

From this table we can see that fruit is a perfect food, as it contains everything needed, including water.

Were fruits used daily by all there would be less gout, rheumatism, gall stones, stone in the bladder, and calcareous degeneration than there is now. In connection with the curative power of fruit, we must mention the "Grape cure." This is practiced in France and Germany in the autumn, and is a cure for many diseases due to high feeding. The patient is given a pound of grapes to eat the first day. This amount is added to until the person can eat five or six pounds a day. The other food is gradually lessened, and the diet at last consists entirely of grapes. It cures obesity and many other complaints, and starts the person off on a new lease of life. In this country we may partly carry out this cure, using strawberries, gooseberries, cherries and plums in place of grapes. Fruit is thus seen to be a necessity in a rational diet, and of immense value in dietetic medicine.—*Vick's Magazine*.

**PEARS.**—A correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* says: "I save my Bartlett pears so that they make fine eating two months after those of my neighbors have gone. I take a stout box and line it with paper, almost any kind will answer. The bottom is covered an inch deep with wheat bran. The pears are carefully picked, wrapped separately in thin paper and packed deeply in the bran until the bottom is covered. Then this layer is covered with bran to the depth of an inch, and another layer of pears is placed in the same way. This is continued until the box is full, when the cover is tacked on and the box set away in a cool, dry place. The pears retain their fine flavor and color."

**BEES AND GRAPES.**—In a statement of experiments made by N. W. McLain, at Aurora, Ill., forming a part of Prof. Riley's report to the Department of Agriculture, he describes the bee-proof house in which three colonies of bees, brought nearly to the starvation point, were confined, with twenty different varieties of grapes on plates. The test was continued for thirty days. The bees showed no more disposition to attack thin-skinned grapes than the others. As long as the skin remained whole they did not harm the grapes. When the skin was broken by violence they took the exposed juice. A puncture with a cambric needle was not sufficient for the bees. The experiments were modified and varied, with the same uniform result.

**THE Cleveland Plain Dealer** recommends the following way for keeping potatoes: "Dig them and let them lie in the sun until thoroughly dry; then spread them thinly on a barn floor or some equally dry place and scatter straw over them. Leave them until cool weather, then place in a cellar where they will not freeze. We thus have kept them good and solid until after new potatoes come around. We think the thorough drying in the sun is important."

J. S. WOODWARD, writing to the *Rural New Yorker*, says: Orchards are bare of apples. This county will produce fewer barrels than in any other year since 1859—the year of the June frost. Besides this the trees are looking badly in all orchards not well manured. There is no mistake but that fruit trees need manuring as much as any other crop, and the quicker fruit-growers realize it the more money they will make.

[NOTE.—Messrs. Pancoast & Griffith, Philadelphia, Pa., whose advertisement appears in another part of this issue of the AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST are in want of apples, and we would advise any of our readers having apples for sale to correspond with them.—EDITOR.]

**CABBAGES.**—To prevent the splitting or bursting of cabbages, J. J. H. Gregory recommends to go frequently over the ground and start every cabbage that appears to be about to mature, by pushing over sideways. Heads thus started are said to grow double the size they had attained when about to burst.

**VEGETABLES BETTER THAN DRUGS.**—Spinach has a direct effect upon complaints of the kidneys.

The common dandelion, used as greens, is excellent for the same trouble.

Asparagus purges the blood. Celery acts admirably upon the nervous system and is a cure for rheumatism and neuralgia.

Tomatoes act upon the liver.

Beets and turnips are excellent appetizers.

Lettuce and cucumbers are cooling in their effects upon the system.

Onions, garlic, leeks, olives and shallots, all of which are similar, possess medicinal virtues of a marked character, stimulating the circulatory system and the consequent increase of the saliva and the gastric juice promoting digestion.

Red onions are an excellent diuretic and the white ones are recommended eaten raw as a remedy for insomnia. They are a tonic and nutritious.

A soup made from onions is regarded by the French as an excellent restorative in debility of the digestive organs.

**TESTING SEEDS.**—When you want new seed peas, put one from the stock into your mouth and bite it. If it is very hard it is more than one year old. If the teeth enter it with moderate ease it is new seed. New carrot seed always has a green shade on it. Old seed loses this, and is of a dead pale brown, and less fragrant. New parsnips has a shade of green, which it loses if more than one year old. Onion seed is more difficult to prove than most other seeds, but if you take a single seed at a time and carefully bite it you will find that old seed has a tough dry skin, with a very white and harsh kernel, while new seed has a more tender, moist skin, and the kernel possesses a greater degree of moisture, and is somewhat oily. The seed may be cut with a penknife instead of

bitten. Onion seed that has no vitality at all, has no kernel, or one perfectly dry. Test this by pressing the seed on a piece of white writing paper. If it leaves no moisture on the paper it is of no use, and has been tampered with, or has lost its vitality by age. New cabbage and brocoli seed possesses a pale green shade in the kernel when pressed out or cut, and a tinge of green in the brown skin also. But old seed loses this in proportion to its age, becoming of a dull, dark brown. Cabbage, brocoli, kales, etc., will retain their vitality longer than any other seeds, and will grow well when three years old, or even six years, if well kept. Beet seed has a faint tinge of pale green if new, but is a dull brown if old, and its vitality is very doubtful if old.

New celery seed has a faint tinge of green, and is very aromatic, but it loses the green and becomes less fragrant if more than a year old, and is doubtful.

IN reference to the note on "Bumble Bees and Clover Seed," let me say that I have tried the experiment for some eight years at the Agricultural College, and in every case bumble bees have greatly aided the yield of seeds of red clover. This may not be the case in Kansas or in many other places. To state the matter fairly, we ought to know whether there are not some other insects in Kansas (perhaps small insects), which take the place of bumble bees in other places.

M. J. BEAL.

SELLING PRODUCE.—A question of frequent occurrence among farmers is, "When had I better sell this, that or the other crop?" To this the answer may very well be made: Sell when it will pay to sell. No man is able to tell from one day to another what will be the condition of the market, and the inquiry may be made, How can I tell when it will pay? but you can. There comes the rub; with a great many farmers no definite idea can be given of the actual cost in the production of a crop, and so there is an uncertainty regarding the matter of profit. This is wrong. Farmers can by a simple method of accounts tell to a certainty what any crop costs them, and then, after they know what a crop costs them, sell when a fair advance can be realized. Better sell perishable crops at cost than to hold and lose all.

A WRITER in the *Indiana Farmer* says: "Last year I put twelve moles in my strawberry patch of five acres to catch the grubs, and they did the work. I never had a dozen plants injured during the summer, either by the grubs or moles. I know some people do not care for moles on their farms but I want them in my strawberry patch."

THE cost of growing strawberries is put down at \$150 an acre and itemized as follows: Land rent, \$6; plowing and harrowing, \$4; manure, \$50; plants, \$20; summer cultivation, \$50; mulching material for winter, \$20. In amount for fer-

tilizers, \$35 is allowed for one ton of pure ground bone and \$15 for muriate of potash, which are considered the cheapest and most effective manures.

NEAT PACKAGES.—A farmer who had raised, picked and brought to market some very fine blackberries, had them piled up in a large tray and found difficulty in selling them at five cents a quart. While talking with him a "huckster" came along and bought the berries at four and a half cents a quart. In a few minutes they were gracing another stand in clean quart baskets, selling readily at eight cents, two for fifteen. These little baskets can be had for about fifty cents a hundred.

Comments are unnecessary.

REGRAFTING WEAKLY TREES.—In most young orchards some trees will be found that have made a weekly, stunted growth. In most cases this is the fault of the variety rather than of the original stock. Grafting with more vigorous sorts will soon effect a change in the roots to correspond with the character of the new top.

GOOD NURSERY STOCK.—Any reputable nurseryman who intends to continue the business is as much interested as the purchaser of young trees in their success. It is very rare that a nurseryman will knowingly send out poor stock. The failures are more frequently the result of ignorance or neglect.

WE call the attention of our readers to the Hatch Experiment Station bill printed in full in this number of the *AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST*, and would suggest that every person who reads it will write to their congressman and urge its passage.

## Around the House.

### "October Days."

The yellow sunshine all around me lies  
And low bends the blue, ethereal skies,  
Robes of purple and green, crimson and gold,  
Nature's apparel, lovely to behold,  
O the gorgeous tints of October days  
Are themes for artist and poet's praise.

No matter how dream like, or lovely, or fair,  
There's dreary potency in the very air,  
And shrinking from beauty that 'round me lies  
From the gorgeous hues, and the vaulted skies,  
I dream of the years, each one by one,  
Of October days that have come and gone.

Of the fruits that might have been garnered in,  
Of golden grain that is not in the bin,  
Of opportunities, that are passed and gone,  
No work accomplished at the setting sun,  
And my heart grows sick, and faint with fear,  
For I know that the winter days are near.

Dark winter days that shall come to all,  
With nature arrayed in a somber pall,  
When leaden skies above us shall lower  
And the dread messenger stands at the door,  
Ah, happy is he who on looking back,  
Sees more light than shade, on the home stretch track.

—Mary N. Allen.