

# 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 stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed with your letter, a complete answer will be mailed to you. Address Agronomist, care of Wilson Publishing Co., Ltd., 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.

## Marketing Fresh Eggs.

Fresh laid eggs have a market value greater than eggs from the cold storage warehouses. They are worth more than eggs put down in water-glass. Too frequently the farmer knows that his fresh eggs are worth a premium and yet he receives the same price that city consumers are paying for storage stock. It is not necessary for a farmer to accept a price for his fresh eggs no greater than the price paid for goods not of the same quality. It is being done because of carelessness in saving and marketing the eggs.

The country egg buyer who exchanges groceries and merchandise for eggs is not able to pay the price that fresh eggs should command. In the first place too many farmers keep their male birds with the hens during the hot weather. The result is a poor quality of eggs.

Next, we come to the practice of allowing the hens to hide their nests all over the farm. At certain intervals there is a general hunt for eggs and then the good and the bad are sold together. Eggs are placed in one pile or basket and the top eggs are used every day in home cooking. The eggs in the bottom of the pile are taken out each week and possibly not that often.

The egg buyer knows that his purchases from farmers will contain a certain number of poor quality eggs so he strikes an average and pays a price allowing for the inferior stock which he will undoubtedly receive. The farmer producing fresh eggs is forced to suffer because of this undesirable competition.

The best plan is to keep enough fowls to make egg marketing worthy of attention. Then, produce infertile eggs except during the hatching season. Ship the eggs to a reliable dealer who is willing to pay for eggs for a select trade if you have enough eggs. If the production is too small for frequent express shipments, it pays to make arrangements with a local grocer who is willing to pay a fair price for quality eggs. If this does not seem best, try the private trade and try and work up a business with buyers who are willing to pay a slight premium over the market price for eggs that are fresh laid and absolutely guaranteed to be fresh.

It is unfair to the producer of good fresh eggs to compel him to sell at the same price paid for mixed stock and that is what happens to the farmer who makes no effort to obtain his due credit for the effort necessary to produce eggs that are right in every way. At first thought, the difference of a few cents in the price of a dozen eggs does not seem worth worrying about, but when that is multiplied by several thousand during the course of a year, the result is surprising. Little things count up in every business and it seems as if this is more true in the poultry business than in any other line.

## Poultry

### Making the Hens Pay in Winter.

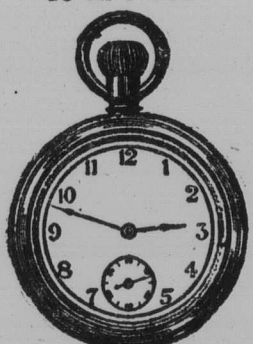
Not everybody understands how to feed and care for a flock of hens so as to get eggs in winter. A woman who is succeeding admirably in this respect the present season gives the following suggestions: First, do not expect eggs in winter unless the hens are young. Old fowls are too fat to lay well. Best results are obtained with pullets. Next, do not crowd too many hens in one flock. About twenty to twenty-five will do better than a larger number. If old and young of both sexes comprise the flock it will be advisable to keep the young hens and pullets by themselves. Provide water with the chill off in cold weather. Hot bricks under the container changed twice or three times during the day will do this. If kept clean there is no objection to heating these bricks in the house. Charcoal, crushed oyster shell and grit are kept where they are accessible at all times, and meat scrap forms a portion of the ration every day. The first meal is fed as soon as it is daylight. This is a warm mash slightly moist, composed of bran, ground oats and a little corn meal fed in troughs. At this time a basket of clover chaff is emptied in the scratching shed. There is no noon meal but about four o'clock a liberal feed

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feeding, and good care, will make a profit—even in war times.—E. E. R.

## The Dairy

The small-top milk pails have been found by experiment to keep from forty to seventy per cent. of the dirt out of the milk. It is a little more difficult to run such a milk pail but it can be done. The practical dairyman knows that it is impossible to keep every microscopic bit of dirt and dirt out of the milk at milking time, even if the cows are perfectly clean and the air is as pure as good ventilation can make it. These small-top milk pails are of assistance in producing cleaner milk on the farm and they should be in more general use.

The barrel churn operated by power is a practical investment for the farmer who makes butter often. It saves time and cuts out one more of the regular farm duties which tire the muscles. Many farmers who have changed from the old dash churn to the barrel churn are wondering how they ever endured the dash churn so long and when they adopt the power operated churn the smile grows broader and butter-making becomes a rather enjoyable and profitable sort of business.

It will pay to study the milking machines at the next fair or dairy show where they are exhibited. Many farmers believe that the milking machine is a complicated and expensive outfit that is only useful on a "rich man's farm" where style is sometimes more important than profits. This is not true and many farmers who are using milking machines find them a labor saver and an economical investment. They are not too complicated and the expense of such a machine is no greater in proportion to its usefulness than many other kinds of equipment considered necessary on the farm.

Store away plenty of cabbage and mangels to serve as green food for the fowls during the winter and early spring.

## GOOD HEALTH QUESTION BOX

By Andrew F. Currier, M.D.

Dr. Currier will answer all signed letters pertaining to Health. If your question is of general interest it will be answered through these columns; if not, it will be answered personally if stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr. Currier will not prescribe for individual cases or make diagnosis. Address Dr. Andrew F. Currier, care of Wilson Publishing Co., 72 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.

### Questions Relating to the Lymphatic System.

N. L.—What is the function of the lymphatic system of the body? Is there any relation between it and the blood? Is the fluid which is in blisters derived from the lymphatics? Of what use is it to the body?

The lymphatic system consists of a series of small and large vessels and glands extending from the surface of the body to its centre and communicating with the great veins of the body which go to the heart. Into these veins it discharges the fluids it has collected from the tissues by absorption. Lymphatic fluid or lymph is transparent in appearance, the lymphatic vessels are arranged in meshes or network which is closely related to the course of the bloodvessels the smaller lymphatics especially in the skin and mucous membranes being near the capillaries and the larger ones near the larger blood vessels. At irregular intervals in the lymphatic meshwork are glands from .08 to .8 inches in their long diameter, somewhat bean shaped, through which the lymph stream flows. The fluid which oozes from the capillaries in the skin and elsewhere into the spaces between the tissues thus bathes their cells with liquid food. These spaces also contain fluid material from worn out and disintegrated cells and this is soaked up by the lymphatics finally entering the large veins on either side of the neck where it is carried to the heart with the blood stream. The lymphatics of the intestines contain not only the materials of ordinary lymph but also about three times as much albumen as that fluid together with a considerable quantity of fat which has been absorbed in the form of an emulsion, hence the lymph is very closely related to the blood.

I suppose the fluid of blisters, under

usual conditions is lymph or contains lymph. If you cut your finger and introduce a poison the poison may be and often is taken up by the lymphatics producing inflammation in these vessels and the surrounding tissues. You can see the evidence of the involvement of the lymphatics in such inflammations in the red lines or streaks running up the arm. The poison or the inflammation may be arrested in the glands of the armpit which become swollen, painful, frequently suppurate, and often require more or less extensive surgical treatment. The poison may be distributed by the blood over the body and the patient die from blood poisoning. Lymphatic glands in the neck and elsewhere are often the seat of tubercles and may require removal. It will therefore be apparent that the lymphatic system is a very essential part of the body in its ordinary functions and also the possible seat of serious disease.

### Questions and Answers.

Mother—Would you kindly tell me if anything can be done to cure my boy of stuttering, which seems to be troubling him more and more?

Answer—The only thing I can suggest is that you send a stamped self-addressed envelope and the article on stuttering and stammering will be mailed to you.

K. B. H.—Would cubeb berries in powder form be more effective as a remedy for catarrh than the crushed berries?

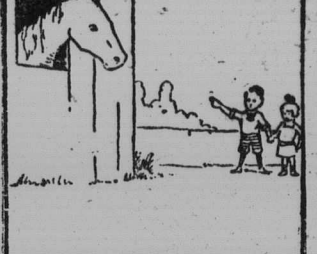
2—Would bronchitis and other throat troubles be benefited by this treatment?

Answer—1—If you refer to using this substance by inhalation, a powder would of course be less irritating than the granulated form produced by crushing.

2—I would not advise you to use it.

## FUNNY FOLD-UPS

### CUT OUT AND FOLD ON DOTTED LINES



SEE, BESS, THERE'S GRANDPA'S OLD GRAY HARE. I THINK SHE NEEDS A CHANGE OF FARE. SHE MUST GROW TIRED OF OATS AND HAY. LET'S FEED HER NICE GREEN LEAVES TODAY.



### Placing Bees in Winter Quarters.

Everything should now be in shape for winter. If the bees are to be stored in cellars they should be placed there as soon as settled cold weather comes on. The later the better, since there will be some mild days during which they may want a flight to discharge their feces. This prevents dysentery to which bees wintered indoors are sometimes prone.

Let the cellar be absolutely dark, and all they will require during the winter months will be an occasional airing at night for an hour or two, but never during the day.

Sweep up any dead bees that may accumulate on the cellar floor during

the winter, using a lantern while doing so.

To ventilate the cellar wait until it is dark and open the door for an hour or two.

When wintering outdoors be sure to use sufficient packing to keep the bees warm. Unless the climate runs many degrees below zero and stays there for a long time, it is all right to winter outdoors in the double-walled chaff hives.

"All the world's the greatest of powers; it is sovereign and calls itself 'we.' What 'we' does or says is called custom, what it thinks is called opinion, what it believes to be beautiful or good is called fashion."—Amiel.

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