should be renewed every two or three years by laying down a few new laterals each year. Unless the vine is pruned annually and the fruiting wood renewed, the vine will increase the quantity of fruit to the detriment of size and quality. Fig. 39 shows a badly-trained vine and Fig. 40 pruning being completed on a well-trained vine.

Tree tomatoes make very vigorous growth, especially during the first few years of establishment. The young seedling rod should be pruned at from 3 to 4ft. from ground level to encourage the development of three or four sturdy leaders. Plants raised from cuttings are relatively short and bushy, and frequently the removal of some of the lowest branches, which may be resting on the ground, becomes necessary. Having produced a strong framework of several branches, pruning of the fruiting plant consists mainly of the removal of lateral wood. As the tree tomato fruits on wood of the current season, all laterals which have fruited should be shortened back to the main limbs and heavy lateral growth. The annual extension growths of the limbs should be severely shortened once the framework has been built. Heavy annual pruning is necessary to maintain size in the fruit.

Berry Fruits

Raspberries bear the current season's fruit on the canes produced the previous season. Pruning consists of the removal at ground level of all canes which have cropped during the season, together with any weakly or diseased ones of the current season's growth. From 6 to 8 canes are usually sufficient to leave to carry the crop. Though it is the general practice to begin pruning in the late autumn, it is recommended (except for the Lloyd George variety) that pruning be carried out as soon as the fruit has been harvested. The canes selected to carry the next season's crop will then be fully exposed to the sunshine, which will assist in the ripening of the canes.

Fig. 42—This cut was made too far from the main branch, leaving an ugly stub which will not heal over readily.

Gooseberries carry their fruit on the one-year laterals and spurs from older branches. The aim of pruning is the establishment of a sturdy framework of several branches and the provision of well-placed lateral growth for fruiting. Fruit buds on new growth are preferable to those on old spurs, and the bushes should be refurnished every two years. They should be kept open, and all crossing laterals and those likely to rest on the ground should be cut away. The weeping type of plant, such as Farmer's Glory, should have the main shoots pruned to inside buds to make them more erect.

Black and Red Currants

The black currant fruits chiefly and produces the majority of its most luscious fruits on the growth made the previous season, whereas the red currant fruits on the two- and three-year-old wood and on spurs from older branches.

The pruning of black currants consists of removing branches which have fruited and leaving strong young wood for fruit production. The old wood should be cut back to strong, healthy young shoots, the nearer to ground level the better, as it is desirable to remove as much of the old wood as possible. Some bushes may produce new wood from the butts below ground and this may be retained for fruiting. Keep the bushes well spaced and open to prevent overcrowding. The plants should be kept sufficiently vigorous to produce ample strong new growth each season. It is of advantage to carry out the pruning immediately after the crop has been harvested.

The red currant requires different treatment from the black currant. It is pruned to form a bush of eight to 12 sturdy branches and the fruiting laterals and spurs are renewed every four to five years as the fruiting spurs begin to become sparse on any piece of older wood. The bush should be maintained in sufficiently vigorous condition to develop at least four or five new vigorous shoots annually.

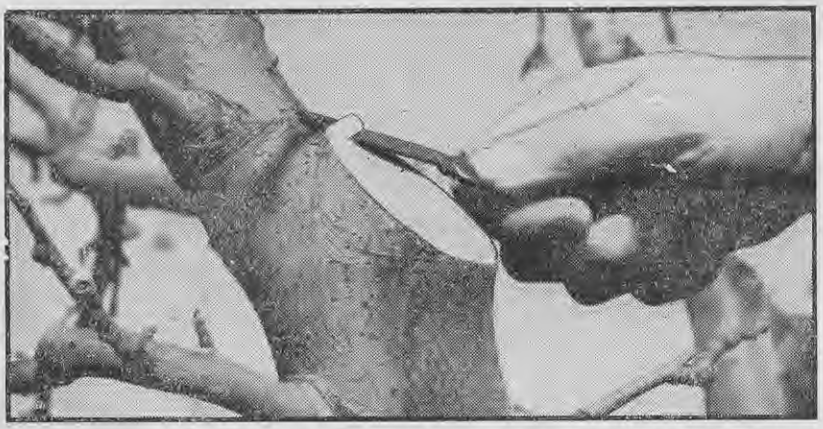

Fig. 41—A branch should be removed by cutting it close to the main branch and trimming the edges with a sharp knife.

Treatment of Tree Wounds

Tree wounds, whether caused accidentally or through the removal at pruning time of fairly large branches, must receive proper attention to prevent bacteria or the spores of fungi gaining entrance through exposed tissue.

After pruning, all cuts larger than ½in. in diameter should have the edges carefully trimmed with a sharp knife (Fig. 41) and a tree-sealing compound, such as bituminous paint, applied over the cut. Tar should not be used. Fig. 42 shows a stub left through a cut being made at the wrong position; the cut should have been closer to the main branch as in Fig. 41.

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