

are difficult to grow, and are said to be found only in one place in the world."

POINTS IN PEACH CULTURE.—Mr. J. H. Hale in Rural New Yorker, gives points for the soil and tree in peach culture. He advises thirteen feet apart as the distance with which he has had the best results, when attended with close pruning; but for general planting and ordinary pruning from 18 to 22 feet is the best distance. Catch crops should not be planted in the young orchard, but instead 12 to 15 good cultivations given.

During the first 2 years, after a month or 6 weeks of thorough cultivation, cowpeas may be seeded over two-thirds the space between the rows, leaving space each side of the trees for single-horse cultivation for 2 months more. The pea vines should be left in the ground over winter as a mulch. After the first 2 years, the whole space between the rows should be cultivated up to the last of July or first of August, and then seeded completely with 15 or 20 lbs. of

clover for winter protection of the peach roots. The clover should be plowed under in the early spring before much growth takes place.

In pruning a light open head is desired. The first season's growth should not be shortened too much, but the second season all the strongest branches may be literally shortened, leaving the side branches to spread so as to make a broad low head. In case it seems best not to cut a leader entirely away, never cut back to a dormant bud, but always to some side branches; these will slowly take on growth and fruiting strength and check the upward tendency of growth that is sure to follow the cutting back of a strong peach limb to a dormant bud. Not much attention need be paid the side branches; they will never make leaders, and in the author's opinion it is a mistake to do so. A tree pruned as here suggested should give three-fourths of its fruit near enough to the ground so that it can be gathered without a ladder.

QUESTION DRAWER.

Blackberries.

1237 SIR,—How and when should blackberries be pruned for best results, and when should the old wood be taken out?

Nicolston.

W. V. MILLER.

We usually pinch the terminal shoots towards the end of August to check the growth and cause the canes to more fully ripen than if allowed to grow undisturbed. Another object is to encourage the growth of laterals. Four or five feet is high enough for the canes to be allowed to grow, and for the laterals one foot is long enough. Thus pruned, the canes will stand up without support, and allow of horse and man to pass through between the rows in cultivation.

The old wood may be taken out as soon

as fruiting season is over or about the same time the young shoots are headed back, or the work may be done at any time most convenient in the winter or early spring.

Shot Hole Fungus.

1238. SIR:—Please find enclosed sample leaves off my plum orchard. I sprayed three times with Bordeaux mixture this year. The leaves nearly all fell off last fall before the fruit was ripe and I am afraid they will do the same this fall. What could I do to keep them healthy—trees are six years old and bearing nicely.

Kingscourt.

O. F. BIRCHARD.

The leaves enclosed by our correspondent are riddled with small, round holes, as if made with small shot, for which reason this disease has been called the shot hole fungus.