

Soils & Woods

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PICKING APPLES IS AN ART.

Picking apples is a fine art. To begin with, one must get them off without injuring the tree at all, and that requires no little skill. And then the fruit itself must not be bruised or damaged in the least, and that requires still more skill.

For the protection of the tree, care and good ladders are all that are required, but they are enough. If one has the three-legged stepladders, some of them fairly long, a good share of the fruit may be picked without the ladders touching the trees to any extent. That also does away with the knocking off of apples, which is sure to happen more or less when the long orchard ladders are leaned up against a tree laden with fruit.

The fruit in the top of the tree must, of course, be picked from a long orchard ladder, provided the trees are full sized, but if one has the type of ladder with the side pieces coming together in a point at the top, and if care is used in placing them against the trees, little damage will result. The picking of the last few scattering apples in the high and outlying branches is always a problem.

If one will equip his force with one or two of the so-called apple pickers the work may be done quickly and efficiently. These pickers are of various types, but in general are some sort of wire basket with wire fingers to slip around the apple and pull it off.

The last factor in this problem of getting the crop off without injuring the tree is to see that the fruit spurs are left.

In preventing damage to the apples themselves a few simple rules are all one needs observe.

Don't pull the stem out of the apple. Don't toss the apple into the basket. Don't pour the apples from the basket into the storage box or barrel, or if you do pour them let it be done very carefully.

To insure leaving the spur on the tree, and picking the stem with the apple, simply place your finger or thumb alongside the stem, give a quick side twist to the fruit, and the stem will separate at the joint between it and the spur.

LENGTHENING THE PERIOD OF USEFULNESS OF SIRS.

It is a lamentable fact that many sirs that have later proven to be valuable breeders have a limited period of usefulness to their breeders due to the fact that they were disposed of before their breeding ability became known. Early disposal is sometimes due to a disinclination to risk the insecurity to life and limb entailed in keeping aged breeding animals around, but more often is due to the gradual impotency, indisability of inbreeding and the lack of facilities for keeping two herd sirs. Be the causes what they may, the fact remains that, in many cases, better use could be made of many of the outstanding sirs in the country that meet with slaughter while still in prime breeding condition.

With most classes of stock, proper care, comfortable quarters, plenty of exercise, and due cautions on the part of the attendant reduces impotency in the animal and the risk of attendants being injured by aged sirs to a minimum.

Also in most classes of stock, the get of the sire mature sufficiently early to enable a fair estimate to be made, through the get, of the breeding ability of the sire before the latter has to be disposed of to avoid inbreeding. Such being the case, it would seem advisable for the breeder to study his breeding results closely and retain as long as he possibly can those sirs that show outstanding merit.

Co-operation with neighbors or other breeders (where accredited herd regulations will allow in such a way that sirs may be exchanged for

a number of years and then be used again in the original herd is one method that could be resorted to on the part of the first owner of a tried and proven sire. Another method that should prove workable is for two parties conveniently situated who have valuable tried sirs to exchange services for such of their own animals as are closely related to their own sirs. Following out these suggestions would extend the usefulness of a bull, for instance, from the usual three or four years to seven or eight years.

The greatest possibilities, however, in extending the period of usefulness of proven sirs are in getting the value of these proven sirs and to buy them whenever possible in preference to the untried young sire. Instances where number could be quoted where money has been lost and years of breeding have been wasted, so far as improvement of herds and flocks was concerned, through the use of untried sirs that have proven misfits.

On the other hand, many good proven sirs that have been offered for sale have gone to the slaughter house for want of a buyer. In the interests of the breed and the advancement of breeding generally, every owner of a tried and proven sire should, when he is through with him, endeavor to put him in the hands of someone who can make further use of him. Likewise, anyone looking for a new sire should see that the supply of tried and proven sirs is exhausted before purchasing a young unproven one.

This system is followed as between the Central and Branch Experimental Farms, and has given excellent results.

ROBBING AND HOW TO PREVENT IT.

Bees, like some people, if given the opportunity, will steal from one another rather than work. This, however, happens usually only in times of scarcity.

A robber bee is characterized by its nervous actions. It will fly cautiously up to the entrance of a hive, and when it sees a bee coming towards it, it will quickly dodge back; or it will search the walls of a hive in the hope of finding some unguarded crack through which it can crawl. An old offender has a shiny appearance, the result of crawling through cracks or being roughly handled by the guards. On leaving the robbed hive, it has a plump look and unlike the inmates which come out leisurely, it is in a hurry and takes wing with difficulty owing to its load.

It is the beekeeper's duty, therefore, to prevent his bees acquiring such dishonest habits by seeing that all sweets are left exposed at any time; that all cracks and openings in the walls of the hive are closed with mud or clay; that when hives are opened the work be done speedily; that feeding, if any, be done in the evening; and that entrances be consistent in size with the strength of the colony. Should disease be present, these measures are doubly necessary to prevent not only robbing and its disastrous results, but also what is infinitely worse, the spreading of the disease.

Should robbing start, prompt action is necessary. Contract the entrance so that but two or three bees can enter abreast; then strew a handful of coarse grass over it and sprinkle with a dipperful of water. This puts the robbers at a disadvantage, as the bees of the colony will attack them as they crawl through the wet grass.

Should the robbed colony, however, stand in danger of being overcome, carry it down into the cellar and leave it there until the uproar subsides. Coal oil wiped over all junctions of the hives acts as an excellent repellent.—A. H. W. Birch, Apiarist.

human "clay" it is not so easy to be given over. The clay hardens as we go.

Habits are necessary but they must be good habits. If we had not the habit of cleanliness we should have to think about cleanliness and to use will power and energy forcing ourselves to cleanliness. With a habit of cleanliness we wash ourselves and clean our teeth without exerting conscious energy to make ourselves do it. With the habit of good table manners we behave ourselves with becoming propriety and do not have to make an effort to do so.

Very little children do not reason. Their reasoning powers are not developed. They do as they are told or do not do as they are told according to what they find out about the discipline of their elders. A child of two years will learn obedience if he is trained by proven sirs and he learns that the government over him is lax. He has an excellent memory. If he tried to run away the day before yesterday when he had been told not to and managed to do it two or three times, he will keep on trying and will pay no attention to a command. If he finds that the day before yesterday and yesterday and every other day when he ran away that he was brought back and spoken to unpleasantly or punished, he will soon get into a habit of obedience about running away.

But that does not mean that he will have the habit of obedience about other things. He does not reason that far. He has to be brought into a habit of obedience with every single thing he does, until the habit of obeying a command is a fixed one.

Physical habits have to be inculcated before mental habits can be formed. In infancy the child is purely physical. Mental development comes later and with it must come the establishing of mental habits. The infant must be taught the habit of sleep at regular hours. This can not be done by putting him to bed one day at five o'clock and another at seven.

Fear is a habit of mind. Sulkiness, obstinacy, selfishness, inattention, are all mind habits. Constant example is the best antidote for such habits. The child who lives in a home where cheerfulness is the keynote no matter what the difficulties, is more or less bound to be cheerful. Sulkiness is pretty sure to fade away under the influence of a happy smile and pleasant words. Ridicule does harm instead of good, since it engenders a habit of self-consciousness and resentment. Scolding is worse. Nothing but steady, happy molding will do the work.

Thumb-sucking is one of the most easily acquired of baby habits. It is a bad habit. It misshapes the mouth, pulls the gums out of shape, encourages adenoids. To break it, the child must form another habit with his hand—the habit of keeping it away from his mouth. The only way to do this is not to allow his hand to reach the mouth until he has forgotten the habit.

TRAINING SHOULD BE POSITIVE. Child training should be positive instead of negative as far as possible. Of course if a child contracts a bad habit that habit must be broken. Or, in other words, he must be given a good habit to take the place of the bad one.

Reading is a habit formed in childhood or never. Church-going is a habit that must be begun early and kept to steadily through youth. Ser-

vice to one's family and to one's neighbors is a habit that inter will develop into service for one's community and to humanity at large. Generosity is a habit. So is selfishness. If the child is encouraged to be generous with playthings, the man will be generous with his house, his automobile, his money and his self.

Those who are molding the clay should not be chary of praise. Especially in overcoming a bad habit. The child who habitually uses good manners will not expect praise for doing what is all he knows how to do.

Sunshine for Chicken Roosts.

Most chicken roosts are forever hidden from the sun and cleaning is a doubtful process, but one poultryman has devised a plan by which he sterilizes the roosts in the sun and air after spraying. This is adaptable to small houses only.

He nailed a cleat below one end of the roosts, clinching them together. Then the other ends were allowed to project through the side of the house so they just came flush with the outside. A stop board cleated them together at that end and also closed up the holes in the building and kept out the weather. The inside cleats tend upon one below it to support the roosts at the desired height.

When cleaning time came the owners just pulled out the roosts their full length, supporting them by a stake underneath, and proceeded with the cleaning outdoors. When finished and aired, the roosts were simply pushed back into the building onto their inside supporting cleat.

Artificial Light in Summer.

Although the use of artificial light in the control of egg production is largely confined to the late fall and winter months, it has been found that it is worth while to use some artificial light as early as the first of August.

Observation of the way hens lay leads to the conclusion that although marked changes in temperature tend to bring about corresponding changes in egg yield, there is quite a tendency for egg production to anticipate somewhat the seasonal changes in length of day.

Spring egg production reaches its peak considerably in advance of the longest day of the year and the lowest point of production comes some weeks before the shortest day of the year.

Reasoning from this basis one may explain, at least in part, the favorable results in egg laying which follow the use of some artificial light as early as August, while the natural daylight still exceeds twelve hours.

Try a Short Chain.

An eight-foot log chain has been part of my farming outfit for six years. I had a grab hook and a round hook welded on the ends.

I use this chain four times where I use the twenty-foot ones once. It's easy to carry, quick to hitch on any tool and will stand any pull.

When I take a few sacks of fertilizer to the field and want it moved up to where I work, the short chain quickly connects to the drill and the wagon moves where I want it without unhitching. This chain will get a load of poles or a log where I want it easier than a long one.

Maybe you've broken a chain which can be fixed up into a short one. You'll never regret it.—E. R.

Home Education

"The Child's First School is the Family"—Frederick

Wet Blankets—By Ethel G. Peterson

Agnes rushed excitedly into the room, intent on telling the family about the tennis match. She had not finished two sentences when Jack, who had reached the fastidious stage in his existence, interrupted.

"Gee, you're a sight! Mother, can't you make her fix her hair better? It's forever tumbling down; other chaps' sisters don't look the way she does."

Mrs. Norris said gently, "Jack, let Agnes tell her story."

Agnes made a grimace at Jack, but went on with her tale, an account of the game she had won against odds. She was making a very good narrative of it, but now it was Big Sister who said, "Don't talk so fast. Nobody can understand a word you say."

Agnes ignored this too, but when a minute later her father remarked mildly, "Daughter, bully is not a nice word for a young lady to use," the child, already overwrought with the strain of the game, burst into tears, and left the room, sobbing out, "When I tell you folks anything again, you'll know it!"

The family commented in resigned tones on Agnes' dreadful temper, but my sympathies were all with the girl, for I remembered my own childhood. I was the intense, emotional type, my mother calm, reserved, and a purist in the use of English.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

ARE YOU POLITE AND COURTEOUS?

Are you courteous, day by day, and do you make a constant effort to be so? Even common courtesy and politeness are not found as often as they should be. And yet anyone who is continuously courteous is making himself, thereby, very popular with everyone he meets. For courtesy and politeness are great assets that often have a real monetary value. It pays to be polite. A business concern, where politeness and courtesy are practiced, is one to which customers are naturally drawn. And, more than that, it makes for acquaintance and, later, possibly, friendship. Also your exercise of politeness and courtesy at all times will make you a lady, or a gentleman, in the fullest sense of the words, in the eyes of others. If we want to be workers, who leave behind a mark of progress and betterment, we should be polite and courteous at all times to everyone. It takes brains to be clever, but it takes character to be a real lady or gentleman.

ON THE WRONG ROAD.

At the crossroads the sign post was down, and Jackie Rabbit, Johnnie Muskrat and Willie Woodchuck all wanted to take a different road home. But when Johnnie Muskrat drew the longest in the "outs" they started off down the road he thought was the one that would take them back to Woodland. These three little Woodland boys didn't like it one bit to be lost, and hurried along so they could get home before dark.

I would rush in all eagerness to share my news with Mother. Probably her first comment would be, "Alice, your voice is several octaves too high. Get it down."

A little subdued, I would recommend, only to hear, "That word is accented on the first syllable, not on the second."

When I had been stopped several times in that fashion, my enthusiasm had evaporated. Mother, noticing this, would laughingly say, "Now go on and tell me about it. I simply wanted to call your attention to that word before I forgot."

And many times I too floundered out of the room with the silent resolve never to tell Mother anything again. Now, I know that it was Mother's love for me, her deep desire that I should excel, that made her critical, but to this day I have a fear of her criticism of any talk I may give, or any article I may write—the childish impression is still too strong. And as a consequence, Mother has been hurt many times at my reserve over my personal affairs.

So I have firmly resolved that both for my sake and theirs, I will not "wet blanket" my children's first enthusiasms. If criticism must come, let it be later, after the first excitement has worn off.

All the way, Jackie Rabbit was very much in doubt about their being on the right road. Several times he scratched his head and wondered. Everything looked strange to him, even the big trees looked different. Willie Woodchuck didn't have much to say about it, but he, too, was rather doubtful and all the time his fat little legs were getting more tired.

It wasn't long before they came to where the woods were thinner and a little way farther on there was only here and there a tree. Finally they came to the open fields where there were no trees at all.

"I don't think this is the way home," said Willie Woodchuck, "mother always taught me to beware of the open fields. She said a man with a gun could easily see you there."

"Don't be a coward, Willie," said Johnnie, "Let's go on a little farther." Soon they came to a village, but it didn't look at all like their own little village in Woodland.

"This isn't Woodland," said Jackie Rabbit. "We must be a long, long way from home."

"Yes, but where, where?" lamented Willie Woodchuck. "I'm getting awfully tired. These houses are so big, twice as big as ours, and they are all built on stones. I never saw stone houses before. On the sign it said Stoneyville, and this must be the place. We must have come the wrong way."

"Who lives in Stoneyville?" asked Jackie Rabbit. "I don't know," said Johnnie Muskrat, "but I'll knock at this door and see if they can tell us the way to Woodland."

It took a lot of courage for Johnnie to go up to the door, but he knew he should for it was his mistake. As he went up the path, he was saying to himself, "I won't be a coward." But all the time his knees trembled and he wished more than he had ever wished in his life that he was home. At the end of the path Jackie and Willie waited for him.

"Rap tap tap!" In a minute, but it seemed like several minutes to Johnnie Muskrat, the door opened and there stood a man whom his mother had always taught him to fear. Of course Jackie and Willie saw him too.

It is hard to say who was more surprised, the man to see these three little Woodland boys in his front yard, or the boys to learn that a man lived in that big stone house. Added to the Woodland boys' surprise, they were terribly frightened. To think that one of them had dared to knock right on a man's door!

But they didn't stop one minute to consider it or to ask questions. They took to their heels as fast as they could go, dodging behind bushes and bunches of grass until they had left Stoneyville far behind.

Feed the Pullets Liberally.

It is easy to make the mistake of not feeding pullets on range all that they ought to have at this season. In the first place they are, or should be, growing rapidly. This means that their requirements for maintenance are increasing steadily. Furthermore, the natural feeds that have been available to them are no longer so plentiful.

It is probably true that thousands of pullets will fail to give maximum egg production this fall because of too little feed during the last of the growing season. None will be injured by overfeeding.

Especially should liberal grain feeding be practiced in order to keep the pullets in good flesh and to prepare them for winter egg production.

In looking for a place to sell fruit, a microscope is a good instrument to use, states one successful farmer. It may be there are people close by who would be willing to pay a good price for fruit if they knew about it.

Russia in Europe and Asia has a population of about 125,000,000.

MY LATE FALL GARDEN

BY F. F. ROCKWELL

I had a garden several years before I realized that I was making it work only about half-time. Since I learned to make it put in full time, I've wondered each year why more farmers don't realize the possibilities of the late fall garden.

On most farms there is plenty of land available, but even where the space is limited, there will be ground where spring and summer crops have matured that can be used again. I use a two-way hillside plow, which will turn over narrow strips without leaving any dead furrow. It is a good plan to rake in a dressing of fertilizer with a high percentage of ammonia, as it is important to give these late plantings a quick start. I have one line of overhead irrigation which I can move around to give a good wetting right after planting so as not to lose any time getting the crop up and started.

I plant bush beans, spinach, turnips, mustard (fine for greens), radishes, and also plants of lettuce, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, and kale, these latter being good, big, stocky plants which have lots of room to develop. The later the planting is done the more important it is to use an early variety of whatever is being sown.

To make sure of rapid growth, I give a top-dressing of nitrate of soda as soon as the plants are well started. Frequent cultivation is also important to keep the ground active.

Several of these late planted crops will not reach full maturity, but for storing and canning they are all the better. The beans, for instance, usually give us two or three pickings of delicious, tender young pods that are so much better than those ordinarily canned that there is no comparison. The same is true of the beets, which are most delicious when only an inch or so in diameter; and they will keep in perfect condition in the cellar, where mature roots, such as we used to store before we found this better way, will wilt and be as tough as leather.

Cloth-Wrapped Wires.

To preclude the necessity of school children climbing and damaging his fences on their way to and from school, a farmer wrapped the wires between two posts with pieces of burlap. This allowed the youngsters to slide between the wires in safety and saved the farmer the trouble and worry of keeping several sections of fence stapled onto the posts.

The same idea is adaptable to other places about the farm where gates are impracticable and where occasion often arises for climbing through fences.

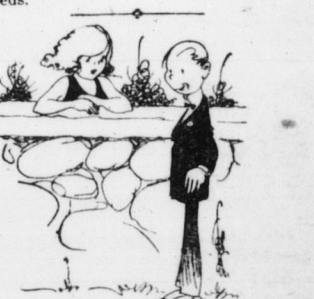
Hand-Bent Pipes.

Quite often on the farm there arises the need of pipes with bends to them, but the average man is inclined to think that only a mechanic with special tools can bend a pipe. This is a mistaken notion.

All that is required is to fill the pipe with dry sand, plugging both ends securely, and apply heat at the precise point where the bend is desired.—H. H.

It is becoming more and more apparent to farmers who produce good eggs that they can, as a rule, secure better year-round prices for this product where they cater to a demand that is reasonably near home.

The alfalfa grower succeeds best with a fine seed-bed, vigorous adapted seed, and sweet soil. He will, however, do well to give the new seedling plenty of plant food to enable it to go through the first winter successfully. Often this can be satisfactorily done on many soils with a good application of acid phosphate or a high-analysis fertilizer. Some hold that for this purpose the fertilizer is preferable to manure because of avoiding weed seeds.



"Jennie said I was one man in a thousand."

"Ridiculous! She's never engaged to so many."

Pauline's Peril.

One day when Pauline's mother was reading to the child, she came to the word gravitation. The meaning of this she explained to Pauline, telling her how it was that people stayed on the earth. A few days later Pauline came running into the house with the announcement:

"Mother! It's a good thing for me there's a law of gravitation; if there wasn't I'd have surely tumbled head over heels into heaven just now!"

Have patience! Turn the stone till the axe is sharp. The work that it will do will pay you twice over.

Your Baby's Habits

Mother is the Moulder of the Human "Clay"

BY DELLA T. LUTES.

There is a little pottery in our town where some ambitious and imaginative girls turn out lovely things. I went down there recently to see them work. I watched the big lump of dull looking clay being shaped by the wheel—a stupid thing it seemed, lopping this way and that and having to be held firmly in place by the hand of the potter. Then the wheel began to turn and the clay to take shape. It was a vase the girl was modelling and at first it was rather a bulky affair with humps on its surface here and there and not giving much promise of its later loveliness.

Round and round went the wheel. Firmly and deftly the fingers of the potter molded and pressed and shaped. Never for a moment did her eye leave the work she was doing. Finally grace and lightness took the place of ugly, lumpy form. Symmetrical and lovely, the creation was finally placed before us. Later in the week I saw

the vase again, a thing now of exquisite coloring and glaze. The hand of the potter had shaped the clay to grace and beauty and applied the finish, the coating of color and smooth shineness that covered all its gross beginning.

The likening of the molding of human character to the potter's wheel is an old simile but I do not know a better one. The infant is but a bit of clay, lumpy, lumpy, ready to be made into anything at all. The hand of the potter is all powerful with this human clay as with the bit of earth.

FORMING CHARACTER.

Character is formed through habit. Habit of thought, of act, of deed. And habits are formed in infancy, childhood and youth. This is the molding period. Then the clay is wet, pliable. If the potter lets his clay harden it must be wet up again and the molding begun over. With the



CONQUERORS OF ROBSON'S LOFTY PEAK

Members of the first parties of Alpine Club members to climb Mount Robson, 13,068 feet high and Monarch of the Canadian Rockies. Upper photo shows first party on snow ridge at the summit of Mount Robson, with Dr. H. F. Lambart, Ottawa; A. H. Macpherson, Calgary, and T. B. Porter, Saskatoon. Front row: Miss M. H. Gold, of Edmonton, a member of the expedition; W. A. D. Munday, guide and third party to reach Robson's summit, reach the peak of Robson; A. H. Macpherson, of Windermere, B.C., who is credited with taking part in first actual official ascent; Miss Annette E. Buck, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Harry Pollock, Calgary photographer, who packed a camera to Robson's peak to secure the first pictures of a climbing party at the summit.—C.N.R. photos.