

The Ichneumon. (See question 645.)

The insect sent with your letter of April 17th, and which was received from a correspondent who had found it emerging from a hole as large as a pigeon shot in an old plum tree, and, as he states, leaving a cocoon at the outlet of one of the holes; is a beneficial insect. It belongs to the Ichneumon flies, all of which are parasitic upon other insects. The holes are probably the work of some boring beetle which had attacked the tree in its larval state. Mr. W. H. Harrington, of Ottawa, who is our leading Canadian specialist in *Hymenoptera*, thinks that, as far as he can judge from the crushed fragment forwarded by you, the species is *Ichneumon acerbus*.

J. FLETCHER.

Russian Apricot. (See question 646.)

I explain how I got my trees in bearing. I had a seedling tree of which the pit came from Russia. This was often completely covered with bloom, and that early, but not one would set. I concluded to graft another kind on it, or else kill it. I grafted on Budd and Gibb. On the second year they were covered with bloom, both the grafts and the original top; and indeed the fruit of the seedling was better than that from the grafts. Since that it has never failed, until lately the borers are destroying the tree.

D. B. HOOVER, *Almira, Ont.***The Raspberry Beetle.**

A small black beetle has of late been doing serious injury to the raspberry canes about Grimsby, by eating out the fruit buds, and thus destroying the crop. Spraying with Paris green seemed useless, so we enclosed some samples to Mr. Fletcher, Entomologist of the Central Experimental Farm, who replies as follows:

The beetles you send in the bottle are the Spotted Paria, *Paria sep-notata* Say. This a most injurious insect and has done much damage to raspberries in the way you describe, at St. Catharines. It seems to be very difficult to kill. I would suggest you spray the raspberry bushes at once with Paris green and slacked lime, one pound of Paris green to 25 of lime. This is easiest applied by putting it in a bag of cheese cloth and shaking or tapping it over the bushes. Of course, if you can get a morning when there is dew on them, so much the better. They may be also killed in large numbers by beating or shaking the insects off the canes into an open pan containing water with a little coal oil on the top. A good plan for collecting them is to hold an open and inverted umbrella beneath the canes, and then brush the insects out into the coal oil pan. I shall be much obliged if you will try both of these remedies and let me know whether or not they succeed.