

DEAR SIR,—The time, has come around again to renew my subscription for the *Horticulturist*, and I do it with pleasure for it is always a welcome visitor, with its monthly store of knowledge and instruction, the whole space being devoted to those things, instead of a part of it being taken up (as many of the periodicals are) with some worthless serial story.

W. HOOD.

Valleyfield, Dec. 17, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—Please find enclosed the sum of one dollar being my subscription for the *Horticulturist* for the ensuing year. It has regularly paid its monthly visit and has always been welcomed as a friend. It is so nice after a hard day's work to take an easy chair and forget all about weariness and bad weather, and dull markets while reading from its clear, well printed pages, the struggles and triumphs of fellow labourers. I always learn something from each number, and I am always encouraged by the perseverance, displayed by your correspondents, under the many discouragements attending on horticultural pursuits. I love my little garden, but what with untimely frosts and codlin moths, and currant, and gooseberry, and cabbage worms, I feel like *giving up*, but I am getting knowledge, and I find it true, that "knowledge is power." I am getting the upper hand of my insect enemies and if I cannot prevent frosts I can guard against them. You have asked so nicely for your readers to give their experience, that I, for one, feel tempted to try, just to please you, you know, and perhaps my experience may be of use to others.

F. F.

Minesing, Dec., 1885.

DEAR SIR,—Please find enclosed one dollar for *Canadian Horticulturist* for

1886, having taken it for several years I cannot do without it, for I consider it a most invaluable guide for the garden.

W. B. HILL.

Toronto, Dec. 13, 1885.

QUESTION DRAWER.

(1) I would like to know if coal ashes are good for anything or not. Are they good for the soil, or for bushes or trees? (2) What is the cause of lice on apple trees.

A. C. McD.

Dunlop, Huron Co.

REPLY.—(1) Chemists tell us that coal ashes do not contain sufficient fertilizing matter to pay for applying them to the land for that purpose. It is, however, said that the application of coal ashes to stiff clay soils is sufficiently beneficial to pay for the labor of hauling and spreading, because of their mechanical effect in loosening the soil. It is also claimed by some who have tried them that they are profitable as a mulch, when applied to currant bushes, especially black currant bushes. (2) It is not in the writer's power to say what is the cause of lice on apple trees; either bark lice, or the green lice (aphis). They are living beings, having the power of reproduction and locomotion; they feed on the juices of the trees; and, when allowed to become numerous produce very injurious effects.

PIGEON DUNG.

I have got a couple of casks of pigeon dung, and I would like to know how and what quantities to apply to about an acre, that is set with grapes, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, currants, plums, and pears. The ground now is rich, and well manured. By