

*Pruning and Training.*—Pruning and shaping the tree has a great effect on the colour and maturity of the fruit it bears, particularly with the apple. The tree should be trained with an open centre, with the main limbs and branches well spaced. Overcrowding of growth should be avoided and the maximum provision made for air and sunlight; at the same time sufficient foliage should be provided for along the main limbs to protect the bark against the danger of sun-scald. Laterals should be treated as previously mentioned.

*Thinning.*—This is a very important matter in the production of fruit of high quality and appearance, and receives far less attention than it deserves, particularly in respect to the apple. Peach-thinning is appreciated and regularly practised by many peach-growers, but even in respect to this fruit much more work in that direction could be done with advantage. With the average apple-tree in full bearing thinning becomes a necessity for the benefit of the tree and its crop. When this is properly carried out inferior fruit is reduced to a minimum, while the main crop is more even in size and superior in every way, and often little reduced in weight.

*Spraying.*—Spraying and the diseases that necessitate the work contribute largely to the percentage of blemished fruit in the average fruit crop. Black-spot and spray-scorching are the principal causes. The disease itself, if not thoroughly checked, renders the fruit quite useless from the point of view of appearance, while the scorching resulting from injudicious spraying for its control has almost an equally bad effect. Scorching can take place at any time during the growth of the fruit, but the greatest danger is when the fruit is young and the skin tender. The effect on the foliage is the opposite. Foliage will invariably stand a stronger spray when young than it will later, therefore the best time to use a comparatively strong spray, calculated to give the best results, is when the foliage is first appearing, or when the cluster of buds burst and show colour or the most advanced blossom-buds burst into bloom. Bordeaux mixture is the most reliable fungicide in use, but it is mainly accountable for the russetting of fruit when applied during the summer. It can, however, be used with safety at the stage above mentioned; so also can the lime-sulphur solution. For later sprayings lime-sulphur is preferable, as it is less likely to damage the fruit, but as it is not as reliable a fungicide as Bordeaux mixture the latter should be resorted to if the season is such that outbreaks of spot occur.