

be taken to force the arsenate-of-lead spray well into these. It is in such conditions that the chief damage is done by the caterpillar.

#### COVER-CROPS.

Should cover-crops be contemplated, the month of February is usually the best time in which to sow. If, as previously recommended, cultivation has been carried out very little preparation of the soil will be necessary. Peas, lupins, and vetches are among the best crops. However, if the seed of these cannot readily be obtained, mustard, oats, or barley may be sown. Where organic matter is lacking in the soil, green-manuring should not be neglected. It is recognized that this is one of the simplest and easiest ways of adding to the soil one of the chief constituents necessary for the growing of good healthy trees, also for the production of high-class fruit, and without which no orchard can be made really profitable over a long period of years.

—*L. Paynter, Orchard Instructor, Christchurch.*

#### CITRUS-CULTURE.

The chief work for the coming month will be the carrying out of necessary cultivation and the putting on of spray compounds where necessary, according to the directions given in the *December Journal*. It is noticed that the attacks from thrip are rather greater this year than usual, and trees should be treated as already advised.

#### FIREBLIGHT.

It is gratifying to note that up to the time of writing no infection from fireblight has been in evidence in the commercial areas of the Auckland District, and it is reasonable to suppose that, except for the possibility of slight tip-infection somewhat later on, there is little likelihood of any other infection this season.

—*J. W. Collard, Orchard Instructor, Auckland.*

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## THE APIARY.

#### THE EXTRACTING SEASON.

By this time, provided weather conditions are favourable, extracting will be in full swing in all districts. There may be two or more extractings during the season, or the honey may be left in the hives till the close of the flow and the whole crop removed at one time. In the latter case the beekeeper needs an ample supply of supers and combs, and must watch attentively that the hives do not become honey-bound and the bees commence loafing. The better plan is to have two or three extractings during the season, removing at the first operation all combs in which the honey is wholly or three-parts sealed. When these are emptied and returned to the hives the excluders should be brought into use if they are not already in the hives.

Hot sunny weather should be chosen for the work, as on such days the honey runs freely and the bees are good-tempered. A good plan is to remove the honey in the morning, stacking the supers in