

From the Postmaster at Cobalt

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Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

Mites.

I would like to know what would banish mites on fowl, and also in henhouse. I have used cleanness. The henhouse is a new one; clay floor; cement foundation. The upper part is a frame structure, tar papered on inside and shingled on outside. I feed birds twice a day on buckwheat and oats mixed, and mash and lots of sweet milk and water. I have lost several. They are heavy and fat.

W. E. T. Ans.-Whitewash the premises as outlined in answer to J. S., in this issue, and use insect powder on the birds.

Green Manuring with Buckwheat-Depth of Plowing.

1. What effect would it have on a 30acre farm of light soil, if it were broken and sown to buckwheat, to plow under, for two successive years? Would it add much to the fertility of the soil, and would it be a difficult crop to plew under? I should imagine that the vines would clog on the coulter. How much should be sown to the acre?

2. Would you advise plowing light land deep or shallow, and about how many

8. Is it advisable to roll light land?

Ans.-Buckwheat is not nearly so good a crop to enrich the land as peas or clover, but probably you could not grow Plowing under buckwheat would put into the soil nothing of value but what it had taken from it, though it would improve the physical condition and increase the organic matter, and the available fertility. We should hardly advise plowing under two successive crops of green manure for fear of souring the soil. Sow three pecks to a bushel per acre for green-manuring pur-poses on poor soil. With a sharp colter and a chain, you should have no special difficulty in turning under the buckwheat likely to grow on a poor piece of land. 2. Not too deeply, unless there is good soil beneath. About five inches is usually right.

3. In many cases, yes.

Hens Have Tuberculosis.

My hens have tuberculosis as described in last week's "Advocate," but I cannot plow up yards or treat as you advised, as I have been keeping them under the barn with other stock, and they have the liberty of the sheds belonging to the whole barn. Do you think there is any danger of their affecting the other animals? You speak of using a disinfectant. Please tell me what is the best thing, and just how to use it in cleaning up a big barn and stone stable, with sheds and yards which must be used by other stock. Also, please tell me if it would be really necessary for me to keeping hens altogether to get rid of the disease, and for how long? Also, give the best way to get rid of lice and vermin on poultry. Also, if you think ducks and turkeys would take the disease from the hens?

Ans.—It is not likely that the disease will affect the other animals. It might attack other birds on the farm. For a wash for the stables, take one-half bushel of lime, slake with boiling water, make into a milk, and then strain through a fine sieve. Add to this a peck of salt dissolved in warm water, three pounds of rice boiled to a paste and stirred in while hot; half a pound of Spanish whiting, and one pound of glue previously dissolved in a gluepot over a slow fire. To this mixture add five gallons of hot water, stir it in well, cover, and let stand for a few days. This mixture is best applied hot, and a pint will cover a square yard. To this may be added 1 part of carbolic acid to 500 of the mixture. This will, if properly applied, rid the place of vermin. Dust the birds with a proprietary insect powder advertised in these columns. It would likely Pay you to get rid of all your hens thoroughly disinfect your pen and premises, and re-stock with healthy stock next spring. Of course, if only a few of the birds are affected, by killing and destroying them, and cleaning up the premises as advised and placing the hens outside on a new run for the summer, good results might follow.



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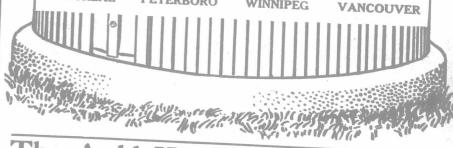
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JAMES DOUGLAS, Caledonia, Ont.

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