

## QUESTION DRAWER.

drying them indoors, which will be the safest way, and avoid any possibility of mildewing of the seeds, which is important to avoid for all purposes.

In this way, I have saved any quantity of sunflower seeds and had some excellent poultry food.

ANTON SIMMERS, *Toronto.*

### Pear Crack.

1027. SIR,—I have a Flemish Beauty pear tree which for the last two years has borne little else than pears cracked almost to the centre. What is the remedy. I saw an account of introducing fluid of sulphur, by boring a hole and inserting the sulphur and plugging over. Would this benefit my tree?

J. W. S. CHATHAM.

It is strange how much more ready people are to follow out quack nostrums, than to follow out the advice of the scientist. Sulphur could not be taken up into the tree through an augur hole. The cause of the cracks in the pears is no doubt the well-known apple scab, to which the Flemish Beauty is especially liable. It is a fungus which lives through the winter on fallen twigs, leaves, and younger twigs. It attacks

the young fruit and causes it to drop, or if the attack is on the fruit when grown larger, it often causes it to crack open, exposing it to the attacks of other fungi. The best remedy is frequent spraying with Bordeaux mixture, as directed by this Journal at the proper season.

### Ginseng.

1028. SIR,—In the last HORTICULTURIST I saw an article on Ginseng. It strikes me I have just the place to grow it, viz., a hardwood grove (Maple sugar bush), nicely underbrushed. There are no stones and soil is quite good and deep. If you have any opinions to offer me upon the subject, where I can get the seeds, will the plant thrive where I propose, and any other practical information you may be able to supply, I shall be greatly obliged.

G. H. FAWELL.

Canadians had better buy seed instead of plants. It will be cheaper and less risky. It is possible that both plants and seed can be bought of Mr. George Stanton, Summit Station, Onondago County, New York. If he cannot meet the wishes of intending buyers, he may know who can.

D. W. BEADLE, *Toronto.*

FIRE FANGING OF MANURE is destructive, and although a well-known occurrence in manure heaps, some farmers do not try to prevent or suppress it. Fire fang is overheating of the manure, due to rapid decomposition, a large proportion of the ammonia being liberated and lost. When fire fanging occurs, drive a crowbar into the heap in several places and pour in cold water. A better plan, some think, is to wet the manure and turn the heap over, adding dry

earth and plaster, placing the coarse portions of the stable manure in the center. Cold water absorbs ammonia and prevents its escape, and unless it is used much of the volatile ammonia will escape while the manure is being handled. The heap should not be kept wet, but slightly damp, which will promote decomposition; but overheating may always be controlled by cold water. Farm and Home.