

The Farm.

BEES AS BLIGHT DISTRIBUTERS.

I have thoroughly worked out the question relative to bees carrying blight. The conclusion reached is that bees carry pear blight extensively, and with other insects are the principal or almost the only agency of distribution of the germs. The occurrence of the blight on the blossoms in great quantities and the great rapidity with which the disease spreads from flower to flower indicate a normal and very effective method of distribution. The germs were found growing freely in the nectar of the blossoms.

Bees were seen repeatedly visiting the infected flowers, and some were caught taking infected nectar, and by means of plate cultures the pear blight germs were isolated from their mouth parts. By covering parts of the trees with sacks of various kinds of material, including mosquito netting, and then artificially infecting certain flowers on the tree, the blight was observed to spread very freely over the uninfected and uncovered blossoms, but was entirely absent in the blossoms covered by mosquito netting.

Blossoms were infected and at once covered with sacks and the blight in such cases was retained in the infected blossoms. Pear blight germs died very soon after being dried up, and lived for only a brief period on exposure to weather conditions out of doors, hence they cannot live in dust and be blown around to any great extent by the wind. Pear blight virus, particularly that which occurs on the blossoms, is a sticky substance, and is readily carried by insects, birds or animals, but cannot be blown by the wind.

It may also be well to state that as a result of this serious charge against bees, I was led to carry on an extensive series of experiments in the pollination of pomaceous fruits, and as a result of these I found that bees are indispensable to the pollination and setting of most of our pomaceous fruits, hence they should not be destroyed, as some California growers think. They simply carry the pear blight incidentally while performing an important and necessary function.—(Professor M. B. Waite, in American Agriculturist.

FARM SANITATION.

This is a time when every farmer who values life and health for self and family and wants to save the suffering and cost of illness, will think seriously about the best things to do to prevent sickness. A great

LIKE OPIUM EATERS.

Coffee Drinkers Become Slaves.

The experience, suffering, and slavery of some coffee drinkers would be almost as interesting as the famous "Confessions of an Opium Eater," says a Boston man, W. J. Tison, 131 W. Newton St. "For twenty years I used coffee at the breakfast table and, incidentally, through the day, I craved it as a whiskey drinker longs for his morning bracer. I knew perfectly well that it was slowly killing me, but I could not relinquish it.

The effect on the nervous system was finally alarming and my general health greatly impaired. I had dyspepsia, serious heart difficulty, and insomnia. When I would lie down, I would almost suffocate. My doctor assured me it was due to the action of caffeine (which is the active principle of coffee) on the heart.

I persisted in its use, however, and suffered along just as drunkards do. One day when I was feeling unusually depressed, a friend whom I met, looked me over and said: "Now, look here, old man, I believe I know exactly what's the matter with you. You are a coffee fiend and it's killing you. I want to tell you my experience. I drank coffee and it ruined my nerves, affected my heart, and made me a sallow, bilious old man, but through a friend who had been similarly afflicted, I found a blessed relief and want to tell you about it. Try Postum Food Coffee, a grateful, delicious beverage, full of nourishment, that will satisfy your taste for coffee and feed your nervous system back into health, rather than tear it down as coffee has been doing."

I took my friend's advice, and within a week from that time, my digestion seemed perfect, I slept a sweet, refreshing sleep all night, and my heart quit its quivering and jumping. I have been steadily gaining in health and vitality right along.

many will, of course, ignore suggestions on this subject or any other, because they simply won't get out of the rut they are used to running in. And, yet many lives much suffering and many doctors' bills would be saved by the knowledge of and practice of some simple rules. And it is certainly well worth the trouble—in fact, it may save a hundredfold in money alone—to study the rules of hygiene and sanitation that both theoretical and practical science have demonstrated to be best.

In the first place, the continuous testimony of scientific experts and of practical observers is that the greatest amount possible of pure fresh air is the greatest preventive and the greatest cure of many diseases. Indeed, it has now been shown that about the only reliable cure of consumption, the great scourge of modern civilization, is living in the open air both day and night. Even in so bleak a region as New-England people have succeeded in being cured of this disease by sleeping out of doors both winter and summer. It is evident that every house ought to be arranged to have the freest possible circulation of air, and it should be fresh air, not loaded with the odors of pipes, manure piles or other offensive matter. So every farmer, if he cannot prevent bad odors otherwise, ought to keep a supply of the best disinfectants and use them.

The next important item is pure water and plenty of it. If there is no other way to get pure water the supply for drinking should be distilled. This is easily done by having a teakettle spout to extend into a condenser and keep it boiling all the time the stove is running. This will certainly get rid of every germ of disease that is communicable through the stomach. One of the worst of these is typhoid fever. But water should be so abundant as to afford also the greatest plenty for bathing. This is a thing that the great majority of the people do not appreciate as an agent of health and comfort. A great many people are not aware that the skin is the most important organ of the body in getting rid of the poisonous waste matter that is being generated every moment of our lives.

Farm work is necessarily a dirty operation. In hot weather, when the sweat is pouring out and the dust flying, the body is soon covered with a sticky mass that will entirely check the free action of the pores. Therefore every one who does hard work ought to take a good bath and put on clean clothes to sleep in.—(Journal of Agriculture.

DR. SALMON ON TUBERCULOSIS.

Dr. D. E. Salmon, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture, was seen in regard to what the department has drawn in its experiments with tuberculosis.

"This statement of Professor Koch," he said, "I will not attempt to affirm or deny, but like the evidence in, say, a murder case, all that which is said in the negative has no effect with the jury. But let one, or, say, two or three witnesses, come forward who will positively swear that they saw the murder committed, and the chances are that the man will be convicted. So it is with our work along the tuberculosis line. We absolutely know of several cases where human beings have derived consumption from tuberculous cows, and have died as a result. One of these is where a man tore his hand on a piece of jagged wood in a cattle car. Local consumption set in and the man finally died. Another is where a veterinarian accidentally cut his thumb with the knife he had used in making a post-mortem examination of a cow affected with tuberculosis. The result was fatal. As regards the milk theory, I know of a case where a little child, having poison ivy eruptions on its hand had made local applications with milk. The family had used only the milk from a single cow, which was examined after the death of the child, and evidences were found of tuberculosis.—(Tennessee Farmer's Washington letter.

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Mrs. W. Varner, New Germany, N.S., writes: "I have great confidence in Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry for various diseases in old and young. My little boy had a severe attack of summer complaint and I could get nothing to help him until I gave him Strawberry. The action of this remedy was wonderful and soon had him perfectly well."