

THE BLACK KNOT.

In bulletin 59 of the Michigan Agricultural College, Prof. Taft reminds us that in order check the devastation of our plum orchards, which will surely result from continued neglect, we must be vigilant even during the winter season, as at that time the old knots of the past year's growth ripen millions of spores which will each be capable of starting a new generation.

Every old knot, whether on plum or cherry tree, growing in fence corners or along roadsides, ought to be most carefully cut out, removing the limb some distance below the part affected, and burned as soon as possible before the spores have had time to float away to trees that are hitherto healthy.

In some cases, of course the trees would be badly injured by this cutting away of the knot, and it has been found that by cutting away as much of the knot as possible and burning it, and then painting over the wound with linseed oil, the fungus can be destroyed. Turpentine has been found still more effective, but it is injurious to the healthy portions of the bark, and must therefore be applied with great caution.

EXPERIMENTS WITH TOMATOES.

BULLETIN 21 of Cornell University, states that by trimming the vines of tomato plants late in the summer, a greatly increased yield of fruit can be obtained. In the experiments, the plants were headed back from three to six inches on all the leading shoots, July 28th and August 25th, and all the sprouts from the base of the plants were taken off. The labor was very little and the result was a decided gain in both earliness and productiveness.

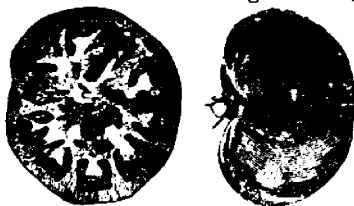


FIG. 3.

There are some forty varieties under test at Cornell, but of them all the Ignotum, (fig. 3), stands at the head.

Another point clearly demonstrated is, that it pays to set plants in the open as early as possible. A batch of Ignotums were planted out on the 9th of May, and another beside them, on the 12th of June, and the difference in earliness was very marked, for by the 5th of September there had been gathered from the early set plants thirty-seven ripe fruits, and from the late set ones, only eight.

PAPER AS SUBSTITUTE FOR GLASS FOR HOTBEDS.

A FLORIDA correspondent of the *American Garden* says he has found either cloth or manilla paper saturated with pure *raw* linseed oil, the best substitute for glass for hotbed covers. Boiled oil rots the paper or the cloth, but cloth that has had two coats of *raw* linseed oil is both air and waterproof, and remains soft and pliable indefinitely. Paper, so prepared, is nearly equal to glass, admitting the passage of light quite freely.