

QUESTION DRAWER

The Pithy Gall of the Blackberry.

53. I ENCLOSE to you by to-day's mail a peculiar growth found on a Brinckle's Orange raspberry cane in the garden of Mr. J. H. Davison, of this town. Mr. Davison showed it to me some days ago, when I suggested that it be sent to you for examination and description in the *HORTICULTURIST*. The cane upon which it was found was dead and when the knot was cut open there was found in it a small black fly about a sixteenth of an inch in length. Please give us your opinion.—W. A. BROWN-LEE, *Mt. Forest*.

This peculiar growth is a gall caused by a gall-fly belonging to the family *Cyripidae*, and known to our entomological friends as *Diastrophus Nebulosus*. The tumor is formed by the unnatural growth of the vegetable cells, which is produced by the depositing of the eggs. The tumor or gall is soft and spongy, and the one sent us is shown in the engrav-

the winter safely hidden in these galls, and change to flies in the spring-time. The fly is described as black, with transparent wings and red feet and antennae. They more commonly attack the blackberry canes than the raspberry, but are not very troublesome, as they are destroyed by parasitic insects and by birds.

Kerosene for Bark-Lice.

54. SIR,—A friend of mine in Toronto gives the following method of dealing with the Oyster Shell Bark Louse nuisance:—

"In early spring, before the buds commence to swell, apply crude petroleum to the affected parts."

He assures me that no injury whatever is done the trees by this treatment, and that when growth commences in the spring, the outer bark of all twigs so treated will peel off, taking with it all the shells with its eggs, and leaves the inner bark smooth as if polished.

Will you please give your readers your opinion of this—to me—new treatment.—THOS. BEALL, *Lindsay*.

We have tried this remedy and find it certainly most effective in destroying the bark lice. Not a single one remained to tell the story of the disaster. But the bark of the tree in places was totally destroyed also. On one tree three applications were made, washing the bark thoroughly with a cloth dipped in the oil; on another only one application was made. On the former the bark was so badly killed that the tree must eventually die; on the latter it was only killed in places on the under side of the limbs, where it would naturally collect.

The only safe mode of applying kerosene is as an emulsion with soap and water. A half pound of soap, dissolved in a few quarts of water, is set on the stove until it boils. Then while boiling add two gallons of kerosene, stirring at the same time, and a perfect emulsion will be formed. This may be applied with an old broom, or a scrubbing brush, after first scraping off the loose bark,

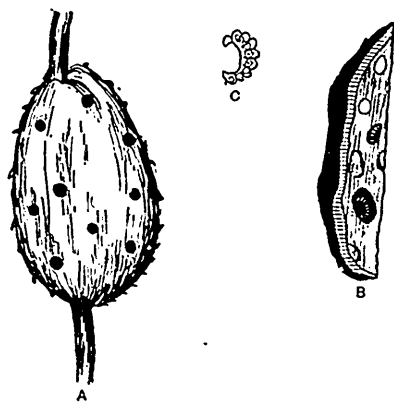


Fig. 53.

ing, fig. 53 a, with little holes, through which the flies have escaped. The section b shows the interior, with several oblong cells, about an eighth of an inch in length, each of which has contained a larvæ, or young grub, one of which is more plainly shown at c. These are about one-tenth of an inch long, white, with reddish mouth; they remain through