

PRUNING.

With regard to pruning, I wish to again point out the great importance of this work in relation to the future welfare of the tree and the fruit crop, more particularly in respect to young trees and those which have reached maturity and are languishing through overbearing or other causes. Other conditions, such as shelter, cultivation, moisture, &c., being satisfactory, many of the disabilities of the growth of a tree can be overcome by judicious pruning. Hard winter pruning encourages strong wood growth. This state is required in the formation of a young tree; therefore do not be afraid of cutting a young tree back hard or of removing wrongly placed branches, as the vigour of the tree will very soon replace those removed by others, which, if the work is properly done, will be more satisfactorily placed. Shape and vigour is required in a young tree. When this is secured the possibilities of building up a tree worth having are greatly increased, while the subsequent pruning problems are considerably lessened.

With the mature tree stunted through overbearing, under-pruning, &c., the same principle of hard pruning applies. The leaders should be cut back, if necessary into the older wood. In the latter case select, where possible, a vertical lateral of the previous season's growth to form the leader; reduce the number of fruit-spurs in order to lighten the crop, and thereby provide additional sap for the formation of wood. By this means the vigour of the tree will be renewed and an all-round improvement in the crop will be effected.

SPRAYING.

Sucking-insects.

Mussel scale: Pip-fruits—emulsified oil, 1 in 12; stone-fruits—emulsified oil, 1 in 15.

San Jose and other scales: Pip and stone fruits—emulsified oil, 1 in 15; citrus fruits—emulsified oil, 1 in 20 to 1 in 25.

Red mite and mealy bug: Pip-fruits, 1 in 12 to 1 in 15; stone-fruits, 1 in 15 to 1 in 17.

Woolly aphis: Emulsified oil, 1 in 12, if for one application only, or 1 in 15 in the event of a previous oil-spraying having been given.

Peach-aphis: Emulsified oil, 1 in 15 to 1 in 17.

Fungoid Diseases.

Black-spot, apple and pear: This is not considered to be the most suitable month for undertaking preventive measures in regard to black-spot other than the application of bluestone solution, which may be applied either in July or early in August. For this purpose the strength of the solution used should be in the