

are getting this, and more, but they don't do it until they keep records and know which cows should be kept and which should not.

IMPURE WATER IN WELLS

It becomes more and more evident each year that much of the sickness prevalent in the country is directly attributable to the quality of the water. By carefully studying the matter, it is found that in nine cases out of ten typhoid fevers originate in families whose water supply is from a well, into which impure water comes. This may be from the farm yard, and quite generally such is the case. For some years the water in a well near the house may be pure and wholesome, but by-and-by the soil between it and the barn-yard will become so impregnated with pollution that an unhealthful quality will be imparted to it, and disease will result from its use. This is almost sure to be the case when the distance between the two is not great, because, as a general thing, the bottom of the well is lower than the yard and the drainage from the latter will extend in all directions through the most porous strata of soil, and when it reaches the well, it will naturally flow into it as a reservoir. No matter how pure the water may have been when the well was first dug, sooner or later it will be contaminated by water flowing through the soil from barn-yards and cesspools located anywhere near it. A case is on record in which four children died from diphtheria. An examination by the physician proved that the slops from the kitchen had so filled the soil for a distance of twenty feet between the back door, out of which they were thrown, and the well, that the water in the latter was polluted by foul gases, and from the use of it diphtheria had certainly resulted. When making a well, have it, if possible, above the barn-yard, and let the drainage be from it rather than into it. Arrange a place for slops with a cement bottom and sides, from which glazed pipes, cemented together, allow the unhealthy matter to flow off and away from the well.

LICE

Farm animals, especially those housed in stables more or less infested with insects and vermin, are commonly troubled with lice. Animals in good health resist the insects, but those already in a non thrifty condition do not fare so well. Lice cause a good deal of annoyance to farm stock, inasmuch as they bite the skin, suck the blood, and thus cause considerable irritation. Lice can be seen with the naked eye. Infestation, as a rule, takes place in filthy quarters, and the best means of disinfecting such places is by the use of a spray of kerosene. One of the best means of applying this to hogs consists in rubbing posts, which are constantly smeared with kerosene. In this way the hogs are induced to treat themselves. Infested hogs may also be treated by pouring kerosene directly over the infested parts, like the neck, shoulder and back. Dipping tanks, made of cement or wood, are frequently located in the run yards, in which is placed some disinfectant fluid. Hogs use these small tanks as wallows, and in this way they disinfect themselves.

For horses and cattle a good remedy is made as follows: Boil for an hour 8 tablespoonfuls of arsenic, 8 tablespoonfuls of soda ash and 16 tablespoonfuls of soft soap in two gallons of water. After being prepared by boiling, add enough water to make two gallons. When cool, wet the animal all over with a little of it, using a brush or curry comb to get it into the skin. Another good remedy is made of boiling staves, acre seeds, 1 part to 20 parts of water, for an hour, and let it simmer for another hour; then add water to make it up to the original bulk. This applied to the affected parts brings quick relief. It is advisable to repeat the application in a week or ten days, so as to catch any new lice from any eggs that were not caught by the first application. A very common treatment is secured by mixing a pint of linseed oil, 8 tablespoonfuls of oil of tar, and 8 tablespoonfuls of sulphur. This is then rubbed on the affected parts once a day for two days and allowed to remain for a few days, after which it is washed off with soap and water. In serious cases, the application should be repeated within a week or so.

Alfalfa for Western Canada

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them there is danger that the seed will be covered too deeply. The proper depth to which the seed should be deposited depends, of course, upon the condition of the seed bed, but if planted deeper than two inches the little plants will find it difficult to come thru, especially if a surface crust be formed by heavy rains immediately after seeding. If, however, the ground moisture has risen nearer than two inches to the surface, shallower planting is better. To facilitate covering the seed when a drill is used a light float, made from two 2 x 6 planks, set on edge about two feet apart, well braced and slanting, will be found quite serviceable. This contrivance may be attached to the drill by means of ropes or chains, and acts as a good surface smoothener in addition to covering the seed uniformly. If too heavy, or if weighted unduly, it tends to drag considerable quantities of earth, producing uneven distribution of the seed.

The wheelbarrow seeder, sold by seed dealers, is good enough where small areas are planted. Broadcasting the seed by hand both ways gives acceptable results, but as this method requires the use of more seed per acre, it is the most expensive. Then, too, many farmers are unskilled in the matter of sowing grass seed, and are therefore likely to sow either too light or the opposite, thus producing unsatisfactory results. By using a grass seed attachment, the quantity planted can be gauged to a nicety. This should not exceed twenty pounds to the acre, and slightly less will produce satisfactory results, provided the seed bed be in first class condition and contain the proper amount of moisture. The quantity of seed to sow is a much mooted question, but certain it is that light seeding tends to produce rather coarse alfalfa, while the heavier rate will give a finer and more palatable quality of hay.

A Nurse Crop?

What nurse crop should I sow with alfalfa? In the Prairie Provinces, none. Such a crop will choke out much of the alfalfa, and the surviving plants will become lean and seem to say reproachfully: "You didn't give us a fair chance, and that's why we are so weak and spindly looking." It is therefore best to omit the nurse crop, permitting the alfalfa to make thrifty growth and establish a good root system. Our climatic conditions are so favorable for alfalfa culture that it does not require protection against the sun or winds. In certain sections of the country, however, a nurse crop of barley is used with alfalfa, but the seeding is usually light, being about four pecks to the acre. A crop of oats is about the worst thing one could think of as a companion for alfalfa, because it will not only deprive the alfalfa of needed sunlight, but is a moisture monopolizer as well. Because of its great root system, alfalfa is one of the best drought resisters known, its fields being fresh and green when other vegetation may be parched for lack of moisture.

Is alfalfa a good weed fighter? It is because alfalfa is not a good weed fighter the first season that many have failed with it. The fault was not with the alfalfa, however, but with the grower, who should not have planted it on weed infested land. If alfalfa can hold its own against weeds the first year, it will thereafter clear out most of them, except dodder and foxtail, which are its desperate enemies. To conquer these, alfalfa must receive timely and effective assistance, or it is certain to meet defeat. If the field be badly infested with foxtail, about the only thing that can be done is to plow it up and cultivate till clean, after which it may be sown to alfalfa.

"Alfalfa dodder," says Dr. Malte, the eminent Dominion agrostologist, "is a yellowish parasite without leaves, consisting of a mass of fine threads from which are developed numerous roots called suckers. These suckers penetrate the alfalfa stems where they absorb the food ready for the use of the host plant. The flowers are white and crowded into

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