

❖ Question Drawer. ❖

Grafting Broken Trees.

594. SIR,—On the 15th of December we had a heavy rain from the east which froze as it fell, and continued all night. The sight which met our gaze the next morning was enough to sicken a lover of trees; trunks and limbs bent, broken, split and torn; hardwood, softwood, evergreen, all shared the same; fruit, shade, ornamental, forest trees; scarcely any are spared. Large numbers are split and broken to the ground, altogether the worst damage from an ice-storm we have ever experienced. It will be many years before the damage is repaired. I have thought that the best plan to take with the fruit trees whose tops are broken beyond repair, would be to saw off the trunks below the break and graft them. Would that not be the quickest way to replace the trees?

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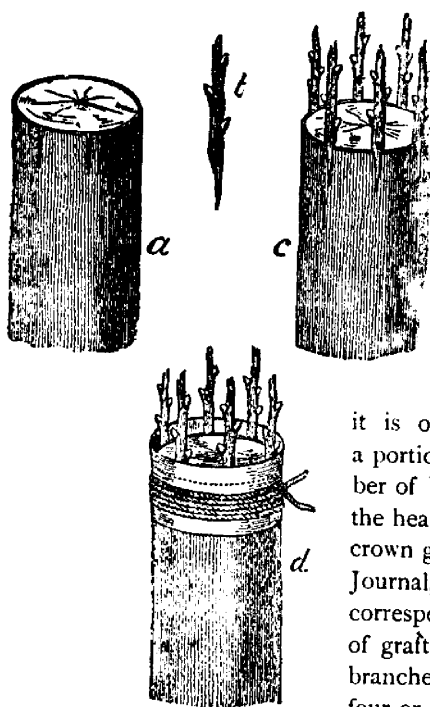


FIG. 415.

are then wrapped in paper. The wounds are well pressed with clay or grafting wax, and the cap-like cavity formed by the paper wraps serves to hold the clay in place. This is a simple method, requiring few tools, and as likely to succeed as the more scientific method of cleft-grafting. The latter is, of course, the only proper method of dealing with smaller limbs.

The plan proposed by our correspondent might succeed in the case of comparatively young trees, where the balance between root and top is not too much disturbed; but the removal of the whole top at once is usually fatal, or at least so stunts the growth that it never recovers. The shock is of course worse if done in summer, but, even if done when dormant, the young shoots and grafts will hardly produce sufficient leaves to keep the trees alive. When grafting old trees,

it is on this account usual to renew only a portion of the tree each year, leaving a number of branches with heavy foliage to continue the health of the tree. Probably the method of crown grafting, illustrated some time ago in our Journal, would serve in many cases such as our correspondent describes. To perform this mode of grafting, the main trunk and large upright branches are sawed off smoothly, the ends of four or five scions are beveled on one side and inserted under the bark, and the cut sections