

QUESTION DRAWER.

1.—I have about two acres of land which I intend planting with apple trees. It is limestone gravel mixed with sandy loam to a depth of from a foot to eighteen inches, under that a strong whitish clay. I want to plant about five kinds, to be at their best or ripen as follows:—Some in January, some February, some March, some April, some May. I want a fair sized apple with an attractive appearance and good quality, that will hold on to the tree till they are pulled off. What kinds would you recommend to fill the bill?

2.—I also have a piece of land I want to plant with asparagus. I have read a good deal about growing asparagus, and still I am partly blind. I would like to know why it should be planted deep in the ground. I think it is unnatural. When you raise plants from the seed do you put the seed six or eight inches under ground? I don't, because it is contrary to Nature's laws; and why put the plants so deep in the ground? One man says don't cut your asparagus under ground because it is hard and stringy. If it is not fit for use under ground what is the use of growing six or eight inches for nothing? Yours, SUBSCRIBER.

REPLY.—1. If "Subscriber" had added the place of his residence at the foot of his inquiries it would have been of great service in giving a satisfactory reply. As it is we are ignorant of the peculiarities of his climate. If the following varieties will thrive at his place we think they will "fill the bill," presuming, from his condition that they must have an attractive appearance, that he wants them for market purposes, which fact modifies the meaning

of the expression "good quality." For January, Hubbardston Nonsuch; for February, Wagener; for March, Baldwin; for April, Golden Russet; for May, Roxbury Russet. If the Russets are not sufficiently attractive in appearance substitute for them as follows:—For April, Ben Davis; for May, Northern Spy. It will nevertheless be found in practice that we cannot divide off our winter apples into separate months in this way with precision. They will vary somewhat in their time of coming to perfect maturity according to the variations in the seasons, and the manner in which they are treated, especially the temperature of the place where they are stored.

2. Asparagus — "Subscriber" asks why should it be planted deep in the ground? We would ask, who says it should? Certainly not the author of the *Canadian Fruit, Flower and Kitchen Gardener*. He says, page 195, "the crown covered about two inches deep with earth." If the crown is only two or three inches below the surface there will not be six or eight inches of stalk grown for nothing. The same writer says, page 196:—"It is the practice of many to cut the buds two or three inches below the surface; but why we should take so much pains to secure a long, white, woody stalk which no cooking will make tender and no person can eat, is more than we can understand. It is the practice of the writer to cut the buds, when three to five inches long, just above the surface of the ground, thus securing for the