HEATING GREENHOUSES.

Comparative Merits of Steam and Hot Water for Horticultural Buildings.

One of the first comparative tests was made by Peter Henderson about 1885 and the result was a saving of 25 per cent. of fuel in the house heated by steam, while the plants thrived equally well with those in the house heated by hot water. In a bulletin issued by the Cornell station, Professor Bailey says:

"All our experience emphasizes the greater value of steam, but it must be understood that we do not condemn hot water." The following are some of the conclusions reached after a trial of both systems at Cornell station:

The heat from steam pipes is distributed over a greater length of pipe, and as steam is ordinarily carried at a higher temperature than hot water it has a distinct advantage for heating long runs.

There is less loss of heat in the steam risers than in the hot water risers, and this means that more heat in the steam system is carried to the farther end of the house and more is spent in the returns or bottom heat.

Steam is better than hot water for long and crooked circuits and pressure is of great utility in increasing the rapidity of circulation of steam.

Hot water consumed more coal than steam and was at the same time less efficient, although this result would probably be modified in a shorter and straighter circuit with greater fall.

Watering House Plants.

Amateurs, as a rule, are not judicious when it comes to watering house plants. In point of fact this is an important matter—one that controls to a great extent the thrift of the plant. A good plan with most plants is to wait until the soil is quite dry, and then water sufficiently to moisten the soil down to the very bottom of the flowerpot. Foliage plants ought to be often sponged or syringed, so as to keep the leaves free from dust. Deprived of the rain, which would naturally cleanse them, and not often watered with a rose pot or syringed, the plants kept in a room are and gradually to loose their health, even if they do not die. The remedy for this is the regular use of a small piece of soft old sponge with slightly warm water, and in the case of "blighted" plants a little yellow soap, soft soap or insecticide. Especially is this necessary in the winter, when dust is rife, and as "blight" is then at its weakest point a thorough cleansing during the cold months will result in freedom from it during the summer.

A Promising Peach.

Among peaches of recent introduction is the Elberta, depicted in our cut. It is now quite generally known in an experimental way in the eastern and southern states, and has received much commendation. It is said to have originated with a Georgia fruit grower. It is a large early yellow peach with red cheeks, juicy and of high flavor. Its size, firmness and clear yellow color recommend it for canners' use. Mr. Berckmans, of Georgia, says it is "supposed to be a seedling of the Chinese cling, ripens about the middle of July and is a good shipper."

THE ELBERTA PEACH.

While more extensively grown at the south, the Elberta has been tested and given satisfaction to northern fruit growers. As a handsome and productive fruit of fine quality it has been favorably noticed by members of the American Pomological society.

The Durability of Timber.

The durability of timber is not wholly dependent upon the fibers of the wood, but is partly owing to the quality of the sap, which in some trees is of a highly preservative nature; thus, the oak has an astringent or tanning principle as well as a ferruginous quality in its juices, and it is from a combination of these qualities that its durability in exposed situations is obtained. The quality of oak timber is never better than when the tree is grown in a good loam or loamy clay, resting upon a subsoil of blue clay, from which it obtains the oxide of iron with which the wood becomes impregnated.

Horticulture Notes.

The Newtown pippin is popular, not only for home consumption, but for the foreign trade.

Roman hyacinths are extensively used for forcing, which may be done at a temperature of 60 degs.

John Lewis Childs tells that the Chinese sacred lily blooms as well in pebbles and water as in soil.

Jonquils are suitable alike for pot culture or for planting out. The culture required is the same as for hyacinths.

The new Princess strawberry, which originated in Minnesota, was named by the Horticultural society of that state; it at the same time took first prize over fifteen new seedlings.

An experienced peach grower says: "Don't force a too rapid growth while young, as it tends to produce a tree subject to early decay. Apply no fertilizer upon the peach orchard in good soil until the pearing period."

Lightning in Cities.

The character of the soil has something to do with strokes of lightning, which are less frequent over chalky ground. Oak trees are most frequently struck, while beech trees are least liable to attack.

Few people are killed by lightning in the cities. There is not much need of lightning rods on low houses in the city, while on church spires they might be of some use. The reason why lightning rods on low houses in the city are of doubtful utility is because in the city there is such a vast amount of material which conducts the electricity away. Telegraph poles are frequently struck. On the Virginia Beach railroad I once noticed after a storm seventeen poles within a shorter distance than a quarter of a mile struck by lightning.—Interview in Baltimore Sun.

Full Dress Handkerchiefs.

With the dress suit the fine white linen handkerchief holds precedence. A colored handkerchief would throw the full dress ensemble completely out of joint. The plain white hemstitched mournfoir is indeed apropos upon all occasions. Although the handkerchief is *for* use primarily, and in a strict observance of the code of good manners should never be exploited, there is a strong masculine penchant for the fancy handkerchief for informal wear.—Clothier and Furnisher.

Top Dressing Fruit Trees.

H. Dunlap told before the Illinois Horticultural society of his success in top dressing bearing fruit trees. He top dressed two rows of cherry trees, and at the same time left some that were not treated. On the top dressed trees the shoots grew from twelve to eighteen inches, while on those not top dressed the growth was only three to six inches. The superior bearing of the top dressed trees continued for two years. These results, says Country Gentleman, are similar to those we have witnessed for many years past, where young and newly transplanted and stubbed cherry trees in one lot all lived and grew through a hot and dry summer, while a number of the unstubbed ones either made little or no growth, or positively perished. The cherry is more sensitive to the heat of a hot and dry soil than other fruit trees, and mulch is more important.

Banking Up Trees.

In raising the level of ground by filling the question often arises whether trees which are thus covered to a considerable height around the trunk will be killed or not. Country Gentleman says that trees which have green and tender bark may be killed by banking up the earth around them, if the soil is of such a character as to hold water for some time whenever it is drenched by rains but older trees, with stiff and dry and thick bark, and with the soil about them sufficiently dry and porous to allow the water to drain away soon, will not be injured. Trees which have a coarse furrowed bark will favor this drainage better than those with smooth bark.

Horticultural Briefs.

The peach yellows have seriously affected orchards in portions of Michigan, Maryland and New Jersey.

Moonlight Van Deman notes of the Kansas raspberry the readiness with which the plant makes tips.

There is a report to the effect that the increasing practice of spraying fruit trees is thinning out the sparrows.

Mr. William Saunders, of the department of agriculture, recommends woven wire netting as a neat, cheap and efficient protection for the trunks of trees in cities.

American Gardening says that all poplars are easily propagated from seed, suckers or cuttings from branches or roots. The usual mode of propagating varieties is by cuttings from one and two year old wood planted in spring or fall, or by budding on stocks of thrifty growing varieties.

Causes of Gout.

Rich Patient—What is the cause of gout, doctor?

Doctor—Excessive drinking and eating will produce gout. Mental worry will also cause it.

Patient—My, my! Well, I must stop worrying over my excessive drinking and eating.—New York Weekly.

NERVOUS DEBILITY.

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From Ogden and Eureka ..... 8:15 p.m.
*From Tooele and Terrace ..... 4:00 p.m.
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No. 6—For Bingham, Provo, Manti, and Salina ..... 9:00 a.m.
No. 8—For Ogden and West ..... 11:00 a.m.
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No. 6—From Bingham, Provo, Manti, and Salina ..... 7:00 p.m.
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