

WORK FOR THE COMING MONTH.

THE ORCHARD.

THE mid-season crops of apples and pears are now ready for harvesting. For some months past the orchardist has been concerned in the raising of the crop, spraying, thinning, and other matters having been earnestly attended to with the one idea of bringing it to perfection. Following this comes the problem of marketing, the importance of which cannot be too much stressed, as upon it depends the financial position of the orchardist. In the larger districts growers are fortunate in having established fruit companies to deal with this question.

The Hawke's Bay companies have been established some time, and are doing really good work. Dunedin and Auckland have also co-operative distributing companies, and with the experience gained last year growers may expect to have their products put up in the most attractive manner and disposed of to very good advantage. A similar company has been formed and is operating in Canterbury this season.

The marketing situation in the Nelson District is perhaps more difficult, but one in which there is every prospect of success. The Nelson co-operative company has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. D. H. Rundle, who has had experience in these problems both in America and Tasmania. Mr. Rundle's services in marketing should be of great value not only to the Nelson District but also to the industry throughout New Zealand.

Local growers will no doubt welcome the appointment of Mr. W. T. Goodwin, Orchard Instructor, Dunedin, to the Motueka end of the Nelson District. It has been recognized by the Department for some time that one officer could not carry on the work with justice to himself and the district. The services of Mr. Hyde are still available to the growers on the Nelson side.—*J. A. Campbell, Assistant Director of the Horticulture Division.*

AUCKLAND.

March may be regarded as one of the busiest periods of the year. All hands will be engaged in harvesting and marketing the crops. The most important operations to be performed during the month may be summarized as follows:—

(1.) Continuation of sprays on pip-fruits for the control of codlin-moth, leaf-roller, &c., also black-spot, and brown and bitter rots; on stone-fruits for brown-rot; on citrus fruits for scale and thrip; and, in cases where not already carried out, bordeaux, 4-4-40, may be applied for control of verrucosis.

(2.) Harvesting of fruit as maturity is attained.

(3.) Maintenance of sufficient cultivation.

(4.) Continuation of removal of shoots on tree-stumps of this season's grafting.

Should infection from brown-rot appear on peaches, nectarines, or plums which may be detected from time to time, the fruits should be immediately removed from the trees and destroyed by burning or burying. No rejected fruit should be allowed to remain about the packing-shed, as this is very frequently the means of spreading the spores to clean fruit passing through the shed.

In the case of pears, more especially younger trees up to seven and eight years, being attacked by the insect pear-leaf-rolling midge (*Dasyneura piri*) on this season's growth, growers are advised to remove all infected parts and destroy them by burning; also spraying the trees with nicotine sulphate, 1-800 or 1-750, or with kerosene emulsion, 1-15.