

couraged to express their opinions. We had flattered ourselves that the change had been for the better; that by obtaining the experience of different cultivators in different localities and using different methods, we were making the magazine more valuable to our readers. Perhaps we are mistaken, but we thought that as it is not given to any one person to know everything, nor even to three or four, so we were increasing the amount of knowledge imparted, by an increase in the number of those who contributed of their personal experience to its pages.

#### BARK LICE, ETC.

TO THE EDITOR.—(1) I have lately tried several different remedies recommended to kill bark lice in apple trees. The appearance of the lice remains the same. How can I tell if they are dead or alive? (2) The trunks of some of my pear trees are considerably cracked, what had I better do to them? (3) What, if any, injury does "ringing" do to a fruit tree? (4) In propagating the grape vine will it do to take the cuttings off the old vine in the *spring* and planting them at once.

Toronto.

R.

REPLY.—(1) Usually the scale becomes of a light grey color, almost white, when dead. If you will lift a few of the scales with the point of your knife, you will be able to ascertain whether there is any living substance beneath. If alive at this time of the year there will be a mass of eggs under each scale, which will hatch about the first of June.

(2) Wash the pear trees with some alkaline solution, such as soft soap di-

luted with washing soda dissolved in water to the consistence of a thick paint.

(3) It will usually cause that part of the tree or branch beyond the place where the bark is removed to die prematurely. (4) Yes it will do. But the cuttings are more sure to grow, and to make more vigorous growth if they are taken off immediately after the leaves fall in autumn.

#### PRUNING SHADE TREES.

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly inform me through your valuable journal the suitable or *best* time to prune shade trees, more particularly maples and much oblige,

Yours respectfully,  
JNO. MULLIGAN.

Port Hope.

REPLY.—If maples are pruned at all severely in the spring the sap will flow from the wounds, hence we prefer to prune them in the fall, or else after the leaves are about half grown.

DEAR SIR,—I purpose raising onions cabbages, tomatoes, &c., manuring with ashes. (1) Will salt answer put on the land with the ashes? Is there any chemical objection to using the two at or near the same time of application? (2) Is there any chemical objection to using salt and superphosphate?

JNO. P. W.

Horning's Mills.

We sent the above inquiry to the professor of agricultural chemistry in Cornell University, and received the following

#### REPLY:

(1) In some cases salt would be an advantage used with wood ashes. When salt is applied with ashes, it causes the potash to penetrate deeply into the soil, and for deep rooted crops it would be desirable, but ob-