

## ORCHARD WORK FOR MAY.

W. A. BOUCHER.

### AUTUMN PLANTING.

IN some districts the month of May frequently proves suitable for autumn planting. Many growers prefer autumn to spring planting of orchard lands. Much, however, depends upon the nature of the soil and climatic conditions of the season whether autumn planting is desirable or otherwise. Two most important considerations are the nature of the soil and its condition when the setting-out of an orchard is contemplated. In the case of light, free, well-drained soils planting may be carried out in spite of showery weather sometimes experienced during the months of May and June, but in the case of moisture-retentive clay lands, even when well prepared, the rainfall will at times reduce the land to such a saturated condition that planting should be deferred until spring, when, with dry warm weather, the soil will have become friable again and suitable for working. Should fruit-trees ordered in the early part of the season come to hand when the land is not in a satisfactory condition for planting, they should be heeled in for the time being, to be lifted again and planted out when the soil has become moist and friable.

### PRUNING.

In some districts of the Dominion the pruning of orchard-trees may now be commenced with advantage. Instances have occurred, however, where heavy winter pruning has been commenced when the trees were still in full foliage and the leaves green and fleshy. This practice is one that cannot be recommended, as in time the removal of a large quantity of vigorous foliage would react seriously upon the vitality of the trees.

### LEMON-CULTURE.

Recently lemons have proved a very profitable crop, the returns received by the grower being entirely satisfactory. This fruit is one well worthy of cultivation in the warmer districts of the Dominion. In suitable soils and localities lemon-trees grow freely and come into bearing at an early age, provided that they receive the necessary cultivation and the treatment required for the control of the pests and