

tended to plant them in my forest plantation, but we had not time to dig them up; but finally before putting them on the brush pile I sent a few dozen to a friend, and they now stand, or a part of them, on one of our streets. This one thousand proved clearly to me that they were hybrids, as they varied so remarkably in appearance. They were from five to fifteen feet in height, the shorter ones resembling Kœmpferi (which is a rather slow grower) in the lobed leaf and otherwise, but whether the other parent is *speciosa* or *bignonioides*, of course I could only judge by their hardiness, and was inclined to think, owing to the difference in their hardiness, that *bignonioides* was the other parent. One tree planted in my ornamental grounds flowered and produced immense clusters, perfectly wonderful! The spike must have been nearly two feet long and shouldered so as to make an immense map. I intended to take scions from this tree in the autumn, but unfortunately the tree died the following winter. That same season Prof. C. S. Sargent wrote me describing the flowering of Teas' catalpa, with about the same description I have given. Of course we cannot expect seedlings from a hybrid to be uniform, but I think if this tree is watched one may be found that will combine hardiness and a remarkable spike of flowers that will be worth propagating.

ROBERT DOUGLAS, Waukegan, Ill.

HORTICULTURE AN EDUCATOR.—The vocation of a horticulturist is one that gives constant employment to the intellect. In planting, transplanting, pruning, budding, grafting, hoeing, cultivating and protecting from summer's drouths and heats, and winter's frosts, the horticulturist becomes intimately acquainted with a great number of species and varieties of plants, vegetables, flowers and fruits, which knowledge educates and unfolds the intellectual nature. All who are well acquainted with practical gardeners, even though they may never have been educated in the schools, are surprised at their intelligence; at the general information and habits of reflection they exhibit. This knowledge is a legitimate outgrowth of their vocation. They are brought into close relations with

the natural products they cultivate, and they observe the surprising manifestations of Infinite Intelligence in cell, in pith, in wood and bark, in root and stem, in leaf and flower, in fruit and seed. They learn that if they take a bud from a tree or plant bearing good fruit, and insert it into the branch of a tree or plant bearing inferior fruit, the same sap, freighted with the same ingredients that formed the poor, unpalatable fruit, when digested and prepared in the leaf of the inserted bud, will be converted into luscious fruit. They learn how they may improve the quality of fruits by taking a particle of pollen from the flower of one variety and placing it upon the stigma of the flower of another variety. They learn by such lessons that man is placed in this earth to learn, obey and administer law, and in that way improve nature, or the natural. And the active horticulturist is constantly learning, in his vocation, such lessons.

SECY P. C. REYNOLDS, Rochester, N. Y.

TASTE IN MARKETING FRUIT.—The exhibition of good taste in putting fruit on the market is a subject to be made a good deal of. Fruit growers, and especially farmers, do not give thought to it commensurate with its importance in relation to profits. Keepers of saloons understand this matter pretty well. Those that catch the high-toned customers are the ones that gather in the largest profits. This is accomplished by having everything neat and in good taste, attractive to people who have money to spend.

I note a great difference in grocery men about this matter. I am satisfied that in the exhibition of their produce and in the arrangement of their wares, a good point is made in attracting people by having things in good taste.

Uniformity in size is a great point in exhibiting fruits. A matched team commands a good price; and the more exact the match the higher price may be asked. When you get a "four in hand" uniform in every particular you have a great attraction. And the circus company that gathers a number of horses of uniform size, build and color, make it a great feature of their show.

This same principle is true in fruits for

the market; evenness in size, similarity in color, have a good deal to do with the price that may be placed upon the fruit.

PROF. W. J. BEAL.

Agricultural College, Michigan.

ORNAMENTING A CITY LOT.—*Dear Sir:* I have a small place in the city, situated on the south side of a street running east and west; the lot is 30 feet front by 125 feet deep. The house covers part of the lot, and is a two-story frame dwelling. The front yard is small, say 20 feet by 30 feet, and is shaded part of the day by the house; the back yard is larger, and gets the sun all day; the front and back yards are sodded. I would like to have you tell me through the columns of your valuable paper, what kind of shrubs, bushes, trees, plants and vines I should set out to have the most flowers and for the longest season of the year. I like *THE HORTICULTURIST* very much and could not keep house without it. By answering my question you will greatly oblige

A SUBSCRIBER, Detroit, April, 1885.

Answer by O. C. Simonds, Wright's Grove, Illinois.

I shall assume that there are trees in the street; that there is no front fence, and would suggest that some shrubs be planted near the street line to give a little more privacy to the lawn and house than such places usually have when the fences are removed. Arrange the planting to look well from the window. If the walk to the house is at one side of the yard, put the largest shrubs on the other side near the street, and let the others diminish in size toward this walk and toward the house—perhaps an upright honeysuckle in the corner, some purple barberries next to this in front, red Siberian dogwood at the side, golden syringas in front of barberries and trailing daphne in front of syringa and dogwood. A June berry might be planted instead of the honeysuckle. Let the inside boundary of the group be a curved line, running nearer the sidewalk on the entrance side than on the opposite side of the yard. Do not arrange the shrubs in rows. Put some snowdrops and crocuses in the spaces between the shrubs.

Periwinkles (*Vinca minor*) would do well next to the house in the shade. In the backyard the space is probably not large enough to admit a tree without shading the house too much; but the flowering shrubs would be useful. Select the best of the common hardy kinds and arrange them in little groups. Do not crowd the yard. If you wish flower beds, place them immediately in front of the shrubs, so that the flowers will have a background of green. Very pleasing effects can be produced by planting bulbs and the wild flowers mentioned in S. Q. Lent's article in the April *HORTICULTURIST*, among the shrubs. They will make the space attractive from the latter part of March till the shrubs leave out. See T. T. Lyons list of shrubs in February *HORTICULTURIST*.

ORIGIN OF THE BALDWIN.—A trustworthy correspondent of the Massachusetts *Ploughman* furnishes this brief biography of the Baldwin apple:

Deacon Samuel Thompson, of Woburn, who was born in 1731, was fitted for Harvard College, but his father dying when he was eighteen years of age, leaving a widow and a young family dependent on her, Samuel was obliged to assume the care of the family, and was taxed to the utmost to perform the duties devolving upon him. He early gave his attention to surveying, and in the year 1760, after serving in the French and Indian war, he was surveying in Butters' Row, at Wilmington, Mass. While there he noticed some excellent fruit on an old apple tree, inhabited by a family of woodpeckers. He gathered specimens of the fruit, and finding it very palatable, took some home, where they were much liked. He secured scions and set them, giving some to his brother Abijah. In a few years the tree bore and the fame of the fruit filled the neighborhood, it being then known as the "Pecker" apple. Col. Baldwin, neighbor of Deacon Samuel Thompson, extended the fame of the apple by taking samples with him to the courts of Middlesex county, in about 1784. It was known as the "Pecker" apple by citizens of Woburn as late as the year 1830.