THE PLANET

SATURDAY.....MAY 11, 1907.

HORTICULTURE

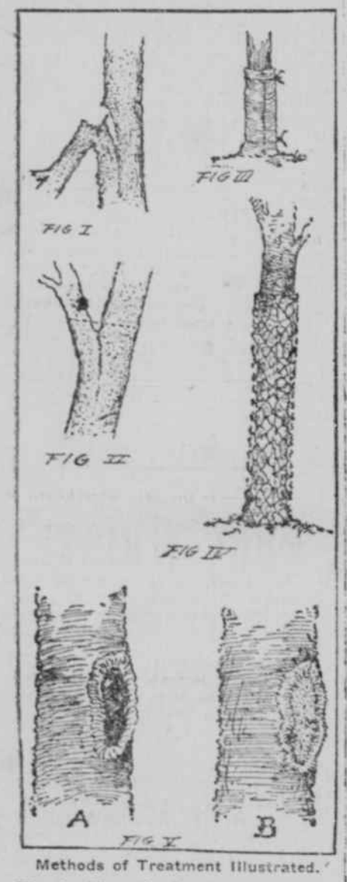
THE INJURED TREE.

Methods of Treatment to Insure Their Protection and Preservation.

It is the part of wisdom to be able to administer first aid to the injured tree, as well as the more permanent aids. One of the most common of these is the splitting down of a limb, as suggested in accompanying illustration, Fig. 1.

If the limb is not broken wholly off—if there is still left a connecting link of sound wood, and of sound bark, the limb can, with care, be saved. This will often save the beauty of the tree. With as little delay as possible shorten all the small branches of the limb, to make their weight as little as possible, then carefully lift the broken limb back into position, and lash it firmly with ropes or straps.

Now with a bit, or auger, bore a hole through the limb and tree trunk as suggested by the dotted line in



Methods of Treatment Illustrated.

Fig. 2. Through this insert a bolt of iron having a head on one end and a "nut" on the other. Turn the nut on the end (with a big "washer" beneath it) until the crack in the break has been made as small as possible, then cover the crack neatly over with grafting wax.

In Fig. 3 is shown how to protect small trees from mice and rabbits which gnaw the tender bark near the ground in winter. Wrap the base of the tree as suggested, with wire mosquito netting, or tarred building paper, and tie it firmly with strings.

When a tree is near a hitching post, or fence, where horses may be tied, there is great danger that the latter may gnaw the bark. Fig 4 shows how to protect a tree from such danger. Measure the circumference of the tree, then select a width of wire poultry netting just a bit wider, and cut off six and one-half or seven feet in length. Stand this up against the trunk of the tree and wrap it about the trunk till the edges meet. Fasten these edges together with a bit of wire every six inches, and the protector is complete.

Many a tree has such a gaping wound as that shown in A, Fig 5. It is caused by sawing off a big limb, and neglecting to protect the wound until nature could extend a new growth of bark over it. The new bark has begun to grow about the edges, but the wood has decayed within, and nature can carry growth of bark no further.

Cut out all the decayed wood, directs Orange Judd Farmer, and fill the cavity completely with portland cement mixed with water. Do not add sand. Fill the cavity and press the cement close to the new bark (B, Fig 5) that there may be left no little opening for air and water to enter. The life of a tree can be prolonged for many years by such aid as this.

Feed the Trees.

When trees commence to show signs of unthriftiness a liberal application of barnyard manure will usually give them new vigor. It is the strong, vigorous tree that gives the most perfect fruit, and such trees are less liable to damage from insect or fungous pests. In the old orchard, a half of a wagon load of manure around each tree is none too much. Scatter the manure out as far as the branches reach. If the litter is coarse, so much the better, as this will serve also as a mulch. If well rotted manure is used, work it into the sod with an orchard disk.

SPRAYING FRUIT TREES.

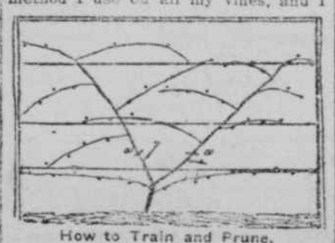
Things Which Should Be Remembered in Fighting Pests.

Having had a great deal of experience in spraying fruit trees I find that there are three essential things that should be borne in mind. First, knowing what to spray for; second, using the proper solution, and third, to spray at the right time. I am aware of the fact that a great many owners of fruit trees have some very indefinite ideas as to what to spray with, when to spray, or whether it makes any difference how it is done, just so as they spray. It is certain that spraying might as well be given up entirely unless it is done thoroughly and regularly at the proper time each season. While it is by no means a cure for all the ills of tree fruit culture, still it is a powerful adjunct to successful orchard management. As I have practiced spraying regularly each season for several years I have found that one of the first requisites toward success is a good outfit complete. After experiencing the use of three different outfits the best one I have yet found consists of a 100-gallon cask which rests on its side in a rack to hold it in place. A strong force pump with an automatic stirrer which is put in the bulge of the cask, two half-inch hose 16 feet long, two ten feet extension rods and two double vermorel nozzles. With this outfit, three men, a team and a wagon, we usually spray 300 12-year-old trees in one day. But little time is lost in having to repair, unclog nozzles, etc., and the spray produced is most satisfactory. To obtain good results from spraying the materials to be used should be first-class and carefully compounded. As I have experimented with the different ingredients recommended, continues this writer in Farmers' Review, I find that the most effectual formula is a half pound of paris green, eight pounds of blue vitriol and eight pounds of lime to 100 gallons of water. In preparing the mixture I put 32 pounds of blue vitriol in a burlap sack and suspend it in a barrel containing 32 gallons of water the day before it is to be used, so as to give it ample time to thoroughly dissolve. I then slack eight pounds of fresh lime, and when ready to use it I strain it into another vessel and slack eight pounds more to be ready when wanted. I next put a half-pound of paris green in three-fourths of a gallon of water and keep it thoroughly stirred until ready for use the next day. The following morning when ready to begin spraying I fill the cask almost full of water, leaving room, however, for the ingredients. I then strain the lime solution into the cask, next eight gallons of the blue vitriol solution and lastly the paris green mixture. I then put the ends of the pump hose so as to pump the mixture back into the cask, and run the pump for several minutes in order to thoroughly mix the entire solution. In spraying I apply the mixture with sufficient force to reach every part of the tree and foliage, giving a fine moist spray until the entire tree is well covered, which is indicated by slight dropping of mixture from the trees. I spray three times each season. The first spraying is commenced just before the blossom buds open in the spring. At this time the canker worm, bud moth, leaf crumpler, leaf folder and cigar case bearer are making preparations to begin their destructive work in the orchard. As these insects are in their infancy at this period, it is the proper time to gain possession ahead of them. In spraying the second time I begin just as soon as the petals of the blossoms have dropped and make the third spraying ten days later.

MOORE'S EARLY GRAPE.

It Needs High Feeding and Good Culture to Secure Best Results.

Moore's Early in one respect is like the Delaware; it needs high feeding and good culture to bring about best results. It is not a heavy bearer at its best, and if we do not give it wood it cannot produce fruit. In order to produce the necessary good strong wood we must feed the vine liberally. I use, writes a correspondent of Rural New Yorker, old decayed horse manure (not firefanged) with wood ashes forked in the ground, and then top-dress heavily with hen manure. When I can get old mortar from buildings torn down I work that in the soil, too. Of course, I realize that perhaps this treatment would not pay in a large vineyard, and it might not be practical there; still it is the method I use on all my vines, and I



How to Train and Prune.

am growing about 50 varieties. In regard to pruning I use a sort of renewal system on all of my Labrusca class. In the cut the two lower branches b b are to take the place of those marked a a, which will be cut off at the crosslines at next season's pruning. Other classes require different systems, and even all varieties of the same class should not be trimmed alike. The rose beetle is more troublesome on my Duchess than any of my other kinds; Niagara next. The only remedy I found was hand-picking, and then feed them to my Minorca hens. They would convert the bugs into the very choicest kind of eggs.

Bill—Does your brother carry a rabbit's foot?

Jill—No, but he goes around with a hare-lip.—Yonkers Statesman.

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