ripened, which is sometimes of great importance when labor might be scarce, or is needed in gathering more perishable products, or in case the market becomes temporarily overloaded. Bushes closely cropped back at the ends, and exposing the fruit to the direct rays of the sun, are in danger of total loss of crop in case of wet weather followed directly by hot sun, which will scald the fruit as effectually as if hot water is poured upon it. Our trimming is simply a thinning process. We cut close to the ground all unnecessary young growth, retaining three or four main fruiting stems, and treat the remainder as so many weeds. After the third or fourth year from planting we allow several of the strongest young shoots to grow each year for the purpose of renewing the bush, and when these become old enough to bear we then cut out the weaker of the old stalks, and let the new ones take their place as rapidly as the old ones become partially exhausted and show signs of decay. Thus by properly fertilizing and caring for the soil we could run a plantation through a long period of years, and have wood of four to six years' growth, thus keeping the bush in prime condition all the while.—Rural New-Yorker.

THE DUCHESS ORCHARD.

The Duchess orchard is now of no commercial value unless it is within easy reach of a good market without shipment, or unless nearby cold storage is available. Sometimes the shipper realizes a profit but on an average he ships Duchess at a loss. It will often pay to change over such an orchard to Wealthy or Peter or other valuable long-keeping varieties, by top grafting. This will require considerable labor, depending largely upon the size of the trees to be grafted. If trees are large, grafting must be done farther out on the limbs and many limbs must be grafted on each tree to maintain a well balanced top. This work
is usually delayed till it is warm enough in the spring so that wax will work readily, which crowds the work into a short space of time and a very busy season of the year. I am working over a large orchard in this way and have invented a wax warmer (not patented) which enables me to do the work in March or April and I incline to the opinion that it might be done in late fall or midwinter just as well. Take a short length of stovepipe, put on a broad flat bottom so that the thing will stand up, put in a door near the bottom to admit a good sized kerosene lamp, fit a tin or iron vessel on the top to hold the wax to be melted. We graft a tree or two then melt wax and apply with a small brush. After the weather warms up all should be gone over carefully to see that the wax covering remains in perfect condition.

Owatonna, Minn.

E. H. S. Dartt.

WHAT STRAWBERRIES SHALL WE PLANT?

This question is perennial. Like the grass and the wild flowers it starts up anew every spring. To aid you in answering the question we will give some notes gathered at various horticultural meetings and in conversation with fruit-growers during the past year.

The three new varieties which seem to have the largest following are Kansas, Senator Dunlap and Rough Rider.

Kansas originated in the state whose name it bears. This is an imperfect-flowered variety, season late. At our meeting in Oshkosh last winter R. M. Kellogg of Michigan, the famous berry man, said he considered this among the most promising new sorts he has tried. He has been testing it for four years. The berries are large, somewhat after the Crescent type, but larger and of much brighter color. In his catalogue Mr. Kellogg “commends it to growers as a variety of the greatest merit.” He classes it as late in