Smith's experiments with *Neocosmospora* employed soil which was uninfected by that fungus, but apparently was not sterilized, and he states that *Thielavia basicola* was present in some of the experiments. To this fact I am inclined to refer the apparent active parasitism which he found. At any rate, the form which I have isolated from the ginseng plant has not shown active parasitism.

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March 15, 1906.

Effects of an Unbalanced Ration.

In 1904 an obscure disease affected the fruit of certain trees in the orchard of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station. No similar trouble had previously come under the notice of the writer, and this note is made simply as a matter of record. A careful study of the cause of the condition described is being carried on at the present time.

In August, when about the size of walnuts, the fruits began to crack and drop. Marked indentations, somewhat similar to those made by curculio, were abundant. No evidence of insect work could be discovered, however. When the fruit was opened the tissue under the indented parts was found to be dry and brown. Most of the fruits ceased to grow, and by the first of September the larger part of it was on the ground; though early in the season all of the trees were loaded. The leaves, however, appeared perfectly healthy.

At the time of harvesting, October 10, most of the trees had lost all of their fruit. Such as remained on some of the trees was usually small and deformed; some was of medium size with one side cracked; and a small portion was without blemish. In all cases, however, the texture of the fruit was soft and spongy—about as might be expected in April or May. The surface of the fruit was also characteristic; there being numerous minute elevated 'pimples,' corresponding to the grayish dots on the fruit. This feature was so noticeable that the workmen spoke of it in handling the fruit after removal to the cellar.

Though a small portion of the fruit was on the tree at harvest time, it dropped so easily that no attempt was made to save it for packing. The slightest jarring of the limbs would cause it to fall.

The reason for the condition above indicated is, as already noted, very obscure. A careful microscopic examination was made without finding evidence of any fungous enemy, even in the brown dry tissue above mentioned. It was then observed that the condition existed only with certain trees included in a fertilizer experiment, in which an excess of available nitrogen is applied every year. The first tree noticed was on the plat receiving nitrate of soda and acid phosphate. Later it was found that every tree on the plat, as also on the adjoining plat which received nitrate only, was affected as described. In one or two instances check trees, which adjoined the nitrate plat, showed a tendency in this direction. None of the other trees in the whole orchard, however, gave the slightest indication of the trouble. The trees on a plat given muriate of potash and acid phosphate, and on another given muriate only, separated from the first by but a single row of trees, were perfectly normal.

The supposition was made, therefore, that the trouble was physiological and due to the excessive amount of available nitrogen and the lack of potash. Of course this is a matter of conjecture and can be settled only by definite and careful experiment.

The outcome of a further study of this problem may be of interest and importance in connection with the rational fertilization of orchards.

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Notes on Organic Chemistry.

The Action of Ozone on Organic Compounds.

Since the discovery of ozone by Schoenbein, in 1840, many chemists have examined its action on organic compounds, but, hitherto, with very limited success. When a reaction did take place it resulted, almost always, in the formation of carbon dioxide and water, or in the production of highly explosive sub-