

❧ Question Drawer. ❧

625. SIR,—The Western Fair gives a prize for the Oswego Beauty pear. Is it the same as Oswego Beurre of "Downing"?

G. H. NIXON, *Hyde Park.*

So far as we know, there is no pear called Oswego Beauty. No doubt the Oswego Beurre is the pear intended by the prize list.

Wild Goose Plum.

626. SIR,—Are the Wild Goose plum and the Japan plum the same? Sixteen years ago I planted five trees of the Wild Goose, they blossomed every year, but never bore a pint of plums, and last year I cut them down. If the Japan plums are different, would you advise my planting any of them in this country?

G. H. NIXON, *Hyde Park.*

The fruit of the Japan plums is very much superior to that of the Wild Goose. The latter is a native American, and not worthy of cultivation where the finer varieties of English plums can be grown. The Botan and Abundance are two varieties of Japan plums which are highly recommended for extensive trial in southern Ontario.

Irrigation.

627. SIR,—Would it be profitable to irrigate for small fruits; plenty of water being available by raising it a distance of twenty feet from the bottom of a stream to the level of the field. What would be the best means of raising and distributing it, and the cost for ten acres, the land being sandy, nearly level.

G. H. BUCKRELL, *Springford. Ont.*

In the older countries, as India, Germany, Italy and Spain, irrigation has long been practiced, and so advantages is the practice that it is being more and more adopted. The same would no doubt be true in Canada, could we work it without too great expense. The usefulness of irrigation needs no proving, for not merely moisture, but fertility also comes thereby. In our correspondent's case the water could no doubt be pumped by a windmill, a steam pump, or a hydraulic ram. A reservoir might also be necessary, which would add to the expense, but if a pond of puddled clay could be constructed at the highest point in the ten acre field, the undertaking would be simplified. The water might be distributed by shallow furrows, so arranged as to give the ground a good soaking. A writer in the *Indiana Farmer* says:—A stream of water one inch in diameter, flowing at the rate of four miles an hour, will cover one acre of land one inch deep in about 30 hours.

The cost of irrigation of course depends mainly upon the ease with which the supply of water can be obtained. It has frequently been shown that where wells can be had of sufficient capacity the profits of irrigation are large in com-