

## QUESTION DRAWER.

I am glad you are giving more space in the journal to floriculture, so as to encourage your readers to study the beautiful in nature. I have a good many varieties of pears. I find the Sheldon a profitable variety of fine quality, and not fully appreciated as yet by the public. I have made more money out of the Keiffer than any other variety, simply because of its productiveness. The tree is an excellent grower and very hardy. The Flemish Beauty succeeds since it has been sprayed persistently with Bordeaux.

R. L. HUGGARD.

Whitby, Ont.

### From Simcoe Fruit Station.

The past winter has been the mildest for years, the temperature scarcely reaching 20 below zero, and that only once. All fruits have come through in fine shape, except the Japan plums, Abundance and Shensie, which have killed back at the tips of the new wood, and I doubt if they will stand our climate. The hardy Russian cherries will be an acquisition for this section, for the growing of cherries has been almost entirely neglected here. The hardy varieties seem less susceptible to knot than the old varieties, and bear very early. The oldest I have are only three years

planted, and yet some of them bore several samples last year, and several are full of bloom this year. I note that the fruit is handsome in appearance, and hangs on the trees until dead ripe. I believe that the Bordeaux mixture is a good preventive of the black knot, and indeed no fruit seems to benefit so much from this mixture as the cherry.

The Mann apple has a bad fault, namely, splitting of the bark. The prospects are favorable for a good crop of fruit of every kind in this section. Apple trees are full of blossom buds, and present indications are for an abundant crop. The blackberries I am testing are doing well here, except the Kittatinny. We once thought we could grow no other variety except the Snyder, but now we hope for better things, and may after a time be able to advise the planting of the finer varieties in this section with assurance of success. The Columbian raspberry is not entirely hardy, as it has been killed back in the tips. However, it was planted in rich soil and made a rampant growth which may account for that to a certain extent. It is a wonderful bearer. Smith's Giant black cap is alive to the ends of the tips, and seems to be hardy.

G. C. CASTON.

Craighurst, Ont.

## ❧ Question Drawer. ❧

### Clivias and Cypridiums.

**945.** SIR,—What are Clivias and what are Cypridiums? I see them recommended for winter bloom.

A SUBSCRIBER, *Seaforth.*

Clivias belong to the Amaryllis family. They are evergreen bulbs for the greenhouse, and need plenty of moisture and high temperature when growing.

Cypridium is a variety of Orchid, commonly known as Lady's Slipper. This is a good variety of Orchid for the beginner, because inexpensive and easily cultivated. It flowers freely, and remains blown a long time.

### Clairegeau and Lawrence Pears.

**946.** SIR,—I have half an acre of ground which I intend setting with Clairegeau pears. I have one tree of this variety that bears profusely every year, and I find it an excellent market pear, being late.

Is the Lawrence a late pear, and suitable for our northern climate?

MRS. M. F. ROSS, *Owen Sound.*

The Clairegeau seems to succeed remarkably well on the southern shore of the Georgian Bay.

The Lawrence is a late pear, which yellows after being gathered, and ripens for dessert use in December. The quality is very excellent. We have as yet no reports concerning its success in your latitude

### Fertilizers for Small Fruits.

**947.** SIR,—I have given my small fruit bushes and vines a dressing this winter with ashes from the Tanneries here, made from tan bark, soft wood and coal, also mulched them with hair from the Tannery. Would you recommend a dressing this spring with Phosphoric Acid and Nitrate of Soda and what quantities of each per acre, when and how to apply it or what would you recommend.

I can get large quantities of fleshings and hair mixed with lime. Please say how it is best to use it on the land to get best results. Any information will be thankfully received.

J. M., *Acton, Ont.*