

cerning them. It appears that it is not a fungus at all, but a disease, due to climatic influences which has been long known by French vineyardists. In Bulletin 8 of the Botanical division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, we find the following description of it:—

This is a disease which the French have named *Broussins*, the Germans *Krebs*, and the Italians *Malattia dei tubercoli*. The first name, "Broussins," meaning excrescences, is descriptive of the disease, and is the one we will adopt. Prof. Viala, in his work on the *Maladies de la Vigne*, pp. 441, 442, has clearly described the disease in question. His description is very complete, and the cause to which he attributes the malady appears most reasonable, and we cannot do better than to translate in full what he has written:

"Under the action of the frosts of autumn and winter, and especially those of spring, peculiar malformations are developed upon the roots, the root crown, the side branches and the shoots left after pruning. Upon the roots they appear as little nodules the size of a pea, more rarely as large as an egg, which are soft and spongy when moist, but firm and hard when dry. They have a warty surface, being formed of smaller nodules, which run together where they unite with the root. Upon grafts the adjacent layers of generative tissues sometimes multiply to an unusual extent, giving rise to a spongy swelling, having the form of Broussins. But it is especially upon the young branches and side shoots that these formations are most frequent. '*Broussins*' usually appears at the insertion of the shoots upon the side branches, but they also occur over the whole length of the inter-node or even several successive nodes, entirely changing their normal appearance. There are formed several masses of irregular excrescences composed of a large number of shapeless nodules. The wood thus covered is often enlarged to four or five times its proper diameter. The bark is torn and often stretched in narrow strips over the irregular groups of nodules. The latter are soft and spongy, but become very hard when dry."

#### BARREN STRAWBERRY PLANTS.

66. SIR,—In the year 1887 I bought one dozen strawberry plants, the Itaska and Jessie kinds. I planted and secured all the plants possible from them. In the fall I had about one hundred plants which I set out; they grew, and I had a fine bed of them, but no fruit. My soil is a clay loam, well cultivated. I applied plenty of wood ashes, but no use. Please say what is the reason? I am sending you a sample of what they are at present; they stand full of bloom; ought to have one hundred quarts off this bed. Please answer in the next HORTICULTURIST number.—J. GARTON, *Toronto, June 21, 1890.*

We fear there is a tendency with the Jessie to become unfruitful after the first year of bearing. Will any of our readers give their views?—(Ed.).

#### THE FOUR-STRIPED PLANT-BUG.

67. SIR,—Enclosed find some striped flies that are destroying all my currant bushes, and in fact nearly everything in the garden. The leaves of the currant and gooseberry bushes look as if a fire had passed over them. I think they had first attacked the Spearmint. They are also very bad on the sunflowers, and were even on a few hills of potatoes that were near the currants.

Do you know what they are, and what would be best to use to get rid of them?—W. S. SHORT, *722 York Street, London.*

These insects have come to hand in good order, and been mounted for our cabinet. Scientifically they are known as *Poecilopapsus lineatus*, and are thus spoken of in Prof. Saunder's work on "Insects Injurious to Fruits:" This is a bright yellow bug, about three-tenths of an inch long, with black antennae and two black stripes on each side of its wing covers, the outer one on each side terminating in a black dot. It punctures the young leaves of the currant bushes on both their under and their upper surfaces, causing small brown spots, not much larger than pin-heads, but these are sometimes so numerous and closely placed that the leaves become completely withered. The insects are very active, and when approached drop quickly to the ground or fly away. They begin to feed in May or June, and continue for a month or two, often disfiguring the bushes very much and retarding their growth. When very troublesome