

## Question Budget

(Will readers please answer.)

26. SIR,—Has apple pomace any manurial value? If so, would it pay to haul it a quarter of a mile, if it could be had free of charge? Also, when should it be applied?

L. S. MORGAN, *Port Dover.*

27. SIR,—How would I go to work to renew the bark on old apple trees; it having come off in patches?

L. G. M.

28. SIR,—Which is the earliest and which is the latest plum to grow for market?

WM. SWITZER, *Kirkton, Ont.*

## ✱ Open Letters. ✱

### Apples Near Montreal.

SIR,—I had a medium crop of apples last year. Two-thirds of mine were Fameuse, the rest were summer and fall apples; I sold \$950 worth of apples, but of this only \$325 was for Fameuse, which were so spotted. I tried fungicides for the apple scab, but, unfortunately, it rained immediately after each application.

I shipped a trial lot of Wealthy, Alexander, and Plumb's Cider to Scotland. They carried well, and the receivers were delighted with the Wealthy; the Alexander was too ripe, and the Plumb's Cider had not enough color. The Wealthy sold for 16/ a barrel, the Alexander for 15/ and the Plumb's Cider for 12/ to 14/. They were put on board ship the day after they were picked.

How does the Beurre d' Anjou compare in hardiness with the Flemish Beauty? It has done very well for three seasons, but, before going more extensively into them, I would be glad if some of your subscribers who have tested them in a climate the same as this would give their experience through your valuable paper. The Flemish Beauty pear appears to be as hardy here as the Fameuse apple and it has the same fault of spotting in unfavorable seasons. In a sheltered spot in my garden I can grow Bartlett's for home use.

R. BRODIE, *St. Henri, Montreal, Que.*

### Care Plum Trees.

SIR,—There is a great deal of talk about the black knot on plums, a disease which deters many people from engaging in plum growing. I do not wonder that plum trees die with the treatment they get. They are planted in a hole, about a foot across, in which the roots are cramped like a wisp of straw, and two or three shovelfuls of earth are thrown in and tramped with the foot, removing some of the bark at the same time. Neither root nor top are ever pruned and they are left to grow in grass or poor land that would not grow thistles, and then the planter expects the tree to grow and yield \$12 or \$15 worth of plums, the second or third year. More than half the trees die the first year, and the remainder will live a year or two and then die from black knot. These people then want a black knot law put in force.

Now, I will give you my plan of caring for my plum trees. First, my land must be well enriched with barn manure and wood ashes, the year before. I dig a hole two or three feet in diameter and ten or twelve inches deep, and then taking the tree in my left hand, with the roots towards me, I cut off, with a sharp pruning knife, all the broken and damaged roots, turning the tree around as I cut, and drawing the knife toward me to make a clean shave. Then standing the roots of the tree on the ground, I cut off all side branches, except three or four nicely balanced ones around the top; then cut off one third from each of these, and the tree is ready to plant. Then I set the tree in the centre of the hole, perhaps one-half an inch deeper than it was in the nursery, and spread out the roots evenly, covering them with fine earth which I press down firmly with my foot. I continue