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### Black Knot.

SIR,—The Black Knot is affecting my plum-trees. I am afraid I shall lose them. Can you give information of any plan that will save them?  
W. M., Gladstone, Ont.

[We know of no infallible remedy as yet. Several plans have been tried with various results. We copy the following from the Hamilton Spectator. If any of our readers should try this or any other commended plan, and find any benefit, we should be pleased to publish the results.]

"A PREVENTIVE FOR BLACK KNOT.—Mr. M. Brubacher, farmer, of Woolwich, says he has tried the following on fruit-trees affected with the so-called Black Knot, and found it a sure preventive: Take a sponge or rag saturated with turpentine and rub the joints on the trunk and limbs of the trees. This should be done early in the spring before the sap rises and the leaves begin to form. Mr. B. says he applied this remedy on some plum and cherry trees three years ago and found it to be a great success, none of the trees being the least affected with the disease since then. Although very simple, he considers it a sure cure, and hopes his brother farmers will give it a trial and test its efficacy."

From American papers we see cutting badly-affected trees down recommended, as they are pretty sure to affect healthy ones if left standing.

Mr. W. Saunders, the President of the Ontario Entomological Society and an extensive fruit-grower, recommends cutting out any affected spots and washing the place with carbolic acid.

We look on it as a duty we owe to our subscribers to give publicity to anything that is or that we presume might be of benefit to the cultivators of the soil. We thank our friends who have kindly sent us useful information. It is our opinion that a duty has sometimes been omitted by recipients of public money for public services—that they have neglected to furnish as much useful information to the ADVOCATE as they should have done. A neglect of duty is as great an error as doing improper acts.]

### Collar Boils in Horses—Sore Shoulders

SIR,—Will you be so kind as to answer the following questions: 1—How to prevent collar boils in horses? 2—How to cure sore shoulders?  
FARMER, Chippewa, Ont.

[For the cure of a sore shoulder several remedies have been made use of. We have known an old plowman use the ashes of burned leather made into an ointment with lard, and anoint the sore with it. Collar boils may be successfully treated before they have fully grown by bathing them with a mixture of salt and pure vinegar, applied as hot as it can be borne. If from neglecting the boils a sore be formed, the difficulty of healing is much increased; they are treated with frequent applications of astringent lotions. A good lotion is prepared as follows: Alum or sulphate of zinc, one drachm, to one pint of fresh rain-water. Dissolve the alum in the water and apply it with a sponge. Another remedy is an infusion of white-oak bark and water; this has a tendency to harden the skin and prevent collar boils or sores on the shoulder or back. It is better to steep the bark in cold water for a few days, than to make the lotion by boiling; then strain off the bark liquid, and to each gallon of it put in a half pound of alum. Apply it with a sponge three times a day. Sore shoulders are often the result of carelessness in allowing the perspiration to remain on the collar not dried or cleaned off.]

### Farmers and Politicians.

SIR,—As a subscriber, I desire to congratulate the ADVOCATE upon the very excellent advice it tenders to farmers from a political standpoint, in its issue for April, and would at the same time beg to supplement it with a remark or two. I certainly am of opinion that it would neither enhance the prestige nor respectability of the farming community to see it adopt the role of squabbling politicians, especially as it—unfortunately or otherwise—has no properly organized association calculated to control or influence political affairs. It is much to be regretted that agriculturists whose interests must be identical, should, when public questions come up for discussion, be so widely divergent in opinion. Perhaps this lack of unanimity among farmers afforded the inspiration to a leading journal, with its usual audacity, to designate them as "pig-headed and of pliant gullibility."

To wipe out such implied stolidity, we (farmers) should be careful to record a well-considered, intelligent vote, and make it a rule to spurn the candidate whose policy necessitates begging the popular voice. It may be conceded the average farmer's individuality is impotent to sway election contests, but it involves no reason why he should not come more frequently to the front, boldly and decisively asserting his opinions in local affairs, and not—as I fear it too often happens—meekly deferring to such village celebrities as the store-keeper, publican, or proverbially honest miller; and by such self-assertion establish or maintain that social status which so honorable an occupation as that of agriculture confers.

A SMALL FARMER, East Zorra, Ont.

### Flesh Wounds in Animals.

SIR,—The following application for flesh wounds in animals will be found very valuable. I have been using it for some time. It is very simple and easily procured. It is coal tar, that can be bought for \$2 a barrel. Coal tar, when applied to a flesh-cut, shuts out the air and thus stops the smarting; it will also keep off the flies; it is very healing, and it is antiseptic, that is, cleansing, and will prevent the growth of proud flesh. It is the cheapest, most healing and best application we have ever used, and every farmer ought to have it at hand to use on all castrated animals. When a lamb's tail is cut off, put it on. It will stick the wool together on the end, and make a complete protection. I have tested this remedy for several years on all sorts of cuts and sores with the most gratifying and successful results. It is an excellent paint for trees where a limb has been broken off or where the bark has been peeled.

E. C., Chatham, Ont.

### Wild Oats.

SIR,—Last year I had a fine ten-acre field infested with wild oats. I summer-fallowed five acres, and put in five acres with peas and oats, which I cured like hay. I sowed wheat this spring with the drill, expecting a clean crop at least, if not a paying one. But in going over it recently in some places I cannot distinguish the drills for the growth of wild oats. Your advice as to what would be best to do with it in the June number will be thankfully received by  
A SUBSCRIBER, Seaforth, Ont.

[We would be pleased to hear from any of our readers who have had experience in the treatment of wild oats, especially as they are on our Seaforth correspondent's farm.]

A Tyrconnell farmer writes to say that his horse, a valuable young animal, is subject to attacks of colic, and wishes to know some effectual remedy.

Some horses are constitutionally subject to colic. A change of food, sudden cooling after hard exercise and excessive sweating, drinking freely when heated, are apt to bring on an attack of colic. In such cases, as in many others, prevention is better. Predisposing cases should be guarded against. Pay proper attention to feeding, watering and grooming. The necessity of keeping the stable comfortable and well ventilated we have before now written of. Let this be, in such a case as that of your horse, be more than ever seen to. Use hay and oats of the best quality, and saved in the best manner, and lightly salted. Give his regular quantity of provender, and that regularly. An overdose of oats sometimes brings on an attack of colic. By these means you may prevent the return of the disease, an important point, as the frequency of its attacks renders a horse more subject to its spasmodic returns.

### Granges.

SIR,—Some time ago I proposed writing on Granges, but owing to lack of time have as yet omitted doing so, but now purpose briefly to make a few statements. I will endeavor to express myself plainly, yet I would not presume to dispute with those who may know much more than me on this and kindred subjects, and who will, perhaps, hereafter air their ideas in the columns of your journal. After saying my say I will even then be quite open to conviction. The majority of granges, then, I believe to be not only useless but injurious: useless because they fail to accomplish anything good; injurious because they stand in the way of other and better organizations. Speaking of better organizations, my ideal club, association, grange, or whatever it would be named, would operate on a platform somewhat as follows: Having organized and started with the necessary members, funds, talent and support with which to make a hopeful commencement, let the aim be,

1st.—To secure at the meetings the attendance, attention and co-operation of all the respectable people in the neighborhood, farming people of course.

2nd.—To contribute materially in the way of enabling the members to have themselves and families not only trained to great heights of knowledge in the line of agricultural lore and experience, but also duly educated in other branches.

3rd.—To raise no hostile feelings or ill will between themselves as farmers and those who pursue a different calling.

Now, without enlarging further, we may ask: Do granges now do much in the way indicated? I think not. Granges are secret bodies, therefore they cannot effect our first, because certain steady men will everywhere be found who wisely refuse to go it blind any length, and judging that because secrecy has done and is doing much to injure many societies besides those of the farmer, they conclude that it will injure those of the farmer also. Therefore these men refuse to aid what they consider as an unnecessary combination of mystical foolery.

In the way of securing our 2nd much might be done by the members establishing mutual-improvement classes in their meetings. By this means, after a few years training, those who had ability among the youths might secure good positions, and would then be able to proudly trace their progress and thank and acknowledge the help of the fostering grange, which enabled them to progress. To secure our third it will be imperative that the grange should not meddle in business such as mercantile, trade, &c., to any extent whatever, for, apart from the lunacy of trying to do away with the "middleman," it is notorious that the man who is partly merchant, partly agent and partly farmer is invariably poor. The reason for this is easy to be found, and the rule holds good respecting societies as well as individuals.

My plea, then, against granges is simply that their constitution cannot become popular; they do little in the way of mental improvement; they tend to augment an antagonism with other classes.

D. McH., Megantic, Que.

### Farmers' Clubs.

SIR,—As you are the farmer's friend, and are willing to do all you can for his benefit, I thought I would write to you for information about the Farmers' Club. We wish to form one here, and want instructions how to get it up. If you will be kind enough to give us the necessary information, or direct us to some one that can, you will much oblige.  
J. S., Armow, Ont.

[We are pleased to see that more of the farmers of the Dominion are about instituting Farmers' Clubs—a step we have been long advising. Let Mr. S. bring together some of his neighboring farmers, and having resolved to form a Club, let them appoint a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. It would then be well to call a larger meeting of farmers to get an increase of members. The rules for the Club may be few and business-like. Had the Board of Agriculture and the Government expended one-tenth of the money they expended otherwise, on the encouragement of Farmers' Clubs, it would be much more profitable for the country than all they have accomplished in that department under the name of agricultural expenditures.]