

## WORK FOR THE COMING MONTH.

### THE ORCHARD.

By the end of May the stone-fruits will have dropped their leaves and assumed their winter condition. This is a very important season in the stone-fruit section of the orchard for the control of brown-rot. All possible and probable sources by which infection is carried over to the spring should be removed. An early opportunity should be taken to destroy all mummified fruits, whether they are on the ground or still attached to the tree. Neglect of this simple precaution is only encouraging early infection in the spring. In addition, all prunings should be gathered up and destroyed.

While on the subject of diseases, growers are reminded to keep a sharp lookout for San Jose scale in their orchards. It not only infects the stone- and pip-fruit section, but can often be found attacking the small fruits. Where it is discovered or known to exist an oil or strong lime-sulphur spray should be put on at once. It is one of the scale pests that is active in the dormant season, and when in sufficient numbers it will considerably reduce the vitality of the tree. Though it is a most prolific breeder it is one of the easiest scales to control, and one thorough application is usually sufficient, although two sprayings are advisable to make certain that it is completely eradicated.

Pruning is recognized as the principal winter operation in the orchard. Although the pruning of peaches and nectarines that suffer from die-back and bud-drop would be better delayed until later on in the winter or early spring a start can be made pruning those fruits any time after these notes appear. In dealing with peaches and nectarines which produce their fruit on one-year-old wood provision must be made, when pruning, not only for a good crop of fruit, but also for a sufficient supply of new wood for the succeeding season. The way to bring about these ideal results, so far as pruning is concerned, is rather difficult to indicate except in a special article. Speaking generally, they are attained by cutting out as much of the two- and three-year-old wood as possible, and by proportionately reducing the fruit-bearing wood over the whole tree. In the warmer districts the average variety of peach and nectarine crops much freer and more consistently when the fruit-bearing lateral is left full length or only slightly reduced. Some varieties produce good crops no matter how the fruiting laterals are treated, but with shy bearers and varieties that suffer from bud-drop or die-back the long untipped lateral is recommended for fruit-production. No matter what method of treating the fruiting laterals is adopted, fully one-third to one-half of the fruit-bearing wood should be removed so as to ensure that the tree will make sufficient wood for the succeeding season. Keep the centres of the trees well open ; it will pay to do so.