

Varieties and Principles

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(This month we are publishing our first guest editorial written by Dr. W. H. Chandler of California, one of the outstanding personalities in American horticulture. We hope to continue this policy and bring our readers special editorials of this type from time to time.)

Fruit varieties and human behavior have in them the varieties and behavior of the past and will live in the varieties and behavior of the future. Probably the variety of whose great age we can be most certain is the Black Corinth or Zante grape, from which currants are made. The seedling, or mutant shoot, from which it was propagated may have grown before the time of Christ, certainly grew before Pliny wrote in the first century A.D. The variety was at least a century old when Marcus Aurelius, noblest of emperors and probably the noblest flower of the Stoic philosophy, was setting down, such expressions as "If thou workest at that which is before thee, following right reason seriously, vigorously, calmly, without allowing anything else to distract thee, thou shalt live happy," or "Be like a promontory around which the waves continuously break, but it stands and tames the fury of the water around it."

Knowing the effectiveness of my friend, Dr. Harold Olmo, I believe he will orig-



W. H. CHANDLER

inate a variety that will replace Black Corinth. But, regardless of what varieties are used to produce the new variety, Black Corinth will be in it and in varieties that may succeed it: will have established the demand for such fruit and fixed the standard by which new varieties in its class must be selected.

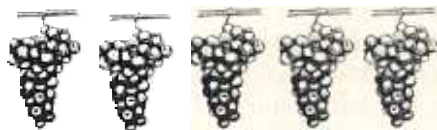
Likewise, the stoic philosophy has a part in our moral doctrines, in the soul of our nation and of other nations, an inconspicuous part in the Christian religion and in the general stream of human ideals, like the part of a replaced variety in the stream of varieties for which it has been the standard.

The modern fruit industry had its beginnings when prehistoric men first planted seeds from the best wild trees they knew, and especially when they took scions from the best of such seedlings and grafted them onto other trees. Each se-

lection that produced good crops became the standard by which still better varieties were selected; all of these thousands of varieties thereby live in the varieties we grow. And the soul of the nations began to grow when the first men began to feel the comfort and security of group cooperation, and to feel ennobled when they had served the group well and guilty when they had not; it grew more dependably when they expressed these feelings on the walls of their caves, on clay tablets, on papyrus, and eventually with the printing press.

Growth of a nation's soul is not as simple as the stream of fruit varieties, a

continuous progress from good to better. People have given it elements of nobility and elements of snarling selfishness, either of which may dominate it under different influences and leadership. If a young man is anxious for his life, growing into the soul of his nation, to support only the noble part, I believe he can do no better than to cultivate the qualities of Marcus Aurelius: his serene acceptance of misfortune and hardship, his fair and patient weighing of opinions and evidence, his inflexible loyalty to truth and to duty, his faith in the capacity and destiny of man, and his human love and reverence.



Avocado Varieties in Florida

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When the late George Cellon started the first commercial propagation of the avocado at Miami in 1900, there were only seedlings of the West Indian race in

Florida from which to select varieties. Up until 1912 the situation remained essentially unchanged, and dozens of West Indian seedlings were selected and propagated as varieties. Most of these are only of historical interest today, but the first two varieties ever named, Trapp and