

THE CARPET CHAMOMILE.—This plant will make a good turf, as it spreads fast, and grows freely on all soils, even the poorest, while it is not affected by the hottest sun or the most severe drought.

A correspondent of the *New England Farmer* says that last year he saved his onions from the maggot by removing the earth from the bulbs with his fingers, being careful not to disturb the roots while weeding them. A pound of copperas dissolved in a pailful of soft soap, and, when thinned with water, applied to the onions, is good to keep off the maggot, and to promote the growth of the onions.

Tilton's Journal of Horticulture for November has been received, and is fully up to its usual standard of excellence. The illustrations and descriptions of new things are alone worth the subscription, and as the price is to be reduced from \$3 00 to \$1 50 after this year, every one can afford to take it. Publishers offer very liberal inducements for making clubs. J. E. Tilton & Co., Boston, will send to any address a sample copy and premium list.

THE TROPHY TOMATO.—It is without exception the best and most perfect tomato we have ever seen. "As heavy as a stone," is the expression of those who have examined it on our grounds. Certainly we never saw its equal in size, beauty, uniformity, solidity and goodness. In cutting it one is reminded of an old cheese. There are no open cavities in it. The slices, when cut and laid upon a dish, are as perfect as the slice of a potato. The flavour is deliciously sweet. The average weight, 1 lb.; many weigh from 1½ to 1¾ lbs.—*The Small Fruit Recorder*.

SPLIT TREES.—W. A. Gordon, of Wardsville, writes:—"About twelve months since you advised me respecting the bolting of split trees with iron bolts. I have tried on two; one of them is a perfect success, the other has half of it dead. As to the cause of death I have two opinions; first, it had been rent a long time; second, I bolted it right through the heart. In the other tree the bolt is about an inch from the centre of the stock, which I believe is a good plan."

DISEASED PEAR-TREE.—H. Thompson sends a sprig of a pear tree, with an enquiry as to the cause and proper treatment of the diseased condition. The leaves have been attacked by a fungus, a small parasitic plant, growing on the under side of the leaves. Flour of sulphur is destructive to most microscopic fungi, and if it should appear on the leaves next year, a quantity of sulphur may be sprinkled on the surface of the ground as far as the branches extend, and dusted through the leaves. This should be done as soon as the first appearance of anything can be detected on the leaves, else it will be too late.

SOWING LAWN GRASS SEED.—"Essa" is informed that the best time for sowing lawn grass seed in this climate is the spring.

Correspondence.

Sugar Beet Seed.

Mr. H. L. Smith, of Parry Sound, asks where he can obtain genuine Silesian Sugar Beet Seed, and how many pounds it takes to an acre, to sow in drills 2½ feet apart?

There are several kinds of sugar beet seed. Many prefer the white Silesian, but in some factories on the Continent several other sorts are as much thought of, and used. Much depends on the sort of land on which the seed is to be sown. An application to any of the first-class seedsmen of the principal cities in Canada will ensure a genuine article. As Mr. Smith writes from Parry Sound, we suppose his nearest point of supply will be Toronto. Messrs. C. Dawbarn, Simmers, or Fleming, wholesale seedsmen of this city, can furnish reliable qualities and in any quantity that may be required, provided the order reach them early enough to get the supply from home, before the spring opens. We should advise an early application to one of these firms, desiring them to furnish a quantity of each kind that has been found to answer by their correspondents in Europe. Our enquirer will then have an opportunity of testing three or four varieties as adapted to his soil and climate. About 6 lbs. will sow an acre, and be sure of a sufficiently thick plant, allowing for some to be imperfect seed. Of course, one-half this quantity will suffice, provided it all grows; but all the mangel tribe are very liable to miss growing, and thus leave large gaps in the rows. About the beginning of June is the best time to sow; this has been proved, by many experiments, to produce the best roots with most sugar per ton.

Pedigrees of Exhibition Animals.

Several enquiries have been addressed to us in reference to this subject. One correspondent asks whether he complied with the resolution of his Agricultural Society that "Exhibitors of thorough-bred stock hand in pedigrees of the same to the President on the morning of the show," by handing in a certificate of the record in the Herd Book. With regard to this enquiry we should answer that literally he did not, but in effect he did, as the certificate of record and the Herd Book would supply the necessary information.

Another correspondent complains that the judges refused to accept or look at a copy of pedigree, and wishes to know whether a judge should "understand, examine, and be influenced by pedigrees?" We think there can be no question but that the pedigree should be taken into account in awarding prizes. It is not customary, nor is it always necessary for

the judge to examine pedigrees. That is generally done, if required, when the entry is made; and the judge may take it for granted, if an animal is admitted to competition in a thoroughbred class, that the pedigree is satisfactory. But where two animals approximate very nearly in merit, as to points of excellence, the consideration of their respective pedigrees should certainly be allowed due influence in coming to a decision. It is an element of primary importance.

Natural History Query.

E. C., Cobourg, writes, "Can you or any of your readers inform me whether there is any book published exclusively on Canadian birds; if there is, where I can get one? And can you tell me the name and species of a bird which lays its egg in other birds' nests? The colour of the egg is white with blackish brown spots; the nests in which the eggs were laid belonged to small birds, and the eggs were much smaller. I have found five or six of them, but never more than one egg in each nest."

There is no book of the kind published in English, but a work in French on the subject was published some time ago. The bird whose cuckoo-habits are referred to is the Cow bird (*Molothrus peccatus*), one of the family of starlings, of which the oriole, bob-o-link, and meadow lark are also members.

Coal Tar and Crude Petroleum for Roofing.

"W. H." inquires the best mode of applying coal or gas tar to roofs. The only effectual mode of using it is to heat it to the boiling point, and apply it with a brush, taking care to allow the heat to subside until it will not burn a feather, or the brush will be spoiled. The outside coating of tar will all come off in a year or two, as such is the effect of light and exposure to the air and elements; but as it penetrates into the pores of the wood of the shingles, when applied boiling hot, the portion so absorbed will never wear away, and the shingles will be preserved to a great degree from decay. The price by the barrel at the Gas Works is about ten cents per gallon, exclusive of the barrel.

As to the value of crude petroleum as a coating to shingles, there cannot be two opinions as to its increasing their durability; and the outside when exposed to the elements will not be affected in the same manner, or to any such extent, as if coal tar be used. But its extreme inflammability renders its value very doubtful when all the disadvantages are taken into account. Rain-water could not be used for many months from a roof so covered, on account of the strong effluvia arising therefrom.