

On assembling in the afternoon, the question box was opened and the following subjects considered, viz.:

A NEW FUNGUS.

Q—Has any member present noticed a disease in the suckers of the Northern Spy?

Mr. A. W. PEART (Nelson)—I have just cut off some suckers that were covered with blisters—like spots of yellowish tint. Later on they seem to take on a darker color, more like the wood. [Mr. Peart produced the suckers].

PLANTING PEARS.

Q—Would it be wise to plant pears on a gravel loam rich and abundant in organic matter, with a sub-soil also of gravel containing large quantities of soil to a depth varying from five to eleven feet, based in the first place upon rock and next upon clay? The field does not require even surface drainage. If not wise, why?

Mr. DEMPSEY—There are pears that succeed in such soil. It is necessary that we should grow them and cut the top root; but by thoroughly manuring them we have succeeded. This year we have succeeded with *Beurre Hardy*. We grow very nice Bartlett's on soil like that. It does not do for us to neglect the manure every year, and thorough cultivation; and we want to be very cautious about the roots going too far down.

Prof. SAUNDERS—I have had experience with both kinds of soil, and I found that pears planted on lighter soil—not as good as described in the question—had less blight than those on the heavier soil, and I thought they did as well as regards fruiting. That disease which Mr. Peart has brought specimens of is something quite new to me. It is evidently a fungus growth, and in cutting through one of the black spots it is clearly to be seen that the ramifications of the fungus in striking into the substance of the bark has caused the death of the bark immediately under where the spot occurs, and that the older spots have under them the previously healthy bark completely withered and perished. If such a disease as that were to be very prevalent on any of our trees it would certainly seriously interfere with their growth and productiveness; because trees with the bark so injured, and with so many dead spots as these twigs have, would not be able to carry on their functions properly and mature their fruit. I know nothing about the disease, and could not suggest any remedy. I would be happy to take samples with me.

Mr. PEART—The other apples in the orchard are not affected in this way at all. In my neighbors' orchards I found some places diseased, but not to any great extent.

The PRESIDENT—Has it been confined to the one variety in your orchard?

Mr. PEART—I can say that, and the trees themselves are healthy, vigorous trees; it does not seem to affect them.

COLD STORAGE.

Q—Is the cold storage of fruit and vegetables fully worked? How is the temperature best regulated in the storehouse?

Mr. SECRETARY—Very little experience has been had in cold storage in Ontario. It is done a good deal in the United States, and I believe there is a process by the use of anhydrous ammonia, by which cold storage is better effected than by any other means yet tried.

Mr. RICE (Port Huron, Mich.)—In Wayne county, N. Y., they practice it a good deal, and they do not approve of ice in the cold storage of apples. The idea seems to be to put your apples in a shed and keep them as cool as possible, and have it arranged to admit the cold air at night. If it is too cool, shut it off. They prefer about 28 to 30 degrees if they can keep it at that point.

Mr. DEMPSEY—I have known Flemish Beauty pears kept perfectly till Christmas in an ice apartment formed with boards in an ordinary cellar; but when parties opened the

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