February 15, 1899.

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MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

* The Farm. *

Special Manuring.

The question, "What crops will be specially benefited by a given fertilizing element?" is often asked. Professor Kedzie of Michigan offers in bulletin No. 161 what he characterizes as not a full answer but "a few suggestions ?"

The leguminous crops, such as the clovers, peas, Jbeans, vetches, etc., are called nitrogen producers, because they derive most of their nitrogen from the air, and they receive little benefit from the use of nitrogenous manures. Sugar beets produce a much larger crop when fed with manures rich in nitrogen, but the quality of the beet is greatly reduced, the overgrown beets containing an increased amount of nonsaccharine matter, lowering the coefficient of purity. Such manures and unfermented stable manure are avoided in raising sugar beets. Combined nitrogen is often called a stimulant, because it promotes a rapid and large growth of leaf and fiber. In truck farming and raising of succulent crops for immediate sale in the market the forcing quality of nitrogen comes in good play. This is seen in the growth of juicy fruits like the strawberry. Some gardeners as soon as the frost is out of the ground and whiter mulch is removed apply yoo to 400 pounds per acre of dried blood or hen manure, raking it inito the ground and sub the strawberry comes thereby

and securing a larger crop thereby. The purest example of a nitrogenous manure is nitrate of soda. It is entirely soluble in water, and hence diable to be washed out of the soil in a wet spell unless a growing crop appropriates it and saves from loss. In a very dry season it sometimes "burns the crop." Its best effect is seen when it is applied to a crop which has little power to obtain a supply of nitrogen, yet needs to make rapid growth in *e* short time to produce a paying crop. A good illustration is winter wheat, which makes such a wonderful growth in the latter part of May and in June in leaf and stalk formation. If a light dressing (100 pounds per acre) was sown on the wheatfield the fore part of May, better heading out and more wheat might be the result.

No plant can grow in the absence of phosphates, and these must be found in the soil. They are necessary for every crop, but are specially beneficial for certain crops—the clovers and other crops of this class, turnips and all root crops and grain crops of every kind. One special influence of phosphates—viz, the early ripening of crops—makes this fertilizing element of special value to market gardeners who raise melons, squashes, grapes, etc., that are liable to injury by froat in the fall. A difference of two weeks in ripening may make the difference be tween profit and loss.

Potash is in universal demand in plash life. It is in demand with potatoes and other roots, the grasses and clover. Fruit trees require a large amount of potash. The ash of grapevine contains 29 per cent. and of the apple tree 12 per cent. of potash, and fruits are called "potash Results feeders."

* * *

Care of Cows.

The dairyman who treats his cows with the most consideration is the dairyman who makes the most money. When well fed and not disturbed about her calf, the average cow will lie and chew the cud of contentment for hours, and while thus undisturbed will secrete all the milk possible from the food she has eaten. Yet the domestic cow, if she be a good milker, has a capacity for becoming nervous and excitable such as the ox or spayed cow cannot rival. At all times the first class milk cow must be a hearty feeder. So long as she is given all she wants she may be quiet enough, but if placed in a pature where the food is insufficient or too poor in quality the quiet cow will boon develop roving instincts and will break through fences in order to get at what abe likes.

fences in order to get at what abe likes. A. H. Hartwig, a veterinary surgeon of Watertown, Wis., has just removed

the injured leg of a valuable cow belonging to a farmer of Ixionia and has fitted the stump with a serviceable wooden leg. The farmer did not want to lose his cow by shooting, the usual American manner of curing such injuries, so the surgeon was called. The medical man decided he could remove the leg, and when it was sufficiently healed the could adjust an artificial limb, which would answer all purches.

practical purposes. Much of the abuse of cows is due to hired help on the farm. George R. Newell, writing in the Boston Cultivator, says that the average hired man does not study into the whys and wherefores of things. He simply performs the labor mapped out for him to do either in a good, bad or indifferent manner. It is to him so much manual or mechanical labor, nothing more. The dairyman tells his man to go and

get the cows and milk them, but he fails to tell him what to do and what not to do in carrying out this procedure. To expedite matters the hired man may

as a beginning take along a shepherd dog to the pasture and bring the cows in on the run. In milking he follows out his own way rather than any plan directed by his employer.

He brushes or does not brush the cow's ndders, according as he sees fit, dips his fingers in the milking pail to moisten their teats at his own pleasure, strips them hastily or treats the animals roughly, as inclination moves him. His instructions go no further than to say, "Milk the cows," with no orders as to how to milk them.

Sabordinates engaged in dairy work should be as well trained in what they are to do and how they are to do it as are soldiers. The mind that directs the dairy and sees that his directions are minufely followed is the one that will make the dairy pay.

Insect Pests.

Insects of various kinds lay eggs upon the stems and canes of currants, raspberries and other 'plants, the larve of which bore the canes and cause the shoots to wilt and die. There is no wholesale method of destroying these pests. The only remedy is to cut the stem off a few inches below where it is bored and burn it. This necessitates going through the patch occasionally, watching closely for wilted canes. In many sections these pests do considerable damage, and by watching their appearance and destroying them as fast as found a great deal of trouble may be saved in future. Never allow any kind of an injurious insect to become established on your place, if you can help it.--Mirror and Farmer.

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