HYACINTHS AND CARNATIONS.

G. P. G., Huron Co., Ont.:—"Will you kindly put a short article in the ADVOCATE on the treatment of hyacinths and carnations, after winter blooming, to prepare them for blooming next winter? We want the flowers in winter."

[Hyacinths that have blossomed in the house during the winter seldom do well a second time. The best thing to do with them is to plant them out in the garden and leave them there with the tulips and crocuses, to flower out of doors in the following spring.

After they have done flowering in the house they should be left in the pots and watered occasionally, so as to keep the earth from drying up. They may be put anywhere so long as they are not exposed to frost. When warm weather comes the pots may be left out of doors, under a tree or in a shed out of the sun—no attention need be paid to them. If it is desired to bring them in for another winter, they should be repotted late in the fall, or at any rate (if it is found that they have many roots) the greater part of the soil should be removed and replaced with a mixture of sand and rich loam. When brought indoors they should be kept in the dark till there has been plenty of time for a good supply of roots to form—at least six weeks—and then brought into the light some weeks before it is desired to have the bloom. But for winter blossoms it is far more satisfactory to get fresh bulbs and pot them in the autumn; the spikes of flowers will be far finer, and there will be less danger of disappointment.

2. It is the general opinion of florists that it is not worth while trying to keep carnations that have flowered in the house over to another winter. It is better to sow seed in the open garden and take up the plants late in the autumn for blooming in the house. Should they show a tendency to blossom out-of-doors, they must be prevented from doing so by nipping off the buds. If, however, it is desired to preserve a choice variety that has flowered indoors, the best plan is to plant it in the flower-bed in spring and then by "layering" get new growths for potting later on in the season. This is done in the following manner: In July or August, take a fresh young shoot, strong and vigorous, which should be four or five joints in length; strip off all the leaves nearest the root, leaving only those on the two or three upper joints. Stir up the soil about an inch, and fill in with light rich soil, then take the shoot in the finger and thumb of the left hand, bending it upwards, inserting a sharp knife below the third joint from the top. Cut upwards, splitting the shoot half or three-quarters of an inch above it. Cover up with soil, being careful not to break the shoot, and as soon as rooted put in two-inch pots, pretty firmly, in light sandy soil. Re-pot two or three times, and give favorable growing conditions, such as plenty of air and light.

C. J. S. BETHUNE.]

THE SAN JOSE SCALE ACT.

W. J. P., Wentworth Co., Ont.:—"Is the embargo on nursery stock from United States still in force? Does it also apply to forest-tree seedlings or transplanted stock? Does the San José scale effect forest trees?"

[The *San Jose Scale Act* is still in force, and reads as follows: "The importation of any trees, shrubs, plants, vines, grafts, cuttings or buds, commonly called nursery stock, from any country or place to which this Act applies, is prohibited." (The names of the countries to which the Act applies are the United States, Australia, Japan, and the Hawaiian Islands.) The following plants are exempted from the operations of the above-mentioned Act, viz.: 1. *Greenhouse Plants*, with the exception of roses; 2. *Herbaceous Perennials*; 3. *Herbaceous Bedding Plants*; 4. *All Conifers*; 5. *Bulbs and Tubers*.

Prof. Lochhead writes us on the above question as follows: "Inasmuch as the San José scale has been found on *chestnut*, black, Japan and English *walnut*, *basswood*, *elm*, *acacia*, *alder*, *sumac*, *willows*, *catalpa*, *poplars*, *silver maple*, *cut-leaved birch*, *mountain ash*, *Juneberry*, *laurel*, *hawthorn* and *Euonymus*, it is very likely that the Department at Ottawa would refuse to allow trees to be imported, even though it has the following section: 'The Governor-in-Council, upon its being made to appear to his satisfaction that any class of plants is not liable to the attack of the San José scale, may exempt plants of such class, and grafts, cuttings or buds thereof, from the operation of this Act.'

"My own observations as to the infestation of forest trees lead me to the conclusion that *few* forest trees in Ontario have thus far been found infested. In the Niagara districts, where forest trees and second-growth shrubs were surrounded by badly-infested orchards, no trace of infestation could be discovered, even after careful search. At Guilds, several willows, ornamental birches, and an isolated elm, were found infested. It may be said that if the forest trees could be searched thoroughly scale would likely be found on them, especially in infested districts. Prof. Webster, of Ohio, states that elms become infested as often as they are exposed, but our experience in Ontario does not warrant that statement. I beg to refer your readers for further particulars to my bulletin on 'The San José and Other Scale Insects,' which will be ready for distribution some time this month.

"W. LOCHHEAD, Entomologist.

"O. A. C., Guelph."]

DESTROYING COUCH GRASS AND OX-EYE DAISY.

QUEBEC FARMER:—"I intend, the coming season, to cultivate a field containing twitch or couch grass, which in some parts has almost taken full possession of the soil. Since plowing out of lea there has been one crop taken off it, and it was again plowed last fall; clay soil. Please tell me how to proceed in order to make a thorough job of it. Do you approve of sowing buckwheat on such land? Whether would a 20-tooth iron grubber or one of the modern spring-tooth cultivators be the best to tear up the strong roots of this weed? How can ox-eye daisy be killed out?"

[In a dry season probably the most satisfactory method of exterminating couch grass is to plow rather shallowly and work the roots of the grass to the top with a spring-toothed cultivator. If this is done repeatedly and the roots raked up and drawn off and burned, good work will be accomplished. Regarding the growing of buckwheat, our experience leads us to favor it as a means of destroying couch grass by smothering, and better results seem to be accomplished by allowing the buckwheat to ripen for seed before plowing the ground. In the case in question, we would recommend working the surface, as already mentioned, till about the middle of June; then sow buckwheat, about five pecks per acre, and allow the crop to ripen; then, after the crop is removed, give the field another thorough cultivation as in spring. Rib the land late in the fall by turning two furrows together or by cutting and covering. This will expose a large amount of surface over winter, which will lift and kill the exposed roots. The following spring it would be well to cultivate thoroughly till time to sow roots or plant corn and grow a hoed crop. This treatment should accomplish good results, which it will, especially if the seasons are at all dry, but in a wet season it is almost useless to work at couch grass, as each turning of the plant gives it a fresh start, at which time smothering seems the only remedy.

Ox-eye daisy is a bad weed to deal with, particularly in meadows and pastures where cultivation cannot be given. It grows in all soils and infests all kinds of crops. It is least troublesome in hoed crops, and these, too, are effective in destroying it. The object should be to grow two hoed crops in succession, or a hoed crop following a summer-fallow. An infested meadow could be pastured until June, then plowed rather deeply, cultivated down and sowed to rape in drills. This crop can be cultivated well throughout the season and pastured off in the fall. The following spring grow a well-cultivated hoed crop. Another good plan is to sow an infested field with rye and pasture it off until June. The ground may then be worked as summer-fallow or sown to millet to pasture later in the season, or it could be plowed down. Whatever plan is adopted, the aim should be to induce germination of the seeds and then destroy the young plants. It would be well to avoid seeding down until the field has been cleared of the weeds.]

PAINT RECIPES.

A SUBSCRIBER, Shellmouth:—"Would you please give recipes in the columns of your valuable paper for making a good white and brownish-drab paint suitable for outside of house; also a light yellow for floors that will dry quickly and wear well."

[Ready mixed paints prepared by Canada Paint Co., also Sherwin-Williams Co., both of Montreal, are mixed in all colors and for all purposes. They are cheap, durable, and easily applied. If it is desired to mix the paints, the following rules may be followed: For the house paints, first get Robertson's chemically-pure white lead, mix with raw linseed oil to a consistency almost ready to apply, and thin to work well with turpentine. Now mix in a separate pot a small amount of ultramarine blue with raw linseed oil; pour carefully into the white, stirring thoroughly, just enough to remove the yellow cast. To dry quickly, add a little Japan or patent drier—Japan preferred. To get the brownish-drab shade, mix burnt umber and raw oil to the same consistency as the white paint. In another pot mix lamp black with oil to same consistency. Use sufficient of these with the white paint to produce the desired shade of brown or drab.

For Yellow floor paint get spruce ochre ground in oil (put up in tins), thin with boiled oil and turpentine, in equal parts, to working consistency. Give two coats of this, then one coat of waggon varnish or best furniture varnish.]

SPRING WHEAT YIELDS.

J. B. P. R., Wentworth Co., Ont.:—"Can you or some of your many readers let us know how spring wheat of the various kinds is yielding in different counties throughout Ontario. As peas have been a failure for some years, and barley not in demand only at a low price, some farmers are thinking of trying the Goose variety of spring wheat."

[Last year the Experimental Union sent out over Ontario, the three following varieties of spring wheat: Wellman's Fyfe, which yielded an average of 23 bushels; Rio Grande, 20 bushels; and Herrison's Bearded, 19 bushels per acre. Wild Goose was not included in the group, but in '98 that variety stood ahead of the 48 varieties grown in plots at the Guelph Experimental Farm, yielding 48.29 bushels per acre, and for 8 years averaged 34.13 bushels per acre. On pages 91 and 92 of February 15th, 1900, issue, there appears a letter on New Kinds of Seed Grain, which speaks favorably of Goose wheat. We also call attention to our editorial note, to which we look for such information as is desired by J. B. P. R.]

RE-SEEDING BARE SPOTS IN PERMANENT PASTURE.

READER, Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"What varieties of grasses and clovers would be most suitable to sow during the thawing and freezing weather of spring on the bare spots of meadow to make permanent pasture?"

[The varieties of grasses and clovers used for the above purpose would be greatly influenced by the varieties which were used when the permanent pasture was first seeded. As a rule, however, I would advise re-seeding the bare spots with some of the hardiest and most vigorous varieties. If the bare spots are composed of a good average soil, either naturally or artificially underdrained, the following varieties and amounts of seed per acre should make a serviceable mixture: Orchard grass, five pounds; meadow fescue, four pounds; tall oat grass, three pounds; timothy, two pounds; meadow foxtail, two pounds; lucerne clover, five pounds; and alsike clover, two pounds; making a total of twenty-three pounds per acre. We have found this mixture to be an admirable one in its resistance to our severe winters and its variety and abundance of pasture during the summer season. Some of the varieties being comparatively late in growth, furnish the best pasture during the dry part of the summer, which so frequently occurs in many parts of Ontario. C. A. ZAVITZ, Experimenter.

Guelph Expermental Farm.

To sow on bare spots of meadow for permanent pasture, I would advise the following mixture: Lucerne, two pounds; red clover, two pounds; alsike, two pounds; white clover, one pound; timothy, three pounds; orchard grass, three pounds; blue grass, three pounds; harrow after, when the land is dry. Yours truly,

Toronto, Ont. WM. RENNIE, SR.]

BOGUS CODLING MOTH CURE.

ENQUIRER, Peel Co., Ont.:—"A man is just now canvassing the farmers of this section with a cure for codling moth. A small auger hole is bored in the trunk of the tree and filled with some drugs and then plugged up. This is to be done early in March. I would like to know if the 'FARMER'S ADVOCATE' can tell if this plan is of any value? It is also supposed to promote the growth of fruit."

[It is a great pity that a man who is clever enough salesman to dispose of a material of such unlikely merit as is evidently being sold in Peel Co., Ont., should not start out with some worthy class of wares. We persume, however, an article of use would cost something, which is not likely the case with the fraudulent mixture he is palming off, as he must be getting some orders or he would quit the business. It is not long since a like remedy was being recommended and sold by unscrupulous, glib-tongued agents for black-knot on cherry and plum trees. It is not to be greatly wondered at that persons without knowledge of botany should accept a plausible argument for reaching a disease like black-knot through the circulation of the sap, but how men can be led to believe that such an injection could prevent the work of an insect that comes from an egg laid in the blossom end of an apple we can have no conception. It seems to prove Barnum's statement, "People delight in being humbugged."]

TO PREVENT HORNS GROWING.

E. A. N., Missisquoi:—"Will you be kind enough to advise me through the valuable FARMER'S ADVOCATE how to prevent horns growing on calves, and at what age they should be treated, what to use and how to use the preventive, and how many times it should be used?"

[Probably the simplest way to prevent horns growing on calves is to treat the embryo horns of the calves before they are ten days old with caustic potash. Clip the hair around the horns, moisten the surface of the buttonlike growth, and rub on lunar caustic potash stick until the spot treated becomes quite red and raw. Care should be taken not to allow the dissolved potash to run down on the skull. A little grease applied to the skin around the horns will prevent the potash doing injury. One thorough application of this sort usually suffices to kill the horn. If calves are too old for this they may be left till a few months old, when the horns can be gouged off the skull with a sharp knife.]

DISAGREEMENT ABOUT WEIGHTS.

W. B., Wellington Co., Ont.:—"I would like you to answer in the next issue of the ADVOCATE this question: I delivered some hogs to a packing factory, and I weighed on the town scales, and then drew them down to the factory, about quarter of a mile, and weighed them there and they were nearly 30 pounds short, so I left them, but have not settled yet, and would like to know if I can collect the town weight or will I have to take their weight? I understand the factory scales were not tested at the time. If I can collect, what steps shall I have to take?"

[We have no hesitation in believing both sets of scales weighed correctly, as very little jolting and jarring of pigs knocks off weight, especially if they were closely housed while fattening and were fed before leaving home for the packing house. Thirty pounds is not too much to expect even a small load to shrink from reloading and hauling even a quarter of a mile. Unless the company agreed when buying the pigs to pay for them according to the town scales weights, they cannot be forced to do so.]