green Bay, is a quiet, good man and he good-naturedly exhibits pie-plant and green peas. Not so with the Appleton people; we are not so easily satisfied; we want to show our berries. It is not the money we are after, for we are all well-to-do farmers; it is the honor we want. Mr. Kellogg of Janesville, and others, have showed "for what there is in it." If they have saved what they have received for premiums and invested it, they can live from the profits. But I am sure Mr. Kellogg is smart enough to go right home and cover up his best plants and keep them back and come up there and capture the premiums as usual! But he will find out that we have as smart men and women as they have in the south. I will see that Mrs. Barnes of Waupaca gets there in time to enter her berries before the entries close. MRS. J. B. CAREY, delegate.

The Society voted to accept the above invitation, and the summer meeting will be held in Appleton. Date not yet fixed,—probably late in June.

We surmise that Appleton will have to share the laurels with her neighbors in Green Bay. J. M. Smith's Sons,—Howard J. Smith, Business Manager, Irving C. Smith, Gardener,—have about three and a half acres of strawberries which they expect to fruit the coming season, and about the same number of acres of currants.

CHOICE RECIPES.

DELICIOUS STEWED RHUBARB.

Wash the rhubarb, but do not peel. Cut in pieces about an inch long. To every pound of rhubarb allow one pound of granulated sugar, put them together in a porcelain kettle and stand on the back of the stove until the sugar slowly melts. Do not add water. Then bring the kettle forward and boil gently without stirring. Watch to keep it from burning. As soon as the rhubarb is tender turn it carefully out to cool. MRS. RORER.

FROSTED RHUBARB PIE.

Line a pie-plate with crust as for lemon pie. Prick the crust all over with a fork to prevent blistering, then bake until done. Partly fill this baked shell with the rhubarb jam cooked as below. Beat the whites of two eggs to a very stiff froth. Stir into this a teaspoonful of lemon juice (or a pinch of cream of tartar) and three tablespoonfuls of white sugar. Spread upon the top of the rhubarb, set into the oven until a light brown. Eat cold. Very nice.

M. C. C. J.

RHUBARB JAM.

Wash young rhubarb and cut into pieces about an inch long; do not peel. Weigh, and to each pound allow three-quarters of a pound of granulated sugar. Put it into a porcelain kettle, bring slowly to boiling point, then boil and stir continually three-quarters of an hour. Put the jam into glass cans while hot and hermetically seal. Makes excellent pies in winter. MRS. RORER.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

A very interesting article from Prof. Goff was received today. It is too late for this number, on account of our getting the May issue out earlier than usual. You can look forward to it as a pleasure in store for June.

Mr. A. G. Tuttle says he has never seen his orchard so full of blossom buds as it is this year.

Franklin Johnson "wishes he had not found time to lay down his blackberries last fall." Mr. Tuttle left his blackberries standing through the winter, and Mr. Johnson says he never saw such a "sight" as Mr. Tuttle's blackberry fields are,—acres of strong, magnificent plants, completely wreathed with blossom-buds.

Nature Study Publishing Co., who publish the beautiful magazine called "Birds," have moved into larger quarters,—Ludington Building, 521 Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ill. Beginning with July, they will give colored pictures of Animals instead of Birds. Later they will take up Flowers. I understand that the magazine with its fine colored plates will still be furnished at $1.50 per year.