side branches. Neglect in this matter will result in an uneven distribution of the crop and possibly a splitting of some of the main limbs. A good distribution of fruiting wood will lessen the need of props and bracing. The twigs on the secondary limbs are seldom shortened, except possibly to direct the growth. The longest branch of a crotch, where feasible, is left pointing toward the space that is to be filled. Branches near the end of the secondary growth are thinned to allow sufficient light into the center of the tree. When possible leave the twigs on the side of the secondary branches. Horizontal

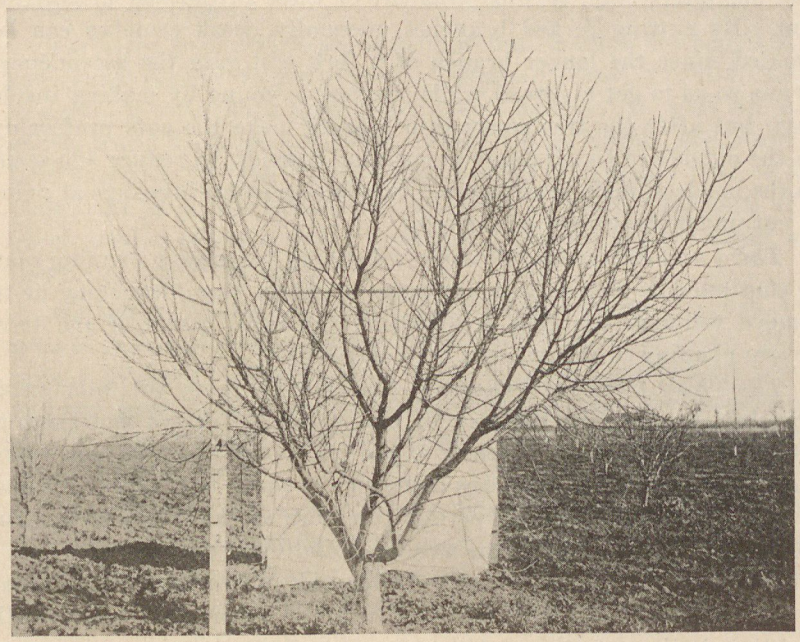

Fig. 4.—Seven-year-old Elberta peach tree before pruning. Note vigorous new wood growth which, however, is not excessive. Compare with figure 5 after pruning by thinning. (From California Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 386.)

growth is less likely to develop into rank shoots than the upright growth. Remove long interfering branches. The cutting of very large branches is likely to leave wounds which heel over slowly and this is to be avoided whenever possible. It is better to thin out regularly (figs. 4 and 5) so that the wounds made will heal over in one year's time. As a rough estimate, one man can prune about 20 full bearing trees of average size in a ten-hour day.

Equipment for Pruning.—A list of some of the more important tools (fig. 6) for pruning include: (1) hand pruning shears with a