

heat of the sun. The object aimed at in ploughing the orchard is to thoroughly break up and aerate the soil, and to provide the best possible conditions for the roots. For this purpose a more or less light skimming of the surface is useless. The soil must be worked as deeply as possible without, of course, undue injury to the roots. Even this is a matter which is often given more consideration than is really necessary. There are many instances where a little less consideration for the roots and a little more for effective work would result in considerably more benefit to the tree. Provide the proper soil conditions and the roots, in moderation of course, can be pretty well left to take care of themselves.

Before commencing to plough gather up all prunings, &c. Ploughing should not always be done the one way; cross-ploughing should be carried out in cases where autumn ploughing has been done. In any case open up between the rows of trees and finish up by throwing the furrow away from the trees. This can easily be levelled off by the proper manipulation of the disk cultivator. Work as close up to the trees as can be done without injury, in order to reduce subsequent hand-work.

After ploughing, the soil should be worked down to a fine tilth and uniformly consolidated. No cavities or air-holes are to be found in a well-cultivated soil. The soil-particles, although not packed hard, should lie in close contact. In this way the requisite amount of warmth, air, and moisture is more satisfactorily provided and the conservation of moisture most readily maintained. Such implements as the disk cultivator, Cambridge roller, clod-crusher, harrows, &c., are used according to the nature of the soil for breaking down after ploughing. How soon after ploughing this work should commence also depends on the nature of the soil. With some soils, such as those of a clayey nature, this is an important point, and one that requires watching very closely. If commenced too soon the soil will be found to be stiff and puggy, and if left too long it will bake in the sun and become absolutely impossible to work down satisfactorily in any way. With lighter and freer soils the question is much less important, but under any conditions successful cultivation includes working the soil down to a fine tilth.

SPRAYING.

Peach Leaf-curl. — Spraying for this disease should be done during the month of August, but although the majority of peaches bloom during that month there are quite a number of varieties that do not properly bloom until September. With these spraying can now be done, and in any case it is better to spray, even