

REMEDIES FOR THE SAN JOSE SCALE.

By Mr. Rogers :

Q. When a limb of a tree is affected, would it be well to take that limb off ?

A. Certainly, but it is difficult to say whether you would remove all the scales, and if any were left they would soon spread all over the tree again. If trees are treated to free them from the scale this must be done in the winter and very thoroughly. The best treatment is to wash the trees with a potash whale-oil soap solution. This must be a strong solution made with as much as two pounds of the soap to each gallon of water. It must be a potash soap, else at the strength mentioned the solution will not remain liquid enough to spray. The best soap is Good's No. 3 Caustic Potash Soap made at Philadelphia. This firm, in connection with the United States Entomologist, has carried on a great many experiments to find out the best kind of soap. The firm has taken every care to prepare this special soap properly. It is an admirable insecticide, and the makers have taken every care in the manufacture, so that it gives excellent results. Soap is a material which may be used to great advantage against many injurious insects. The chief difficulty is that it is not uniform in composition, so that you are not always able to tell beforehand what result you will get.

By Mr. McMillan :

Q. Do you consider lye to be useful ?

A. It is of some use, but not so good as the whale-oil soap. The interest in insect pests which has been aroused with regard to the San José Scale has naturally had the effect of drawing the attention of many fruit growers and farmers to other injurious insects, and a great many kinds have been sent in for examination, under the impression that they might be the San José Scale. When the appearance of the San José Scale is known it is very easily recognized as a scale insect, but besides it there are one or two other scale insects which are not nearly so injurious, but which may be readily confounded with it. These add somewhat to the difficulties of carrying out the different Acts which have been passed, owing to the difficulty of distinguishing the true San José Scale from the other kinds of similar scales found on the same kinds of trees. As the Act demands that trees shall be destroyed if the inspector says that they are infested with the San José Scale, it becomes important to know, when a tree is infested with a certain scale, if it is the San José Scale or not. As I have said, there are two others which are extremely like it, and it requires very careful examination and a good deal of special knowledge to distinguish between these different scales. For that reason we have had sent into the department for examination and report a great number of specimens of these different scale insects from fruit inspectors and owners of orchards all through the country. This state of affairs has stirred up an interest in injurious insects which I believe, in the end, will have a beneficial effect on the whole country, because many people having now been frightened by this serious pest are attending to their trees much better, and in a few years I think our orchards will be in a far better condition than they are to-day or than they would have been, had it not been for the advent of the San José Scale, of course providing that we are able to control this latter and prevent it from spreading through our Canadian orchards. This insect is extremely inconspicuous, and that is one of the principal dangers with regard to it, for it is liable to be introduced on nursery stock even if the stock is inspected because it can be so easily over-