

SANITARY PRECAUTIONS AT SHEARING-TIME.

Blood-poisoning among sheep at shearing-time is still too prevalent, and calls for the close attention of farmers. After a thorough clearing-out of the shed the first consideration is absolute cleanliness of the shearing-board and counting-out pens. The floor and walls should be thoroughly scrubbed with a disinfectant before and immediately after shearing. The counting-out pens should be swept clean and liberally sprayed with disinfectant, and afterwards a small quantity of unslaked lime spread on the pens.

The shearers' water-pots for cooling shears or machines are a likely source of infection. They should be cleansed with disinfectant, and when refilled with water a small quantity of kerosene should be added. The reason for this is that the kerosene floats on the surface, so that every time the shears are withdrawn a coating of kerosene adheres to the shears and acts as a very good disinfectant.

Much the most common cause of blood-poisoning is the entrance of germs through small wounds—wounds which are very often unnoticed by the shearer. As soon as these small wounds are covered over with scurf or matted wool the germs of blood-poisoning immediately become active. A sharp lookout should be kept, and, no matter how small the wound, each should be dressed with Stockholm or Archangel tar, which should be kept handy in a receptacle for the purpose. All excreta are hotbeds of bacteria, especially from such animals as pigs, fowls, or dogs, and the quartering of such animals in or near a shearing-shed should be carefully avoided. The excreta when dry are blown about by wind, and often deposited in the counting-out pens and even on to the shearing-board, or on to the fresh wounds while the sheep are held for counting and branding.

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THE ORCHARD.

SEASONAL SPRAYING.

DURING this season of the year the new growth of trees is at the tenderest stage of development, which condition, combined with the moist to humid weather generally prevailing, renders the trees very susceptible to the various fungus diseases which become active at the same period. The hope of success with the coming season's crop depends in a great measure on the precautions taken to guard the developing growth from attack not only by fungus diseases, but also by the insect pests which abound at this season of the year.

The tender state of the trees necessitates the exercising of great care in the use of sprays in order to avoid damage to the foliage and promising crop, but, on the other hand, the prompt use of a suitable spray is the best safeguard against attack or infection. Under no reasonable circumstances should such a spray be neglected, as it becomes almost impossible to later regain the control over diseases which have become established.

Peaches, nectarines, and Japanese plums should be sprayed with lime-sulphur, 1-125, plus 6 lb. atomic sulphur. The addition of atomic sulphur to the usual lime-sulphur spray is well worth while, as wherever tried it has increased efficiency in the control of brown-rot. Black aphid may be expected on this class of trees, and should it appear Black Leaf 40, 1-800, may be added to the above spray. Where there are a few isolated bad colonies it is wise to cut out the infected parts as an additional precaution. English plums are somewhat later in showing growth. Bordeaux mixture, 6-4-50, should be used at the tight-cluster stage as a special precaution against rust. Too often these trees are missed with the spring bordeaux, as they are somewhat out of time with the other stone-fruits.

Seasonable spraying for pears will be bordeaux, 6-4-50, at tight-cluster, followed by a further application at 3-4-40 at pink-cluster, as late as possible before the bloom opens. In districts where black-spot is not prevalent, or on varieties not prone to this disease, lime-sulphur, 1-25 and 1-80, may be substituted at the same periods.

As the price received for good quinces is, in the main, more remunerative than that for mid-season apples and pears, it is difficult to understand the general