

## ✧ Question Drawer. ✧

### Diseased Pear Trees.

**551.** SIR,—What is the cause of the pear leaves turning black and the limbs dying? Is it blight? and is there a cure? My Flemish Beauty pears were badly rusted and cracked last summer. Is there any remedy?

S. W. BIGHAM, *Islington.*

There is no doubt that the trees referred to by our correspondent are troubled with the ordinary pear blight. Numerous remedies have been proposed, but none which is certainly effective.

Flemish Beauty pears are notably subject to the scab, and are, in consequence, easily cracked, but we believe a remedy for this evil has been found in spraying the trees with copper solutions, so often referred to in these columns. The latest plan recommended is to spray with sulphate of copper, one pound to twenty-five gallons of water, before the foliage appears, and, after that, give several applications with Bordeaux mixture, which is described elsewhere. This treatment may possibly also help to prevent the blight, and it will certainly increase the health of the foliage of the trees, and, consequently, their thrift. It has been shown to be also decidedly useful in causing the fruit to grow larger and cleaner.

### Diseased Grape Vines.

**552.** SIR,—For the last two years I found on my Niagara grapes one or two berries in many bunches that were bad. Each year they were the same, but I did not mistrust any danger until last season when they were very bad, some rows scarcely showing a clean bunch. Many of them would take four baskets, as they came off the vines, to make one for market, and that with a great deal of work. I sent for F. Lawson Scribner's "Fungus Diseases," and found that he exactly described my trouble. Can you tell me where the ingredients can be bought the cheapest, as a large quantity will be required this season, many people around here being in the same trouble as myself?

B. A. BAILEY, *Niagara.*

It will be necessary for the vineyardists to spray their vines faithfully in order to secure immunity from these evils. Try spraying with copper, one pound to twenty-five gallons of water, before the foliage appears, and then use Bordeaux mixture, two or three times after the foliage appears, and excellent results will be evident.

### A Fertilizer.

**553.** SIR,—I send you a formula for a fertilizer recommended in the New York World. It is as follows: 500 lbs. air-slacked lime, 300 lbs. common salt, 300 lbs. fine ground phosphate of lime, and 100 lbs. nitrate of soda. Please tell me where the phosphates can be got and what they are worth. This mixture is said to be worth less than \$15 per ton. Do you think it suitable for the orchard and garden?

M. A. BAILEY, *Niagara.*

Doubtless each of these elements are valuable on land and the fertilizer will be worth all it costs. It is only by experiment that we can tell which elements