

✻ Question Drawer. ✻

Diseased Plum Leaves.

969. SIR,—In July, '96 I found the leaves on one branch, of several plum trees, looked as though they had been painted with exceedingly thin white paint. In August they became spotty and ragged and fell off early in September. This year *all* the leaves on those trees are diseased with the same thing. I enclose a sample of them and wish you would be kind enough to tell me what ails them.

Reply by Mr. John Craig, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The plum leaves forwarded by Mr. Magor are affected by a leaf rust known as *Puccinia pruni-spinosa*. They are also affected to some extent by the leaf form of fruit rot—*Monilia fructigena*. Plum foliage has been very generally injured by these two diseases the present season. Also by Shot Hole fungus, another very injurious trouble. All these diseases may be prevented by timely spraying with Bordeaux. It will pay growers to use Bordeaux mixture in their plum orchards much more freely than they have done so in the past. Loss of foliage means a depreciation in the quality of the fruit, and much of the fruit this season is both undersized and poorly coloured. This is principally on account of the falling off of the leaves early in the season.

Ripening Tomatoes.

Mr. C. W. Young, of Cornwall, writes :
—It is too late to be of use this year, but the best way to ripen tomatoes is in a cold cellar, without much light. They ripen solid, with good color and flavor, while if put in the sun, as is usually the case, they are watery and without full flavor. This was given me by a friend from the Northwest territories, where it is usually impossible to ripen tomatoes

outdoors. I tried it with a few baskets this fall, and was more than pleased with the result.

Cecropia Moth.

970.

The Editor *Grimsby Ont.*
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Dear sir,

I would like to ask you a few questions about insects. I managed to capture a full grown larva of the cecropia moth about the middle of Aug. On its back there were 3 or 4 batches of small white eggs between the bristles, and I want to know whether these are its eggs or not. Does it go into its cocoon and leave them there to hatch and come out on the tree. What is the best way to kill it when the moth hatches. I have managed to capture

four chrysalises of the Papilio Philenor, and I would like to know ^{how} its eggs are laid, and what color the butterfly is. I am a little boy aged nine, and hope it will not be too much trouble for you to answer these questions.

Yours truly
George B. Pattison