

Irrigation.

(Reply to Question 697.)

Prof. Taft, of the Michigan Agricultural College writes: "Answering your correspondent, I would say that if only a small amount of water is required and if the conditions are suitable, the simplest and least expensive method of lifting the water to the height mentioned, will be by means of a ram. As next to this I would place the gasoline and hot air pumping engines, but if a large area is to be irrigated there is nothing that I know of that will approach, in efficiency and cost for the work performed, a good steam pump."

Fall vs. Spring Planting in the North-West.

(Question answered by Mr. John Craig, Ottawa.)

Replying to your letter of the 8th inst. regarding the advantages of fall and spring planting of small fruits in the North-West Territories, I may say that our experience at Indian Head and Brandon has been entirely against fall planting of small fruits, as well as all other fruit and forest trees. One of the difficulties that a planter has to contend with in the North-West lies in the fact that there is in the autumn a very slight amount of moisture in the soil, and if the trees and plants are not injured by winter—as they usually are—they suffer from drought and the drying-out effect of the winds. There is not sufficient moisture in the soil to start the initial processes of growth in roots of even currants or gooseberries, and in the North-West there is usually not enough snow to protect them from cold, unless well rooted. It is very much safer and altogether more advisable, the plants having been secured in the fall, to bury them completely in the soil, and plant in the spring upon summer-fallowed ground.

* Open Letters. *

Experimental Work.

SIR.—I have a small experiment station on a private scale in my own garden, consisting of 28 varieties of plums, 12 of pears, 12 of apples, 4 of peaches, 4 of gooseberries, several strawberries and a few currants and raspberries, planted from one to three years. You will hear from me occasionally when they come into bearing, whether of success or failure, by the way, I might mention last year's success with 12 Lombard plums, planted May, 1891. I picked 5½ bushels of beautiful fruit, and 107 quarts of Downing gooseberries from 13 bushes planted same time, sprayed twice during the season, which I believe saved my fruit entirely from rot, and partially from the little Turks ravages.

WM. JUDGE, Orangeville.