

'yellows' before. Probably it has come about because those who have suffered are chiefly among those who have no regard for those who are 'fungus-mad,' and who are quite sure that nothing is known regarding the disease. For our part we regard the successful experiments of Mr. Miller as entitling him to a wide appreciation by his fellow-cultivators."

#### CARE OF SCIONS OF THE STONE FRUITS.

A student came to me to-day with a copy of the *Rural* and directed my attention to your advice to E. K. T. in a late issue. Said he:—"Our class notes say pack all scions in dry forest leaves."

The subject is worthy of more attention and careful experimentation than it has yet received. An experiment like the following will be conclusive:—Pack away a bundle of cherry scions in November in moderately moist moss in a moderately moist cellar. In January use these for putting up say 500 root grafts. At the same time and with the same roots put up 500 grafts with scions of the same variety packed in November in dry leaves in a box in the same cellar. Set by the same man in similar soil, it will always happen that the stand will be from twenty to fifty per cent. better with the dry scions. If the scions be used for top-grafting or crown-grafting in the open air the difference in the stand will be far greater in favor of the dry scions.

My attention was first called to this subject in March, 1870. The cherry scions I was using in top-working were cut in November and kept in the cellar in quite dry moss. They were nice and plump, with a show of callousing at the base. I was sure they were in fine order, yet less than five per cent. of them grew. The same day it happened that I put in a dozen or more scions received by mail from the old homestead

in New York. These were so dry that the bark was shrivelled, and I only expected to save the variety by the possible growth of one or two specimens; but they all grew. Since that time I have experimented largely with the stone fruits, and am certain that the scions should be kept as dry as is safe. In all cases—unless the scions be scarce and valuable—they are thrown away if they show the least trace of the starting of a single bud or of callousing at the base.

The principle involved is the reverse of our attempts to graft the cherry after the water coming up from the roots has commenced to change the starch of the cell structure of the stock into sugar water. If we expect a uniform and satisfactory union of scion and stock both must be in dormant condition. The scions of the apple and pear do not absorb water so readily; yet with these I have known many poor stands to result from the use of water-soaked scions.—PROF. J. L. BUDD, in *Rural New Yorker*.

#### AMMONIA FOR FLOWERING PLANTS AND STRAWBERRY PLANTS.

A writer in the London *Gardeners' Chronicle* says:—Last year I was induced to try an experiment in chrysanthemum growing, and for this purpose purchased one pound of sulphate of ammonia, which I bottled and corked, as the ammonia evaporates very rapidly. I then selected four plants from my collection, putting them by themselves, gave them a teaspoonful of ammonia in a gallon of water twice a week. In a fortnight's time the result was most striking, for though I watered the others with liquid cow manure, they looked lean when compared with the ammonia watered plants, whose leaves turned to a very dark green, which they carried to the edge of the pots until the flowers were cut. As a