

* Open Letters. *

Novel Spraying Apparatus.

SIR,—Three years ago, while driving in the northern part of Terrebonne Co., Que., I stopped at a farm house to feed my horse and have something to eat; while conversing with the farmer, I asked him how his fruit trees paid him; his reply was that he could not raise enough fruit to satisfy the insects. I asked him why he did not spray his trees; he said he could not afford to buy spraying pumps, etc., and had not much confidence in spraying, anyway; he thought it a waste of money. Just as he was saying this, I espied an iron steampipe, about twenty inches long and one and one-half inch inside, crossways. I told him he could do with this for a while: he laughed (as much as to say, you are from town and don't know much about farming). Taking the pipe, I asked him for a small piece of tin, a file and a pair of shears. I cut the tin round, the same size as the end of the pipe, pierced small holes (as small as possible) through it, as at 2; I then filed the rough edges around the hole nice and smooth. Then, with a broomstick, I made an arm for the sucker, about twenty-two inches long; on one end I nailed a piece five inches long, as at 5, for a handle; on the other end I screwed the washer, as at 6, made of a piece of

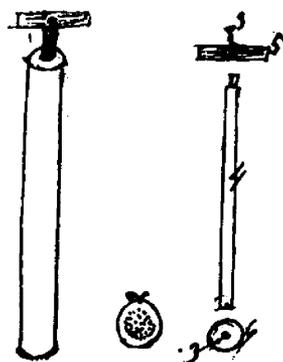


FIG. 327.—CHEAP SPRAYER.

trace, soaked in water to soften it, and cut it neatly round to fit the inside of pipe. I screwed on the end of the stick, see 4, Fig. 000, in centre, as shown at 3. To stiffen the leather washer, you may place two iron washers a little smaller than the leather one, one on each side of it, before screwing it (leather washer) on end of stick (or arm), 4. He had no soldering iron, so I told him to go to a tinsmith and have the tin, 2, soldered on end of pipe, and the sprayer was complete. I then told him to start spraying as soon as the buds would come and every fifteen days or so after, but not when in full bloom; and to use Paris green, one-quarter pound to fifty gallons of water. I said nothing about other insecticides, in order to make things look as simple as possible. A few days ago, I was driving by his house, not thinking of him at all, when he hailed me and I stopped, although I had little time to spare. He thanked me for my device of three years ago, and told me he had bought a spraying pump for \$18; he looked very jolly and happy, his trees and vines looked nice and healthy. The use of that little primitive style of spraying-pump had fully convinced him of benefits of spraying.

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The Fruit Crop in Germany.

Mr. Aug. Steer, Fruit Broker, Hamburg, Germany, writes on August 19th: "Our fruit crop in all parts of Germany is very abundant; we have enormous quantities of apples, pears and plums; and though prices are very low, they are nearly unsalable. Onions in Germany have suffered by the constant dry weather. They will be rather small and not very abundant."