

to Bordeaux mixture for this disease. Badly affected branches should be pruned out. In the cankers that remain the dead material should be cleaned out as far as possible and burned. If merely thrown on the ground there is a possibility of spore production still taking place. Wounds, if large, should be protected with grafting-wax or paint. Where the number of cankers is very great, keeping them painted over is a quicker method and seems fairly satisfactory in preventing the formation of spores. If the surface layer is shaved off incipient cankers noticed in winter or early spring, many of them will dry out and not develop further. Pruning should be done as early as possible and the prunings removed and burned, otherwise they may prove a source of future infection. Fallen fruit should be gathered up and destroyed.

BACTERIAL BLIGHT (*Bacillus amylovorus*).

Also generally known under the names of fire-blight and pear-blight. Circular 23 of the Department of Agriculture deals fully with this disease and should be studied by every grower in any district where it occurs or is likely to be introduced. This circular, however, was intended mainly to give information about the disease and the method of controlling it to the grower as an individual. With some diseases there is little danger of one man's neglect directly causing serious material injury to others, and in such cases it is a matter for the grower himself to decide how far he will take measures to control the disease. Even though he chose to lose his entire orchard there would be no call for the Government to interfere. Among plant-diseases, however, fire-blight stands in a class by itself in the extent to which it can be spread from a centre of infection and in its destructive results. For these reasons the control of blight cannot be regarded as an individual problem, but must be considered a community one, rendering necessary the application of coercive measures if requisite to ensure prompt removal of sources of infection. The Provincial Government has from the first taken this view, and by its legislation and inspection service endeavoured to protect the interests of the community. Compulsion, however, is not desirable, except where all other means have failed, though it is usually most resented by those who have taken least trouble to understand the nature of the case, or who have least at stake. At the same time, blight is excessively variable in its behaviour, varying with the variety and age of the trees, cultural conditions, irrigation, rainfall, etc., so that it is practically impossible to lay down hard-and-fast rules to fairly meet all conditions; while the action of an Inspector in making distinctions between different cases is liable to subject him to criticism on the grounds of favoritism or inconsistency. It has therefore been thought desirable to discuss here in a general way, referring the reader to the above-mentioned circular for details, the subject of blight-control, with especial reference to debatable points and the limits within which individual liberty of action is permissible in dealing with it.

It cannot be too often or too strongly emphasized that the only known means by which the disease can persist from one season to another is in the "hold-over" cankers on the larger branches, trunks, and roots. Thorough work in removing these sources of infection is the only sure way of preventing an epidemic the following season. If all such "hold-overs" in a district could be removed, blight would disappear until reintroduced from outside. This work is done whilst the trees are dormant, but the actual time for doing it may be left to some extent to the individual grower. In no case, however, must it be left until the season is so far advanced that thorough and deliberate work cannot be completed before the sap begins to rise. Many growers combine the operations of blight-cutting and winter pruning, but there is something to be said in favour of getting the blight cleaned up first. Blight-cutting requires more care and skill than ordinary pruning, and if the blight is out there is less danger of careless work resulting in new infections unless all pruning-wounds are also disinfected. As soon as the fruit has been picked an inspection