

about the best all around fertilizer for the lawn, and the effect in the rich dark green growth is very soon observable. If this is not convenient, excellent results may be obtained by sowing the lawn (1) with wood ashes, at the rate of from 25 to 50 bushels to the acre, to furnish potash, an important element in the formation of the stems and

woody portions of vegetation; (2) with nitrate of soda, say 75 lbs. to the acre, to promote vigorous growth; (3) with bone meal, about 200 lbs. per acre, which aids the nutrition of the plant.

The best time to apply these fertilizers is in May when the growth is starting.

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## Open Letters.

### The Edible Fungi.

SIR,—Referring to the very valuable contribution of Dr. Hare in your November issue at page 454 on (let us say) "Edible Fungi," I hope the learned Dr. will give us some practical hints whereby we may distinguish the poisonous varieties.

It would be very useful if some one competent would give some hints as to how mushrooms may be *naturally* or *quasi* naturally produced in fields, etc. We find them on old pasture fields and places where cattle, etc., have been *salted*. In this neighborhood we have had phenomenal crops even where roots were being grown on land originally known as black ash and water elm "swails," first heavily *salted*.

Is there any connection between the *salt* and the *mushrooms*, or between the *salt* on that *particular class of land and mushrooms*? The matter is worth exploiting.  
W.

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### Birds and Berries.

SIR:—"As you have kindly helped me very much by your answers to my questions, I take the liberty to ask another. viz:—"If you have much trouble in growing Black Cap Raspberries from the birds eating them." Through the kindness of the Society, I have some very fine kinds and bought one or two more. I did not grow any for some time after

starting gardening here, thinking the winters too cold, but tried those you sent out and the first year or two after they began to bear I had very good crops, but the rust troubled me, and when I had overcome that, the birds stripped them off, although the red raspberries close by were hardly troubled. Do the birds make a dead set on yours? I wish to note my experience with the Codling moth. As my garden is small, I only grow one apple tree, which is large enough to bear 2 to 3 barrels of fruit every other year. It is a winter variety without a name, large greenish with red markings, a good deal like a spy. Four or five years ago it was infested with the worm so as to be almost worthless, and I then made a point to destroy or feed all apples that dropped; also tied a piece of sacking around trunk, and destroying the larvæ every two or three weeks, and this year I had scarcely a wormy apple in the whole lot, not more than were sprayed. I dug the ground late in the fall, as I grow black currants near it. I have a neighbor who has several trees and takes no particular care of them and they are badly affected.

I noted in the December number of Horticulturist, page 509. you speak in great praise of the high bush cranberry, and while speaking of it so highly, omit to mention one great advantage it possesses, viz; that the berries make an excellent jelly, which with meats we find to be generally preferred to any other.

Listowel, Ont.

A. J. COLLINS.

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## OUR BOOK TABLE.

CATALOGUE OF FRUIT TREES, under test at Experimental Farm at Agassiz, B. C., Ottawa, 1900.

This is bulletin 3 second series, which is to include such as may be too scientific and technical for the common reader.

This catalogue, however, is one that is of interest to every fruit dealer in the Dominion, containing as it does such an extended list of fruits, largely descriptive. It includes 1,217 varieties of apples, 36

crabs, 557 pears, 311 plums, 154 cherries, 213 peaches, 53 apricots, 25 nectarines, 12 quince, 7 medlar and 6 mulberry trees.

REPORTS, Experimental Farm, for 1899. The work done at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, does great credit to the Director, Dr. Wm. Saunders, and his able staff. Copies of the Report may be had on application.