

mite, and will destroy the unprotected mussel scale. Strength of lime-sulphur 1-80 to 1-100.

DISBUDDING.

The formation of young trees can be greatly assisted by the rubbing-off or removal of undesirable wood-growths. This work pays very well for a little attention, and the earlier it is commenced the greater will be the advantage gained by the permanent branches through the operation.

CULTIVATION.

An abundance of rain has fallen throughout New Zealand during the last few months. This should prove very beneficial generally, but particularly so to several districts which have suffered more or less from a limited rainfall for some considerable time. The subsoil has been well saturated, and where good drainage exists the surplus water has drained away. Such conditions are favourable to a good season, for without an adequate supply of moisture the best of soils become of little or no use. All that is required now is to cultivate the orchard in such a way as to maintain the fullest advantage of the present conditions. To do this the surface of the soil should be thoroughly worked up with the cultivator as soon as it is in a fit state, otherwise the surface will bake and crack and the loss of moisture will commence. The operation should be repeated every few weeks throughout the summer. Should this be done it will be found that fruit-trees will remain healthy and thrifty with little or no rain for the remainder of the season.

THE POULTRY-RUN.

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THE end of October or early in November should see this season's full complement of chicks hatched out—that is, if they are to grow to the desired size and produce the maximum profit over the cost of production. One of the chief weaknesses in poultry-keeping to-day is the postponing of hatching operations until the hot summer weather. It is a recognized fact that late-hatched stock are not only unsatisfactory from an egg-producing viewpoint, but are usually more prone to disease than the birds hatched out at the right time. Of course, where the majority of the hens in