

winter. We should be pleased to receive any information on this point from others who have had experience in the laying down of grape vines and protecting them in winter.

CAN VINEGAR BE MADE FROM RHUBARB?

DEAR SIR,—Do you know of any process by which the juice of the rhubarb can be converted into vinegar? By replying through the *Horticulturist* or otherwise, you will much oblige.

Yours very truly,

A. H. WISMER.

Box 55, Port Elgin, Ont.

DISEASED PEAR TREES.

DEAR SIR,—I am somewhat alarmed on account of so many of my pear trees turning yellow; some appear dying and I think will die. Some trees have partly yellow leaves and partly green; some limbs quite dead, and on three or four large trees that have borne for years the leaves and pears are about dead, and the whole trunk of two trees is dead from top to bottom. I could pull the limbs off quite easy; they broke short off which revealed the rotten trunk. This is rather alarming if at all general. If I am alone the sufferer, not so bad; better for one to suffer than many. But what is the cause? My soil is made out of decayed cedars; if they decay a sort of bog turf would burn in dry weather; have seen it burn under ground for weeks; not since well cultivated. I find every one or more high cedars that damages the garden every time they are got out, and it is desirable to get them out, as trees seem to die where the roots touch them after first turning yellow. Though these have borne fruit of all descriptions, including apricots and nectarines; the latter but twice to ripen—they rot on the trees. If you can throw any

light on this apparent blight by controversy, or of your own knowledge, it would do much good.

Yours truly,

C. JARVIS.

BLACK ANTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

SIR,—We are badly pestered by the black ants about the house this summer. Can you kindly advise me how to get rid of them. I sometimes see them running over the trunks and limbs of the apple trees, but I am not certain that they do any harm. I once noticed a large black ant in the very heart of an apple blossom, but I cannot say it was doing more harm than a bee would have done. In Italy they encourage the presence of the large black ants in their orchards; they are said to destroy the eggs and larvæ of insects deposited in the crevices of the bark. The ant hills are great eye-sores in gardens or lawns, but they may be got rid of by covering the top of the hill with hardwood ashes.

I remain, Sir, sincerely yours,

CHARLES JULYAN.

Sarawak, Co. Grey, 17th June, 1884.

STRAWBERRY SUN-SCALD.

We have received the following inquiries concerning this affliction:—

DEAR SIR,—I am studying the fungoid diseases of the strawberry, and would be much obliged to you for answering the following questions:

1st. Does the "rust," "blight," or so-called "sun-scald" cause any serious damage to the strawberry crop of your section? If so, what is the estimated per cent. of loss for the years 1882 and 1883?

2nd. Do you recognize more than one form of "rust"? If so, describe briefly the appearance, season of attack and damage done by each.

3rd. Do you ever find the roots and crowns, especially in old fields, covered by a white mould?