

of cleaning milk utensils should accompany them. Kerosene-tins, not being intended for milk-pails, are not soldered round the inside seam, which is simply turned, and they are almost impossible to clean. A cloth at best is only a harbour for germs, and a poor kind of scrubber at any time. A good scrubbing-brush will stand a lot of weight when in use, and can afterwards be placed in the sun to sweeten.

The use of a cloth as a milk-strainer is very often the cause of faulty milk. It is much more sanitary to have a proper gauze strainer; the gauze can be easily cleaned and cheaply replaced when worn. Strainer-cloths in a short time become yellow, and all milk passed through becomes well impregnated.

When washing up any milking-utensils or whey-cans the milk-stand should on no account be used as a wash-up bench. All around the milk-stand must be sweet and dry.

WORK FOR THE COMING MONTH.

THE ORCHARD.

At the annual conference of the New Zealand Fruitgrowers' Federation, held last month, a number of important matters concerning the industry came up for discussion, chief among which were the subjects of standardization of fruit for local markets, standardization of fruit-cases, and export matters. As a full report of the conference is published in the official organ of the Federation, only brief reference need be made here to some of the principal items. The matters relating to export were referred to a special export committee set up at the conference to deal with them in collaboration with officers of the Department of Agriculture at a meeting to be arranged. This meeting is to take place during the present month, and the decisions of the committee will be available at a later date.

The Department was urged at the conference to enforce the use of the standard fruit-cases prescribed in the present regulations. The question of making compulsory the packing of fruit to recognized standard grades was given a good deal of consideration by the conference, it being realized that no system of improving present market conditions could be satisfactorily put into operation unless something was done in this direction. This matter was also referred to a special committee to draw up proposed standard grades and submit their recommendations to the Federation executive at a later date.

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AUCKLAND.

Every opportunity should be taken to push on with the pruning of both stone-fruit and pip-fruit trees, which work, however, should now be well forward. As soon as each block of the orchard is finished all prunings should be at once gathered up and destroyed by burning. These remarks apply more especially to the pruning of pip-fruits, as there is here a danger of carrying over fireblight and other disease infection from one season to another through neglecting to destroy by burning all such prunings throughout the orchard.

As soon as the sap begins to rise, the re-grafting of pip-fruit trees may be carried out where required.

Where weather and soil conditions are suitable, the planting-out of new areas or the filling-up of spaces from which dead trees have been removed may now be taken in hand. The month of August is also an opportune time to plant out young citrus-trees, as at this late date there is a minimum of risk of injury by frosts.