

fruit of a sufficiently good quality to make it worth while to save the trees. Their quality cannot be judged until they come into bearing, and frequently this is not until after many years of care. It is a common practice, however, to force these seedlings into bearing at an earlier date than would be the case under ordinary circumstances, by pruning the roots severely. This has the effect of checking the growth, and the trees, in trying to save themselves, produce flowers and fruit. I would merely suggest that your friend might find it advantageous to try this experiment and prune the roots of his trees.

THE OYSTER-SHELL BARK-LOUSE,—TREATMENT OF.

A destructive insect which has been too well known* for over 100 years and yet with regard to which we have yet something to learn, is the Oyster-shell Bark-louse. With the exception of one or two small areas, this insect is abundant everywhere. It is a rather inconspicuous insect and, while it does not bear comparison in this regard with the San José scale, is still conspicuous enough to be frequently overlooked until it is too late to save infested trees. The usual treatment recommended is to spray the trees with kerosene emulsion, but this has not been found altogether satisfactory. The spraying has been usually done before the buds burst in spring, and again later during the month of June. The matter is again attracting special attention with the object of getting a more satisfactory remedy. Trees will be sprayed with various materials, and if a practical remedy can be discovered it will be a matter of great interest to the whole country. Arrangements have been made for spraying trees with whale-oil soaps made with both potash and soda, with potash and soda lyes, and with various preparations of petroleum. Mr. W. T. Macoun has been spraying some trees this winter with whitewash, which he believes to be a useful remedy. It is possible there may be something in this suggestion, for it has been noticed for some years that trees which have been sprayed regularly with Bordeaux mixture to prevent the black spot of the apple and other fungous diseases were not so much attacked by the Oyster-shell Bark-louse as others. This immunity was thought was probably due to the lime which would remain on the branches after spraying, which it was thought was disagreeable to the young plant-lice at the time they were looking for a place to establish themselves. The life history of this insect is remarkable. It is only for two days after the young mite-like scale insect hatches from the egg that it has the power of moving about; after this it remains stationary, having attached itself to the young bark by means of its thread-like beak. It secretes a waxy scale over its body beneath which the females lay their eggs and then die. The eggs do not hatch until the following spring, and although there is only one brood in the year, this scale insect increases with great rapidity, so that they cover the whole tree, giving it a rough brown coating laid on as evenly as if the trees had been painted. When a tree gets to this condition, it seldom recovers. The same remedies recommended for the San José scale would, of course kill this insect also, but they have not been generally adopted.

By Mr. Sproule :

Q. Did you ever try putting ashes on trees ?

A. Yes, ashes have been tried, and it is claimed with good effect. Ashes of course contain both potash and lime, both of which are beneficial. The results, however, are hardly satisfactory enough for us to recommend the practice as a remedy.

By Mr. Cochrane :

Q. Do they get all over the trees ?

A. Yes, and the best results are claimed to have come from applying the ashes in the most unscientific manner one could imagine, namely throwing them up into the trees with a shovel.