Only small garden patches and they were a one-half crop. Not nearly one-half as much small fruit grown as five years ago. Farmers got discouraged caused by failures. Though prices were good last summer, there were many premiums of good quality.

It seems everybody is going to raise apples, judging by the number of trees sold in the last two years.

The Model Ohio Orchard men have again last summer sold thousands of trees, delivered at Norwalk.

The ground has been lightly covered with snow this winter with sufficient moisture in the ground, so I don't fear any winter killing.

Adjourned until 1:30 P. M.

Mr. President—We will now take up the program of this afternoon. You have all noticed that we are likely to have as practical session as we had this morning. We have a very important subject, "Small Fruits," and we will have a paper by a man who has been brought up in the business, Mr. M. S. Kellogg, of Janesville.

PLANTING AND CARE OF STRAWBERRIES.

By M. S. Kellogg.

First comes the selection of the location for your bed; in doing so be careful to choose well drained land rich enough to yield 100 bushels of corn or 150 bushels of potatoes per acre. This land should also have been cultivated with some hoed crop for two years prior to the setting of the strawberry plants, in order to escape the ravages of the white grub; one of the trying pests that the strawberry grower has to contend with the first year. Never set strawberries on newly broken-up sod or you will lose 75 per cent. of them by this white grub.

After you have selected your location prepare the ground. How? Just as well as you can. If possible apply a top dressing of well rotted manure before plowing. Plow deeply, harrow
and plank down, then harrow again and plank down again, and so continue until the ground is in first class shape. For the extra time used in preparation of the soil you will be repaid in added growth and vigor of plants and a greater yield of finer fruit. Now mark out your rows. For the commercial grower a horse marker is best as then there is no line or anything in the way of the settlers; for the home bed a line may be used. Set the plant for home use 3 feet by 2, and for market growers 4 feet by 1 1/2 or 2 feet as desired. If you grow your own plants be careful that they are pure and above all from a bed which has not fruited. If you buy plants get them from some reliable grower, plants that are strong and healthy. It does not pay to set weak plants for a plant that is weak at planting time is liable to always be a little behind its neighbors and an uneven stand is the result. When plants are received (that is when shipped from a distance), open the bunches and heel in fresh soil, then proceed to set.

In setting use a spade or other tool with which to open a good sized hole; spread the roots out fan shaped and firm the soil so there is no drying out and consequent loss. Be careful that the plants are set at the proper depth, crown just even with the surface of the ground. Too deep is as bad as too shallow setting, as mildew and rot will attack plants too deeply set while those that extend above ground will soon dry out and die or else hang along and jus' live but make no runners.

In setting we use a spade shaped dibble made from polished steel with a blade 4 inches wide by 8 or 9 inches in length and have a boy drop plants for the setter; keeping plants protected by moss or water so there is no drying out.

Time to set. Just as early as the ground is warmed enough so that plants will at once start to grow. A week or two too early is better than a week or two too late. But remember the ground must not be worked at any time when so wet it will cake, as this brings loss later on. When your plants are set get the cultivator out and see that they are cultivated every week and hoed every ten days up to the 1st of October when cultivation may cease and hoeing also, except that all weeds appearing should be removed either with a hoe or by hand.
Shall we have hill culture or matted rows? For those who desire a limited quantity of extra fine fruit hill culture seems best but this method of cultivation entails more work and is not generally followed. Matted rows are best in nine cases out of ten. But here a word of warning is necessary; do not permit the plants to take root nearer than four inches from each other and cut off all runners when the row is 24 inches wide. By so doing you will have a good broad path for the pickers and also have a row wide enough to produce as much fruit as if the rows ran together, and when each plant has plenty of room the fruit is of a much better quality.

November 1st cover the bed for winter using straw, marsh-hay or any covering free from foul seed. Do not use manure as it contains too much grass seed. Cover plants just out of sight, being careful not to apply too much covering or they will smother. In the spring remove the covering and cultivate up to the time the fruit is beginning to set, when the mulch should be replaced and not disturbed again until after fruiting. The object of this spring cultivation is to store a supply of moisture for the plants during fruiting time, and you are not sure unless you cultivate, and not always sure then.

The leaf roller is one pest we have to fight. One preventative is to cut any old beds immediately after fruiting and when dry enough burn over in a brisk wind, which destroys many of this insect. Poison will not reach this little fellow, and where they are thick enough to endanger the crop (which is very seldom) the only sure way is to open the nest and kill by hand on the young beds the first season.

Varieties have not been mentioned as we believe they are to come in a later paper, but for the amateurs staminates are to be recommended before pistillates, and we now have many staminates equally productive with any of the pistillate varieties.