

HORTICULTURE.

(Under this heading all questions relating to flowers or horticulture will be answered.)

CUCUMBER CULTURE.

THOSE who planted Telegraph Cucum-ber seeds as previously advised will now have them in the rough leaf. If not already alone, pot them off singly, and grow them with as small an amount of water as possible. Care, however, must be taken that they do not become quite dry, and give as much air daily as will dry the foliage once in the 24 hours. The state of the bed must be carefully watched. Keep the heat to about 70 degrees. Whenever there is any difficulty in doing this, cut a little off the outside of the bed all around, bore holes into it with a stake and line the bed around two feet with hot manure. After they have formed their "leader shoot," progress will be rapid, and they must be freely supplied with water, and will do best if planted out into a fresh frame so as to keep up a long, steady, bottom heat. They should be about 15 inches from the glass. Keep the frame moist, and stop two or three leaves beyond the fruit, and don't let the plants bear heavily at first. Keep all water that is to be used standing in the frame. Clear soot water is an excellent stimulant, and they may also be syringed with this occasionally.

J. W. WEBB,

Boleskine Road, April 26, 1894.

The Provincial Horticultural Society and Fruit Growers' Association will meet in Mission City the 1st of May. The association meets there, according to the Mission City News, through the influence of Mr. G. W. Henry. It has already made its power felt in the Province, and is an organization that is capable of doing much work in the future. The greatest work of any enterprise is to give it the proper start, and to see that it is accomplishing the end and in whatever way it tends. The Fruit Association in this Province is started and has done some good in calling attention to the advantage of fruit culture in conjunction with other things on the farm. This is already well understood by the farmers of the Province, and the next thing is to urge the enterprise and encourage it in every possible way. The News urges the Fruit Association of that locality to begin at once to make the quarterly meeting of the association a success at Mission City next May. A meeting of the local society will likely be held shortly to make the necessary preparations to entertain those that come from a distance.

James Haggart, Wellington, B. C., writes as follows to the Montreal Family Herald: I enclose a section of apple tree cut close to the ground. Over a third of my trees are affected the same, more or less. This one was about dead when I took it up. I have cleaned them all and scraped off all the dead bark and removed all the moth webs this spring. Am going to wash with lime, mixed with cow manure and a little carbolic acid. I am a new beginner, having begun about six years ago. I never had any instructions about my trees, but find I have paid dearly for my learning. I expect to keep down the orchard pests now, as I have been reading

up and see your answers in the Family Herald, which are very useful to beginners. Please tell me what is the cause of my trees going this way and oblige.

Ans.—The specimen received shows a scar extending several inches up the stem and about three-quarters the distance round, exposing the dead and now cracked heartwood. The life of the tree is sustained by a narrow strip of bark covering the remaining portion of the trunk, and to which portion present growth is confined. This injury to stems of young trees commonly called sun scald has been referred to before in these columns. It usually occurs in spring, and is caused by rapid changes of temperature. Severe freezing weather following a period of warm weather which has had the effect of "starting the sap" causes a rupture of the bark by congealing and expanding the liquid beneath it. This injury is most frequently found on the south and west sides of apple trees, where the sun's rays strike with greatest effect. Shading the trunks of young trees for the first four or five years after setting in orchard is a practice much to be recommended. In the Western States corn stalks, sun flower stems, and laths are used for this purpose with good results. The wash mentioned will undoubtedly act as a deterrent to mice and rabbits, otherwise it is not equal to the following for keeping the bark in a healthy, smooth condition and free from insects:

Dissolve one pound of washing soda in a gallon of water and thicken to the consistency of paint by the addition of soft soap. This is applied to the trunks and main branches of the trees early in June at this point, but should be applied in British Columbia about middle of May, when the scale insects become active.—J. C.

J. W. WEBB, Gardener.

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