

rubbed off with a bit of sacking or coarse glove. There should be no scraping when doing this. Keep a good lookout for any deposit of mealy-bug eggs. These are easily detected by the white patch of cottony material, and should at once be destroyed by touching with methylated spirit. It would be well when rubbing off the loose bark to have old newspapers spread under the vines to catch the rubbish. When the work has been finished these can be burned, so that eggs that escape notice may be caught and destroyed. When this has been done the house should be washed down with hot water if possible. If this cannot be obtained use cold with a good pressure behind it, but the vine-rods should have the water hot. No harm will come from this, and no insects or eggs can stand it. The vine-rods should now be painted with the following: Get a quantity of good plastic clay and dry it thoroughly, then powder it up so that it can pass through a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. sieve; measure off with a 6 in. flower-pot nine potsful of the dry sifted clay, and mix thoroughly through it one flower-potful of coal-tar. Place in a small tub and bring up to the consistency of paint with hot water, and keep well stirred while in use. Put on with a stiff brush, taking care not to scrub the buds, but just dab round them. When the rods have dried they may require looking over again, and any part that has been missed can then be treated. This clay and tar mixture has given excellent results. A word of caution is necessary here. It must be made with a good plastic clay. Ordinary soil or any containing too much sand or soil will not do. Should the proper clay not be obtainable, use a mixture of 8 oz. of Gishurst's compound to a gallon of water, with clay added to give it the consistency of paint, and apply with a brush. Another good paint for this purpose is made as follows: 4 oz. soft-soap, 4 oz. nicotine, 4 oz. Little's sheep-dip, 2 oz. turpentine, and add sufficient sulphur to form a thick cream. Dissolve the soft-soap in hot water, then stir in the other ingredients and make up to 1 gallon of the mixture. Apply with a brush.

#### *Mildew.*

The next most serious pest is the mildew (*Oidium Tuckerii*). The spores of this disease seem to be always present, only requiring the conditions favourable to development to be seen on the under-side of the leaves in small round grey patches, which can be detected more clearly when held up to the light. It spreads to the young fruit and growing tips with astonishing rapidity. Like almost all of our fungoid diseases, if the grower waits until he can see it much injury may have been done. Prevention, then, is most important in order to keep the house free. As soon as the vines have started into growth dust lightly but thoroughly with sulphur on a cloudy day when the house is cool and the foliage dry. Three or more dressings will be