

of a stock of good repute. A tree of this type will keep these characteristics as long as it stands in the ground. In planting it is usual to gridiron the rows in at least twos or fours—*i.e.*, plant several rows of one variety, then several of another—for the sake of pollination.

Shelter: One of the advantages of Nelson as a fruitgrowing district is its relative immunity from heavy winds. Even so, however, on level country and in certain localities ample shelter should be provided. There is no comparison between trees suffering from windage and those enjoying protection. A shelter plantation or hedge is a cheap and easy advantage; it is an insurance against loss by winds, which may easily do great damage amongst heavily loaded trees.

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

CANTERBURY.

During the month of June the dormant season's work in the orchard will be commenced. The keynote to success in these operations is thoroughness. A start will be made with the pruning of the various classes of trees, preparatory to spraying. When pruning, care should be taken to cut away all diseased and dead branches and twigs, and if large cuts are made it is advisable to paint the surface of the cuts for the prevention of disease. After pruning see that the orchard is thoroughly cleaned up and all prunings destroyed; plough under all dead leaves and fruit. Shelter belts and hedges round the orchard should receive some attention at this time of the year. If only planted a short time, give them a good pruning to induce stronger growth the following season. In some cases, especially with poplars which have grown to a considerable height, a good topping will be beneficial. Drainage, if not attended to earlier, should also receive attention. Too much importance cannot be attached to thorough drainage of the orchard, not only to take off the surface water—thus making cultivation much easier and better—but for the prevention of fungus disease on the roots of the trees.

Where it is intended to spray twice for red mite, woolly aphis, and scale, the first application of red oil, at a strength of 1-8, should be given, using as strong a pressure as possible, driving the spray into all the crevices, so that no part of the tree will be missed. For fungus diseases, especially on the pear and peach, a pure bluestone spray at a strength of 1-10 or 12 has been found very effective in this district at this time of the year, and is strongly recommended. If pure bluestone is not used, bordeaux, 8-6-40, is recommended during the dormant season.

—*G. Stratford, Orchard Instructor, Christchurch.*

OTAGO.

Pruning will be the main work during the latter part of May and through June, and will take up the greater part of the orchardist's time. At the same time the trees that it is desired to re-graft should be marked off. Scions for this purpose can be left on selected trees till about the end of July, and then kept heeled in a shady place till required.

Spraying for scale insects, red mite, aphis, &c., can be delayed till later. The oil sprays for this work do better when applied during the warmer days, the spray penetrating much better into the cracks and crevices; also the scaly coverings begin to relax somewhat with the advent of spring. Spraying for fungus diseases, such as peach-curl, shothole, and black-spot, should also be left till the early spring, but, as stated in last month's notes, an additional application of bordeaux is worth while for rust and die-back where prevalent. Where leaf-curl has been bad the previous season on susceptible varieties the application is also advisable.

It should pay this season to market late apples judiciously; prices are likely to be good. Pack and grade well, and market the varieties as they mature. Enough attention is not paid to this matter; higher returns could often be obtained if this were done. For weeks past shop-windows have been full of practically green Delicious which would fetch more money in the markets later, and their presence tends to reduce the value of other mid-season varieties. In the windows at the present time can also be seen Sturmer Pippins. These cannot possibly command the price they will later on, and must reduce the price of other varieties that require to be disposed of at this time. For cool-storing purposes select the best sizes; do not store extra-large fruit and fruit off young trees. Use special care in packing, wrap fruit for long distances, and do not include fruit with broken skins from any cause whatever. Upon these points, combined with care at the cool store and even temperature, depends the whole success of the cool storing of fruit.

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