

QUESTION DRAWER.

nests of eggs or destroying the young and at the same time point out how useful the birds are as an ally of the farmer they would do the community an important service. Certain privileges for the collection of birds' eggs for strictly scientific objects may be secured through the Game Wardens, but it is unlawful to have in one's possession, without such a permit, either the eggs or young of any bird save eagles, hawks, owls, wild pigeons, blackbirds, kingfishers, crows, ravens, jays and sparrows.

But why should lazy people allow nests of these worms to increase in their orchards, and crawl over into their neighbors' orchards, when a day or two of hunting or spraying would destroy them, much more effectually than the birds.

To Destroy Ants.

1016. SIR,—Please give me some remedy for destroying the ants in my garden.

L. R. HAERMAN, *Port Hope.*

I have never seen any injury by ants, except for the trouble they give in throwing up hills of dry sand on lawns and in flower borders. If your insects really are ants, they can be destroyed easily by procuring a small quantity of bisulphide of carbon and pouring about a teaspoonful of this liquid into the centre of the nest, and then covering up the hole with a little earth and pressing it down with the foot.

J. FLETCHER.

Peach Aphis, Pear Slug, Etc.

1017. SIR,—What would you recommend for the fly on the black currant bush, also for the slug on the pear tree. And the worm that curls itself in the leaves of the peach tree, and oblige,

JAS. MUIR,
Hamilton, Ont.

*Reply by W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist,
Central Experimental Farm.*

Regarding the hard maple trees which your correspondent finds are dying: I may say that it is very difficult to state positively what kills the trees, unless one

saw a sample. There are, however, several causes why these trees die. One of these is from the depredations of a borer which works under the bark; another is that in cities where there is an escape of gas from the mains the trees are often very seriously affected. Of late years, also, since the asphaltting of streets and the laying down of granolithic sidewalks, trees have, apparently, suffered to a large extent on account of thus being deprived of a large amount of their food, air and moisture, and any trees which have a large top to support are in consequence often rendered sickly, and eventually die. The hard maple is, as a rule, a very healthy tree and is not often affected, under ordinary conditions, in the manner described. It frequently happens, also, that apparently a blight strikes certain trees, and it is, I think, in these cases impossible to save them.

W. T. MACOUN,
Horticulturist.

What Kills the Maples?

1018. SIR,—I have a very fine row of maple trees which have been planted about eighteen years, and which have grown splendidly, being in the very best of condition till about two years ago, when one died. Last summer I lost four and this spring about a dozen more are affected. The first indication of disease is young twigs dying, especially at the ends of the limbs and in one season the tree dies. The bark seems to loosen from the whole body of the tree. I have been unable to find out the cause. If any of your many readers have had a like experience I would gladly accept any information from them. I have ash and soft maples in the same row and these are not affected. As I have a large number of maples I am very anxious about them, for I fear I shall lose them all.

THOS. MACKLEM,
Hamilton, Ont.

Reply by Prof. Fletcher, Ottawa.

The fly on the black currant bush which you complain of is probably the Currant Plant louse. The best remedy for this is to spray the bushes, particu-