

trees because they would yield so little fruit before they would need to be removed.

If it is desirable to make the ground pay the expenses of cultivation, we would advise growing small fruits or some other hoed crop.

The Honey Bee.

1264. SIR,—Are the days of the bees numbered? It would seem so from what we read about them in your last issue of the *Horticulturist*, page 470. Would it not be well to cover a few trees altogether with sacking or mosquito netting and such varieties that are most subject to the disease, such as Winter Nelis, Flemish Beauty or White Doyenne, in place of covering a branch on the tree. The branch covered might be the only one on the tree or trees that might escape if not covered while if the whole tree was covered and then the disease took hold there would be a reason for be-

lieving. A simpler way would be to send the bees away to the Klondike for a season, or some other place and prove the innocent creatures guilty. My belief is that the death blow is very simple to the blight such as recommended by J. J. Graham to produce an apple crop (page 487 your last issue) or a similar one, such as proper pruning, moisture and the suitableness of the soil and its cultivation. Why does not the bees introduce the disease to the Keifer, Buffam and others we could mention.

R. CAMERON.

Since the bees can only carry blight from tree to tree during the brief season of blossoming, it is a very easy matter to see that no blighted trees be allowed to bloom. Such trees should be carefully cut out and burned before that season, and then the innocent bee will be perfectly harmless in regard to the spread of blight.

Open Letters.

Rufus.

SIR,—I am sending you some specimens of the Rufus apple, a seedling which originated at Perth, Ont., in the garden of Lt.-Col. Matheson. I have sent some specimens to Hutt also, as I thought it was promising enough to mention in the report on new fruit.

W. T. MACOUN,
Horticulturist C. E. F., Ottawa.

This apple is rather attractive in appearance, of medium size, conical, covered with bright red, and dark red on sunny side.

The flesh is white, tinged with streaks of red, crisp, moderately juicy, and very agreeable flavor.

Horticulture in California.

SIR,—I am immensely pleased with California; its scenery, climate and flowers and fruits. It is indeed a country of extremes, high snow-capped mountains enclosing beautiful verdant valleys, flowers of all kinds, roses more especially. Cacti grow in abundance in the Mojane desert, only 20 miles from here, and you may imagine how I am in my delight. Even now at this late date we are picking strawberries from a patch that has been producing without intermission since last March, the Jessie variety. Grapes here produce and ripen three crops a year, but are not of the same variety as in Canada; one kind is entirely seedless and very nice. They sold well here last year, sales averaging \$30 per ton on the vine. Nearly all grapes are used for wine or raisin making. There is an immense amount of fruit of all kinds dried in the sun.

Fruit here, although of the same varieties as with you, Bartlett pears, Crawford peaches, etc., appear to have quite a different texture, and if not picked will not rot but simply dry up on the tree. Surely it is not on account of lack of moisture, as here we irrigate our orchards once a month most thoroughly as water can be had at all times and is very cheap too. The melted snow from the mountains is the only source we get it from. There are many kinds of peaches and plums here that I think would be profitable with you, also of grapes. I shall be pleased to mail you scions if you should wish them. We are having beautiful weather now and have only had one rain since last April. The leaves on the trees are as green as in April, and the palms and magnolias I especially admire. Everything seems to grow with such ease and perfection. I am often thinking of the Horticultural Society and will with your approval write a paper to read at one of the winter meetings on "Flowers in California." There are no Horticultural Societies here, and I may add no need of the spray pump, for there are very few bad insects or fungoid diseases.

Bakersfield, Cal.

N. KEEP.

Spraying.

SIR,—This year, in spraying, I used $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. blue vitriol, 3 lbs. of lime and 4 oz. of Paris green to 40 gallons of water, instead of full strength as heretofore. I sprayed three times after the blossoms dropped, at intervals of ten days. The foliage of the Japan plums and sour cherries nearly all dropped off. The aphid was very bad on those trees this year, was it the spraying or the aphid that caused it? Apple, pear and European plums were all right and bore heavily.

Yours truly, A. W. GRAHAM.