

Raspberry, black-currant, and strawberry plants require spraying with bordeaux, 3-4-40, as soon as the crop is gathered. The prevalence of leaf-spot makes bordeaux-spraying a necessity.

—*W. C. Hyde, Orchard Instructor, Nelson.*

OTAGO.

The weather during January was about the worst experienced in the memory of the oldest fruitgrowers in the district, consequently orcharding operations have been very much interfered with.

Black-spot is still persisting, especially on apples. Even where the fruit is not affected there is a good deal of infection on the foliage, which, if favourable conditions continue, will be transmitted to the fruit during February and March, and even up to ripening-time, especially on the Cleopatra variety, and to a lesser extent on Delicious, Sturmer, and others. Mildew is also giving trouble and spreading very rapidly. Continue the applications of lime-sulphur, 1-120; Cleopatra will stand 1-100. Combine Blackleaf 40 where woolly aphid is present.

Up to the time of writing red mite has not been noticed, no doubt the wet season having kept it in check, but there is still time for the pest to become troublesome. If so, spray with lime-sulphur as for the previously mentioned diseases or, as an alternative, atomic sulphur, 10 lb. to 12 lb. to 100 gallons.

Brown-rot so far has not made its appearance, but may do so in later varieties of peaches. Rust is becoming prevalent. Use lime-sulphur, 1-130, on peaches, plums, and nectarines, and repeat the treatment in later varieties, as the fruit is liable to be small, especially the Muir peach, where rust gets a good footing. The treatment for brown-rot is the same as for rust. Self-boiled lime-sulphur, 8-8-50, has given good results. Atomic sulphur, 10 lb. to 12 lb. to 100 gallons, is also recommended as a remedy.

There is evidence of neglect on the part of some growers in regard to pear and cherry slug. Development of fruit-buds and growth are retarded if the trees are allowed to become defoliated. Spray with arsenate-of-lead powder, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. to 50, or paste, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 50, gallons. Codlin-moth still requires attention, late apples being liable to infection. Early apples and pears are showing signs of grub, and several small lines on the market have been condemned and destroyed. Pick and destroy affected fruit at the orchard. Spray with arsenate as previously recommended.

Summer pruning can be carried out this month on all fruits. Get rid of the heavy growth inside the apricot and peach trees where it is excessive, so as to give the spurs and twigs a better chance to ripen up.

Budding can still be done. Choose well-ripened buds for this work, and in the case of apple-buds be sure they are free from woolly aphid.

A word about marketing: Keep the fruit picked up to time, though not too green. Avoid putting in stone-fruits overripe; grade to the standards set forth, and pack to the best advantage either in trays or cases according to quality, and discard diseased fruit. Instruction in the best packing methods is obtainable on application.

—*J. H. Thorp, Orchard Instructor, Dunedin.*

POULTRY-KEEPING.

By F. C. BROWN, Chief Poultry Instructor.

CULLING THE HENS.

It should be needless to remind readers that March is the best month to detect and cull out the hens not worth keeping for another year. Even in normal times when food was cheap heavy culling was necessary if a good profit was to be made from poultry. At the present price of food, however, it is imperative that no hen be retained on the place unless she is showing a profit, or is likely to do so in the near future.