

# Soils and Crops

By Agronomist

This Department is for the use of our farm readers who want the advice of an expert on any question regarding soil, seed, crops, etc. If your question is of sufficient general interest, it will be answered through this column. If it is not, it will be answered personally if stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr. Huber will not prescribe for individual cases or make diagnosis. Address Dr. John B. Huber, care of Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

## SELECTING SEED POTATOES

Will potato parings reproduce potatoes? In this day of conservation, some truths are being impressed which would never have dawned had it not been for the agitation which was kept up this spring and through the summer. To-day, I saw potatoes dug from the hill where only eyes were planted, in many cases, as high as five marketable tubers being produced from a single hill. In like manner, a large number of potatoes were produced from hills where only cones were planted, each cone containing an eye and as much of the potato as would be secured by removing the eye with a pen-knife.

While perhaps good as an economy measure, if this were kept up for some time we would no doubt hear, "this variety of potatoes has completely run out," which is equivalent to saying that the seed was not selected carefully. Almost all cases of varieties of farm stocks running out can be directly traced to the fact that the seed was not carefully selected.

We are prone to run to extremes on various ideas and do not stop to see which we are tending with the thing we push. Some growers plant large potatoes and expect to keep up the vitality of the seed. Such a procedure, of course, depletes the natural resources of the plants and results in no potatoes. Continual breeding from large and overgrown individuals inevitably results in retrogression for the variety.

Again, there are those who planted real small potatoes this year and they are this fall gratified with the results. It will result in that they will continue to plant the small potatoes and the course of a few years will see these varieties running out from the same cause. Reproduction from the dwarfs of a plant will eventually result in dwarfs; in other words, running out.

If we follow the same line of reasoning that we pursue in other matters, we would be forced to conclude that to keep the potatoes from running out, it is necessary to plant each year specimens or parts of specimens that are as

near the average for the variety as possible. In the long run, the average will hold its own where the dwarfs and giants are both overthrown. A man said to me the other day: "I would rather have the poor bull in a family of good cattle than the good bull in the family of poor cattle. I believe that the first one would stand far greater chance of transmitting the desirable qualities of his family." The desirable qualities of his family. The same identical reasoning ought to be applied to potatoes. Better to plant the poor potato among a hill of good ones than the good potato among a hill of poor ones.

In these busy times, one is likely to meet up with the contention that the potato grower has not time to bother with selecting his seed potatoes but because of the busy and momentous times, it is all the more appropriate and necessary to insure a plentiful supply of good seed for next year. Like produces like, and to get good crops without planting good seed is next to impossible.

Hill selection has been known to increase the yield of potatoes as high as ten bushels per acre when kept up for two years and with potatoes at one dollar per bushel, the extra seed guaranteed would go quite a ways toward insuring a large supply of potatoes.

If one continues to plant small seed each year, he multiplies small ones. For instance, here are two hills, one with a single small potato and the other with four. By using this seed, the unprolific hill is multiplied by four while the prolific hill is multiplied by only one. The same thing may go on another year and the poor hill is multiplied by sixteen while the other is again multiplied by one, until in four or five years a new kind of potato must be imported.

Practical results show that it pays, and pays well, to select potatoes from the field. Select for seed from those hills where there are the largest number of potatoes and all of them marketable. The hill unit is the only satisfactory unit for the improvement of potatoes.

# Poultry

The chief aim of the poultry keeper at this time of year is the production of winter eggs and the course followed by many in endeavoring to hit the mark is that of excessive feeding—very often without sufficient regard for other items that are of importance. One of the first requirements for success in this direction is the selection of early-hatched pullets and the second is the provision of comfortable winter quarters, while the matter of regularity in feeding should receive as much attention as that of providing a sufficiency of feed without waste.

In planning for the wintering of the entire flock of the farm, or poultry establishment, a distinction between the layers and breeders must be made in the matter of feeding. The pullets should be fed heavily from now on in preparation for the laying season, while the old hens may be fed sparingly. Exercise is necessary to maintain the health of any bird and especially of those receiving a heavy ration so, to enforce this, the grain supply should be fed in a deep litter, night and morning. A mash consisting of bran or middlings, cornmeal, and a little beef scrap may be kept before the pullets with advantage, but should only be offered at intervals to the other birds.

An account should be kept of all expenses and receipts in connection with the flock in winter, also a record of the date at which each pullet begins to lay, and if possible, a count of each bird's production of eggs. By this means, if the age of a pullet is

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known, a proper idea of the advisability of making a special effort to secure winter eggs may be obtained, also a notion of the age at which birds may be expected to begin to produce profitably.

# Horse Sense

Glanders is an infectious disease affecting horses and sometimes attacks man. One of the symptoms is the formation of ulcers in the nose and a discharge, mixed with blood, but without an offensive odor, from the nose. The glands under the jaw swell. Swellings often occur on the legs, ulcers sometimes form on the skin, the coat is apt to be dull, and the affected horse loses flesh.

The discharges from the nose contain the germs which show how easy it is for a glandered horse to infect a watering trough or manger. It also gives an idea of the care that needs to be exercised when glanders is in a community in order to keep well horses from becoming infected.

Horses that come from a distance, whether brought by horse traders, immigrants, or gipsies, sometimes are affected and so spread the contagion. There is no cure for glanders and being so contagious it has been found best to kill glandered horses. The sooner they are killed and destroyed the less danger of other horses becoming infected.

It is not always possible to diagnose glanders from the symptoms. A test called the Mallein test can be used to determine whether a horse has glanders or not. This test is very reliable.

Glanders also attacks humans, and is usually fatal. Care should be taken in handling a glandered horse. The infection comes through some of the glands pus getting into the eye or gaining entrance through the skin where it is cut or scratched.

# The Dairy

The kicking cow is easily cured by the proper methods. To cure the offending animal take a rope with a loop in one end of it or a trunk strap and pass it around the body of the cow. Draw it tight. The cow usually will jump a little at first, but when she finds she cannot get out of the rope she will stand—and cannot kick. If this method causes the cow to give bloody milk, place the rope of strap behind the udder and draw it up in the same manner. With some cows this cannot be done because of the shape of the udder. Another method is to hobble the cow by passing the rope around each leg behind the udder, and tying just above the hocks. This is rather dangerous for the man tying the rope. After the preventive measure has been repeated several times—the cow will stand readily to be milked.

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and possibly you will not detect this imitation until the tea-pot reveals it. Demand always the genuine "Salada" in the sealed aluminum packet, and see that you get it, if you want that unique flavour of fresh, clean leaves properly prepared and packed.

## MOTHER-WISDOM

To Teach Children Obedience Is to Be Able to Protect Them.  
By Helen Johnson Keyes and John M. Keyes, M.D.

Obedience is a necessary tool in the hands of parents. Without it they can not preserve their children against dangers because the children are too young to understand those dangers and save themselves. Obedience should begin at birth when the baby is taught to nurse at the hours appointed for him, to sleep when he is laid down without rocking and coaxing and to endure washcloth and soap-suds.

As he grows older and gains power to disobey it is necessary sometimes to punish him for doing so or for being slow in his obedience. It is almost as important, for the sake of safety, that a child should obey quickly as that he should obey at all. Unless he comes quickly when he is called, the horse may run over him; unless he lets go of the knife at once when told to do so, he may be cut. Danger usually approaches swiftly.

There is nothing which develops the habit of disobedience more surely than a mother's giving commands which she does not insist on having carried out. That makes a child disobedient much faster than giving him no commands. I was very proud one day because of a conversation I overheard between my small daughter and a playmate. Said my little girl:

"Can you tease your mother into changing her mind after she has told you you mustn't?"

"Of course!" answered the little comrade, quite as a matter of course, to which my child replied with conviction:

"Well, I can't."

The necessity for insisting on the orders we give, makes it very important that the orders should be wise and just. How easy it is to be unwise and unjust, to say "don't" too often! A child annoys us by rubbing his hands over the tables, chairs and papers, by rolling on the floor or littering the room with scraps of paper and we begin our impatient "don't's."

By doing these things, he is in reality educating himself, sending himself to school.

By touch, the child under six years of age learns much about shapes, textures and numbers; and if the delicate power in the tips of his fingers is not allowed to develop at this early age, by his seventh year it will lose its keenness.

By rolling on the floor in his ungainly fashion he gives himself his first military training! Physical training is now being made a part of public school work and is the first grade in military preparation.

By cutting paper—a great delight to every little child—he teaches himself skill with his scissors and the power to put his ideas into form; that is, if he thinks of a bird, he cuts out something a little like a bird, which he calls a bird and with which he plays.

These acts are the self-education of children; let us understand that and hold back our "don't's," even though the play may annoy us.

We mothers must learn, then, to insist on obedience when we ask it but also we must learn to let the child alone much of the time.

As our boys and girls grow beyond little childhood, they begin to dislike control. They want to decide for themselves what to do and how to do it. This is just as it should be; if a child were content to be ruled, he would not learn self-reliance.

The mother must have very good judgment about the manner in which she demands obedience as her child grows older. In the first place, she must realize that his desire for independence is not naughty but just as natural and just as necessary as the lengthening of his legs. His growth causes the inconvenience of altering his clothes or buying new ones but what mother would blame him for growing tall? Neither must he be blamed for desiring independence even though it makes things harder for us, for that is the growth of his character.

After the age of about ten, therefore, children become more and more difficult to train, because their wills

and desires stretch up toward grown-up ways while their powers and judgments remains young and unreliable. More than ever then, mothers must be careful not to say "do" and "don't" more often than is necessary. They may even allow their children to run some risk of trifling hurts in order that they may learn by experience. These risks, however, should have to do only with the child himself; when the happiness of the family or neighbors is in the balance, the child must be controlled by the wisdom of older heads. He must learn definitely that nobody can risk the well-being of others for the sake of pleasure for himself.

If the mother has always held the love, respect and confidence of her child, as he grows older he will continue to yield to her without very frequent rebellion. She will reap what she sowed in the preceding years.

If, on the other hand, she gave orders and did not insist on his obeying them, he will escape her control when he is old enough to hold the power to do so; if she filled his childhood days with unnecessary "do's" and "don't's," he will have made up his mind that there is no sense in her commands and that his advancement depends not on obeying them but on disobeying them.

The period is short when we can protect our children against hurts and evils; soon they must defend themselves. From the beginning, therefore, we must have this idea in view. We must train the will power and the reasoning power of our boys and girls along with their habit of obedience.

The days should not be so full of rules and duties and tasks that no time is left for children to make their own decisions and choose their own employments. If they are not early taught how to reason, to choose and to decide, their development into well-poised men and women will be interfered with sadly.

We are justly proud that our country has no peasant class as Europe has and that our farmers are as free as our merchants. Let us not forget this in the way we bring up our children. We are training them for lives of independence, not to be the servants of employers. Country life needs leaders. Farm women will perform for their country one of the greatest services which could be performed if they bring up their sons and daughters so that they become leaders in that larger life which has dawned for the Canadian farm. This will not be accomplished unless we teach them to think, plan, invent, imagine, as well as to obey.

Each child is a problem by himself, different from his brothers and sisters. One child may be too self-willed and need much discipline in obedience; he may be a dreamer and need the training of many hard, regular tasks. Another child may obey too easily; for this also is possible, may lack decision and the wish and power to assume responsibility. This second child far less though sweet and lovable, has far less promise in him than his stubborn brother. He must be forced to decide for himself and released as far as possible from strict government if he is to become a strong enough man to shape his life usefully.

This brings us back to our opening statement, "Obedience is a necessary tool in the hands of parents." It is a tool, not an end in itself. It is the power with which we protect our boys and girls while we know more than they. But a time will come when they must learn to know more than we know—for life would be worthless if the new generation did not progress beyond the old one—and from the beginning we must prepare them and ourselves for this change. If we do so strongly, lovingly, generously, our children, grown to be young men and women, will give us respect, gratitude and love, which are as much warmer and more life-giving than obedience, as faith is warmer and more life-giving than a body of laws.

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# GOOD HEALTH QUESTION BOX

By John B. Huber, M.A., M.D.

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Early to bed and early to rise—but you can't if you're a doctor.  
**IMPETIGO IN A BABY.**

My baby of 9 months has blisters in the face from which a great deal of matter runs.

Answer—This would seem to be impetigo, an inflammation that generally settles around the mouth and nose of infants and school children. Sometimes it is not, but generally it is, "catching." There are pea to finger nail sized, blister eruptions that within a few days dry into straw colored, flat and wafer like crusts. The child is likely to be peevish. When the crusts fall off, the surface beneath is red as if from a burn. There is no scarring. Poor and ill nourished children and those having digestive disturbances suffer most. The trouble is curable within a few days. The salve known to druggists as Lassar Paste should be constantly applied. The contagious variety may be carried from one part of the body to another by scratching. As the disease is, however, not very itchy, children are not much tempted to use their finger nails. That makes the difference between this trouble and eczema, which is always itchy.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.**

**Eye Strain.**

For about 6 years I have had nervous breakdown the result of eye strain. My eyes crossed but have straightened through wearing glasses. If I cover the affected eye and read with the other my head pain ceases or lessens. At times there is movement in the eye which it seems to be impossible to control and of course this takes a lot of strength out of me, makes me despondent and hinders my getting better. I have asked my doctor to take out the affected eye but he will not. Do you think this is iritis? Answer—Your doctor is right. The

**Eye Strain.**

fault would seem to be not within the eye itself but with one or more of the six muscles by which the various movements of the eyeball are controlled. By operation on the muscles at fault and by the right use of prisms in spectacles this malady should be cured; and then your nervousness will no doubt also become a thing of the past. Iritis is an inflammation of the iris, that doughnut-shaped part of the eye which gives to the eye its color—brown or gray or violet. The hole within this doughnut is the pupil of the eye.

**Dry Mouth.**

I am 86 years of age. For 3 or more years I have been a great sufferer (nights especially) from extreme dryness of the throat, tongue and mouth, caused by the inaction of the salivary glands.

**Answer—**There may be some catarrh of the nose and throat by which you are compelled during sleep to keep your mouth open. This your excellent physician would do much for. Have the kidney excretion examined. The cause may here be found—possibly a mild form of diabetes or kidney ailment. Dry mouth (Xerostomia) may also be due to nervousness or some strong emotion. Sometimes the fault lies in substances inhaled or taken with food; sometimes gas on the stomach is a reason. Very frequently excessively dry air is inhaled, especially when sleeping in a room heated by hot air radiators; this cause may be removed by placing a vessel of water upon the radiators. I must compliment you on the beautifully written letter sent me by a lady eighty-six years young. That is what Oliver Wendell Holmes said of himself on his eightieth birthday, that he was and felt "eighty years young."

and the most prominent member of his dynasty; he was king of Israel from about B. C. 875 to about B. C. 853. It is not clear to what period of his reign the events here described belong. Jehovah—the deliverance will prove that Jehovah is in truth the God of Israel; he is the saviour of his people now as he has been in the past. Young men—The personal attendants, picked men, of the districts of the kingdoms referred to in 1 Kings 4, 7ff. Begin—That is, marshal the forces for the attack.

16-21. Defeat of the Aramaeans. Noon—That is, during the intensely hot period of the day. In the Orient the middle of the day is a time of rest; hence an attack at that hour would be unexpected and, consequently, throw the enemy into confusion. Drinking

—In their drunken stupor the leaders were in no condition to devise adequate plans to meet the attack. Benhadad—This name, meaning "son of the god Hadad," is borne by three of the kings of Damascus named in the Old Testament (compare 1 Kings 15, 18 and 2 Kings 13, 24). Since Hadad was a popular deity, personal names containing his name as an element are not uncommon. Sent—The text should be changed so as to read: "And they sent and told Benhadad."

The initiative was taken by the observers near the city wall. Take them alive

—The arrogant boast of a drunken man who could not understand why he should not have his own way. The thought expressed in verses 19-21 seems to be that the Aramaeans gave their attention to the small band of picked men who went out of the city first. When the main army appeared, the attackers were taken by surprise and utterly defeated. Syrians—Or, "Aramaeans;" a group of Semitic tribes which settled near the upper Euphrates as early as the middle of the second millennium B. C. The Old Testament is concerned chiefly with the western Aramaeans, who had their political center in Damascus. The conflicts of the Israelites were chiefly with this western group. The modern name, "Syrians" is derived from "Syria," which has been the name of the country for centuries and millenniums.

Lesson V.—Defeat Through Drunkenness (World's Temperance Sunday)—1 Kings 20. 1-21 Golden Text, 1 Kings 20. 11.

Verses 1-11. Benhadad proposed terms of surrender. Ahab was ready to accept the first proposal (verses 2-4), but the second was so humiliating (verses 5, 6) that the king, with the full endorsement of elders and people, rejected it (verses 7-9). Whereupon Benhadad threatened the complete destruction of the city, to which Ahab replied: "Let not him that girdeth on his armor, boast himself as he that putteth it off" (verse 10, 11).

12. At this point of the story the lesson text begins. The defiant mesivage of Ahab infuriated Benhadad, who gave orders for an immediate attack upon the city. Drinking—Here, as in verse 16, the implication is that the drinking incapacitated the king for intelligent action. In his drunken condition the king would be more easily stirred up by the irritating words of Ahab. Kings—The thirty-two vassal kings aiding Benhadad against Israel (see verses 1, 16); they were the chiefs of cities or small districts subject to Damascus. Pavilions—Literally, "tents;" probably the group of tents, or the camp. Set—A technical military term, meaning, to prepare for an attack, either by the formation of storming parties or by the placing of battering engines (see margin), or both.

13-15. Measures of defense. Prophecy—Like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and other later prophets, this unnamed messenger of Jehovah acts as an adviser of royalty. It is worthy of note that the prophet Elijah, the outstanding figure during the reign of Ahab, does not appear. Ahab—The son of Ormi,

sets in. Pork made in this way is the cheapest pork and hence returns the largest profits.

An English Joke.

The subject of the lesson was "The Cow," says the London Opinion. Toward the end the teacher was asking the class about the uses to which the part of the dead animal were put, and it had been established that the flesh was eaten, and out of the hide leather for boots was made.

"And what do we make of the horns?" he queried.

At first all were silent, and then one sharp little boy put up his hand. "Well, my boy?"

"Hornaments, sir."

An Acrobat in the Squad. Sergeant (drilling awkward squad) "Company! Attention company, lift up your left leg and hold it straight out in front of you!"

One of the squad held up his right leg by mistake. "This brought his right-hand companion's left leg and made, as the two stated above, and the third one that hogs cannot lay on fat rapidly in cold weather. This is because it takes so much feed to keep the animals warm.

It is usually the wisest plan to fatten hogs as rapidly as possible and then dispose of them before winter, when their feet.

A jointed ice skate is a novelty, the idea being that it bends with its wear-

then dispose of them before winter, when their feet.

# Sheep Notes

Sheep poorly fed will possess a harsh fleece, lacking in oil, and frequently with a feeble oil paint. In marking sheep never use oil paint or tar, which are insoluble, and will not scour from the wool.

Sheep must be dipped in some reliable material at least once a year, and better twice, in the fall before entering winter quarters, and in the spring after shearing.

When lambs develop a diarrhea it is an indication that the feeding opera-

tions are at fault. A change of feed is dangerous, and such change must be made gradually and animals given time to adapt themselves to the new conditions before crowding the feed with the hopes of making gains. Change of feed or overfeeding is dangerous to all of our domestic animals. Do not try to fire the engine too quickly.

Tokio, with 2,000,000 people, has 761 newspapers and magazines, besides thirty-eight news agencies. The city consumes \$10,000,000 worth of fish annually.