

ries were shipped over the Delaware Railroad.

## Question Drawer.

*This department is intended as an open one to every reader of the "Horticulturist" to send in either questions or answers. Often a reader will be able to answer a question which has been left unanswered, or only partially answered by us. For convenience of reference the questions are numbered, and any one replying or referring to any question will please mention the number of it.*

71. Bliss' Triumph Potato. — *Do you know anything of Bliss' Triumph potato? Is it earlier or later than the Early Rose?* L. F. S.

REPLY BY J. A. BRUCE.

Bliss' Triumph may be thus described: tubers of medium size, round and uniform in shape, with but very few small ones; eyes slightly depressed; color a beautiful light red; flesh fine grain and of excellent flavor. Messrs. Bliss & Sons described and recommended it as earlier than the Early Rose, but the public preferred the Early Rose. We observe by United States catalogues that it is better adapted for a southern latitude than most other varieties.

72. Bursting Bark.—*For bursting of the bark on apple trees, some growers recommend slitting the bark from top to bottom of trunk with a sharp knife. Is this advisable? If so, on which side of the tree should it be done? And at what season?* G. J. R., Penetang.

The bursting of the bark of apple trees is caused by excessive cold in winter. The freezing of the sap causes a sudden expansion of the cells which contain it, rupturing their walls, and destroying the bark. Some varieties called "iron-clads" withstand a greater amount of cold than others. Slitting the bark would neither prevent nor cure this evil.

73. Budding and Grafting. — *What is the*

*best practical work on budding and grafting?*

G. J. R.

Either "Thomas' Fruit Culturist" or "Barry's Fruit Garden" would probably give you all the information you require, and very much beside.

74. Clay Loam.—*What chemical constituents does clay loam possess which are lacking in sandy loam?* G. J. R.

ANSWER BY J. A. MORTON, WINGHAM.

Loams are soils, mixtures of clay, sand, carbonate of lime and animal or vegetable matter in decay, which derive their distinctive names from the preponderating ingredient — clay loam, when the greater proportion is clay, calcareous loam, when lime is the chief ingredient and sandy loam, if a greater admixture of sand than either of the others. Speaking generally, all loams contain the same elements; the difference being one of proportion in the elementary constituents. The chemical constituents in fertile soils are: Oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphur, silica, alumina, soda, potash, iron, magnesia, calcium (lime), chlorine, and perhaps iodine, bromine, lithia, and fluorine, with maybe other elements, according to the composition of the rocks of which the soil is disintegrate.

75. Rogers' Grapes, 9, 15, and 22.—*Does the Lindley, the Agawam, and the Salem grape ripen with the Concord, or is each earlier or later, respectively? Which of the three is the better grape? Will they ripen in this district before the frost comes?* L. F. SELLECK, Morrisburg, Ont.

The Salem and the Agawam ripen very soon after the Concord, and the Lindley a little before it. In quality, the Salem is preferred by many. It is large, showy, rich, and excellent; but it is very subject to mildew, for which reason it is now seldom planted, except by the amateur. The Agawam is also