

Agricultural.

VEGETABLE PATHOLOGY.

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The next disease of plants to be noticed, is that affecting the stem. The stem is very subject to wounds of various kinds, according to the nature of the instrument by which they are inflicted and the particular texture involved. Wounds which penetrate or remove a portion of the bark are very common, either from accident or intentionally, as for the cure of some diseases, or as in pruning. Such wounds, and indeed all wounds of the stem, heal the quicker the more vigorous the branch or plant is in which they occur, and of course according to their dimensions. When of great extent, many years may be required for the process. All wounds heal more rapidly from above downwards than in any other way, no doubt stimulated by the returning juices. The most serious wounds of the bark are those which detach it to a great extent all round the stem; for the consequence is, that all branches beyond the wound are forced to become fruitful, and thus premature decay is brought on. In pruning, numerous wounds are necessarily inflicted, these, however, when smoothly and properly made, produce no mischief. Such wounds heal in the same way as those simply of the bark. From experiment, very little injury appears to occur from cutting down and removing the pith in twigs of any age short of the most recent. They, however, cannot bear the mid-day sun so well afterwards. Stems bruised or fractured even more than half way through, in many cases will recover; but when more than that, it is generally better to remove them at once, especially in old plants, as in such cases there is almost no chance of recovery. There are many plants which never recover even slight fractures, but gradually decay. Many succulent stems will suffer themselves to be bruised and broken to a great extent, and yet, by proper management, will recover. The most proper treatment for fractured or bruised stems is to tie them up, bringing the edges of the wound neatly together to promote a union, and covering the whole with some plaster. In this way many fractures unite, and bruises become consolidated. There is a minute insect, which frequently infests the stems of apple and pear trees; it is probably the Coccus arborum of Reaumur. It attacks the stems indiscriminately, which in consequence become covered with numerous insect-like bodies, varying in length from one-eighth to the three-sixteenths of an inch. The trees suffer from these, when numerous, by their including disease in the bark from the lodgment of water, which they cause, and also by hindering the functions of the bark. The most effectual remedies for this affection are boiling water, as recommended by Mr. Beattie in the Hort. Soc. of Edinburgh for 1827, and the "cream of lime," applied with care to the stems; or they may be scraped off, and the stems afterwards well washed with lime-water. Gangrene in stems seems to occur, for the most part, in consequence of wounds, parasitical plants, great heat or cold, excess or want of moisture, lightning, &c. Extremes of heat and cold, and sudden alteration of temperature, are frequent causes of gangrene in succulent stems and other parts of plants, as the leaves, flowers, &c.; and the hopes of the gardener are often disappointed by their influence, especially in spring. The cherry, plum, and other stone-fruit trees, are subject to a species of gangrene, which is generally called the "gum," from the gummy effusion which frequently issues from the affected stems. The sickly branches must be removed as soon as possible, as the disease is very rapid in its progress. Stems sometimes become bark-bound, and this is supposed to arise from the cuticle not giving way as it ought to do, trees in consequence to become stunted in growth. It is sometimes cured by longitudinal incisions along the stems down to the alburnum.

WATER FOR STOCK.—This is a subject of great importance. In order that stock of all kinds may be comfortable and thrifty, they should be supplied with water in the barn yard, as much manure is wasted, besides animals being likely to accidents, in going at a distance for water. When it is near, animals will drink often, but when at a distance they often go without, and suffer in consequence, and are a disadvantage to the owner, too; for no animal can be profitable without the requisites to its growth, health, and productiveness. Even sheep, that some farmers think can use snow and ice as a substitute for water, will drink frequently when water is near. When animals have constant access to water, they usually drink a little and drink often, but when not properly supplied they will often injure themselves by drinking to excess. Some farmers have prepared water works in the barn yard, at an expense of some \$5, 50, or 100 dollars, and they would not be deprived of it for the interest, annually on five times the cost.—Boston Cultivator.

VALUE OF HEN-MANURE.—The complaint of the fly on turnips, and bugs on cucumbers and other similar vines, is one of yearly, and sometimes, of long occurrence. The mischief done

by these little pests, is very provoking, and frequently results in losses of labor and good crops which are very discouraging to cultivators. I have lately been informed by an intelligent and skilful cultivator, that the following preparation affords an ample and complete remedy. Take hen manure one part, reduce it as well as you can to powder, then with an equal part of plaster of Paris, incorporate well together, and sprinkle this mixture over the vines, or sow it over the drills of your turnips. Hen-manure is free from the seeds of foul weeds, and in consequence of the great abundance of ammonia it contains, it possesses a great effect in pushing plants forward. Hence, for tomatoes, peppers, and similar plants, in our northern climate, it possesses high value. It is well worth being saved with care by farmers and gardeners, for every purpose of cultivation. Care should be used, however, in its application, for if given in too large quantities and placed too close proximately to the roots of the plants its effects are fatal. Its value for all purposes is greatly increased by being mixed with charcoal, or when this is not at hand with plaster. Every man who keeps hens should have his hen-house so constructed as to save all the manure, and save it dry as may be, and he will find it no inconsiderable item.—American Ag.

Sir E. Kerrison, says the Suffolk Chronicle, has this week sent to a friend in Eye, a hare, a brace of pheasants and a leash of birds, all packed within a turnip, which measured 51 inches in circumference.

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