INTRODUCING NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS.

By CHAS. W. WARD, *Queens, N. Y.*

Before deciding upon the introduction of a new variety of plant the originator should have proven by practical test to his own satisfaction that the plant in question has at least sufficient economic or ornamental value to warrant its introduction. It should not be inferior to plants of the same general class already disseminated. When it comes to the introduction of commercial plants nothing should be sent out to the trade until its practical value has to some extent been proven. So far as the introduction of plants for the purpose of testing is concerned, it may be well held that any promising new and novel plant may be disseminated.

PRACTICAL METHODS OF INTRODUCTION.

Having decided that a new plant has given sufficient promise to warrant its introduction, the introducer should make sure that he has a sufficient quantity of stock in proper, healthful, and vigorous condition to insure his filling a reasonable demand with young stock in such condition that the purchaser has at least a fair chance of giving the plant a successful test. This cannot be done if the originator has but a small quantity of stock for propagating purposes and is obliged to force that stock in order to secure sufficient young plants to fill his orders. This results in what we term "over-propagation" and usually ends in general dissatisfaction all around. Many good varieties of new plants have been condemned because their constitutions have been ruined by over-propagation, and the purchasers did not have a fair chance to determine what their actual value was.

PACKING AND SHIPPING.

Having propagated a quantity of stock in first class condition ready for delivery, the introducer should make sure that in shipping all young plants are packed in the best possible manner so as to insure the purchaser receiving them in good growing condition and with the least check and damage during transit. The roots of young plants should be packed in damp sphagnum moss and wrapped in oiled or waxed paper which will preserve the dampness and prevent the roots drying out and the plant becoming shriveled. I prefer to pack all young stock in boxes sufficiently strong to insure against any damage from bruising or breakage.

DISSEMINATING SEED OF NEW PLANTS.

In introducing plants which are propagated from seed it would certainly be to the advantage of the purchaser as well as to the reputation of the introducer if the stock from which the seed disseminated is grown be carefully selected and rogued so as to insure seed being

gathered only from plants that approximate the fixed type and are in the best possible condition as to health and vigor. If the season for seeding has been an unfavorable one, it would well pay to have the seed selected out, discarding all light and immature seeds and sending out only well formed, heavy, and perfectly ripened seed.

PRICES TO BE CHARGED FOR NEW INTRODUCTIONS.

I am a strong believer in the general proposition that the plant-breeder who originates a new thing that bids fair to be of great economic value, is as fully entitled to a substantial reward and liberal profit therefor as is the inventor of any new mechanical device which is of great economic value. Therefore, I hold that the originator of a commercially valuable new plant should charge a good round price, commensurate with the care, trouble, and expense he has been put to in developing his production, and he should compensate the purchaser for the high price paid by delivering the very best stock that can be produced under the most advanced system of culture.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BREEDING CARRIAGE HORSES.

By GEO. M. ROMMEL, *Chairman, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

As Chairman of the Committee on Carriage-Horse Breeding of the American Breeders' Association, I have to report that I wrote members of the committee requesting suggestions and proposing the formation of a studbook as a subject for discussion. Replies were received as follows:

W. L. Carlyle, Ft. Collins, Colo.—I do not believe that the studbook proposition is one that is of any special importance for four or five years yet, until we get some of our stallions located and have some selected mares for registry that are going to be bred to them.

M. H. Tichenor, New York, N. Y.—The matter of a studbook for the American carriage horse is, I think, a very important one. It should cover the ground sufficiently for identification of the breed of horse. I don't believe in order to be entered a horse should be standard or standard-bred, but I do think he should be sufficiently strong; that it should have the official stamp, and should not be a mixture.

Charles F. Curtiss, Ames, Iowa.—I believe that a studbook should be established, but whether it is important or desirable that it be established immediately or not, I am not certain. Perhaps a better plan could be devised after a few years of preliminary work.

Prof. Curtiss also suggests that the classification for American carriage horses to be followed for the first time at the Iowa State Fair to be held in Des Moines in August, 1907, if adopted by other fairs and intelligently interpreted by the judges and fair authorities, would