Soils and Crops

Address communications to Agronomist, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto

DETERMINING THE BEST VARIETIES OF GRAIN.

J. L., Oxford Co., Ont.—Can you outline a simple method by which the farmer may ascertain the varieties of grain which are best suited to his conditions?

Answered by L. H. Newman, Dominion Cerealist—Practically the only sure way in which the farmer may be certain that the variety he is growing is suited to his conditions is to test out on his own farm a number of those varieties which have been most highly recommended at his nearest experimental station. Later he may include sorts which may seem worthy of investigation. In the case of those who are especially interested and are prepared to give the matter considerable attention, the use of small plots, say one rod long and composed of five drills each, is recommended. These plots may be sown with the ordinary hand seed drill used in putting in garden seed, and may be sown side by side without any space allowed between them. Owing to competition between varieties, only the three central drills are considered, the outer drill on each side being ignored. By this system quite a large number of different varieties may be sown and studied during the summer. It is also possible to replicate each sort four or five times in different parts of the field, although on the average farm, for the first year at least, this is not so important. The heads of the three central drills may be harvested by hand with the use of the sickle. They can be placed in paper sacks, threshed out by hand and studied during the winter months and the actual yield taken.

In the case of those to whom the above system may seem too exacting, we recommend the use of larger plots sown with the ordinary grain drill. These plots may consist of one width of the drill across the field, providing there is sufficient seed of each variety to sow a strip of this area. In order to facilitate a comparison of the plots a small space should be left between them, although owing to the extent to which weeds in most cases are inclined to fill in any open spaces of this sort, it is recommended that not more than the one drill be dropped out between any two plots. This leaves a space of 14 inches between the plots. This may be accomplished by driving the wheel of the seed drill on the last wheel mark. When it is desired to seed down to grass and clover the entire area, and still leave a space unsown to grain between the plots, this may be accomplished by stopping up the outside drill on each side of the machine and driving the wheel on the second drill mark.

Careful observations should be made throughout the growing season in order to note to what extent one variety seems to excel the other. Strength of straw, freedom from rust and smut, date of maturity, and vigor of growth should be carefully noted. Where at all possible actual yields should also be ascertained by actual weight. In this case each plot will have to be harvested and threshed by itself, and the grain of each weighed separately. Where this is not practicable, eight or ten single drill sections each one rod in length may be chosen at representative points throughout the plot and the heads from these removed and threshed, and the grain weighed. The weight of grain obtained from the heads taken from any one plot may then be compared with that obtained from a similar quantity of heads taken from another plot. This part of the work may be done during the winter. The Central Experimental Farm is encouraging this sort of experimental work among farmers and is prepared to give considerable assistance to those who wish to do something along this line.

THE VALUE OF MANURE PER TON.

Manure is worth exactly what it will give in net return from the increased crops produced. This amount varies widely depending upon the quality of the soil, the season, the crop and other factors, but it is interesting to learn in a general way its money value per ton.

On the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, where a four-year rotation of mangels, oats, clover and timothy was manured once every four years at the rate of fifteen tons per acre, the manure was worth gross, figuring the farm products at pre-war prices, $3.89 per ton. This is the average gross value of each ton of manure by crediting the application of fifteen tons of manure with the entire value of the increased crop produced over unmanured land during the thirteen years of the experiment. This figure is not, of course, the real net value of the manure; the net value can be secured only when account is taken of the cost of handling the increased crop, the cost of applying the manure to the land, the interest charges and the share of the machinery charges per acre. When these factors are considered the average value of the manure is $1.28 per ton. It should be remembered, however, that the larger cost of handling the increased crop and the cost of applying the manure are largely labor costs which, in many cases, may be done by the farm help by working additional hours, but without additional cash outlay. The larger yields per acre, produce results equivalent to owning a larger farm and if the larger crops can be handled without extra help, practically all of the gross value of the manure will be secured as increased net income. These labor charges, the machinery charge and the interest are used only in exact accounting to learn what to credit the live stock for each ton of manure or to know how much to pay for manure in the event it is purchased off the farm.

Other methods of evaluating manure than that of reckoning the value of the increased crops produced are sometimes suggested. Some suggest multiplying the standard analysis of manure by the market price of the fertilizer constituents as found in commercial fertilizers. Others suggest basing the value of the manure on the fertilizer value of the feed used, assuming that one-half of the nitrogen, three-quarters of the phosphorus and all the potash contained in the feed will appear in the excrement. These methods, however, overlook the variations in soils which may give increased crops from manure in some instances several times as much as in others. Such being the case the Ottawa figures should be accepted only as a general guide until actual trials show the real value on different soils.

In any case, the value of the manure per ton will be increased by uniform spreading, by using a light to medium application of ten to fifteen tons per acre rather than a heavy application, and by applying the manure to root crops, corn, potatoes, and hay rather than to grain crops. Where bad weeds are not present, unrotted manure will prove more economical than rotted.

THE ADVANTAGES OF BEE-KEEPING.

Bees can be kept in town or country, by young or old, rich or poor. For one entering the business on a large scale with more than one apiary, the country, of course, is necessary where larger sources of nectar are available. A few colonies can, however, be kept on a small town lot or even on the roof of a house for the bees will fly to a distance of two or three miles for nectar. Bees can be kept in situations which are useless for any other enterprise.

There is scarcely a spot in Canada where a few colonies of bees cannot be kept profitably. An abundance of nectar secreting flowers with a high average of favorable weather for the secretion and gathering of nectar makes Canada an excellent country for beekeeping.

Almost anyone can keep bees, and without investing in land or expensive equipment a man or woman who has the aptitude can learn to produce an article of food that is unsurpassed for quality and which will keep in good marketable condition even from year to year. It is difficult to state the amount of honey that will be obtained from an apiary, as this will vary in different locations and seasons. Most localities, however, will be covered if it is put at from 50 to 150 pounds per colony in an average season. With proper management one or two colonies will yield enough honey for the average family.

Beekeeping affords a pleasant outdoor occupation during the best season of the year. As a hobby for office men it provides a profitable and interesting recreation. For teachers and students it offers an occupation for the summer vacation, which is educational and remunerative. Many students have paid their way through college by keeping bees during the summer. Many are finding it a profitable auxiliary to other lines of work. As an exclusive business, many find it well worth while.

Beekeeping not only gives one a crop of honey and a little wax, but fruit and seed growers are also benefited by having bees in the vicinity of their orchards and fields. Larger crops of fruit and seed are obtained by cross pollination of the blossoms, and honey bees are important agents in this work.

A Hard-to-Find Knock.

When a truck engine develops a knock that comes and goes for no apparent reason its automatic spark advance should be suspected, if the engine is of the kind so equipped. The advance may have become worn so that it sticks or catches and holds in the advance position, which makes the engine knock under some conditions. Then it releases and no knock is apparent under exactly the same conditions. Naturally this is mystifying, and more than one engine has been torn down in an attempt to trace a mechanical knock that could not be located. Sometimes the automatic advance mechanism only needs lubrication.

If you are wrong, there is no sense in your losing your temper. If you are right, why get mad about it?

Kicked a Cat to Death.

A twelve-year-old lad by the name of Chadwick amused himself by kicking a cat to death. The kicking lasted some time before the cat succumbed. He appeared before Magistrate Brunton charged with cruelty. On account of his extreme youth it was difficult to decide what punishment to inflict. Evidently he was but another of those unfortunate children brought up without home training on the subject of kindness to animals. Magistrate Brunton gave the father of the boy a very severe lecture and said it was things like this that brought men to the gallows later on. He gave the choice between five years in the Reformatory and a healthy thrashing at the hands of an able-bodied police officer. The father chose the latter for his son, and he was taken to the cells below and strapped. It was not a case of "spare the rod and spoil the child." A strap was used that left its impress with every blow, and the officer put his heart into his work.

The thrashing was quite all right, as far as it went, but what that boy, and thousands of other boys require is teaching in humane education. It usually takes very little to change a boy from a tendency to cruelty to a tendency to kindness. In many homes the parents are incapable of giving this instruction as they have never received it themselves. Humane education in our public schools is the thing.

Do You Have Enough Fire Insurance?

My neighbor's dwelling was completely destroyed by fire a few days ago. He had some insurance, but not enough to cover his loss.

That disaster set me thinking. Did I have enough fire insurance really to protect my property? Investigation showed that I did have insurance fully paid ahead and I was about to dismiss the matter with satisfaction, when I remembered that several things had been purchased since the insurance was taken out, five years ago. Since that time it had simply been renewed for the original amount each time it expired.

A careful check showed that most of the furniture had been replaced with that of better quality. The house had been refloored with hardwood, a piano purchased, a radio outfit installed, one or two floor lamps purchased, some new silver added, and numerous new small things added to the furnishings of the house. Altogether my wife and I estimated the increased value of the house and furnishings at $4,000. Other improvements on the farm brought the total to $6,000.

We had been putting back into the place about $1,000 a year of which we failed to take any account. It's my firm belief a lot of farmers are doing just the same thing year after year.

Are you guilty?—Gaston Farmer.

When the Chain Slips Off.

Quite a few farm trucks are equipped with chain drive, especially the heavier ones, and the driving chain will sometimes slip off the sprockets. When this happens and no chain puller is handy, usually a small bar or rod inserted through the chain and against the sprocket in order to tighten it sufficiently to draw the connecting link together. This requires usually two men.

However, there is a better way of doing the job and one man can do it comfortably. A good-size block is placed behind the rear wheel and the engine put in reverse gear, first being careful to turn off the ignition switch to prevent the engine from starting. Then with the starting crank turn the engine over until the drive chain is tight between the sprockets, after which it will be a comparatively easy matter to go and attach the connecting link.

The engine may be on the compression stroke by the time the chain is tight and therefore rock back. When this occurs, this trouble can be overcome by opening the compression cock in the offending cylinder, or by leaving the starting crank inserted in the ratchet and tying the handle to the truck frame with a cord or strap.

Apple butter may be made with or without sugar or cider, but the flavor is better if the apples are cooked in cider. If the cider and the apples are both very sour, and the apple butter is to be used as a spread for bread, it is best to add sugar.

"I'm no slacker," says the cow. "Give me a maximum of good food and I shall go to the limit of my ability to manufacture milk."

Clean Milk

BY E. S. ARCHIBALD, B.A., B.S.A., DIRECTOR OF DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

Clean milk is always the cheapest milk although costing slightly more to produce. Clean milk spoils less quickly, thus saving losses at the factory or with the city milk dealer, giving you a higher butter fat test, and always being in greater demand by manufacturers and consumers. Clean milk is the best of human foods; filthy milk is criminal.

You can produce clean milk at the least possible cost, only by observing the following essentials:

1. HEALTHY CATTLE.

Healthy cattle are those which are free, first, from tuberculosis, anthrax, or similar contagious troubles. It will pay you, on account of your children, your customers, and your future herd, to discard immediately unhealthy animals. Healthy cattle must, secondly, be free from garget, inflammation of the udder, cow pox, and similar udder troubles which contribute pus-producing germs to the milk. Isolate such cows until cured. Discard their milk for human consumption and even for feeding live stock unless thoroughly pasteurized. Healthy cattle should also be free from skin diseases and parasites, which cause contamination of the atmosphere of barn and consequently affect the milk.

2. CLEAN CATTLE AND BARNS.

Clean, sweet milk is an impossibility when cattle are covered with mud, dust, and manure, and where the barn is equally filthy. The proper procedures are as follows:

1. Stables to be cleaned out twice per day.
2. Calf pens and boxes, if in dairy barn, to be cleaned out at least twice per week.
3. Cattle to be brushed off once per day.
4. Barnyard to be kept clean and free from mud through which cows must wade to get to barn.
5. The barn must be kept sweet and free from cobwebs and dust.
6. Eliminate contamination by dust from hay by bringing down into barn through dust-proof chutes.
7. Clean out the barn and feed all dusty forages, such as hay, after milking. You will thus avoid at least one-quarter of the dirt usually found in milk.

3. GOOD BARNS.

The good dairy barn where healthy cattle and clean milk can be produced need not be extravagantly built, but must have the following requirements, namely: Light, ventilation, comfort, efficiency, durability, floors which will not absorb liquid manure, walls and ceilings as smooth as possible to eliminate the gathering of dust and cobwebs.

4. CLEAN MILKING.

The cleanest method of milking must include the following items:

(a) Cows to be bedded down at least thirty minutes before milking.
(b) Cows to be brushed at least twenty minutes before milking.
(c) Udders and flanks to be brushed off with clean, damp cloth, just before milking.
(d) Milker to wear white jacket and apron. These must be kept clean. Change three or more times per week if necessary.
(e) Sleeves to be rolled up clear of wrist while milking, but shirt sleeves not to be exposed.
(f) Hands and face to be washed before beginning to milk.
(g) Towels must be kept clean and changed each day.
(h) Hands to be washed after milking each cow.
(i) No milk to be used on hands while milking. Vaseline may be used if desired.
(j) No unnecessary talking while milking.
(k) No tobacco chewing while milking.
(l) Cows to be treated kindly.
(m) Cows to be milked quickly, gently and thoroughly, that is, clean out.

5. CLEAN FOODS.

Clean, palatable foods are necessary in order to make the cheapest milk, the most milk, and the best quality of milk. Mouldy, dusty hay, musty grains, and all such containing dust, make the cleanest and cheapest milk impossible.

6. CLEAN BEDDING.

Clean straw or clean shavings make splendid bedding, whereas dusty straw, dirt from the hay loft, cheap, dusty hay, and the like mean a dusty barn and dirty, poor-keeping milk.

7. GOOD MILK PAILS.

The best milk pail is the one with the smallest opening at the top. The poorest milk pail is the large, open-topped pail which will collect the most dust, spatterings, or particles dropping from udder and flanks. The strainer pail is not the best.

8. CLEAN UTENSILS.

The milk pails, cans, separators, and all other utensils used for milk must be thoroughly washed and scalded twice per day and well aired in a room free from dust and flies. Use a good washing powder in your wash water and scald with pure, scalding water.

9. MILK HANDLED QUICKLY.

The handling of milk after milking regulates largely its commercial value. Do not leave milk in the stable or pour milk in the stable after being drawn from the cows. Weigh and pour into cans in a clean room adjoining barn. Cool the milk as quickly as possible either by means of a well sterilized, dust-proof, modern milk cooler or in a good ice tank. Ice is indispensable on any dairy farm for the keeping of milk at a low temperature until delivered to factory, milk dealer, or the consumer. The same principle applies also to the handling of cream.

You can build a good ice-house and cold storage attachment on your farm at a very low cost, and it will pay for itself in three or four years.

Home Education

"The Child's First School is the Family"—Froebel."

Dependability a Priceless Trait—By Edith Lochridge Reid

At first glance it may seem that dependability is a pretty big word to fit into the lives of tiny individuals. But an hour spent in observation on any playground will reveal this characteristic and the lack of it also.

A group of wee boys and girls were enjoying recreation in the park. "You push me in the swing and then I'll give you a nice long one," pleaded Jimmy. So Elinor pushed Jimmy up in the swing many times until her little face was flushed and her arms tired. "Will you swing me as long as I'm swinging you?" she asked several times, and Jimmy always answered, "O, sure, lots longer."

But Jimmy didn't swing Elinor. He saw some of the boys headed for the slides and followed, feeling no compunctions whatever, although he left Elinor in tears.

Right across from these two children sat a small girl watching her baby brother two years younger. Repeatedly her playmate came along and asked her to wade with them in the pond, but this faithful little miss shook her head decidedly, explaining that she couldn't move from that seat until big sister came back from swimming in the tank.

So within ten yards of each other these children demonstrated both a lack of dependability and a true application of it in child life. And since they were too young to have spent much of their time under any influence except mothers, we must draw our own inference as to where the responsibility lay.

When a child is sent to do an errand a mother should hold him to his task and make him understand that she depends on him for the execution of that duty and nothing must be allowed to interfere. If Billy is given a nickel to go one block to the store for a lemon, he should receive from mother the idea that this is an important mission. And it is.

But if he stops and rides on a playmate's new kiddie car and loses the nickel—what then? Well, it would be much easier to give him another nickel and send him off again, especially if one is in a hurry to make lemon pudding. But there is an element involved much more important than five cents' worth of merchandise, for perhaps when Billy is twenty-one he may be sent by his employer to deposit a thousand dollars in a bank. Where is he going to learn dependability for the big task if not from the first small duties assigned him?

So even though Billy's allowance may be only ten cents a week—or five, he should pay back the loss from his personal funds. If he is old enough to do the errand he is old enough to do it in a dependable way.

We cannot erect for our children a far-away, grown-up ideal of dependability and expect them to reach it at maturity by some stroke of magic. The vital qualities of character are developed from day to day amid the activities of their childhood and youth.

All mothers agree that it isn't easy to stop each day and translate dependability into terms that the little tots can understand, but in justice to the future it is fully worth while.

An Unusual Well Problem.

After the well diggers had sunk the hole to a depth of 110 feet the drill struck a sloping—apparently—vein of rock which set at such an angle that, try as they might, the bit was swerved from its downward course.

With the fourth attempt to penetrate the hard stratum, it was decided that further progress under the circumstances was impossible. The cost for the depth dug was considerable, and only as a last resort would a new location for the well have been advisable.

Finally one of the men proposed placing a foot of concrete on top of the rock, allowing it to harden, then drilling through it. He claimed that after penetrating the concrete the drill would bite into the rock and would not work to one side.

Though the owner was skeptical he allowed the suggestion to be carried out. And it worked. The concrete was mixed thoroughly, then just enough water added to make it damp, and the mortar was dumped into the hole, the impact of the fall tamping it in place. Two days were allowed for it to set, though it was claimed that this was longer than necessary.

A Stockgap That Works.

The writer lives in a country town where stock of all kinds is allowed to run loose. With a large lawn surrounding his home, and dwelling and garage some distance from the entrance, he found it very trying, especially on rainy days, to get in and out of the car to open and close the double gate; so he constructed a wooden stockgap, with some original improvements that suggested themselves, and it has proved a success beyond his fondest hopes. The chief feature consists in loose crossbars that yield decidedly when an animal attempts to cross. The gap is provided with hinged covers to let down when it is desired to cross with a team, also with gates for emergency. During the trial period these gates were closed at nighttime, but for the past few months they have never been closed.

This gap can be constructed by anyone with very little expense. Gates are frequently left open or insufficiently locked, allowing stock to get in. With the stockgap they stay out.

Six Points My Books Show.

We have kept farm accounts for fifteen years. Comparing accounts from year to year, I have learned:

1. We gain by feeding less purchased feed, such as oil meal, etc., and more alfalfa hay, and silage. Perhaps our test is not so high.
2. By selling our Buff Orpington chicks, three days old, at 15 cents each, we made more than by feeding them until ready for broilers or fall sale, not saying anything about the work. We keep as a side line about 100 hens over winter, but from that number we cleared, in 1922, $120 above the feed, and what eggs and poultry we used on the farm. We have five in our family.
3. After the first cost it is just as cheap to keep an automobile as a good driving horse and buggy.
4. Purebred stock does not cost any more to feed than common stock and, when sold for breeding, brings more.
5. If land is adapted to raise alfalfa, you get more hay from the same ground and a better price.
6. I also found from experience and my books that there is more money to be cleared from a 200-acre dairy farm than a 60-acre one.—W. S. B.

One does himself an injustice when he uses the bank as a place to pay his debts, and the china teapot as the place to put his money.

FEAR

Fear in horses is contagious, and is very peculiar in its degree and causes. It will cause a horse to do very strange things. The horse is very susceptible to fear, which is inconvenient; although, as stated above, its existence is the secret of our being able to master him. Fear causes a horse to be careful not to fall down, to be careful not to place his foot into a rabbit hole, not to go into puddles, and so on, and therefore increases his usefulness and safety. Fear naturally causes a horse to understand the whip actions.

The horse being very prone to fear, it is better if he has never been ill-treated. Fear repeated increases in intensity, therefore at all times we must aim at preventing fear as much as possible. Ordinary horses are more dangerous when in fear than thoroughbred ones, but a very timid horse is most dangerous, because he may fall down or take his rider into great danger; such a horse is better dismounted and led. The presence of a rider upon a horse's back tends materially to diminish fear, especially if he knows his rider and has affection for him.

Fear is really a belief of danger, and varies with the momentary state of the horse's mind. Mares are generally more prone to fear. Defective sight, which is not uncommon, due to dark stables, causes much fear, especially when a horse is first brought out into the light. The horse shies at new objects because they frighten him. He fears noises, smells, and being touched suddenly. He should be able to see the object that he is afraid of, and for this reason blinkers often increase fear.

A horse is more susceptible to fear when at speed; fear causes a horse often to run away, and when at speed the fear increases, hence it is so difficult to stop the runaway horse. A runaway horse, when he does stop and realizes that he is abandoned, feels great fear. All horses when in fear like company, and even the voice of a master will cause much comfort. A horse when in fear should not be worked, and kind treatment alone should be resorted to. Fear may be so great as to cause trembling, and sometimes a rider can feel the heart pulsations from his seat in the saddle when the horse is in great fear. Horse dealers who are up to almost any trick in order to get a good price for a horse, frighten the horse in order to make him go well and show himself off, and perhaps forget any little pain causing lameness.

Practically in all cases of fear there will be a preliminary sign given by the horse, which sign should be detected by all good horsemen, so that they will know that the horse is becoming frightened.

The signs of fear are: Intently looking or listening in a certain direction, shown by the horse holding his head high, ears pricked, and by his standing, as it were, upon his toes; moving his ears to and fro or bending his head and neck in the direction of the object; stopping or reducing the pace, and perhaps rearing. An object advancing towards him in front might cause him to rear. Other signs are grunting, snorting, depressing the tail, raising the tail high, and, if intense, trembling.

Before we can prevent fear in a horse we must gain his confidence and then his obedience.

May Print Sounds.

An English scientist predicts the early perfection of a machine that will be able to print sounds. The apparatus will be a cross between a dictating machine and a linotype machine, and its success will depend upon the fact that every letter has a different wave-form.

Try using a heavy envelope as a pastry tube. Snip the corner off with the scissors and fill with frosting, forcing out gently in any design you wish. The children will love little cup cakes with their own initials on them and never miss the extra frosting.

For popcorn balls make a syrup of one cup sugar, half cup white corn syrup, half cup cold water, two tablespoons butter. Cook until a small portion of the syrup dropped in cold water forms a firm soft ball. Pour this over popped corn. Mix well and when slightly cool press into balls.

Apple marmalade is a good substitute for old-fashioned apple butter. Select tart apples, and allow three-fourths pound of sugar to one pound of pared, cored and quartered fruit. Boil skins and cores twenty minutes, drain off the liquid upon the apples and cook till tender. Put through seive, add sugar, simmer until thick.

My desk stands in the dining-room near the window and not far from the stove. I like this place better than a room or office, principally because of the saving in fuel, lights and furnishings; and a place in the shop or barn is not very practical on account of the dust and cold and poor light, unless one has a room built especially for it. Most farmers haven't enough business to stand the expense of fitting up an office; and a place in the house saves a lot of overhead.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

BRUIN'S FRIENDS SEARCH FOR HIM.

After the little stranger squirrel came to Rolly Rabbit's with Bruin's message for help, he knew he must do something right away if he were to aid his friend. And he could not do it alone. To get Bruin out of a big trap, he must have help.

"Little squirrel, run as fast as you can to Willie Woodchuck's house and bring him with you to the big tree where you left Bruin. I will hop over to Frankie Foxy's house and tell him. Frankie Fox and I will meet you there," said Rolly.

"Are you sure you know where to go, Mr. Rabbit?" asked the little stranger squirrel.

"Quite sure," said Rolly. "It is about fifty hops south of the big elm tree near the edge of the old frog pond. Now run We must get there before the man does."

And off they both scampered as fast as their short legs could carry them, and that is much faster than you or I can run with our longer ones.

Frankie Fox and Rolly Rabbit had much farther to go than their two companions, but Willie Woodchuck was so fat he just couldn't run fast.

At the cross-road they met Rolly and Frankie Fox, and all four ran on as fast as they could.

"I left Mr. Bruin just around the corner," panted the little squirrel as they passed the big elm tree and were near the last bend in the road. And now how they did run, to think they were nearly there.

But as they turned this corner, each slackened his pace and stopped right by the big trap that had held Bruin's foot. It was wide open, and that told the story. Someone had helped Bruin out, and taken him away.

Rolly Rabbit bent his head to the ground. "Sniff, sniff." Then he went on a few steps and examined the leaves carefully. In a few minutes he came back to his friends.

"Two men have taken Bruin away. They will shut him up. We must find him. Who will help me?" he asked.

"I will," chorused his friends, and even a little bird up in the tree who had heard the story, chimed in, too.

PICTURES IN THE SKY.

Before the yellow sun has set
Or shadows gathered round as yet,
I like to watch the clouds on high
With filmy figures flitting by.

Sometimes a dancing clown I spy
With peaked cap and twinkling eye,
And then again I see a boat,
With all its gleaming sails, afloat.

At times a king upon a throne
Is seated silent and alone,
More often, though, a lady fair
In trailing robes I see up there.

I wonder where they go at last—
They always hurry by so fast!
Perhaps they gather in the moon
And feast and dance to merry tune.

But still I somehow think it's true
That they are people just like you—
The sky a great big looking-glass
To catch their pictures as they pass.

—Eugenia T. Quickenden.

Until we discover a hen that can manufacture egg shells without a supply of the ingredients of which shells are made, we shall be obliged to provide oyster shell or broken limestone to the working class in the poultry house.