

EFFICIENT FARMING

RINGWORM.

The results of ringworm invasion are to be noted in many farmyards during the late winter and early spring. Grey colored incrustations about the eyes, lips, ears, or any part of the body where the parasite can obtain lodgment, are noticed. The parasites have great vitality and will live for a long time after removal from the animals. Enough survive the summer periods to carry increased infection to a serious extent during the period when cattle are being fed in stables or small lots in autumn and winter. Cattle and horses running out on pasture during the summer and exposed to sun and rain are generally pretty free of the parasite. The winter is the ringworm's season of thrifty development due largely to lack of attention or faulty management of the herd.

Treatment.—Affected animals should be separated and isolated from the non-affected. It takes a close examination to determine which animals are affected, since the ringworm colonies start from very small centres and may be overlooked. Where the infestation is small the affected animals can be freed of the disease by thoroughly washing the ringworm areas with warm water and soap to remove all crusts. An application of a fifty per cent. solution of tincture of iodine applied once a day over the area will destroy the parasite and permit nature to complete the repair. Where the infestation is widespread in the herd a general clean up of the stable or yard is advised, with liberal use of strong germicidal solutions and whitewash. The disease appears year after year in the same stables, due to the fact that this parasite is a hardy one and can live over the summer season on the walls, posts or mangers of the stable. If there is ringworm in your herd now, get it off your cattle and see that the germ of the parasite is moved out of the stable at the time of spring cleaning. Dollars are lost every spring at public sales simply because animals have ringworm or evidence of recent infection. —L. Stevenson.

POTATO SEED—LARGE, SMALL, OR MEDIUM?

Do you fancy your roast-beef rare, medium or well done? And how about your potato seed—or is it safe to indulge one's fancies in potato seed? Among potato growers there are some who prefer small seed, some who prefer it medium, a few whose choice is large seed, and too many who plant just potatoes. What to select—potato seed large, small or medium?

There are two arguments which are commonly advanced in favor of small seed. It goes farther or can be cut to better advantage than large seed, and if small enough to be planted whole there is less danger of its rotting in the ground. But if one expects maximum yields of potatoes it is poor policy to economize on seed. The quantity of seed planted, other things being equal, determines the stand.

You may secure a maximum stand in one of two ways. Plant small seed pieces close together, the small pieces tending to produce hills with few stems or plants; or large seed pieces farther apart, these seed pieces throwing more stems to the hill. In other words one-ounce seed pieces planted eight inches apart will give very few more plants to the acre than six-ounce seed pieces planted sixteen inches apart. So one really cannot economize in seed and get a perfect stand. Small seed for extremely early planting is a good point if the seed is planted whole.

If small seed comes from good vigorous plants, the yield will equal that of large or medium-sized potatoes. But the majority of small potatoes do not come from the vigorous high-yielding plants, and here lies the danger in planting small seed. As an example, suppose we select our small seed—and by small seed I mean tubers weighing three ounces or less—from a field in which there is, we will say, 15 per cent. of weak or curly-dwarf plants. This 15 per cent. of the stand in an ordinary field may produce 50 per cent. of those potatoes in the crop which fall below commercial size. One can readily see how the planting of small seed from such a field will tend to increase very rapidly the proportion of weak plants.

Those who favor medium-sized potatoes for seed usually advance the argument that the market prefers potatoes of this size and as "like begets like" we must plant seed of medium size if we are to harvest a crop that meets this market ideal. But does "like beget like" when we are dealing with size in potatoes? To a very

great extent at least size is a characteristic determined by such factors as richness of soil, moisture supply, number of stems in the hill, the set of tubers in the hill and the distance between hills.

If a potato of medium size from a normal vigorous plant is planted and grown under environmental conditions conducive to good growth, the resulting crop will be large; and if the stand is thick, the soil poor or the moisture supply scant the crop may even run small from the same seed. So growing a crop of potatoes of medium size is largely a matter of getting just the right stand and the right set for the richness of the soil and the moisture supply.

The selection of large potatoes for seed is both safe and sane. Weak and degenerate plants seldom produce what I would term large potatoes and diseased plants seldom develop large tubers.

The large tubers from any potato crop are the progeny of the most vigorous and likewise the most prolific vines in the field, and their heritage is passed on to the next generation. Potato seed large—but how large? In selecting seed choose the largest specimens in the stock if you like, so long as these large tubers conform to the type of the variety. According to the way the crop is grown it may average large, medium or small, but the larger tubers always represent the most vigorous types. From the average commercial field, potatoes weighing from one pound to one and one-half pounds are a safe-and-sane size.

Do not be afraid of getting seed potatoes too large. If the resulting crop is too large it is not the fault of the seed. You are not planting it thick enough. Large yields come from large seed pieces cut from large seed tubers and planted as close together as the fertility of the soil and the moisture supply will permit.

Varieties of Barley.

Variety is not everything in the growing of grain, but where conditions of soil and climate are the same there is a wide difference in the yield between some of the better varieties and the commoner sorts grown as "just barley" in some parts of the country. Manchurian, known as Ottawa No. 50, says the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa, is one of the most desirable varieties of barley to grow. Tested side by side with other good sorts it has year by year yielded higher crops. This is a selection from a kind of six-rowed barley supposed to be of Asiatic origin. It ripens early and stands well on the straw of fair length. It possesses one weakness in that in windy climates the heads have a tendency to break off and the kernels to shell out. Another sort that has stood the test well at Ottawa and the other experimental farms and stations is known as Ontario Agricultural College No. 21. This also is a selection from an Asiatic sort. This variety resists wind better than Manchurian and it drops its awns more readily in the threshing. It is blamed for being more liable to smut than some of the other kinds, but this is readily overcome by treating the seed with bluestone solution made by dissolving five pounds of bluestone in fifty gallons of water, or formalin may be used in the proportion of one pound to forty gallons of water. Whichever solution is used should be sprinkled over the pile while it is being turned back and forth on a floor until all the grain is moistened. It should be dried by turning from time to time before sowing.

To get rid of rates, use equal parts of cornmeal and plaster of Paris, applied in spoonful amounts in the fields and ditches, about buildings, and in and around the burrows.

One-half olive oil and one-half kerosene will cure warts on humans or beasts. Have tried it, and it always cures.

When lacing a new belt which is to go over fixed pulleys or fixed shafts, the following rule may be followed: Cut the belt short so that it will be tight. To do this, stretch a light wire over the pulleys and get the exact length the belt is to be when stretched. For each foot of wire make the belt from one-sixteenth to three-sixteenths of an inch short, depending on how likely the belt is to stretch. If the wire is twenty-four feet long, for an average belt one should allow one-eighth inch per foot and so cut three inches shorter than the wire.

ROSE GROWING

A garden without roses lacks something that everyone enjoys. No plant has dethroned the rose as the Queen of Flowers, and yet many of our productive gardens yield never a rose bloom. We can, however, grow roses and good ones, almost anywhere in Ontario, but to do so certain fundamental requirements have to be observed.

Much depends on a favorable location. It is advisable to keep it away from the walls of the house. The soil next to the building is usually too dry for roses. The radiation from the building itself is sometimes very trying. This action, together with the confinement and lack of free circulation of air, are favorable to mildew and red spider.

The aspect of the rose garden should be such as to provide abundance of light and free circulation of air, and at the same time sheltered from exposure to cutting northwest winds. A southwest or southeast exposure is usually good.

It is a mistake to mix up roses with other plants for the reason that roses need all the plant food usually available and the soil needs frequent cultivation. Beds should not be wider than will accommodate two rows of plants so laid out as to be easily reached from either side. Indeed a single row might be preferable because the gardener should be able to prune the plants and cut the blooms without the discomfort of crowding between the more lusty members of his thorny family. Better air circulation is also thus provided.

Roses need good soil. Ground that will produce fine crops of tomatoes, corn or even potatoes, with a little special preparation can be depended upon to yield fine roses. The best soil is a heavy loam. Roses require intensive fertilization. Rotted stable manure and bonemeal are probably the best fertilizers.

To make a rose bed excavate to a depth of two and one-half feet, then fill with alternate layers of soil and manure, each about four inches thick, mixed and drained as the filling proceeds, until the bed is four inches higher than it was before the digging began. Bonemeal can be thrown on the pile of excavated earth. A safe rule for using bonemeal is one pound for each two square feet of bed surface, but mixed well through.

Moist soils are more or less acid and a few pounds of hydrated lime scattered on the top of the finished bed will help to modify such a condition. The bed in ten days will be ready for planting.

Roses for outdoor planting are found in the hybrid-perpetual and hybrid-tea classes. The former bloom profusely in June and July and some varieties bloom also in September. The hybrid-tea varieties bloom continuously through the summer and fall months, and the variety of colors and shadings is greater. The hybrid-teas are more tender, requiring better winter protection.

Dormant stock is best for outdoor planting because it has been field grown and has already survived at least one winter.

With most plants it is the custom to set them one or two inches deeper than they were previously, but in planting roses the bud or joint near the root is to be set two to three inches below the surface of the bed.

When planting, prune the tops to two or three buds. By low pruning new growth will start low down, producing more long-stemmed flowers and the appearance of the bed is improved by keeping the growth low.

For freedom of bloom, roses require considerable moisture and during a period of dry weather water them as the rain does, by wetting the earth to a depth of four or five inches and letting this answer for a few days. If the beds are raked frequently a dust mulch is created that helps retain the moisture. Light soil requires more water but a well prepared bed obviates the necessity of constant sprinkling.

New Weights for Bacon Hogs.

A change has been made recently in the weights of hogs grading as select. According to the new standard, hogs to come within this class will weigh 170 to 220 pounds, off cars at stockyards, or 180 to 230 pounds, fed and watered, at stockyards or local shipping points. To come within this select bacon class, the hog must have length of side. The standard length of the ideal "Wiltshire" is 36 inches from neck to knuckle bone. The hog should be of uniform depth with trim, straight underline; the head should be of medium length with a slightly dished face, broad forehead, and rather small firmly attached erect ears fringed with fine hair; the neck should be well muscled with no tendency to arch on top and below, in the vicinity of the jaw, should be trim and not heavy or flabby or

For Home and Country

A Variety of Good Deeds to Their Credit.

One of the best records of all the nineteen branches of the Women's Institutes of Egin, as shown by the recent historical survey made by the members in that county, is that of the third oldest, Rodney, which has a variety of good deeds to its credit. Organized in the spring of 1906, it began with a membership of 38.

During the Great War it devoted itself almost entirely to Red Cross and war work, and every appeal for supplies or money met with a ready response.

In 1912 the W. I. built a grandstand in the agricultural grounds.

On two occasions they put on a sale of articles made in the Institute for the Blind, selling about \$400.00 worth of their baskets, aprons, brooms and other things.

For a number of years they have assumed the management of the Public Library and have also employed a man to keep the cemetery lawn in order. The members of the Institute were instrumental in securing medical inspection for the schools of the town and surrounding country.

One little girl in the town, the child of poor parents, was so very cross-eyed that she had to place a hand over one eye before she could see an

object properly. The W. I. sent the child to the Victoria Hospital, London, where an operation was successfully performed and the eye straightened. They have also sent several donations to the local Children's Shelter.

It was the W. I. which organized the Girl Guides, the Boy Scouts, and the Horticultural Society of the town and placed electric lights in the park. They have also managed the Old Boys' Reunion for several years.

Mr. McGugan of Toronto has offered prizes amounting to \$50 a year for five years for an oratorical contest open to the school children of the Township of Aldborough, and has asked the W. I. to undertake the management of the contest. This they did very successfully last year and are planning to hold the second contest in May of this year.

They have brought Government demonstration-lecture courses on Home Nursing, Dressmaking, and Domestic Science to the community, and themselves study at their regular monthly meetings whatever subjects they consider will be for the good of home and country, following the principle of co-operation by all, and "If you know a good thing, pass it on."

course; the shoulders should be smooth and compact; the back should be slightly arched from neck to tail with a well sprung rib dropping straight; the ham should be smooth and tapering, having no excess bulges of fat. Well finished hogs are of medium width throughout, indicating a full deep loin and a long well-developed rump; finish is of the utmost importance.

BUYING TOWN PROPERTY

BY HILDA RICHMOND.

Every spring quite a few farmers who have endured a hard winter with little help, or who have had illness in the family, or who want to leave the homestead to younger hands and move to town, seriously consider buying a home in the nearest town and taking life easy.

Some farmers start in an over-cautious way, and are the bane of every real estate agent. They set a price, usually an extremely low price, and refuse to consider anything above that figure. Knowing the value of land well they refuse to believe that town property has advanced, and argue that it is highway robbery to ask such prices as town residents expect.

Real estate in town has kept pace rising in value with country places, and the farmer who wants to buy a modern house in a good location must pay for it. It is far better to buy a place in good repair at a fair figure than to trust the glib-tongued agent that "a couple hundred dollars will fix up this place all right," when the paint, the plumbing, the foundation, the furnace and the plastering are defective. Materials and men are hard to get, and the man who expects to repair an old or run-down house must multiply the agent's statement by about ten and then not be surprised if it runs beyond that figure.

HOW FAR TO SCHOOL? The distance to the stores, to church, to school, to places of business and to work, if the farmer expects to work or any members of his family expect to work, should be taken into consideration. The number of mail deliveries, the drainage, the fire protection, the possibility of renting a vacant lot near by to have a garden, the neighborhood, and a dozen and one other factors enter into the satisfaction or dissatisfaction of the family.

The majority of farmers think the edge of town where they can enjoy all the advantages of town and country combined is the ideal location, but usually such a selection results in dissatisfaction. The keeping of a cow that seems to promise so much fails, because there is no cow pasture within a mile or so; keeping a pig gets the owner into trouble with the town laws; the mail comes later than it did on the farm; the dust is unbearable on account of the great amount of traffic where all roads lead to town; deliveries from the grocery store are few and very uncertain; water, gas and sewage problems loom large in the housekeeping problems, etc., etc.

The wise plan is to select a convenient house as good as you can afford, in a good location, for such a house is always saleable, and if the farmer decides to go back to the farm it is easily sold.

Promises make debts and debts promises.



Billy Pig Learns Cider.

BY ENOS B. COMSTOCK.

This is the story of little Billy Pig and a very funny mistake he made, not such a stupid mistake either, when one stops to think of it.

Billy was very fond of apples. He would go a long way to get to an orchard if he thought he was to be rewarded by finding a few nice red apples on the ground or somewhere within reach. Billy had a most delightful recollection of having once found a pair of nice sweet cider on a doorstep and he had gotten a delicious taste of it before being driven away.

Now Billy had no idea how cider was made but he was a bright little pig and always on the alert to learn something. One day in the early spring, he and his mother were walking through a grove when Billy discovered that a number of the trees had queer little tin things driven into them, about a foot from the ground. "Troughs," he heard the farmer call them. Queer name. Just above the trough small holes had been bored in the trees and from these holes something that looked like water trickled down into the troughs and dropped into the pails placed on the ground under them.

"That," said Mother Sow, "is maple sap. In the spring it flows up through the trunks of the trees and, in order to get it, men tap the trees as you see them. You may taste it if you like." Of course Billy "liked," so he took a drink of sap from one of the pails. He was somewhat disappointed. He liked the flavor of apple cider much better.

The next day, as Mrs. Sow was strolling about the field, near the orchard, she saw Billy standing by one of the apple trees looking anxiously down into a pail placed at its base. A tiny trough led from the tree down into the pail. "Why, Billy," said his gentle mother, "that is an apple tree! If you want to get sap, you must tap a maple tree."

"But, dear mother," replied Billy, very seriously, "I do not care to get sap. I want to get some nice apple cider. If maple sap comes from a maple tree, why doesn't apple cider come from an apple tree. Isn't it apple sap?"

"No, apple cider comes from apples. Mother Nature sent the sap up the tree trunk and along the branches to the blossoms and finally into the apples themselves."

Billy Pig gave a very discouraged grunt. "If apple-tree juice is apple cider," he complained, "why isn't maple-tree juice called maple cider?"

But Mother Sow heard the farmer's wife rattle a pail down in the pig yard and toddled off to see if there was something to eat. So Billy Pig's lesson came to an end.

A library is often a room in which there are too many volumes and not enough books.

Broken phonograph records may be softened by placing in hot water, then while warm they can be cut in pieces of any desired shape. You can use the pieces for such purposes as making scoops for the feed bins, and funnels. In making a funnel, I cut the desired size, bend into shape, lap the edges, then draw a hot iron down the seam, thereby welding it. Many useful toys can be made for the children.—E. A. S.