

PEACH LEAF CURL.

(EXOASCUS DEFORMANS.)

SIR,—Is there any remedy for the peach leaf curl? Already, May 26th, the young leaves are showing its presence. The prospect of a good peach crop is so favorable, that I would like to try any means of stopping this curl.

W. SMITH, *Winona, Ont.*



UNFORTUNATELY we know of no remedy for this evil, at least none that can be applied so late in the season as this. Prof. Scribner suggests spraying the trees before the buds begin to swell, with a strong solution, 30 or 40 per cent. of sulphate of iron, as a preventative. The curl, though usually considered a minor evil, has, of late years, done us much mischief, taking off both fruit and leaves before maturity. Sometimes the curl kills the young shoots.

Mr. E. Ainslie, of Beaconsfield, wrote for this journal in May, 1888, that he had succeeded in destroying this fungus by burning old leather on some coals in a tin pail, underneath the trees. The pail can be levated through the tree by the pitch-fork.

Mr. Briggs, of Massachusetts, also speaks of rubber fumes as being an effective insecticide. He states that he was successful in driving away the rosebug by the use of fumes of burning rubber. It is barely possible that good may result in the use of this remedy, but it has not yet been established. The swollen, powdery appearance of the leaves, affected with the curl, needs no description. Fig. 46 shows a cross section of a healthy leaf, from the upper to the under surface, *a* representing the upper and *b* the lower surface. Of course it is only by the use of a magnifying glass that any such distinction of cells, as these here shown, can be discerned. The fungus begins on the leaf as a small swelling on the tissue upper half of the leaf, and spreads until it affects the whole surface, and consequently becomes nearly double in width and greatly increased in thickness. As a result the leaf finally shrivels and drops. The tree is thereby so weakened as to lose its fruit as well as its foliage.

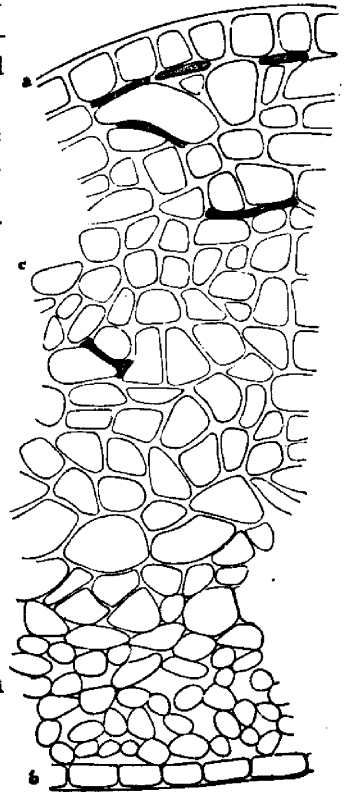


FIG. 46.