

the disease. Fumigation, spraying, or washing the trees with various known fungicides, notably sulphur and lime, have given no positive results. As the disease is local and spreads through the tissue slowly, it is possible, as has long been known, to effectually check its progress by amputation. The smaller limbs should be cut off a foot or two below the lowest manifestation of the disease, and the spots on the trunk and larger limbs should be shaven out, cutting deep enough to remove all discoloration. The instrument for cutting should be kept disinfected with carbolic acid or otherwise, to guard against conveying the disease to freshly cut surfaces. The exposed and newly cut surfaces ought to be at once painted over in order to exclude the germs that might reach through the atmosphere.

Pruning Plums.

31. I have over 100 plum trees planted, some of them one year, some two years, and some three years. They grow two and three feet, and some of them four feet, in one year. Is it best to cut last year's growth back one-half, or let it grow as it will? Or would it be better to nip the growth in midsummer?—WILLIAM SWITZER, Kirkton P.O., Ont.

Plum trees, as a rule, need very little pruning, except an annual thinning out where the heads are too close. Clipping back, or nipping in midsummer, would cause the production of more numerous side branches.

Cutting Scions.

32. Will scions, taken from a tree that never bore fruit, bear fruit as well as scions taken from a tree that has borne fruit? Please answer in your next issue.—GEO. HANNAFORD, Pevensey, Muskoka.

Yes; and they are generally used by nurserymen.

— OPEN LETTERS —

The Hamilton Meeting.

SIR,—I am a new member of the Fruit Growers' Association, and I was present at the Hamilton meeting. I now write to express my surprise that the meeting was not crowded with farmers and citizens of the locality. It may be that the public consider it a private meeting of the Association, like that of any other corporation, and of interest to none but those specially in the business. Though no way concerned in nursery or fruit business, except as far as my own grounds extend, I found the whole proceedings both interesting and instructive. The argument ran principally on the export apple trade, in which I am not concerned, and which would not be generally interesting to ladies or amateurs; but at all times I felt that by asking a question quietly on a little slip of paper, I could call out plenty of discussion on any branch of horticulture or floriculture, and hear the subject worked out fully by a

dozen speakers who knew all about the business. I do not care to hear long speeches on what might be done in raising fruit, flowers or forests, such as were too frequently given by a certain professor who has lately left the scene, but I do take an interest in a man who can tell promptly what he has done, and knows others can do, in any department. It is a perfect satisfaction to me to hear certain members, in a perfectly unassuming way, tell us all we need to know, both practically and scientifically, on any point to which we call their attention. I think such observing men as Mr. P. C. Dempsey, Mr. A. M. Allan, Prof. Saunders, L. Woolverton or E. D. Smith, would make a success of any calling; and what I have heard from them seems worth years of experience to me, and would tend to increase the interest in all branches of horticulture in every one who listens to them.

I have a great respect for certain American writers on the same subjects, among them