

LICE ON TURNIPS (Aphis brassicae).

D. C. BLACK, Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"Can you inform me through the ADVOCATE, the name of a louse that came on my turnips a little over a week ago. It was after the frost I noticed the leaves wilted, and on closer examination, I found it was a small green louse that was doing the mischief. I tried one stalk with Paris green; gave it a good dose last Saturday, but it don't seem to have killed one. Do you know anything about them, and what will destroy them?"

[The turnip louse, or aphis, is a very common and troublesome insect, which is usually more destructive on early-sown crops or those that have received a check in their growth from continued dry weather. It is a small, greenish insect about one-tenth of an inch long, and generally covered with a whitish mealy coating. They occur in great numbers on the leaves during the late summer and early fall months. They take their food by suction after pushing their slender beaks through the outer skin of the leaves, which renders poisoning by Paris green of no avail. The correct remedy is spraying with kerosene emulsion, which kills the insects by coming in contact with their bodies. To prepare the kerosene emulsion, use 2 gallons of coal oil, 1 gallon of rain water, and half a pound of soap. Dissolve the soap in water by boiling; take from the fire and while hot pour in the coal oil and churn briskly for five minutes. Dilute before use, with 9 parts of water.]

VIGOROUS CHERRY TREES NOT BEARING.

MR. F. C., Brant Co., Ont.:—"We have a row of cherry trees that for a number of years have made a good display of blossom, and a fair proportion of which sets, but drop off in a few weeks. The trees appear to be in a very vigorous state, and show no signs of black knot or other disease. We have sprayed them repeatedly with standard preparations at the recognized proper seasons. The land is a free loam and in a good state of cultivation. What is the cause of the unfruitfulness, and what can be done to effect a remedy?"

[In reply to the question why vigorous cherry trees which blossom do not bear fruit, I may say that unfruitfulness of trees is one of the problems which horticulturists of late years have been trying to solve. There are two principal reasons why healthy trees might produce blossoms but no fruit: First, if the blossoms were injured by frost or other unfavorable conditions of weather; second, if the trees were self-sterile. There is, of course, no practical remedy for the first. The second might be overcome by planting in the vicinity of these trees some trees of other varieties, which might fertilize the blossoms of the others and cause them to produce fruit. If the fruit has really formed, as one may be led to infer by the information given, it is difficult to tell what is the trouble. If a sample of the fruit with a twig were sent to the Experimental Farm, more definite information might be given, but it is impossible to tell for certain without seeing specimens. W. T. MACOUN, Horticulturist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.]

FALL TREE PLANTING—STALLION RUBBING HIS MANE.

YOUNG FARMER, Waterloo Co., Ont.:—"Would you be kind enough to let me know, through your valuable paper, if it would be advisable to plant young maple and basswood shade trees this fall. Will they grow if planted during November as in the spring? I have hardly time to plant them then. Please give me instructions how to plant. 2. I have a three-year-old stallion that has been rubbing his mane quite a bit. What shall I do to make him stop it? He is in good health; am working him since season is over."

[1. See FARMER'S ADVOCATE of October 16th, pages 581 and 582.

2. It is not uncommon for stallions to rub their manes, and the habit is not easily stopped when once it has become established. The trouble may be from the presence of small lice, which can be destroyed by frequently rubbing well into the skin creoline, 2 ounces, diluted with 1 quart of soft water. Any of the sheep dips or cattle washes advertised in our columns will answer the same purpose. It would be well also to give in teaspoonful doses twice a day in his feed nitrate of potash and sulphur, in equal parts, for two weeks. This will cool his blood and help to allay irritation.]

SYMPTOMS OF CHOLERA IN TURKEYS.

W. H. B., York Co., Ont.:—"We have what we think is cholera among our turkeys. They move around, pass yellowish-green excrement, and they themselves turn yellowish. They stop eating, their wings hang down, and in a few days they die."

[Many turkeys and fowls are said to die from cholera, when the mortality is due to other causes. Cholera is a disease more peculiar to the Southern States than it is to Canada. The symptoms of disease described by your correspondent are somewhat similar to those of cholera. It would be in the interests of investigation and progress if your correspondent would kindly send a bird which has recently died, to the Bacteriological Dept. at Guelph, or to Prof. Wesley Mills, of the Physiological Dept. of McGill College, Montreal, for examination and determination as to the particular germ causing death, if a germ disease is cause of death. Meanwhile your correspondent might separate the well birds from the sick and give them a good condition powder, as per instructions. The sick birds may be given the following prescription, by Dr. Dickie:

"Blue mass, 60 grains; pulverized camphor, 25 grains; pulverized rhubarb, 48 grains; cayenne pepper, 30 grains; laudanum, 60 drops. Mix and make into 20 pills. Give a pill every 4 hours to the sick, even to those that cannot eat. When the pills have had time to act, give half a teaspoonful of coal oil and 10 drops of laudanum to each bird. Let them drink scalded sour milk, with a gill of Douglas mixture for every twenty-five head per day. When the evacuations become darker in color and more solid, give alum water and no other drink." Douglas mixture is made as follows: Dissolve one pound of sulphate of iron in two gallons of water, adding 2 ozs. sulphuric acid. Handle the latter carefully. A good disinfectant is a five per cent. solution of carbolic acid. The premises, roosts, nest boxes, etc., should be thoroughly disinfected. Diseases with cholera symptoms, acute diarrhoea, etc., are difficult and troublesome to cure. It would be well for your correspondent to communicate in his own interest, and that of many others, with the Bacteriologist of the Ontario Agricultural College, and send him a bird which has just died from the disease. The well birds should be kept away from filthy water, barn leakage and decaying or decayed vegetable and animal substances.

W. S. GILBERT, Poultry Manager,

Central Experimental Farm.]

PASTURE AND ROOTS FOR PIGS.

W. G. SEWELL, N.B.:—"We have twelve acres of land on which we want to get clover and mangels next season. Will you kindly tell us in your next issue of the ADVOCATE the very best and quickest way to do? We are dealing largely in pigs and want to feed some to them."

[The ground should be plowed this fall and given a dressing of good manure, if it is not already fairly rich. A winter dressing will answer if the manure cannot be obtained this autumn. In the spring, work up the ground well and sow the portion for mangels, in raised drills about 30 inches apart, as early as the danger of frost is past. Sow about four pounds of seed per acre of Yellow Globe, Mammoth Red, Long Red or Gatepost varieties. Cultivate the crop well and thin to 14 inches apart in the drills. Give frequent cultivation till the crop is well grown.

For a clover crop in 1900, the seed should have been sown this year, not later than August. We would advise preparing the land in the spring by cultivation, and sowing it to tares and vetches, one bushel per acre, as early as the ground is fit to work well, and there is warmth in the land. Along with the tare seed, sow six pounds to the acre of Red Clover seed. When the crop of tares is about 10 inches high, the pigs should be turned in. If it is not overstocked, but kept moderately eaten down, the tares will continue to grow well through the season, and by fall the clover will have made good advancement, and will be in good condition for pasture the following season.]

PUMPKIN SEEDS FOR STOCK.

MRS. S. J. C., Lambton Co., Ont.:—"We have been told, on authority, that when feeding pumpkins to milk cows the seeds must be removed, as they (seeds) tend to diminish the flow of milk; presumably, because they increase the action of the kidneys. We are feeding pumpkins freely to our cows; and the question is, what to do with the seeds? It seems waste to throw them away. The hens will eat them in winter, if saved. But may they not be injurious to other stock—even fowls? We are feeding cooked pumpkins to the pigs, seeds and all, and perhaps an extra dose of the seeds would be too much. What does the ADVOCATE say?"

"2. Would you give hens a daily full feed of sunflower seeds in winter?"

[1. Pumpkin seeds are alike harmful to all kinds of stock when fed in excessive quantities. It may be possible to sell the surplus seeds to a seedsman, but it would not be wise to make use of them as stock or poultry food.

2. Sunflower seeds are heavily charged with oil, and should not form more than a portion of a poultry ration. They answer a good purpose when fed in a mixture of other grain, forming not more than one-third of the ration. A full feed twice or three times a week would do the fowls no harm.]

WINTERING BEES OUTSIDE.

W. J. W., Manitoulin Island:—"I would like to know what is the best way to winter bees outside. I have boxes made 13 feet long by 30 inches wide, which will hold 16 hives, packed with 2½ inches of chaff on the sides, 1 inch on the bottom, and five to six inches on top, and an air space over the top of all. 1. Do you think they would winter better that way than in single outside cases? 2. Should the summer quilts be left on in the winter, or should they be removed and burlap be put on next to the frames?"

[1. Yes, slightly; but there is the disadvantage of fall and spring moving from and to summer stands. Many bees not having noticed their new location, would perish while searching for their home. If, however, there is sufficient warm weather to allow the hives to be moved a couple of feet every day toward the desired position while bees are flying, there is no danger. 2. The summer quilts are so propolized as to prevent upward ventilation, hence they should be replaced by some firm porous cloth. See article on this subject in another column.

MORLEY PETTIT.]

COOKING FEED FOR CATTLE AND OTHER STOCK

A SUBSCRIBER, Cumberland Co., N. S.:—"I have seen a great deal in the ADVOCATE in reference to mixed rations—small and large rations, etc.—for growing and fattening steers, but I have never seen anything in reference to cooked or raw feed. I cook a large quantity of feed for my stock, such as barley, oats, wheat—ground, of course,—also cornmeal. My neighbors say that raw feed is just as good, if not better. If they are correct I should like to save time and fuel. But if cooked feed is best, I do not begrudge either time or expense for my stock. I take good care of them, as every intelligent man ought to do."

[Prof. Henry, in his admirable work on Feeds and Feeding, after quoting a number of authorities upon cooking coarse forage for cattle, summarizes the results as follows:—"The advantages are very slight, and not worth the trouble of either building the fire, cutting the wood, or erecting the apparatus, to say nothing at all of these combined, with danger and insurance added." In addition to cooking food for swine, the trustees of the Maine College, summing up the results obtained at that institution of nine years' continuous feeding of cooked and uncooked cornmeal to pigs, wrote:—"The results have in every case pointed to the superior value of uncooked meal for the production of pork." In reference to this matter, Prof. Henry says:—"To the assertion that stockmen who cook feed have the finest animals, the writer ventures the opinion that one who is willing to cook feed will usually give his animals many attentions which feeders generally pass by as not worthy of their time or notice. It is this extra care, and the larger variety of feeds usually supplied, rather than the cooking, which make animals of superior quality." While many agree in the main with Prof. Henry's conclusions, we would gladly hear from feeders who have made sufficient tests to enable them to pronounce in favor of either cooked or raw feed for cattle or other stock. Not a few hold to the idea that in swine feeding greater gains are made from cooked or steamed feed, owing to it being more digestible than raw; but tests must be very carefully made to determine the question of actual profit. It is well, however, not to confuse the foregoing point with the advantages of supplying animals with warm feed in palatable form, particularly in cold weather. It is not reasonable to expect pigs to do well on a half-frozen diet. Foods, like corn, that have become hard and flinty, may be made more easily masticated by soaking or steaming; but cooking, according to many careful investigations made, does not appear to increase the digestibility of feeding stuffs. There is a pretty general opinion among horsemen, however, that feeding limited quantities of cooked barley or oats to horses has a decidedly advantageous effect.]

HENS FOR EGGS AND FLESH.

ENQUIRER, Grey Co., Ont.:—"1. What is the best kind of hens to raise so as to have fleshy, good-laying hens."

"2. What is the kind of grain to feed hens?" [Either Barred or White Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes or Dorkings fill the bill admirably for both purposes. Wheat is best, but it is well to vary it either by mixing with oats or feeding once a day with oats, and it is well to scatter it in chaff or straw on clean floor so the hens will get exercise in scratching for it, and will eat more slowly.]

ANALYSIS OF WELL WATER.

SUBSCRIBER, Wentworth Co., Ont.:—"1. Would a certain proportion of corn chopped with oats be a good grain ration for breeding ewes?"

"2. How may I get a Government analysis of well water?"

[1. One-fourth oats and three-quarters corn is good, and preferable to barley.

2. Send sample, labelled, to Prof. Shutt, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, asking for analysis and report.]

MARKETS.

FARM GOSSIP.

Prince Edward Island.

We are having a very fine fall here, a lot of sunshine, and so far, very little frost. The crop is now all gathered except the roots, and they are being taken in now. Potatoes did not come quite up to an average crop, and there are some not showing. All kinds of roots are good crop. Fall plowing is well advanced for the time of year. Shipping has just commenced at Charlottetown and also at the outports. Prices are low for oats and potatoes. The former sell for 27c, and the latter are worth about 18c. per bushel. Prices of other farm products are good. Lambs averaging 80 pounds sell for 3c. to 3½c. live weight, for shipment to the States. Beef cattle are scarce and high in price. The best would bring 4c. to 4½c. live weight. Large numbers of live geese are being shipped to Boston, at about 55c. each. Mr. McCallum, of Iowa, U. S., has just made a shipment of 200 year-and-a-half and two-year-old steers from here to that State. He reports cattle very scarce out there and he wants all he can get to help eat up their enormous corn crop. The cheese make continues quite large for October, and cheese are about all sold up to October 1st; 11½c. is being offered for this month's make. Creamery butter sells for about 22c. Most of the cheese factories will make butter after November 1st. We look for a large increase in winter dairying this season. A lot of chickens are being fattened at the Dominion Government station, and some are now being shipped in cold storage to the English markets. The steamship Lake Huron, of the Elder-Dempster line, which was due here on the 14th, has not arrived yet. Her space is all taken, principally for stock shipment. A large number of hogs are feeding for market. Those now going forward bring 4c. to 4½c.

October 23rd.