



Applying the Paste.

egg, but in this way you may save your hatch. Cooling eggs develops and strengthens the chick, so never hurry the eggs into the incubator; give them time to cool. We have had them hatch out one every hour for a time in warm weather, with splendid results.

A FARMER'S WIFE.

### Feather Plucking.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

My hens began, about the middle of February, to pick out the small, downy feathers below the tail; then they picked the flesh; some holes were as large as a fifty-cent piece, some larger, some smaller; others had the blood dropping out of them. Two died from the effects of it; others healed up, but they did not leave them completely alone. Is there any permanent cure, or is it something they were fed or something they lacked. No one has ever heard of it in our neighborhood. I feed them grain in a deep litter composed of clover leaves, heads and chaff; make them scratch for their breakfast by mixing it up well; also, bran in a hopper, to pick when they wanted it. At dinner time, vegetables and apples, cooked or raw, or sometimes a bran and other meal mash; other times, clover leaves mixed in with it; also a little grain well stirred with litter, to keep them busy; and, until the middle of February, corn on the cobs, a few at a time. At night, grain thrown among litter. They have grit, oyster-shells, lime, and coal ashes to dust in. Also give them fresh water three or four times a day, and clean out their trough. Hang up meat frequently for them to pick at. I also give them salts, Cayenne and sulphur in their mash two or three times. The hens are one and two years old this spring. They had fresh air, and were warm and dry. I cleaned the droppings from under their roosts every morning. They were allowed to run out in the barnyard on mild days, but they were scarce. Turned them out when they started picking one another, and let them run at will. About twelve out of thirty are picked. Can they be stopped completely, or would they commence again when closed in another winter? Please publish as soon as possible, and oblige.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—The fowls seem to have been very well cared for, indeed. Had it not been that it is stated that meat had been hung up for the hens to pick at, we would have inferred that it was lack of meat that induced the feather-pulling. It probably started from idleness, consequent on confinement. Had the first hen guilty of the practice been promptly killed, it is likely that nothing more would have been seen of it. The practice spreads among fowls.

### Egg Basket.

We are in need of a new egg-crate, and it occurred to me this morning, why could there not be wire baskets made? The old Humpty-Dumptys are so inconvenient to set in a buggy, and one has to carry them so carefully unless they are tied. My idea is to have a No. 9 wire for frame, and small wire to form a network, to hold six dozens in a layer, and have two layers deep; the lid to be divided in center and hooked, falling flat back to each side of basket when not needed, and a catch or opening at each end to carry by. Do you not think it would be both very handy and durable? Do you think they would be worth getting patented, or could one apply for patent and try to sell the right? Where do you think I could get one made? Where could I get the pasteboard packing?

Ans.—Experience is the best teacher. Make a basket such as you describe yourself before, even

asking a firm to construct one. It would be wise to use it for some time before any money was spent on a patent. It is doubtful if your basket would be a success. I have thought the same about a package for carrying eggs, and have endeavored to make something that would be an improvement on the Humpty-Dumpty. I think I have it, but it is in the other direction. One of the troubles with the Humpty is that it is too open and flimsy—too much of a basket—and, while a wire frame might be stronger, it would be even more open. An egg package should be closed, and strong enough to keep the contents free from injury and dirt. We use boxes of various sizes to accommodate the requirements of private customers. A box that holds six dozen is very handy; is made out of  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch pine or basswood. The size, inside measurement, is 12 inches long, 8 inches wide, and 8 inches high. A layer of excelsior is put on the bottom, and again at the top. The lid is put on the same as the lid of a 30-dozen crate. A neat brand can be printed or pasted on the top, and it makes a very tasty and substantial package, much ahead of a wire basket in every way.

F. C. ELFORD.

## GARDEN & ORCHARD.

### Trees Girdled.

I have a young orchard which this winter the rabbits have girdled. Can the trees be saved, and if so, how?

A READER.

Ans.—In answer to above, we give reprint, in part, of an excellent article that appeared in our columns in 1908:

During winters of severe cold and deep snow, mice and rabbits, on account of a lack of other food, are quite likely to gnaw the bark of the fruit trees. One winter, six of our thrifty-grow-

naturally passes up the sap-wood of the tree, and is not thus checked in its flow by the girdling; but the downward flow of cambium or sap, which has been elaborated in the leaves takes place just beneath the inner bark, forming what is known as the cambium layer between the inner bark and the sap-wood. When the girdling cuts through to the wood, the downward flow of cambium is thus checked, and the tree starves through the cutting off from the roots of the supply of nourishment which has been elaborated in the leaves.

Cut scions of last year's growth of wood long enough so that they can be entered about one inch under the bark at the upper and lower extremities of the wounded part. Shave the end of the scions down so they will wedge in well under the bark. According to the size of the tree, fit in from two to four such bridges, on opposite sides of the trunk. The entire work must then be covered with the cow-dung paste, the same as slightly-girdled trees.

If this work has been properly done, the sap can circulate through the "bridges," and the tree's life will be saved. It is claimed that this "bridging" is not very often successful with plum and cherry trees, so it is best to pull up trees of this sort if they are completely girdled. The method will save many apple and pear trees that otherwise would dry up.

Though mice do not gnaw as deep as rabbits, usually only the top layers of the bark being wounded, treatment is necessary, anyway. I know, from past experience, that if such wounds are left exposed, they will dry out, and the growth of the trees will be checked.

The cloths should not be removed the first season. I leave them on for two years, but take them off the second season, so the wood may not commence to rot. All trees that I have treated in this way have shown, by their luxuriant growth, that they were doing as well as other young trees of the same age, but which had not been girdled.

### Potash Paid on Cauliflower.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There being at present considerable discussion regarding the use of commercial fertilizers, the following report of an experiment with fertilizer on cauliflower, conducted by the undersigned at Cedarvale Gardens, Varenecy, Ont., during the past summer, might be of interest. Planting was done on June 14th, the variety used being Steele-Briggs' Whitehead. The plots were divided as follows: No. 1, unfertilized; No. 2, complete fertilizer, applied at the following rate per acre: Nitrate of soda, 200 pounds; acid phosphate, 400 pounds; muriate of potash, 160 pounds. No. 3, incomplete fertilizer, composed of nitrate of soda and acid phosphate, and applied at the same rate as on plot No. 2.

Plot No. 1 yielded at the rate of 5 tons per acre; No. 2, 8 tons; and No. 3, 6½ tons.

The value of the increase in yield per acre on plot No. 3 (based on last season's factory prices) was \$45, giving a profit of \$35 after deducting the cost of the fertilizer. The net gain on plot No. 2 was \$76, showing an increase of \$41 directly due to the application of potash.

The soil where the experiment was conducted was sandy loam, and uniform throughout. The potash and phosphate fertilizers were applied broadcast, and harrowed in just previous to planting, and the nitrate of soda in one application immediately after the plants were set.

Haldimand Co., Ont.

R. E. MILLER.

### Raising Cucumbers by the Barrel.

A sure way to get the family supply of cucumbers, let the season be wet or dry: Take an empty salt barrel, bore some small holes around near the bottom. Set it about three inches in the ground, fill the barrel with good manure. Plant the seeds around, say, a foot or more from the



Cucumbers Growing Around Barrel Filled with Manure.