

## Question Drawer.

### Fruit Samples.

**926.** SIR,—At the request of W. Fisher, Orillia, I send you a sample of a seedling desert apple, grown by him, and would be obliged for your opinion.

G. H. HALL, *Orillia.*

The apple is rather pretty in appearance. Medium in size, conical, of excellent flavor, and probably would be a first-class winter dessert apple for the north.

### Shortening-in Pear Growth.

**927.** SIR,—Is it advisable to cut back or shorten-in about one-half or two-thirds of last year's growth of young bearing pear trees in the spring, in order to prevent their growing too tall?

R. BURNS, *Parkhill, Ont.*

Yes, prune your trees while growing into the shape you want to have them, when they reach maturity.

### Ashes for Pear Trees.

**928.** SIR,—What quantity per tree of unleached wood ashes would you advise me to apply to pear trees, ten or fifteen years old?

G. H. NIXON, *Hyde Park.*

Twenty-five or thirty pounds per tree, should afford sufficient potash for full-grown pear trees. Of course they should have nitrogen and available phosphoric acid in some form, also.

### Ashes and Manure.

**929.** SIR,—Should I apply ashes and manure at the same time?

G. H. N.

There is no objection to this; the evil consists in leaving them mixed together in the same pile.

### The Madison Plum.

**930.** Would you recommend the Madi-

son plum for the County of Middlesex?

G. H. N.

Will someone give his experience?

### Nitrate of Soda.

**931.** SIR,—Will you kindly inform me the best market to buy nitrate of soda in, and also other fertilizers? and you will oblige

J. H. WIGLE, *Leamington, Ont.*

### Japan Lilac.

**932.** SIR,—Is this perfectly hardy, and is it sometimes grown in the hothouse?

MRS. RAWSON, *Burlington.*

*Reply by Prof. H. L. Hutt, O.A.C., Guelph.*

I cannot speak from my own experience, as to the hardiness of this variety, as it is not in our collection; but I see that Prof. Saunders in his report for 1893, speaks of it being hardy at Ottawa, so I would suppose there would be no difficulty in growing it at Burlington.

I have not heard of its being grown in the hothouse in this country, although I do not doubt it might be. In England and France the lilac is extensively forced during the winter in houses where the light is excluded. The flowers are thus blanched pure white, and are in great demand for making bouquets, etc. The disadvantage of this method is the impossibility of having foliage to accompany the flowers. Leaves from other plants grown in the light have to be substituted.

### The Onion Maggot.

**933.** SIR,—What is the best insecticide for the onion maggot?

R. BURNS, *Parkhill.*

We cannot answer our correspondent better than by quoting from the Hatch