

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## EXPERIMENTS WITH YEAST IN DESTROYING INSECTS.

We are indebted to Dr. H. A. Hagen, of Cambridge, for the following letter and the subsequent remarks on this interesting subject :

Kingsworth, Ashford, Kent, Dec. 27, 1881.

DEAR SIR,—

I beg to thank you very much for your letter, dated Nov., 1880, respecting the application of yeast for destroying insect pests. During the past season I have endeavored to follow the instructions contained therein, and as you express a wish to hear of my success or failure, I will attempt to describe my experiments as clearly as possible. As soon as Aphides became noticeable, I procured some German compressed yeast, dissolved an ounce in a little warm water, added a little coarse sugar, and set it to ferment. In about 24 hours I added sufficient water to make up a gallon, and with this syringed a cherry tree attacked by black Aphides. This was on the 16th of June. Four days later I found the tree almost clear of living Aphides, though their dead bodies, or cast skins (I could not ascertain which, although I asked the assistance of an entomological friend) smothered many of the leaves. One remarkable point in this experiment was that a small branch of the tree, loaded with Aphides, hung over a window, and at the request of my wife, I abstained from syringing it. Here the insects remained perfectly healthy, and after a few days were seen to work down the tree and attack the young shoots that had been washed clean. On June 29th I again dressed the tree, and this time destroyed or drove away every Aphide. I may add that the larvae of several Aphidivorous insects were present on the tree, and did not appear greatly affected by the application. Encouraged by the apparent success attending the application, I commenced operations, June 20, on a second cherry tree. This, however, was heavily leafed, and I could not make so much impression, but they evidently did not like the dressing, for they disappeared entirely soon after the second application. I also tried the yeast for Aphides on Guelder Rose (*Viburnum*), Elder (*Sambucus*), Field Bean, and some other plants; also for Currant Grub, but could make no decided mark anywhere. With respect to the Currant and Gooseberry Grubs, the liquid ran from off their bodies clean, and I found it almost impossible to saturate them with it. If the syringing was persisted in, they