NOTES ON GRAPES IN WEST FLORIDA.

The following Notes, by G. W. MELLISH, of DeFuniak Springs, Walton County, reached the Secretary after the topic "Grapes" had been passed, and did not, therefore, come before the meeting.

Grapes continue to do well on the high, rolling lands of West Florida. Vines six to eight years old show little or no disease on leaves or berries. The best success is on lands which have a loose, sandy, sub-soil; where the roots can run down, unobstructed, for ten or twenty feet, they seem to get a hold on life that will endure forever, at the same time the surface soil is full of feeding roots. I give my vines shallow cultivation. As to varieties: Many of the black grapes do not ripen the berries evenly, and only a few sorts will stand long distance transportation. The Niagara still holds first place as a commercial grape. It can be put in the Northern market in better condition than any other variety. The prices realized last year (1894) were from $1.50 to $3.00 per 20-pound crate. I have had good results with grapes, and have had no report of fruit arriving in bad order or of berries dropping from the stems. As with everything else, there must be liberal manuring to obtain liberal results. I am more than ever convinced that potash is a good thing in grape fertilization. I also use potash for my pear trees; for the past three years I have fertilized my pear trees with blood and bone and fifty per cent. sulphate of potash, in the proportion of two pounds of the former to one pound of the latter, and I have been satisfied with the results. There is another thing that I am becoming more and more convinced of. It is that both fruit trees and vines require more room in the South than they do in the North. If I were to plant another vineyard, I would set the vines 10 by 12, or 10 by 15 feet apart. Land is cheap in Florida, and the least expensive way to fertilize and irrigate vines is by giving them plenty of soil room.

[For full information as to grape culture in Florida, see the published reports of the proceedings of previous annual meetings of the Society.]