

## BLACK-SPOT OF APPLES.

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THE "black-spot" disease of apples is commonly known in scientific nomenclature as *Fusicladium dentriticum*, but that is really the conidial or summer form of *Venturia inequalis*. It is important that both forms of the disease should be understood, as the effective control of the *Fusicladium* form is to a very great extent dependent on the destruction of the *Venturia* or winter form of the disease. Intelligent pruning and timely spraying must go hand-in-hand or there cannot be effective control of the disease. Fungoid pests are most troublesome in wet seasons because that condition fosters their growth. It therefore happens that measures that were apparently quite successful one season fail to control the disease in a season when there is more rain, dry weather in the former case having acted as an auxiliary force against the disease. We cannot predict the weather, so we should prepare for the worst, even if it entails a little more expense. As a matter of fact it does not do so; all that is required is to act promptly at the proper time and do the work thoroughly.

### VENTURIA INEQUALIS.

Young shoots are the chief points of attack; the infection takes place during summer, and the disease winters in the shoots. More rarely it attacks older branches, entering through wounds or insect-punctures. Young shoots are attacked because their bark is tender and easily pierced. The disease first shows as dark-coloured patches. If at this time a strip of bark were cut off, the wood would be seen to be discoloured. Eventually the bark becomes ruptured and torn, or completely thrown off, the ruptures being particularly noticeable at the base of the shoots. In early spring the diseased shoots are easily distinguished. At this time the blackish patches are densely covered with the conidia of the second form known as *Fusicladium dentriticum*. The conidia are carried by wind and rain on to the young leaves and blossom-stalks. On the leaves the disease first appears in the form of small, roundish, dark-coloured spots, mostly on the upper surface. The spots soon increase in size and run into each other, forming large irregular-shaped blackish-olive blotches. At first the mycelium spreads in the leaf under the skin, which is eventually