

strength of 1-800. Summer prune the insides of the trees to allow of more effective spraying. Spray thoroughly while at the job.

Codlin-moth infection will be over before this is in print. Fresh strikes are scarce now, but there are a good many grubby apples in some commercial orchards. Careful growers will clear these up and destroy them, and all should do so to save the danger of infection next season. Brown-rot has not so far been reported in any of the orchards.

Growers would find it to their interest to wipe apples before packing, as they would look more attractive and realize better prices free of dust and recent spray-stains. When picking later varieties intended for late storage grade the fruit, and market the large ones first. They do not keep so well, and each one lost represents a greater weight in comparison to the smaller grades. Paper-line the cases for storing; it keeps fruit clean and minimizes the shrivelling.

Some orchards would be the better for a green crop to turn in for manure. A mixture of oats and peas or vetches is recommended. It will not only assist growth but help to keep the soil from getting hard after rains or irrigation.

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

POULTRY-KEEPING.

By F. C. BROWN, Chief Poultry Instructor.

THE MOULTING BIRDS.

At this time of the year most of the adult females of the flock will be on the point of going through their moulting process. Far too many poultry-keepers fail to realize the importance of feeding the moulting bird to the best advantage, merely because she is not laying. This short-sighted policy is much to be deprecated; it is not only cruel but decidedly unprofitable. It should be remembered that during moulting-time the bird's system is taxed to the utmost in producing her new crop of feathers, which must necessarily come from the food she eats. Especially is this the case with the high-type layer that has just finished an exhaustive laying-period. If her next season's laying is to be profitable it is therefore imperative that she be given ample food in order to recoup her strength and resume laying in the shortest space of time. Undoubtedly the length of the next laying-period depends on the attention the birds receive now. As to the feeding of moulting stock, there is nothing better than their usual diet, making sure, however, that ample green food is provided. Maize may be added to the grain ration, and the morning mash should be made as appetizing as possible by mixing it with boiling water or milk, while a pinch of sulphur, given once a week in the mash (say, an ounce for every twelve birds), is always helpful during the moulting-period.

THE PULLETS AND WINTER EGGS.

The fact of possessing pullets is not in itself an assurance that winter eggs in good numbers will be secured; there are other requirements necessary to attain this end. In the first place, the birds must be hatched out at the right time—say, August or September for the heavy breeds, and September or early in October for the lighter breeds. As a rule, the very early-hatched pullet lays a few eggs in the late summer and early autumn, and then moults like the adult fowls during the dear-egg