

the fruit going in a box should not vary more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in diameter. Thus a box such as proposed by our correspondent would not be advisable. It would be an undesirable shape for the British market.

Apple Tree Borers.

1197. SIR,—I have a young apple tree on which I noticed the bark was getting dark and dead-looking. On cutting into it I found numerous borers from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long; they appear to be working in the bark, and I fear are seriously injuring the tree. I also think other trees are affected. The trees have thrived very well up till now. There is no sign of the mischief going on except this discoloration of the bark. Is there any remedy or preventive?
Erasmus.

GEORGE WOOD.

This is one of the most common enemies of the apple grower, and is particularly troublesome in the case of trees which are not growing vigorously. It is known as the flat-headed apple tree borer, (*Chryso-*

bothris femorata), a native of America, and in its native state is a typical Buprestis beetle. It is a brassy looking beetle, with under side of body and legs like burnished copper. The beetle is active during the months of July and August, when it deposits its eggs either singly or in groups in cracks of the bark, from which the young larva hatch out, and soon make their way under the bark where it feeds on the sap wood, sometimes completely girdling a tree.

When its presence is discovered, by the the discolorations and castings, no time should be lost in digging it out with a sharp knife and killing the larva; and as a preventive measure, the trees should be washed once or twice in summer with a solution of soft soap and washing soda, applied in about the consistency of a thick paint.

Open Letters.

Doyenne du Comice Pear.

SIR,—I send you to-day a fair sample of Doyenne du Comice pear. I never see it catalogued, and I never see nor hear anything about this excellent pear in any of our journals on fruit. I only know of but one tree of this pear in the province. If this is the case, the variety should not be lost sight of, and I send you the samples of fruit so that you can speak of them as you find them—description as follows: Fruit large, obovate, eye small and open in a deep basin, skin greenish yellow and russet, with a flushed cheek to the sun, flesh white, fine grained, buttery, melting and juicy, highly flavored; season, November. Tree a vigorous grower, always clean and healthy; it is also a good bearing variety, and should be in every collection; it was first raised at Angers. I would also like to draw your attention to two other varieties of pears that are very scarce. I know of one tree of each variety, namely, Marie Louise and Napoleon, both are first-class quality and of medium to large size. Are any of the above growing at your fruit stations?

RODERICK CAMERON.

Niagara Falls South.

Is Our Climate Changing?

This is a question often asked but never satisfactorily answered, because, probably, of the continual fluctuations of the climate throughout the different parts of this vast country. In the study of and in the attempt to determine this question in future years, the wonderfully high temperature of October, 1900, may be used as an important factor.

The highest mean temperature registered here for October during the previous twenty years was 48°.75 (1894) which was about four degrees above the average mean temperature of this locality. This year (1900) it was 53°.97, or 5°.22 higher than in 1894.

The average mean temperature for October for the twelve years, 1880 to 1891 both inclusive, was 44°.04; and for the following eight years, 1892 to 1899, both inclusive, it was 45°.98, or 1°.94 higher than the average of the preceding twelve year period. For the two periods combined, viz., from 1880 to 1899, the average was 44°.81. The mean for October, 1900, being 53°.97 shows the extraordinary increase of 9°.16 of mean or daily temperature over the average October for the past twenty years.

Lindsay, Nov. 1st, 1900.

THOS. BEALL.

Pruning Raspberries.

SIR,—On reading the directions for pruning and training raspberries given in your article on Fruit Culture in the October number of the Horticulturist, it would appear a very easy matter to keep raspberries in proper shape; but if one summer's experience counts anything it is not such an easy matter as would at first sight appear. Perhaps a brief statement of my experience with raspberries would be in order before asking for advice. I have grown a few raspberries in the garden for the past six years, but never paid much attention to their pruning and training. Seeing that they promised to pay well, last spring I set out several rows in the strawberry field. Of the five rows set out, two are