

FALLING-OFF OF YOUNG GOURDS.—CURRANT-BORER.

MRS. F. E. A. GUNN, Takapuna :—

Would you kindly state (1) the cause of pumpkins and marrows withering and falling off when very small: (2) whether it is the borer that attacks black-currant trees and eats the pith out of the stems; if so, what remedy would you suggest?

The Horticulture Division :—

The dropping-off of the fruit of pumpkins and marrows while young is very common. There is nothing wrong necessarily with the plants. When the vines are growing very strong they leave no nourishment for the fruit. The proper course to adopt is to pinch out the tips of the runners. The trouble is not lack of pollination, as is often stated, but the strength of the plant going to the vine. To control currant-borer cut away all dead stubs, and encourage new wood by causing the bush to stool. Work old affected wood as soon as possible. Many currant-growers hold that spraying once or twice in the early summer with powdered white hellebore will assist in keeping down the borer.

TREES FOR GLENHOPE UPLANDS.

W. E. BURT, Station Creek, Glenhope :—

I should be glad if you could tell me what shelter and timber trees I could successfully grow here. The altitude is from 1,400 ft. up to 1,800 ft. The main valley runs practically east and west, with subsidiary valleys at right angles. Rainfall is about 50 in. Frosts commence about the middle of April, and I have seen 4 in. of snow, traces of which have remained for four days. On my own land I have only manuka and other scrub growing, but birch bush commences on the adjoining hillsides at about 1,600 ft. The land is a yellow clay on shingle.

The Horticulture Division :—

The following list of trees includes those suitable for the conditions mentioned: *Pinus insignis*, *Pinus austriaca*, *Abies excelsa*, *Abies Douglasii*, larch, *Picea Engelmanni*, *Eucalyptus viminalis*, *Eucalyptus sieberiana*.



LOOKING INTO THE POULTRY PLANT AT RUAKURA.