

QUESTION DRAWER.

Hardiness of Climbers.

90. WILL *Bignonia Radicans* and *Ampelopsis Veitchii* stand the climate here without being covered in winter. If they need covering what is the best material to cover with?—L. F. SELLECK, *Morrisburg, Dundas Co., Ont.*

NEITHER of these climbers is hardy enough for Dundas county without protection. Even at Grimsby the young wood of the former is usually more or less killed back every winter; but after a time it becomes a stout vine and succeeds well here unprotected. *Ampelopsis Veitchii* is perfectly hardy here. At St Catharines, Mr. Dunlop has a fine specimen climbing over a brick wall; but at London, Ont., it is reported tender. As the plant is soon to be sent out for testing we hope to know exactly how far north it will succeed. Probably nothing is better for protection than coarse strawy manure, or leaves.

Asparagus.

91. CAN an asparagus bed of four or five years' standing be removed, and when is the best time for doing it?—ROBT. STEED, *Cole's Corners.*

Reply by D. W. Bault, St. Catharines, Ont.

YES. Take up the roots in the fall after the summer's growth is dead, remove all the dead parts from the roots, plant in the new bed and cover with coarse manure from the horse-stable to the depth of six inches. After the weather has become settled in the spring remove the coarse portions of the manure, and fork the remainder in between the rows of asparagus.

Fungus on Raspberry Canes.

92. ENCLOSED I send you three pieces of raspberry canes all diseased in the bark with something resembling rust in wheat. Two of the pieces are canes of this year's growth, one showing the commencement of the disease in spots near the ground, another shows it spreading over all the cane, which becomes a light steel-blue color. The other is a cane of last year which bears a few tasteless berries. What is the disease or is there any remedy? The

soil is loam, with a hard clay subsoil, with open cultivation. Distance 7 x 4 feet shaded somewhat by fruit trees.—ROBERT STEED, *Cole's Corners (near Sarnia).*

Reply by Prof. Panton.

THE canes sent have been received. Specimens of this nature have not come under my observation before. I cannot just now identify the fungus which causes this diseased appearance of the canes, but am inclined to attribute the trouble to a fungoid growth of some kind. It is likely the raspberries are not in a very vigorous condition and while in this state the fungus finds suitable surroundings for its growth. The hard clay subsoil referred to in the enquirer's note likely prevents proper drainage and thus favors conditions unsuitable for vigorous growth.

To bring about a healthy state of affairs I would suggest thorough cultivation, good drainage and manure. If the canes are much affected get rid of them and introduce new as soon as possible. Where plants are weak you generally find them attacked by parasitic fungi, hence the necessity of a healthy vigorous growth.

Wood Ashes.

93. WILL wood ashes injure a tree, if put close to the stem?—W. W. R., *Toronto.*

YES; if fresh unleached wood ashes is piled against the trunk of young trees it will burn through it, and possibly kill it. As a fertilizer the ashes should be scattered about the tree evenly at least as far each way as the branches extend.

Protecting Grapes from Frost.

94. WHEN seasons are wet here, we are subject to frosts that kill grapes early in Sept. Could you tell me where tarred paper could be bought suitable for covering vines at night? Would you explain in next No. of *HORTICULTURIST* about above and starting smoke on frosty nights in vineyard, same as they have to do in northern France and Germany.—R. GILLIES, *Williamsburg.*