

## ORCHARD WORK FOR APRIL.

W. A. BOUCHER.

WITH the exception of the gathering and storing, or packing and shipping, of late varieties of apples and pears, the most important of the summer work in the orchard will have been completed. Still, as the time for undertaking important winter work is approaching, it would be as well to arrange for procuring such supplies of red oil, bluestone, &c., as may be required for the winter spraying.

The use of a red-oil spray for the control of mussel scale, red spider, and woolly aphis has proved very effective, as well as for the control of red spider on peaches, but it may be as well for the benefit of new subscribers to repeat a warning already given in this *Journal* with regard to the use of red-oil sprays. The winter strength should only be applied when the trees are quite dormant. To spray too early before the growth of the season has become properly ripened, especially in the case of peaches, will probably produce disastrous results.

### CULTIVATION.

As the trees of most classes of fruits are now approaching a dormant condition, they will derive no further benefit from the cultivation of the soil during the current season. Soil-working in established orchards may therefore be allowed to cease for a time.

### COVER-CROPS FOR ORCHARDS.

Attention was drawn in the last issue of this *Journal* to the necessity of planting at intervals a cover-crop of some kind in order to restore to the soil the humus which becomes exhausted after a period of systematic and thorough cultivation. If such a crop has not been planted earlier in the season, rape or mustard may still be sown with advantage for ploughing under in the spring. Both are hardy and will make good growth under conditions which would be altogether unfavourable to other vegetation that might be selected for cover-crops.

### PLANTING NEW ORCHARDS.

There are but few districts in this Dominion where shelter from prevailing [winds is not an important factor in connection with the