

such parasites often attack perfectly strong and healthy plants, yet their attacks are more common and more deadly on such as are weakly and out of condition. Hence the more rational mode of treating all such enemies is to tone and strengthen the system of the plant, so as to enable its sap to resist the decomposing action of the ferment. Now the potash which wood ashes contain is well adapted to do this. In fact the exhaustion of available potash in the soil is in my belief one cause of the failure of old orchards, if constantly cropped, to keep up to their former standard of yield; and here, by the way, lies one of the physiological objections to the constant cropping of orchards as practiced in Canada and the States. But I cannot enter now upon this point.

I should be very glad to hear further from Rusticus, or any other of your subscribers, in reference to this topic. I should like to hear of others who have tried ashes. After the winter rains and snows are over, the ground is too dry on the surface and the rains too occasional in most seasons to leach the ashes and carry the potash far enough into the ground to accomplish its purpose. Moreover, the fire-blight shows itself and does its mischief very early in the season. It is consequently too late now to expect much from Rusticus' remedy this year, but if any of your subscribers will go to the small trouble and expense of watering some of their best trees with saltpetre dissolved in water at the rate of one pound to a gallon, and put about three gallons to every tree, washing it in with as much more water as they think necessary, I should be glad to hear from them during the summer what effect if any they have observed.

PREPARATION OF NUTS FOR PLANTING.

BY THOMAS COATES, MILTON.

In the February number of the HORTICULTURIST you ask some of your correspondents to answer Mr. Hoover's question as to the best way in which to prepare nuts for planting. The answer is very simple,—they need no preparation. Take the Canadian walnut for instance. As soon as the nuts fall from the tree gather them up just as they are with the hulls on, and plant in a trench three or four inches deep, about four or five inches apart, and cover them up. If