

Black Knot on the Hickory.

661. SIR,—I send you a branch of a hickory tree with two knots upon it. Would you please let me know whether it is the same as the black knot on the plum? The tree is covered with knots, and I am anxious to know whether there is danger of its spreading to other trees.

D. L. CARLEY, *Windsor.*

Reply by Professor James Fletcher, of Ottawa.

I have examined the knot on the hickory branch sent by Mr. Carley, of Windsor, and it certainly is not the black knot of the plum. Judging from the dead gall, I believe it is caused by one of the gall mites of the genus *Phytoptus*. If Mr. Carley would send one of the young galls we shall probably be able to identify it.

The Cigar Case-Bearer.

665. SIR,—Please name the enclosed insect, which has been destroying the leaves on my apple trees. They appeared on the leaves as soon as the buds began to open, and are still working destruction to the trees. Our Greenings suffer most. How long will they continue to work? If you will tell me all that is known of them and give me a remedy I will feel much obliged.

A. P.



FIG. 688.

Reply by Prof. Jas. Fletcher, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The specimens sent in your letter of 23rd inst., are the Cigar Case-bearer (*Coleophra Fletcherella*) of the apple. This insect is difficult to treat, and has been very abundant in some places this year. The most successful treatment is spraying the apple trees early in spring, with kerosene emulsion. Spraying with Paris green has had some beneficial effect, but not so much as I had hoped.

[We show cut of an allied species, viz., the Apple tree Case Bearer.—ED.]

Planting Strawberries.

666. SIR,—Please give me some information about planting strawberries.

A. F. HAMILTON.

The most important consideration is the choice of soil. A light sand, especially if high and dry, will be too much affected by the severe June and July drouths to yield paying crops. Heavy clay, if subject to hard baking, is also unsuitable. On the whole, a deep, rich, sandy loam, somewhat moist, will be most favorable. The ground must be well worked up before planting. All the