

An Ichneumon Fly.

645.—**SIR**,—A large plum tree in my garden has some little holes in the bark, about as big as pigeon shot; and as spring advances I find, by close watching, an insect coming forth of wasp-like shape, but smaller, leaving a cocoon at the outlet. I send you specimens collected last summer.

W. S. DANA, *Portland, Me.*

Mr. W. H. Harrington, of Ottawa, says these are the remains of a species of Ichneumon, probably *Ichneumon acerbres*, a common small black species. It is a parasite upon other insects.

Russian Apricot.

646. **SIR**,—Is the Russian apricot a success in Ontario? We have some which are thrifty enough and bloom well, but never bear fruit.

G. B. LINDENWOOD.

Your experience corresponds with ours at Maplehurst. We have a dozen Russian apricots which have bloomed freely for several years, but give us no fruit. This is apparently owing to the early period of blooming, which is subject to injury from the late spring frosts. If any of our readers are more fortunate would they please report.

Ashes from Cedar.

647.—**SIR**,—What quantity of ashes would be produced by burning a cord of cedar wood?

P. J. WILKINSON, *Cambray, Ont.*

Reply by Prof. Shutt, of Central Experimental Farm.

Dry cedar wood is very light, but I cannot guess even at the approximate weight of a cord of it. If your correspondent could furnish that datum, perhaps the weight of ash produced could in sound numbers be arrived at. We have no figures as to the percentage of ash of cedar, but from analogy I should judge it to be about one per cent. on the air-dried wood. The proportion of bark to wood would materially effect the weight of ash produced, since the percentage of ash in the former is, I suppose, about three times greater than that in the latter.

Grafting the Grape.

In answer to Question 639, by Alex. McNeil, Windsor.

Cleft-grafting the grape is frequently unsuccessful. A better method is a species of marching. Make a hole large enough to accommodate the roots of a good one or two-year old vine at the base of the vine to be grafted. Make a V-shaped incision in the stalk, as low as convenient, into which fit the new wood of the young vine. Tie in place, and keep earth around the stem to cover the union, leaving two buds of the scion exposed. Prune the old vine severely, to give the scion every advantage, but not enough to injure the root system. The next year cut the old stem off above the union and the graft below.