

* Open Letters. *

CANNA SEEDS NOT GERMINATING.

SIR,—Seedsmen say that they are continually tormented about Canna seeds not germinating. Now, if they will take a pair of flat-pointed pincers to hold them with, and cut a hole through their hard shell, they will find in ten days they will be all started. This is nothing new, but from complaints heard it will be none the worse of being repeated. I have tried many suggestions for this, but I must say this is the only one I have found sure.

N. ROBERTSON, *Government Grounds, Ottawa.*

THE JESSIE STRAWBERRY.

SIR,—I thought I should let you know how the Jessie strawberry has succeeded with me. I have now a good-sized bed from the two plants I got from you; they are a great success. There is a heavy crop of very large berries, several measuring five inches around, and all the berries are much larger than any grown in this neighborhood.

Yours truly,

THOS. R. HUGHES, *Cote des Neiges, Montreal.*

THE RASPBERRY CANE BORER.

DEAR SIR,—I was on the point of writing you about what I now conclude, since reading your July number (p. 214), on the "Raspberry Cane Borer," that it is the same insect that has troubled my plants this spring. I made an examination of some old canes that I had thrown away on the garden heap, and also of the tops of new ones which were withering, and found how he worked.

I would ask you to tell me in the next number how to manage with a Weeping Mountain Ash as to the destruction of the insect which feeds on its leaves; also, as to what is the best soil for raspberries, and if they are better in a partial shade or where they will have the whole day's sun. Mine are planted on a rich loamy soil, partly shaded, but I wish to take my currants up from a made gravelly soil and transplant them to where the raspberries now are. Would the exchange be beneficial to both?

I remain, etc.,

M. O. HART, *Covansville, Que.*

NOTE BY EDITOR.—Currants usually do better on a clay loam than on light sand, if well cultivated. Partial shade does not appear to injure them. Raspberries appear to delight in sandy loam, or, indeed, in a light sand, providing it is a little moist.

Question Budget

Our readers will please make free use of this corner. We invite all to send in replies to questions asked, or to ask questions for others to answer. It will be a suggestive column, showing what the public want most to know about.

- (1) How should grape vines be pruned?
- (2) Please explain best method of pruning the ornamental trees and shrubs.
- (3) How should currants and gooseberries be pruned?