

The Old and the Young ARE ALIKE CURED BY THE USE OF GATES' FAMILY MEDICINES.

AVONDALE, Platon Co., January 14, 1896.
Messrs. C. Gates, Son & Co.:
Dear Sirs.—This is to certify that my father had an attack of the La Grippe, about four years ago. The doctor was called and said he could do nothing for him as he was so old, being then 84, but when there is life there is hope, and having your Bitters and Syrup in the house, we began to give them to him, when he got better, and after about three months was entirely recovered. He is now in his 85th year and is well and hearty. Your CERTAIN CHECK speedily cured a neighbor woman of Cholera-morbus. My grandchild, about two months old, was taken with Diarrhoea and was taking doctor's medicine for some weeks, but it continued getting worse and it became chronic, so that the child got to look like an old person; it was plain to be seen the life was fast ebbing away. Now I had your CERTAIN CHECK in the house but not at that time being acquainted with its use I was for some days afraid to give it to a child so young and weak. I was convinced if the child did not get immediate relief it would die, so I told its mother to put 2 or 3 drops of the CERTAIN CHECK in its bottle (as it drank from the bottle) and in about 24 hours it was noticed the child was a little better, this was continued for about a week when it was all right, and is today a healthy child. I am, Gentlemen,
Yours very truly,
DAVID MURRAY.

Sworn before me this 15th day of January, 1896.
ANGUS McDONALD, J. P.

WHISTON & FRAZEE'S.

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The Farm

Benefits of Dust Mulch.

I sincerely thank the Tribune for the good advice it gave to me some time ago about bringing up exhausted soil. I am now following your advice. As I find in the agricultural columns every week sound, practical directions and hints to the farmers, I take it for granted that the editor understands farming well, in all its branches, hence I come seeking more advice. When we came to Virginia in 1895, dry weather set in July 14, in 1896 on July 26; but this year it began June 18. Since then it has been very hot and dry; for days the thermometer stood at 110 degrees in the shade; vegetation of all kinds is suffering. This leads me to ask you for your good advice.

First—It is claimed that frequent surface stirring of the soil about growing vegetation will preserve the moisture in the soil. If this be true, should sandy or a sandy loam soil be stirred often in order to preserve moisture, or would the frequent stirring of such soil hasten evaporation and then dry up the soil more quickly by admitting the air?

Second—It is claimed that cultivating and stirring the soil during the hot hours of the day in a Southern climate is detrimental to the then growing vegetation or crops; is this true? If so, why? As these are questions many a farmer may be interested in, be so good and give your advice in the Tribune's agricultural columns at your earliest convenience, since cultivating of crops is now at hand, and oblige your reader and others interested.—J. A. F. SHEFFLER, Petersburg, Va.

Mr. Sheffler's question is a timely one, for it is evident that many readers—and some writers perhaps—do not fully understand how that which is popularly known as "dust mulch" effects its purpose, which is the conservation of the moisture in the ground. This moisture, it is well known, is brought to the surface by capillary attraction, which never ceases in its action when the air is warm and dry and the earth is compact. The water left in the ground in spring, or that sufficiently near the surface to be available for the small roots of young plants, is evaporated soon after the planting is finished, if there are no rains and the ground is not cultivated. Of course, a steady supply is being brought up from the lower depths, but not so rapidly as it is carried off by the air.

If rain falls, the earth is beaten down and becomes more compact than before; the water settles with it, only to be drawn up again through the millions of capillary tubes which have thus been made more numerous and more effective; and, if a rainless period follows, the good results are soon dissipated. Everybody knows that a covering of hay or straw spread over the garden will prevent the drying of the surface for a long time. The mulch will become dry and brittle in the sun, but if it is lifted the ground will be found moist under it. The capillary tubes in the earth come to an end when they reach this coarse litter. A "dust mulch"—the stirring of the earth—accomplishes the same purpose in the same way.

By breaking up the soil for the depth of an inch or more from the surface, the capillary tubes or pores of the earth, are broken and the mechanical rise of the water is stopped when the dust mulch begins. Some moisture will evaporate through the mulch, but it will not disappear more rapidly than its place will be supplied.

The frequency with which the surface should be stirred depends upon weather conditions. If rain destroys your mulch, making it compact, put on your harrow or cultivator as soon as the ground can be worked to advantage, or most of the beneficial effects of the rain will soon be lost. Mr. Sheffler lays stress in both his ques-

tions on this matter of frequency. I see no reason why the "dust mulch," while it remains such, should be disturbed; when it ceases to be a mulch, it should be reconverted into one without delay—whatever the soil and whatever the climate the result will be only good.—Oaklawn-Pelham.

Planting Shade Trees and Windbreaks.

Farmers generally do not take advantage of the very easy and sure way of adding value to their real estate by planting our native trees in neat lines along roadsides and lanes, around buildings and yards and in clumps on waste or unsightly places or bluffs that are too rough for cultivation. These places planted with black walnut I believe will be as good an investment as the same area of apple orchard on suitable soil, although dividends would not be realized from the walnut timber as early as from the apples.

American black walnut can be grown better by planting the nuts directly where the trees are wanted as the walnut is a little difficult to transplant owing to the large taproot and absence of fibrous roots; this condition applies to most of the nut-bearing trees. The walnut begins to bear at "Maple Glen" (our correspondent's fruit farm.—Ed.) when planted from the nursery, about eight to ten years, and although quite strong flavored, are relished by some people. For planting, the nuts should be gathered when ripe and not allowed to dry, and can be kept out-doors by packing in box of sand, or may be planted directly where desired about three inches deep, mulching lightly and keeping down grass and weeds. Use plenty of manure. When once started they increase in diameter about one-half inch every year. To lovers of trees they are attractive and add variety to the collection.

American sweet chestnut is grown for commercial purposes mostly in its natural state, but when planted in the clearance makes a good shade tree. The leaves are nicely serrated and glossy, giving the tree a beautiful appearance.

Hickory nuts have grown quite popular in the markets, and in selecting for planting only use from trees bearing good-sized, plump mated nuts. These and the chestnut require the same treatment as mentioned for the walnut.

Basswood when planted in the clearance forms a very pretty, compact shaped head, and besides being valuable for a timber, shade and ornamental tree, is a source of the best crop of honey, produced by any plant grown in Canada, and as our forests are being destroyed it would be wise to have the basswood planted extensively for the encouragement of apiculture so valuable to fruit growers and farmers to insure fertilization of flowers. They can be propagated from seeds.—Alf. Brown, Prince Edward Co., Ont.

Poultry Yard.

Skim milk fed to poultry will give as satisfactory results as when fed to hogs.

For feed for geese at this season scald meal and shorts, with a little scraps, boiled potatoes or turnips, and give them all they will eat, with a little corn once a day.

Samuel Cushman R. I: Old geese lay more eggs and are more reliable than young geese. If geese must be purchased it often saves time to buy young geese rather than try to secure any number of old ones. Young ganders are better for breeding than young geese. Young geese do not lay as many fertile eggs or produce as many goslings the first breeding season as they do the second. If geese are often changed from one place to another, they are apt not to breed well, and the other conditions being equal they breed better the third season they are in a locality than the second.

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