

table all the green portion, and leaving the white part in the soil. In this way there is no danger of injuring the buds yet below the surface."

MR. EDITOR,—1. Tell me the best dressing to put on apple trees for preventing the borers. Will tar and clay, as spoken of in July number, page 157, or would clay and cow dung be a preventive?

2. What could now be applied to apple trees to kill or destroy the eggs of the aphides? I know they can be destroyed in summer with tobacco water, but what will destroy the eggs now without injury to the buds of the trees?

3. How the best way to pack small plants to send to England, and what weight is allowed and what rate of postage is required?

4. How best to prepare pyrethrum powder from the pyrethrum flowers. I believe it is made from them.

Muskoka, Jan., 1885.

H.

REPLY.—1. At page 39 of the *Canadian Fruit, Flower and Kitchen Gardener* the author says:—"There is a simple method of keeping them out of the trees. Strong alkalies will destroy the vitality of the egg. The most efficient method of applying this alkali is in the form of a ropy soft soap, rubbed upon the body of the tree with a swab, particularly at the collar. A solution of potash at the rate of a pound of potash to two gallons of water will be found to answer the purpose in the absence of soft soap, but will need to be oftener applied." We have more confidence in the alkali preventive than in the gas-tar and clay, or cow dung and clay.

2. The same alkaline application can be safely applied to the trees before the buds swell, and will destroy the insects or their eggs.

3. Make a thick puddle of clay and puddle the roots well; then pack in moss that feels dry when pressed in the hand. The weight allowed to the United Kingdom for samples is eight ounces; size, 24 inches in length, and twelve inches in breadth or depth; rate of postage is one cent for every two ounces or fraction thereof.

4. It is made by drying and pulverizing the flowers. Cannot give any particular method as being the best.

I like the *Canadian Horticulturist* very much and find it quite a help.

I have a small garden and only cultivate for my own pleasure and family use. I try to have a little of everything that is going if possible, but some things fail me; perhaps you might be able to give me a few hints.

1. I have about one dozen apple trees now seven years old, but as yet have never borne fruit. They are pruned every spring and the earth stirred slightly, and to look at them they are as healthy and luxuriant as one could wish for.

2. Are some grape plants. I have six kinds of Rodgers' grapes; they are now five years old, and have not borne anything worth speaking of; they are inclined to run to wood and foliage. They are beautiful to look at. I think they are properly cared for as far as pruning and winter protecting are concerned. It may be that the climate is too cold for them and the season too short, away up here on the shore of Lake Huron.

3. I have some window roses that give me a great deal of trouble. They