

Spraying: Oranges—At this season young scales are on the move, and it is wise to spray with oil, 1-40, after the fruit has set; this spray will also account for thrip, which were troublesome on oranges during the past dry season. Lemons—Where bordeaux, 4-4-40, has not been applied to the setting crop this should be done, and repeated two weeks later to ensure cover of later-developed fruit; oil, 1-40, can with advantage be applied immediately after bordeaux for scales and thrip.

Reworking: It is timely to work over, by budding, trees which have a good root-system but are otherwise unsatisfactory as regards type or cropping. —*W. H. Rice, Orchard Instructor, Auckland.*

POULTRY-KEEPING.

LATE-HATCHED CHICKS.

THE end of October brings to a close the correct season for hatching out chicks of any breed. It is a recognized fact that the late-hatched bird never gives a high annual egg-yield, nor does it produce an egg of desired size for the export trade. Not only this, it is usually more susceptible to disease and parasitic infection than the early-hatched bird. Of course, where the majority of the hens in the flock are old, and the hatching of young stock has been delayed owing to inability to secure broody hens, poultry-keepers may certainly be advised to hatch out some chicks to replace the old and unprofitable birds, even if they are brought out on the late side.

But, while it is a mistake in the ordinary course to have late-hatched chickens on the plant, it is a greater mistake to hold on to old hens that have passed their profitable period of production. Where the hatching-period is to be extended, the young birds, as pointed out in last month's notes, must receive the best possible attention if they are to make satisfactory development. This involves clean fresh ground, shelter, good nourishing food, and, above all, a plentiful supply of green material. The adoption of incubators and brooders, or the securing of day-old chicks, is the only safe means of having the full complement of chicks brought out at the right season of the year.

THE GROWING STOCK.

With the advent of summer it is important that special care be given to the young stock. Every effort should be made to provide conditions as ideal as possible, in order to guard the birds against a set-back during the trying hot months. After drafting chicks from the brooder to the colony-house special care should be taken to prevent them huddling in corners by night. The colony-house should be rounded off with 1 in. mesh wire netting; then in the event of the chicks piling up they have an opportunity of securing fresh air. It is a mistake to try and harden the chicks off too rapidly after leaving the brooder. Obviously, to remove the young birds from a cosy secluded quarter to an ordinary colony-house is only encouraging them to huddle in their endeavour to secure the warmth and seclusion