

## QUESTION DRAWER.

### Cutting Back Cedar Hedge.

1289. SIR,—I have a Cedar (*Arbor vitæ*) hedge, five feet high. If I cut back to three feet will it grow out again all right.

W. H. CHAMLIN, Newcastle.

Such a hedge should be pruned annually or oftener, and never allowed to reach such an overgrowth. If trimmed to a conical form, or blunt conical, it will be found easier to keep its proper form than if cut square on the top. If the hedge is in this latter form and must be reduced from five feet to three feet in height, the owner must be prepared to see it unsightly on the top for two or three years, until the middle line on top recovers itself.

### P. Barry and Mount Vernon Pear.

1290. SIR,—I am sending you to-day two pears of P. Barry, or at least that is what I ordered. Kindly let me know through the Horticulturist if they are true to name. Would it be a profitable pear to grow for export? I gathered the pears November 1st. I protected them from frost till gathered. Is our season long enough for them to mature properly? The other pear I got for Mount Vernon; is it true to name? Would it be profitable to grow for export?

Geo. H. NIXON, Hyde Park, Ont.

The two pears are P. Barry. This pear does well in California, and fine samples are sent in to the New York market every spring, but the samples we have seen grown in Ontario are too small to be profitable.

The third sample is not Mt. Vernon, but probably some seedling. We do not advise planting Vernon for profit.

### Mice in an Orchard.

1291. SIR,—Mice have done a great amount of damage in this neighborhood during the last winter, both to apple trees and to shade trees. Please advise me how to destroy them. Wrapping the trunks with new tarred paper protects them, but it is a great deal of trouble.

It is difficult to destroy mice in an orchard without also poisoning some friendly ani-

mals, and therefore the simplest means of saving the trees is by some kind of protection. We have had perfect immunity with a mound of fine earth about the trunk. Probably the simplest and cheapest thing would be the veneer tree protectors, figured on page 133. These are being made by the Grimsby Manufacturing Co.

### Apple Canker.

1292. SIR,—Can you give us any information as to Apple Tree Canker, its cause and cure? If so, we will be very much obliged.

CAVERS BROS., Galt, Ont.

In his report of the Nova Scotia School of Horticulture for 1900-1901, Prof. F. C. Sears, in dealing with the subject of apple canker, says: "It attacks trees of all ages, but certain varieties seem to be very much more susceptible to it than others. The Nonpareil is more affected than any other sort, and in Annapolis County some orchards have been almost ruined by the ravages of this disease. It is caused by a fungus growing in the tissues of the tree just as the black spot fungus grows on the surface of the fruit, and at certain seasons of the year in the diseased areas may be found little brown pimples, in which are contained the spores or seeds through the agency of which the disease is spread. Just at what season or seasons these spores are scattered we have not yet determined, but they seem particularly prevalent in the early spring. The disease attacks the tree oftenest at a fork in the branches, causing an ugly grown wound, and often eventually causing the branch to break at this point. Not only this, but trees so attacked, even though they may not break, lose their vitality and become less and less profitable. Until we