

Correspondence.

Entomological Queries and Replies.

Grasshoppers and Cabbages.

T. A. Postage du Port, desires to know whether there is anything that will prevent grasshoppers from eating cabbage, and whether watering with coal oil will make the vegetable taste. Grasshoppers are such voracious creatures and so active in their habits, that it is no easy matter to keep them away from one's plants, the only effective remedy for them that we know of is the common barn-door fowl and the domestic turkey. Both of these creatures will eat any number of grasshoppers and thrive upon them, when the insects are very abundant, a few hawks may be allowed to run in the garden with great advantage. There is a drawback, however, in their partiality to tomatoes and some other vegetables; but we must oftentimes take a choice of evils. We cannot at all recommend the use of coal oil in this case. We do not think that it would be an effective protection from the depredations of the insects, except when freely applied, and as such very much diluted with water, and used extremely sparingly, it is most injurious to vegetable life, its application would probably destroy more cabbages than the pestilent grasshoppers.

Clothes Moths.

R. J., of Lincoln, enquires what is the best means of preventing moths from getting into cloth, and when the fabric is already infested, what will destroy them. As our correspondent is no doubt aware, the "moth," as it is termed, that effects woollen fabrics and furs is the caterpillar of a tiny moth. It lives in a curious case that it constructs out of the material on which it feeds, and usually only shows its head outside of this singular habitation. When it moves about it cuts away the material before it with its scissor-like jaws, in order to clear a road for its case dragging behind, and thus does a great deal of damage. The amount it actually eats is inconsiderable when compared with what it destroys.

There are a large number of methods made use of for protection against this insect. One of great value is to carefully dust, shake, and beat all woollen articles at the commencement of summer, and if not required for use during the warm weather, to pack them away in drawers or boxes, carefully enclosing them first in linen or paper bags. If the articles cannot be put away, repeated shakings and duffings will prevent any lodgment of the enemy. Care and cleanliness are the best protectors. In the case of carpets and furniture, the annual domestic nuisance of house-cleaning is no doubt of very great value. When a house has become infested with them, it may become necessary to resort to some further expedients, such as strewn pepper around the edges of carpets and in the crevices of cloth-covered furniture; applying powdered camphor or snuff in the same manner; or—what is strongly recommended by some in place of the foregoing disagreeable substances—sprinkling powdered alum or strong alum water over the articles liable to be affected.

If cloth is already affected, the worms may be got rid of by sponging the fabric over with benzine and hanging it in the air to dry; care must of course be taken not to use the benzine near a light or fire. Diluted carbolic acid might also be used where there is no danger of its injuring the fabric. The cloth lining of carriages may be effectually preserved from the moth by sponging both sides with a solution of corrosive sublimate (a deadly poison) in alcohol made just strong enough not to leave a white mark on a black feather.

"Bill," said Bob, "why is that tree called a weeping willow?" "Cause one of the sneaky, plaguy things grew near our schoolhouse, and supplied our master with switches."

Veterinary Department.

Sunstroke in Horses.

During the hot months of summer, horses that are severely worked and exposed occasionally, succumb to the extreme heat, and become utterly prostrated. The alarming symptoms are suddenly developed, but in general there are certain premonitory symptoms shown for a day or two, as dulness, loss of appetite, a peculiar dryness of the skin, and although the horse is severely wrought, he does not perspire as usual. A still closer examination will detect a slow, weak pulse and hot mouth. The general symptoms are impaired voluntary motions, the animal reels and staggers, the breathing is stertorous, the surface of the body cold, he falls down and is unable to rise, in some cases lying apparently insensible, whilst in others he appears to experience considerable pain. In cases that terminate unfavorably, he will make frequent ineffectual attempts to rise, pawing with his fore feet, and knocking his head violently on the ground, the pulse becoming weaker and weaker.

Whenever a horse shows signs of being overcome with the heat, he should be immediately released from work and placed in a shade or in a cool box, his head should be bathed with cold water, and a stimulant should be administered without delay, such as sulphurous ether, nitrous ether, or some of the preparations of ammonia, well diluted with cold water. In cases where he loses complete power, great care is necessary in giving medicine, and it is generally advisable to apply to the body, blankets wrung out of warm water, and at the same time bathe the head with cold water, or apply pounded ice to the poll. Whenever the patient shows signs of returning power, indicated by the pulse becoming stronger, and by the animal lifting his head and beginning to notice what is going on around him; endeavors should then be made to get him on his feet. Give small quantities of cold water, and when he regains sufficient strength allow him a small bran mash. A horse that has suffered from an attack of sunstroke requires to be very carefully used for some time, until the system recovers from the severe shock to which it has been subjected.

Treatment for Sprains and Contracted Hoofs.

G. H. H., of Greenwood, Ontario, wishes to know "What is the best way of treating a horse that was sprained in the back sinews of the leg and the coffin-joint; also the best treatment for contracted hoofs."

Sprain of the back tendons of the leg is best treated by giving the animal perfect rest, and fomenting the limb with warm water three or four times a day, and continue the fomentations for several days; the limb should also be carefully bandaged with a flannel bandage, and when the pain is severe, equal parts of laudanum and tincture of arnica should be applied after each fomentation. In most cases it is desirable to remove the shoe, although there are exceptional cases where it is found beneficial to apply a shoe with moderately high heels, with the view of taking the strain off the injured tendons. When the heat and tenderness are removed, a blister should be applied, and in so doing, the hair must be cut off, and any blistering ointment may be used that does not contain any ingredient which is likely to cause a permanent blemish. After the blister has ceased to act and the swelling gradually disappears, bathe the parts daily with cold water.

In all severe sprains of the back tendons the patients must be very gently used, even after the irritation appears to be removed, as too much exercise or work is very apt to produce a permanent shortening of the limb.

Contracted Hoofs.

Contraction of the foot proceeds from a great many different causes, as navicular disease, laminitis, injuries, etc. It is a sequel of other diseases rather than a disease of itself, and therefore, we cannot prescribe with any degree of certainty without some knowledge of the exciting cause.

Apiary Department.

Bee Houses.

Among the most unsightly objects that afflicts the eye as one travels here and there throughout the country, are the structures put up to shelter bee-hives from sun and storm. They are generally mere sheds of the most rickety and tumble-down description. Put up in a hurry—not intended to remain long—soon getting out of shape and out of repair, they are as we have said, among the worst of eyesores. Generally speaking, too, they are very unhandy. Often to save trouble and boards they are put up in the form of a lean-to against one side of the dwelling-house. They are built low, just sufficing to cover the hives. There is no getting behind the hives for the purpose of examination or management; and so every thing must be done in front, just in the thick of the thoroughfare where the bees are passing and re-passing on their trips for honey and pollen. There is no getting under the roof to do anything, and so whatever is done must be got along with in a fumbling, awkward sort of way, where the hives stand, or they must be removed to a distance for more convenient handling. Bee-keepers who have these low-roofed, inconvenient, unsightly looking bee-houses, are generally of the class who leave the bees very much to their own devices. They live the bees, put on honey-boxes in white clover time, take the boxes off in the fall, and perhaps pack some straw around the hives when winter comes on. These are about all the operations in practical apiculture with which they trouble themselves. Artificial swarming, regulating stocks, rearing queens, extracting honey, feeding for increase, and many other useful manipulations, known to intelligent and skillful bee-keepers, are wholly out of their line. As they have no occasion to meddle much with their bee-hives, it does not matter a great deal if they are awkwardly placed and inconveniently situated.

Now and then we find some enthusiastic amateur bee-keeper, who has a nice home in the suburbs of a town or city, going to the very opposite extreme and building a very tasteful and elaborate affair—a sort of palatial mansion for the honey gatherers. The English bee-books contain many pretty and even elegant designs for bee-houses, and some of the best among them have been reproduced west of the Atlantic.

Many who "have a notion of bee-keeping," as the common phrase is, imagine that a bee-house is the first thing to be thought of; and we have occasionally met with people quite resolved to try bee-keeping but they have no place for their hives to stand, and they cannot spare time to build one. We are often asked by those who think of embarking in apiculture, "What is the best style of bee-house to put up?"

Now the want of a bee-house need not deter any one from bee-keeping, and the best advice for such as propose building one, is that given by Douglas Jerrold about getting married: "Don't."

"Don't" build a bee-house for the following reasons:—

1. They harbor toads, mice, moths, and other insects.

2. They bundle the hives together so closely that various evils ensue. Young queens on returning from their "bridal tour" are apt to go into the wrong hive, and get killed. In case of a stock becoming excited from any cause, the adjacent hives are pretty sure to become excited also, until the entire apiary becomes infuriated and unmanageable. Robbing is more likely to take place when bees are crowded together. Just as families that live in close proximity to one another, naturally get to know each other's affairs more intimately than they would if at a greater distance apart, so when hives are put close together weakness is discovered, and advantage taken of it. Moreover, bees, like human beings, are less apt to quarrel if they live some little distance apart.

3. There is a more excellent way. A properly made bee-hive is a little house in itself, and is impervious to rain and storm. All that is needed is a partial shade to temper the too violent rays of the sun in the middle of the hot summer day. This can usually be got among the fruit trees of an orchard, or the shade trees of a lawn or shrubbery. One of the best bee-keepers we know practices and recom-