

Potato Scab.

Potato scab is the operation of a minute fungus. These little parasites reproduce themselves as the higher plants do. They can increase by division of the plant itself, or by spores which act as seeds. Progressive people in these days never risk any large crop without steeping the seeds to destroy the enemy. Simple copperas water has been found efficient. Formalin, a non-poisonous, non-corrosive substance, will practically free seed potatoes from scab germs, by an immersion for two hours in a solution of the approximate strength of 1:300. It is equal to corrosive sublimate in efficiency, and is without its dangerous and troublesome properties. Seed material of seemingly good quality, as well as that much affected with scab, shows beneficial results from treatment. The recipe for its use is to add 8 fluid ounces (about one half pint) of formalin to 15 gallons of water, and soak the seed tubers in it for two hours before planting. This solution may be used several times.—*New England Farmer.*

The Profitable Age for Winter Layers.

"At what age is it most profitable to keep hens for winter layers?" The wise ones tell us that pullets of any of the better varieties that are hatched early enough in the season to reach maturity, and begin laying in the fall, will continue throughout the winter with short periods of intermission, provided, of course, that they are fed and cared for in such a manner as to promote the egg-making process. We are also told that hens of the heavier varieties are at their best when two years old, and that a larger per cent. of their eggs are fertile, and produce finer, healthier chicks than those hatched from pullets' eggs. Of the smaller and more active, the non-sitting breeds, hens can be kept with profit until five years old.—*The Cable.*

Egg-Eating Hens

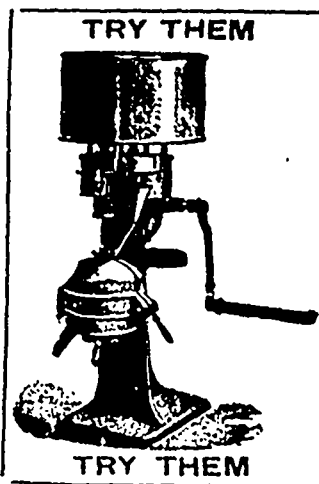
Egg-eating is an annoying habit among hens and an unprofitable one as well. The common practice is to cut the head of the hen that contracts such a habit. An American poultry keeper, however, claims to have discovered a cure for this habit by feeding egg shells to his hens for some time without any other food. He saves up all the egg shells that can be obtained until spring, and he may, perhaps, get a few at the hotel and restaurant to aid him in his cure. The fowls are penned up, and a few egg shells are given them. The first time they eat them eagerly, and the next they seem to have lost a little of their love for them. The feeding is kept up and they gradually lose their taste for eggs, and as it continues they get so they will not eat them at all, and fresh eggs may be rolled among them, and they seem to have a disgust for the sight of an egg or an egg shell, which is all the same to them.

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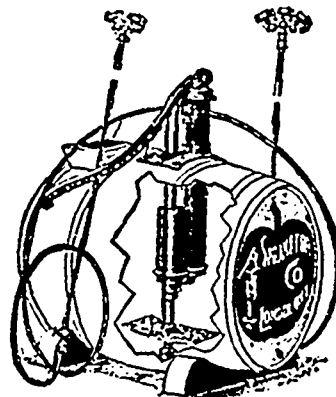
Gentlemen,—The machines for spraying and white-washing you have supplied to Dentonia Park Farm have done their work well, and are quite satisfactory. I could not have believed there was so much value in spraying fruit trees. We had a good crop of apples, whereas our neighbors who used no spraying machine had practically none. Yours truly,
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