NEW OR NOTEWORTHY FRUITS. II.

U. P. HEDRICK.

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1Riverhead, N. Y. 4Connected with Grape Culture Investigations.  **Connected with Hop Culture Investigations; absent on leave.
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U. P. HEDRICK.

INTRODUCTION.

The purchase of new fruits is one of the perennial problems of fruit-growers. Each spring the catalogues come and the tree-buyer must decide whether he will test the most promising of the new varieties offered or wait until their value is demonstrated by others. The problem is made doubly difficult because nurserymen customarily describe the merits of their novelties in glowing terms and brightly colored plates but do not trouble themselves to illuminate by word or picture the faults of their introductions. Absolute confidence in these one-sided descriptions is usually a source of disappointment; and the buyer, once defrauded, assumes a hostile attitude toward all new varieties. Condemnation of novelties has thus become habitual among fruit-growers. Such an attitude is unsound. A brief consideration of the improvement of plants shows that denouncing novelties is setting oneself against progress.

Unquestionably the limit of improvement has not been reached in the domestication of any cultivated fruit. Seedling fruits spring up everywhere, the best of which survive and compete with established sorts. Through intercrossing, plant-breeder's are constantly producing new varieties of all the fruits. So, too, we occasionally find sports or mutations more valuable than the variety from which they are offshoots. Again, every now and then a species not known in cultivation is ushered in and proves profitable. Evidence of the advancement of horticulture through the introduction of new forms is to be found in the many recent new-comers manifestly in advance of any of their kind. Evolutionists tell us that there are more species of plants on earth now than there have ever been at any previous time. We may assume that if multiplication of forms accompanies the evolution of wild life the evolution of cultivated plants must follow the same law.

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There are two ways in which the fruit-grower can in a measure meet the problem of horticultural novelties. He can rely upon the trustworthiness of the nurseryman and permit him, as the introducer, to be his guide; or, he can await the results of tests made by others — especially of tests made at the various experiment stations.

The present bulletin is written to be helpful in either case. There are fruit-growers, prudent ones, too, who, even though now and then deceived, take great pleasure in growing new introductions. To such experimenters this bulletin offers suggestions to guide them in determining what new fruits to look upon as promising and what ones to distrust, it being quite out of the question for any one man, unless he has unlimited time and means, to try all. To those who have not the means or the time, we give descriptions of a number of new fruits which have been thoroughly tested and have been found valuable on the grounds of this Station.

SUGGESTIONS TO BUYERS OF FRUITS.

The term "improved" added to the name of an old variety is a misrepresentation, pure and simple. Out of the score or more of fruits tested at this Station sent out as "improved," not one has differed in any way from the original variety. Fruits propagated from cuttings or grafts remain substantially the same indefinitely.

The term "pedigree" is used by some nurserymen in a slightly different sense than "improved" but still with the inference that "pedigreed" varieties are in some way improved. Buyers of "pedigreed" stock should demand proof of the supposed superiority. Varieties of fruit are pure-bred in the most literal sense, their line of descent, barring a very occasional break, being absolutely unchangeable.

Occasionally, as we have just said, there are breaks or bud variations in fruits. When it is proved that a variation is transmitted through budding or grafting, the new strain, possibly divergent enough to be a variety, may be of value. In the study of the history of several thousand varieties of fruits at this Station it does not appear that many sorts, not one out of a thousand, have originated as bud-variations.

Many varieties of fruits come nearly true to seed. There are several undesignated strains of some well-known plums, peaches and cherries, which have originated as seedlings and each of which has
particular value or is unique enough to be given a name, just as the many seedlings of the McIntosh, Ben Davis, Winesap and other apples are separately denominated.

A variety is not sufficiently well described to make it worth buying unless the merits and faults of the plant as well as of the product are depicted. In particular, the adaptabilities of a variety to soils and climates and its immunities to insects and fungi should be known before it is largely planted.

One should look with suspicion on varieties which are advertised as surpassing their kind in all respects. Most novelties, even the most worthy, are superior in but one or a few respects; as, in prolonging the season, in improvement of quality, in meeting some new climatic condition, in adaptability for some particular use, or, and most frequently, because of greater productiveness.

Varieties of worth may be more commonly expected in fruits domesticated but a short time, and therefore little improved, than in species long under cultivation and much improved; thus, American species of grapes give more new varieties than the Old World species, American plums are more variable than those of Europe, American raspberries, blackberries and strawberries are prolific of new sorts; the apple, quince, pear, cherry and peach, all old types, are relatively stable.

Old varieties are often reintroduced as novelties because of a variation of the type brought about by local influences; thus, the Green Newtown of the Hudson, the Yellow Newtown of Hood River, the Albemarle Pippin of Virginia, and the Five-Crowned Pippin of Australia, differ in all these regions; but brought together in any one place, all are the same.

It is best, if possible, to buy new fruits from the originator or introducer as these men are most likely to have the variety true to name, and, moreover, most deserve to reap the reward for bringing forth the novelty.

FRUITS TESTED BY THE NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

This Station makes an effort to test every new fruit offered by American nurserymen which seems at all suited to the soil and climate of New York. Beginning in 1913, with Bulletin No. 364, we are undertaking to describe annually the best recent fruit introductions as they grow at Geneva. We are also undertaking to call
attention to noteworthy sorts, which, though old, have not received, for one reason or another, the attention they deserve from fruit-growers. Neither trees nor cions of these new or noteworthy fruits can be obtained from this Station.

APPLE.

King David.—This apple is supposed to be a cross between Jonathan and Arkansas Black and has proved superior to either parent in several characteristics. The trees are hardy and productive and quite up to the average in vigor and health. The apples are larger than the Jonathan and even better colored, making King David one of the beauties of the orchard, for, added to the deep, solid, red color, are rotundity in shape and uniformity in size, the three qualities giving the variety almost perfection from an aesthetic standpoint. The fruit hangs long and well on the tree, all the while deepening in color, but for late keeping should be picked as soon as well overspread with red and before the seeds are well ripened. The flesh is firm, fine, crisp, tender, spicy and juicy, and of best quality. Its chief fault appears to be a slight tendency to decay at the core, especially when overripe. The high quality and the remarkable attractiveness of King David make it one of the most promising new apples.

King David was found growing in a fence row in Washington county, Arkansas, in 1893, and the following year was transplanted to a permanent orchard where it came to the attention of Stark Brothers Nursery Company, Louisiana, Missouri, in 1902. It was introduced to commerce by the Starks a year or two after its fortunate discovery.

Tree vigorous, healthy, hardy, productive; branches long, moderately stout. Fruit of medium size, roundish-oblance to oblate-conic, slightly ribbed; stem medium in length, slender; cavity moderately deep and broad, usually russeted; calyx small, closed; basin medium in depth, somewhat abrupt, furrowed; skin thin, tender, smooth; color pale greenish-yellow, almost entirely overspread with a very attractive deep, dark red, changing to scarlet; flesh distinctly yellow, firm, crisp, moderately tender, juicy, brisk subacid, spicy and aromatic, good to very good; season November to February.

PEACH.

Edgemont.—In fruit and tree, the Edgemont is much like the well-known Late Crawford but surpasses that peach in several
important characters. In fact, of the score or more of peaches of the Crawford type, in many respects the best of the several types of peaches, Edgemont is distinctly superior to all on our grounds. It is a few days or a week earlier than Elberta, is juicier, less fibrous, much excels that variety in quality and, though the individual peaches are not quite as large in size, yet at Geneva the yield of fruit is even greater. If the Edgemont proves adapted to as wide a range of climates and soils as the Elberta, we shall have a new commercial peach of very great value. Whether it succeeds in commerce or not, Edgemont is well worth planting in home orchards by virtue of its exceptionally high quality and alluring appearance.

The Edgemont, shortened from Edgemont Beauty, in accordance with the rules of the American Pomological Society, is of rather recent origin, having been introduced by the Miller Orchard Company of Edgemont, Maryland, in 1902.

Tree very large, upright-spreading, somewhat open, productive; leaves large, oval, lanceolate; upper surface smooth, dark green; lower surface silvery green; season of bloom with Elberta, short. Fruit midseason, season short; large, roundish-oval to somewhat conic, halves unequal; cavity medium to deep, rather wide, slightly flaring; suture shallow, deepening toward the apex; apex roundish to bluntly pointed; color greenish-yellow changing to a pale lemon-yellow, splashed with dull red with a Carmine blush; overspread with short pubescence; dots numerous, rather conspicuous; skin thin, tough, adherent; flesh yellow, faintly red at the pit, fine, tender, slightly fibrous, rich, sweet, spicy; very good; stone free.

CHERRY.

Abbesse d'Oignies has so many good characters that it is well worth trying commercially wherever cherries are grown in the United States. Curiously enough, it seems so far to have been tried only in the Middle West, Professor Budd having introduced it in Iowa from Russia in 1883. It grew in the Mississippi Valley, if we may judge from the accounts of it, as well as any cherry of its class in the unfavorable soil and climatic conditions of that region. We do not know of its having been tried elsewhere in the East than on our grounds and here we find it, in competition with practically all of the varieties of its class, one of the best of the Dukes. The trees are vigorous, hardy, fruitful. The cherries are large, dark red, of most excellent quality, combining the flavor of the Dukes with a firmer and yet tenderer flesh than the Montmorency. The
high quality and handsome appearance of the fruit, combined with
the good character of the tree, ought to make Abbesses d'Oignies
a very good commercial variety.

This cherry probably originated in western Europe about the
middle of the 19th century. It is now a greater or less favorite
wherever cherries are grown in the Old World, Professor Budd having
found it, as we have said, in 1883, in Russia.

Tree large, vigorous, upright-spreading, hardy, productive; branches smooth,
black, somewhat drooping. Fruit matures late, ripening period long; large, roundish-
oblative, slightly compressed; cavity of medium depth, wide, regular; suture a line;
apex roundish, slightly depressed; color dark, attractive red; dots numerous, small,
light russet, conspicuous; stem slender, one and five-eighths inches long, adhering to
the fruit; skin moderately thick, rather tough, not adherent; flesh yellowish-white,
with colorless juice, slightly stringy, tender, moderately soft, sprightly subacid;
of very good quality; stone free, about three-eighths inch in diameter, roundish,
turgid, slightly pointed, surface nearly smooth.

PLUM.

French.—Damson plums year by year increase in popularity in
New York. Plantations are small but they are becoming more and
more common and those who have them find them profitable. The
trees, as all fruit-growers know, are not equalled by any other of the
several groups of plums in vigor, hardiness and productiveness.
Shropshire is the most commonly grown Damson, but we believe
French to be a better variety and think that if planted more generally
the Damson industry would be even more profitable and make a
still greater growth. French is the largest of the Damsons—
probably a hybrid between Shropshire and some Domestica plum.
The trees are larger and more productive than those of other Damsons.
The fruit is excellent in quality, handsome in appearance, of large
size and may be eaten out of hand with relish when fully ripe or
after a light frost—a point worth remembering where only Damsons
can be grown. In some seasons the stone clings and in others,
curiously enough, it is free. The trees are hardy, very fruitful
and carry their foliage and fruit well. The season is a week or two
later than that of the Shropshire, which is an advantage.

The origin of French is unknown, but it is probably an intro-
duction from France and an old variety renamed. To the late
S. D. Willard of Geneva, New York, to whom plum-growers are
indebted for several foreign varieties, we owe the introduction of French to America.

Tree large, vigorous, spreading, dense-topped, hardy, productive; branches numerous, with many fruit-spurs; leaves folded upward, long, oval; blooming season intermediate in time and length; flowers appearing after the leaves, one and one-fourth inches across, white, borne on lateral spurs, usually in pairs. Fruit late; large for a Damson, ovate, halves equal, suture a line; color dull black, overspread with thick bloom; stem slender, three-fourths inch long, adhering well to the fruit; skin thin, tough, separating readily; flesh greenish, juicy, fibrous, tender, sweet, pleasant and sprightly; good to very good; stone clinging, semi-clinging or free.

GRAPE.

Hicks.—In “The Grapes of New York” we took occasion to call attention to the merit of the Hicks grape as a competitor of the Concord. A few growers have since planted it but the variety does not begin to receive the attention it merits in New York. The fruit is almost identical with the Concord but ripens a little earlier—a fact which in itself should give the grape a place in the viticulture of this State. The chief merit of Hicks as compared with the Concord is, on our grounds and wherever we have heard of it in the State, that the vines are of stronger growth and are more productive. It is not improbable that Hicks would uniformly give greater yields in the Concord grape regions of this State than the Concord itself. It must be remembered, however, that ours is a heavy soil and that the Hicks might not surpass the Concord on lighter soils. Certain it is that Hicks is the better grape on heavy soils and, moreover, because of earlier ripening can be better grown where shortness of season is a consideration.

Hicks was introduced in 1898 by Henry Wallace, Wallston, Missouri, who states that it is a seedling sent from California, about 1870, to a nurseryman of St. Louis county, Missouri, passing eventually into the hands of Wallace, who named it Hicks. Both fruit and vine Characters lead to the supposition that it is an offspring of Concord.

Vine vigorous to very vigorous, hardy, very productive; canes medium to long, numerous, of average thickness, dark brown to reddish-brown, surface covered with thin, blue bloom; leaves large, thin; upper surface dark green and glossy; lower surface whitish, becoming bronze, strongly pubescent; flowers fertile or nearly so. Fruit ripens a little earlier than Concord, ships and keeps as well as Concord; clusters large to medium, broad, tapering, often single-shouldered, compact; berries large, roundish,
dark purplish-black, covered with heavy bloom, inclined to shatter when over-ripe, firm; flesh greenish, juicy, faintly foxy, sweet at the skin but acid at the center; good in quality; seeds adhere somewhat to the pulp, of medium size.

GOOSEBERRY.

Chautauqua is not a new variety and it is surprising that growers have not more generally planted it. None of the American gooseberries can compete with Chautauqua and for a number of years the variety has held its own against the only other commonly grown European sort, Industry. Whether the Chautauqua is a pure-bred European gooseberry or not, the fact remains that mildew, the greatest enemy of the Old World varieties, affects it but little. The bush has the habit of the European varieties and in its stocky, compact, upright growth and thick, dark, shining, healthy leaves, surpasses many of the best of the Europeans. At first on the grounds of this Station Chautauqua was lacking in fruitfulness, but for some years past there have been abundant harvests; in 1913, for example, the variety yielded at the rate of 14,665 pounds per acre with plants set six by five feet apart. The fruit is usually of full size and ready for picking the first or second week of July. It is not safe to delay the harvesting of the fruit because of danger of sunscald — although this variety is no more subject to such injury than other varieties. A gooseberry sold under the name Columbus appears to be identical with Chautauqua. There are a few other European sorts which closely resemble the Chautauqua, as Freedom, Wellington Glory and Portage.

The origin of Chautauqua is not known. Plants were received at this Station in 1888 from the Lewis Roesch Company, Fredonia, New York, with the following account: "About '1876, Mr. Lewis Roesch, Fredonia, New York, first observed the plants growing in an old garden in Dunkirk, New York, and was so pleased with them that he secured permission to layer some of the plants for purposes of propagation. The plants were strong growers, great bearers of very large fruit of good quality and did not then mildew although mildew appeared later. Mr. Roesch was unable to learn the name of the variety. The party of whom he secured the stock did not know the variety, having secured it of a neighbor who had obtained it of some nurseryman. Chas. Downing saw the fruit and was of the opinion that it was some English variety or a seedling of one.
The variety was named and introduced in the spring of 1894 by Lewis Roesch, Fredonia, N. Y."

Plants medium to large, vigorous, stocky, upright-spreading, rather dense, very productive, with but little mildew; suckers few, smooth, straight, rather long, with short internodes, dull, light gray; two-year wood thick, roughened by dull gray scarf-skin over dark brownish-red; spines thick, strong, numerous, long, very sharp, in ones, twos and threes, attached at the base of the leaf; leaf-buds small, narrow, long, conical; leaves obovate to cordate, somewhat taper-pointed, rather thick; upper surface glossy, attractive green, smooth, glabrous; lower surface olive-green; margin blunt-crenate; petiole about three-fourths inch long, slender, pubescent and slightly hairy at the base; flowers open the last of May or early in June. Fruit matures the first half of July; large, one and one-eighth by one inch in size, mostly singly, roundish-oval to roundish, attractive silvery green; pedicels three-eighths inch long, pubescent; skin smooth, covered with bloom, thick, tough, translucent; flesh pale green, medium juicy, firm, sweet except near the skin; good in quality when fully mature; seeds large, numerous.

CURRENANT.

Chautauqua, shortened in accordance with the rules of the American Pomological Society from Chautauqua Climbing, is one of the best of all in the currant collection of nearly forty varieties on the Station grounds. The plants are healthy and all that could be desired in vigor and productiveness, yielding in 1913 at the rate of 10,018 pounds per acre with plants set six by five feet. It ripens in midseason, with Fay or a few days later. The clusters are unusually long, with stems free from berries at the base and therefore easy to pick. The berries, while not uniformly as large as those of Fay, are of good size, handsome light red in color, high in quality and hang well even after ripening. Although the shipping quality has not been tested, Chautauqua will doubtless carry well over long distances.

This currant is a chance seedling found in the woods by Mr. R. F. Lonnen, Mayville, New York, about 1893 and introduced by the Curtice Nursery Company, Portland, New York, in 1901 or 1902. It does not appear to have been widely disseminated. Plants were received at this Station from Lewis Roesch, Fredonia, New York.

Plants large, vigorous, upright-spreading, dense, productive, healthy; suckers rather few; canes stocky, smooth, of medium length, straight, dark brown often entirely overlaid with dull gray; leaves ovate, thin, dark green; margin crenate; petiole variable in length averaging about two inches, of medium thickness, pubescent; season of bloom early. Fruit matures early in July, easily picked; clusters long, loose,
with from fifteen to twenty-four berries per cluster; stems and pedicels long, slender; berries adhere well, medium to large, often one-half inch across, roundish to slightly oblate, attractive light bright red; skin smooth, thin, tough, translucent; flesh reddish, medium juicy, fine-grained, tart, sprightly; very good; seeds intermediate in size and number.

**STRAWBERRIES.**

**Indiana** is a new variety which for two years in succession has been a leader among nearly one hundred varieties under test on the grounds of this Station. The plants do not multiply as rapidly as could be wished but are up to the average in this respect. It blooms late—a valuable character in localities subject to late spring frosts. The season is medium early. The blossoms are perfect. The plants thus far are healthy and although only medium in vigor have yielded well on the heavy clay soil at this Station producing in 1913 at the rate of 10,436 quarts per acre. It is reported to be more productive on heavy than on light soils. But few varieties surpass Indiana in size of fruit, this character holding up unusually well throughout the season. Some of the earliest berries are "coxcombs" but the prevailing shape is distinctly that of the wedge. The color is somewhat variable at first but later becomes a uniformly dark, glossy scarlet. The quality is first-class. The variety gives promise of being one of the best of shippers, having firm, meaty flesh.

Indiana is of recent origin. It was produced by Mr. H. J. Schild, Ionia, Michigan, in 1905. It is a cross between Red Cross and a seedling, the parentage of which was Red Dawn X Ionia Market. The new variety was introduced by Mr. A. B. Sibert, Rochester, Indiana, in 1911 as a "fig type" strawberry.

Plants medium in number, vigor and height, healthy, productive; leaves rather small, dark green, smooth, glossy; leaf-stalks somewhat slender, with abundant pubescence; flowers perfect, bloom rather late, variable in size; pedicels short, slender slightly pubescent; petals average six to seven in number, broadly roundish, tapering to broad, blunt claws; stamens numerous, short; receptacle medium in size, broadly conical. Fruit-stems short, thick, prostrate, much branched; pedicels long, slender; calyx small, flat, adheres well to the fruit; fruit matures medium early, season rather long; berries large, quite uniform in size which is retained till near the close of the picking season, wedge-shape, with furrowed surface, not necked, obtuse at the apex, dark attractive glossy red, coloring evenly; seeds numerous, variable in position; flesh well colored to the center, medium juicy, firm, mild subacid; good in quality.
Barrymore.— For two years at this Station, Barrymore has more than held its own against many standard, commercial strawberries. The characters which promise to make it preeminent are fruitfulness, large size, desirable shape, unusually attractive color, with flavor and quality which closely rival these characters in the well-known Marshall. The foliage has shown some susceptibility to leaf-spots. In the later pickings the color of the fruit has been somewhat variable. The yield at this Station in 1913 was at the rate of 12,499 quarts per acre. The late blooming habit is a valuable asset in localities subject to spring frosts. The flowers are perfect. A large number of runners are produced, for which ample room should be provided in setting the plants. Barrymore is almost an ideal variety for early midseason.

Barrymore is the result of a cross made by Mr. H. L. Crane, Westwood, Massachusetts, in 1901. Blossoms of Sample were fertilized with pollen from a seedling of A. B. Howard. After testing the seedlings resulting from this cross for a number of years one of the most promising was named Barrymore and was introduced by Mr. Crane in 1908 in which year the variety won a silver medal and three first premiums at the meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Plants numerous, medium in vigor and height, very productive, somewhat subject to attacks of leaf-spot; leaves rather small; flowers perfect, bloom rather late, one to one and one-eighth inches across; petals roundish-oval, usually from six to eight in number; stamens medium in length, numerous; fruit-stems intermediate in length, variable in thickness; calyx large, attractive green, flattened, leafy. Fruit matures medium early, season long; berries large, retain size fairly well till near the close of the season, blunt-conic to wedge-shape, obtuse at the apex, attractive, glossy dark red; seeds raised; flesh well colored to the center, juicy, firm, pleasant flavored, sprightly; very good in quality.