

BACTERIA IN MILK.

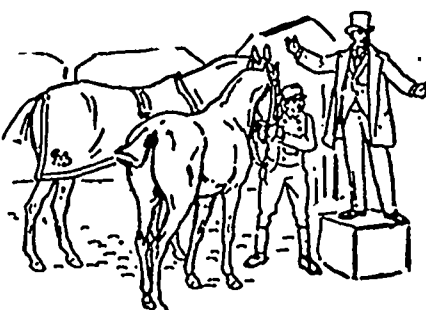
Bacteria in milk, which either favorably or unfavorably affects it and its products, is the lowest form of vegetable life. The milk can is a good deal like the farmer's field with respect to vegetable growth. Every farmer knows that unless he takes very good care of his fields they will be filled with weeds that not only possess no value of their own, but are seriously injurious to those forms of vegetable life that are useful. Similarly, bacterial vegetation exploits itself in the milk can. Unless you take care of the milk can those forms corresponding to the weeds—that is the hurtful kind—will multiply immensely, and destroy the usefulness of the milk and of the helpful kind of vegetation in it, whereas those that are helpful to the milk and its products must be carefully cultivated, and the hurtful kind kept out. Cleanliness in the dairy corresponds to the cultivator in the field, and the employment of the former in the one instance is just as necessary as the latter in the other.—*Exchange.*

MANUFACTURING EGGS.

To know what ingredients are required we must examine the egg itself. It weighs on an average 2000 grains and consists of three parts, shell, white and yolk. The shell, weighing 100 grains, is mainly carbonate of lime. The white, weighing 600 grains, is one of the purest forms of what we call albumen. The yolk, weighing 400 grains, consists of oil, albumen, phosphate of lime and traces of sulphur, iron, etc. In fact, an egg contains everything essential to the manufacture of a chick. All the materials required for making muscle, bone, feathers, etc., must be in the egg, for in incubation nothing is added, and everyone who eats an egg for his breakfast eats animal food—eats an embryo chick, more nutritious, or at least more easily assimilated food, than so much weight of beefsteak. Of course, the production of such rich food must make heavy drafts on the hen, and no mill can turn out a rich grist unless the hopper is kept well supplied.

These several ingredients in the egg the hen gets from what she eats and gets it from the organic matter she eats. Grit in its various forms she uses to grind her food and not to build up her body or to make eggs out of. The oil, or fatty substance needed is found in greatest proportion in seeds, chiefly in corn. The albumen, which is a nitrogenous substance, is found also in grain to a limited extent, more in wheat than in corn, and in still larger proportions in wheat bran and linseed meal. The chief source of albumen in winter feed is clover hay, milk and meat. The latter is furnished in the form of meat meal, canned refuse meat, green cut bone, etc. The shell material is found in all the grains, but principally in oats and wheat bran. It is contained also in milk and in the

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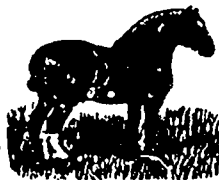
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grasses and clover. In summer, clover, green grass, vegetables, bugs, worms, seeds and the cultivated grains furnish the egg factory with needful grists to hens with free range. In winter, much of this supply is cut off and must be supplied by the owner of the hen if he expects business to prosper.

Incidentally it should be mentioned that about three-fourths of the contents of an egg consists of water, and in this the substances named above are suspended. It will at once appear that water is essential to egg making.—*Farm Journal.*

A SIMPLE TEST OF DRINKING WATER.

An inquiry has been made as to a simple test for the presence of sewage in water. All drinking water should be tested in town or country frequently, as there are other impurities besides sewage which are quite as deadly, and every cistern of water is liable to be a source of blood-poisoning—mice, rats and other pests must have water, and many a case of typhoid is set up by such as these falling into the cistern and remaining there for months in a decomposed state. To detect this impure condition is very simple and unfailing. Draw a tumbler of water from the tap or pump at night, put a piece of white lump sugar into it, and place it on the kitchen mantel-shelf or anywhere that the temperature will not be under 60° Fahr. In the morning the water, if pure, will be perfectly clear; if contaminated by sewage or other impurities the water will be milky. This is a simple and safe test and easily made.

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The value of skim milk for chickens has been proved by careful tests. The milk did not take the place of other food, but added to its value, for the chickens with milk and grain gained 4.46 oz. per week, and those with grain only 2.62 oz.

Oats are an excellent poultry food, especially during the moulting season.