

PEACH YELLOWS.



BULLETIN No. 17 of the United States Department of Agriculture publishes much valuable information about peach yellows. In regard to preventive measures the bulletin says :

"With our present knowledge the cure of peach yellows appears to be impossible. Many reported cures have been investigated and found without merit. The claims made in behalf of some of these were manifestly with intent to deceive ; in other cases they were made in ignorance of the symptoms of the disease and of what constitutes a cure, and generally by people not familiar with peach growing. Faithful trial has been made of various fertilizers containing important plant foods. With some of these, especially caustic lime and fertilizers containing nitrogen, it has been possible to make diseased trees put on a greener and more vigorous growth, sometimes mistaken for recovery, but all such trees have continued to show symptoms of the disease and have soon relapsed into feeble growth.

"So far, therefore, as we know, the only thing which can be done is to cut out and destroy all trees as soon as any of the signs have made their appearance. It is best to burn the diseased trees—roots and all, if possible.

"In confirmation of this belief in axe and fire, we have the experience of the Michigan peach growers. In some localities, notably at South Haven, they have been fighting the disease in this way for the last twenty years, and though the extermination of affected trees has not been complete, the results have been of such a nature as to lead the growers to believe that this annual weeding out has saved the orchards.

"The results of the rooting-out process obtained in other States than Michigan are less striking, either because the laws have not been enforced very generally, or because they have been in operation only a short time.

"The greatest difficulty in the way of enforcing a law of this kind is the desire on the part of owners to market fruit from affected trees. This opposition disappears as soon as it is made a misdemeanor to sell such fruit or buy it for sale, and consequently a clause of this kind should form part of every "yellows" law. Provision should also be made in such laws for the destruction of diseased trees occurring in waste places and in villages and cities. It is important also that records should be kept each year of the number of trees examined and the number destroyed, so that in the future there may be a sounder basis for judgment as to the efficacy of the law."—New England Farmer.

LITTLE ETHEL : "What is it these anarchists people talk about ?" Little Johnny : "Why, they wants everything everybody else has got, an' they never wash themselves." Little Ethel : "Oh, I see. They is little boys growed up." —Washington Magazine.