

time to time it will drive the flies to the window where they may be killed or liberated. If possible there should be a kitchen outshut to every country house and this should be carefully screened, with a screen door between it and the kitchen, so that the flies will need to encounter two barriers against their admission to the house.

One of the most effective methods for keeping flies from the dining table during meal-time is the winding apparatus that revolves two paddles in the center of the board. Even a hibernating fly that may remain indoors throughout the winter cannot get used to this contrivance. I have seen one of elaborate home-made construction hung near the ceiling that was almost two-thirds its area. It revolved very slowly and there were but one or two flies in the room.

Wells as Barometers

On many farms in Nebraska and certain other states of the Middle West are wells that give warning of the approach of storms by blowing. A few years ago, when these wells—variously known as blowing, breathing, roaring, singing, weather, whistling and barometric wells—were first reported, they were viewed with a good deal of scepticism by scientific men who had not actually observed their singular properties. They have now been investigated by the United States Geological Survey and the Geological Survey of Nebraska, and most of the stories concerning them have been fully confirmed.

Prof. Edwin H. Barbour, in an official report on this subject, states that reports of such wells have come in from about twenty counties in Nebraska distributed pretty evenly over the state, chiefly south of the Platte. The information is derived from land-owners, farmers, well-diggers, clergymen, principals of schools, civil engineers, and college students whose fathers own wells of this sort, and their accounts have been verified by the professor's personal observations. There are periods when for several days in succession the wells blow out, and others when the air is drawn in. This is tested with the flames of candles, and by dropping paper, chaff, feathers, and so forth, into the casing. In one instance the current passing out through a knot-hole in the cover of the well was strong enough to lift a hat several feet into the air. Sometimes the whistling of the air escaping through the planks or pipes can be heard for several rods; at other times the current is strong enough to operate small whistles whose sound is so loud that it may be heard for a mile or more. Often only a dull roaring sound is heard as the air rushes through the casing, or bubbles through the water. In some communities all such wells are readily distinguished at a distance by the mound of earth heaped up round the curbing and pump to check the escaping wind. Frequently, in winter, they are banked up with snow instead. This soon becomes melted and riddled by numerous blowholes.

Long before their mode of operation was explained the blowing of these wells was regarded by the farmers as an indication of a change in the weather. It was also noticed that the blowing was most pronounced when the wind blew from certain directions. These wells are simply large barometers, responding to changes in atmospheric pressure. When the pressure is low, the tension on the air inclosed in the well and in the subterranean cavities with which probably these wells always communicate, is reduced, and part of this air forces its way out. It is not likely that the small amount of air contained in the well itself could produce a noticeable effect of this kind, and this is the reason why the phenomenon is not more common. If, however, the well serves as an orifice for an extensive underground cavity or porous stratum contiguous to it, the interaction between the upper and lower air would fully account for the effects observed. Probably, however, another process is sometimes involved. A general rise in the level of a sheet of underground water, whether caused by fluctuations in the barometric pressure or otherwise, would force the subterranean air lying above it to escape violently from the few ori-

fices such as wells, in an otherwise impervious stratum of the soil. Nevertheless, it seems likely that a change in barometric pressure is directly or indirectly, the usual cause of the phenomenon.

Clouds, rain and stormy winds are the accompaniments of what meteorologists call lows—the areas of reduced barometric pressure that move across the country in a general direction from west to east at a rate of several hundred miles a day. When a low is approaching, the barometer falls; in other words, the air is not able to hold the column of mercury so high in the barometer tube as usual. The same diminution in the downward pressure of the atmosphere allows air to escape from a blowing well. On the other hand, clear skies usually accompany an area of high barometric pressure—technically called a high—and when one of these areas draws near, the air is sucked into the well.

An ordinary deep well does not freeze in cold weather, for the air at great depths, when stagnant maintains a fairly equable temperature. In a blowing well, however, during the prevalence of a high the air is sucked down, and causes these wells to freeze at such remarkable depths as 80 or even 120 feet below the surface.

Telling a Sheep's Age

The age of sheep cannot be told with so much certainty as can that of horses. Both are estimated by the teeth, which vary with feeds and other conditions. Sheep have the temporary, or milk, teeth and later the permanent teeth. The latter can be easily told by their larger size and white color. The mouth of the sheep is much like that of the cow so far as the arrangement of the incisors is concerned, neither having incisors in the upper jaw bone. There are eight teeth shown when the lips of the animal are opened for examination. The lamb is often born with the middle pair of milk teeth already showing.

At an approximate age of fifteen months the middle pair of milk teeth is replaced by the first pair of permanent teeth. These are twice as broad and easily recognized. The succeeding pairs of permanent teeth appear at intervals of approximately eleven months following the appearance of the initial ones. When they are all up and wearing there is little change for a time, but as the animal grows older they shrink away from each other and become narrower, exposing considerable space by the eighth or tenth years.

Drilling Oats

Drilling oats showed a yearly gain of 3.9 bushels per acre over broadcasting at the Illinois station. The figure is the average result from three separate fields for three years. Kansas station reports a yearly increase of 5.3 bushels for seven years in favor of drilling. Ontario station shows that yields have been increased four bushels yearly for three years by drilling. These increases in yield are due to the drill which covers the grain well with moist fine earth, and the discs cultivate the soil. The root systems become firmly established when the grain is planted to a proper depth.—F. H. Decaree, Missouri Station.

"This is the fifth time you have been brought before me," said the judge, severely.

"Yes, your Honor," smiled the offender. "When I like a feller I like to give him all my business. You see—"

"Sixty days," roared the judge.

When a group of visitors was going through the county jail recently a burly negro trusty was called to open doors and perform other similar duties for the visitors.

"How do you like it in here?" one of them asked.

"Like it? Lawd, if evah Ah gets out o' heah, I'll go so fer frum town it'll take \$9 to sen' me a postal-card."



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