

bark or by some ligature wound around it. The former is the usual method. It consists simply of removing a ring of bark from half to three-quarters of an inch in width not simply the outer bark but the inner also, to the wood. The sap is thus prevented from returning, and, as a result, the fruit grows to a larger size and ripens earlier.

It has been found simpler, however, to cut small pieces of wire and fasten these tightly about those fruiting branches which are to be removed at the next pruning season. This can be best done by means of a good pair of pincers.

Girdling of the vine, to be effective, should be performed early in the month of July.

PARIS GREEN vs. LONDON PURPLE.

71. SIR,—Please state in the next issue of *HORTICULTURIST* the relative merits of London purple and Paris green as insecticides, which is the more safe and reliable? Can some of your experienced members tell how soon after spraying fruit trees a rain would render the work non-effective, and what quantity of rain? Would merely enough to drip from the trees be enough?—JOHN KILLAM, *North Kingston, N.S.*

Both these poisons owe their effectiveness to the arsenic that enters into their composition. The London purple is cheaper and

somewhat more soluble in water, but being a refuse product from the manufacture of aniline dyes, it is very inconstant in its composition. The Paris green, on the other hand, if pure, can be relied upon as containing a constant proportion of arsenic. For this reason it is generally considered preferable for use in the orchard.

Since the Paris green is insoluble in water and is only kept in suspension by constant stirring, it is deposited upon the fruit trees in small particles by means of the spraying. A good rain, therefore, would wash it to the ground.

RICHARDIA OFFSHOOTS.

72. SIR,—I received in due time the lily bulb and immediately set it in rich earth. It has developed seven separate stalks about seven inches in height, six of which have the dotted leaf and the other plain green. They appear to be too crowded to do well. Should any of them be detached and set out separately, or are they intended to remain in a cluster?—D. G. CAMERON, *Strabanc, Ont.*

It would be better not to disturb your *Richardia Lily* during the summer by removing the offshoots. In the autumn the foliage will die off, and at that time or in the spring they may be the more safely removed. Each of these suckers will then form a new plant.

Open Letters

HARD LINES.

SIR,—With pleasure I renew my subscription for C. H. I enjoy the reading of it. The article by P.E. Bucke on the Raspberry is too highly colored, rocts. per quart is more the go. I am pleased to see the set back given to Mr. John Donaldson on the Gravenstein. I have a farmer friend here that can believe little he sees in our journal, on account of such high colored statements as have been published concerning the profits to be made on fruit. He says the whole lot of you have fruit trees to sell. I think if you spoke oftener of wages to be earned, instead of profit, it would be better. Farmers around here cannot make fair wages. Your letter to me, dated April 29, 1889, is before me, in which you say you are sorry I should have left a good trade to engage in fruit culture. I know of no good trade nowadays; machinery has ruined most

trades. Take a man with a family of five or six children, with nine or ten dollars per week, and he never knows when he is going to do a week's work. Some part of the machinery breaks down, engine driver takes sick, your family sick, or you may be a half minute behind the bell in the morning at seven o'clock, that means lose one hour, you are put on short time and fifteen per cent. reduction of wages at the same time. You close down for seven weeks at a stretch, you have tools to buy, Sick Benefit Society dues to pay, etc. You will see there is not much left to live on after rent and fuel. I worked nearly ten years at London furniture factory, never had three holidays in the time, worked all spare time in garden or on my shanty, never smoked or drank and lived economically on brown bread, rice, oatmeal, fruit and vegetables. I do the same now, only the struggle for existence is harder still, for work is scarce and produce cheap.—L. P., *Whitchurch, Ont.*