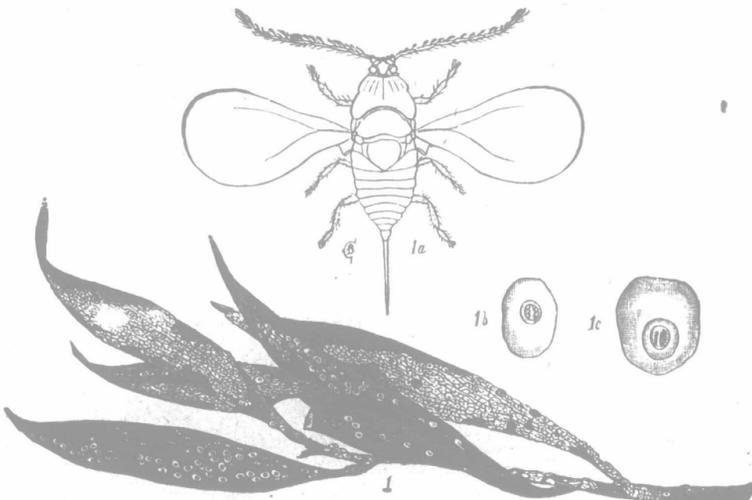


**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.**  
**Miscellaneous.**

**A SCALE ON OLEANDERS.**

We have an oleander plant about five feet high, which is infested with some sort of pest; am enclosing a portion of it. What is the trouble, and what can I do to cure it? F. M.

Ans.—Dr. C. J. S. Bethune identifies this insect as the white scale (Aspidiotus nerii) found commonly on the orange and lemon trees, particularly in Florida and Southern California, where it also infests a number of other trees and plants. The accompanying cut, loaned by courtesy of the Canadian Entomologist, shows two stages of the life history



of the scale. The female scale is flat, whitish or light gray in color, and when mature is only about 1-12 of an inch in diameter. The eggs are of a light yellow color. The scale of the female is shown at c in the figure, the male scale at b, both magnified. The winged male, which is a very minute creature, is shown highly magnified at a. It is yellow, mottled with reddish-brown, and the wings are transparent.

If but a single plant is infested, the best remedy is to brush carefully with a stiff nail-brush; it will remove the scales. Washing with a strong decoction of tobacco water might also be tried, or a whale-oil soap solution, in the proportions of 1 oz. to 1 1/2 qts. of water, would probably prove effective. A somewhat more drastic remedy, which might be tried first on but a few leaves, is a solution of concentrated lye, in the proportion of 2 ozs. lye to a quart and a half of water. A homemade equivalent would be 3 pints of good lye from wood ashes, diluted with 1-5 of its bulk of water. The advantage of using one of these washes instead of brushing, is that it is easier to get around the base of a stem, but it is quite likely that any application might require to be repeated once or twice at intervals of a couple of weeks, as a few scales are always liable to escape the treatment.

We will esteem it a favor if our querist will report results.

**WORM MEDICINE FOR IN-FOAL MARE—PEKIN DUCKS.**

1. Would the worm medicine prescribed in the "Farmer's Advocate" of Nov. 16th be injurious to a mare in foal?

2. Where could I get pure-bred white Pekin ducks? D. H. H.

Ans.—1. The physic (aloes) in this prescription makes it unsuitable to use for an in-foal mare. A worm remedy that has been recommended in these columns for such cases is as follows: Take 1 1/2 ozs. each of powdered sulphate of iron, sulphate of copper and tartar emetic; mix, and make into 12 powders. Give a powder every night and morning in damp food, or mixed with 1/2 pint cold water as a drench. After the last powder has been given, feed only bran for 8 or 10 hours, and then give 1 1/2 pints raw linseed oil; feed only bran for 24 hours longer, and give water in small quantities and often.

2. We cannot answer such questions, except through our advertising columns. If we did, we would soon go out of business.

**HIRED BOY.**

Early in April, last spring, A hired a boy, sixteen years of age—will call him C—from his father, B, at a certain wage per day, to assist in seeding time, or could stay any length of time as required, but to be dismissed on wet days or any time not required. In course of a few days, it was proposed by both A and C that better satisfaction could be derived by both parties if a permanent contract could be arranged, instead of the day-wage policy, and in a very short time a new engagement at a reasonable figure for a year was agreed upon, providing B was satisfied. The following Sunday, C was home, and on his return

was immediately questioned about his father's opinion in regard to the new engagement, upon which C readily answered it was immaterial to B how long he stayed, and, apparently delighted, worked on throughout the summer. Some time previous to haying, A met B at post office, as did also A's father at a different time, and at both instances B was questioned as to C's contract for the year, and being under the impression that he knew all, consequently wages were not mentioned; at any rate, B hadn't the slightest objection, providing the boy was used rightly. The summer passed on without quarrel or bad feelings on either side, and before the fall work was near completed, without the shortest notice, C left, his only reason being, he said, that someone told him he was working too cheap, for at different times he expressed remarks, speaking well of his employers, that he hadn't to work hard, etc. During the early part of summer, C demanded a bicycle, and as before was requested to procure B's full consent, which, after having been home again, C faithfully promised, upon which grounds A bought the bicycle and paid for it. C used wheel all the season.

1. Can B declare C's engagement, under the above circumstances, null and void, and collect wages as per former contract?

2. Can B or C be compelled to take wheel and settle for it?

3. Can A, when B refuses to settle for bicycle, sell same, and deduct the deficiency off C's wages? J. B.

Ans.—1. No.  
2 and 3. A's proper course would be to retain the balance of C's wages, and proceed against him for the rest of his account.

**EMPLOYEE LOSING TIME.**

We hired a man last April for eight months. The agreement was that he was to help Sunday morning and evening. Instead of fulfilling that agreement, he has nearly all summer left the place Saturday night and remained away till Monday morning, notwithstanding the fact that we have remonstrated with him, and told him that we were charging it to him.

1. Can I legally hold back part of his wages?

2. Again, on two holiday occasions, he left and remained away on one occasion four days, on another two, without a reasonable excuse either time. Can I hold back current wages for lost time? SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—1 and 2. Yes.

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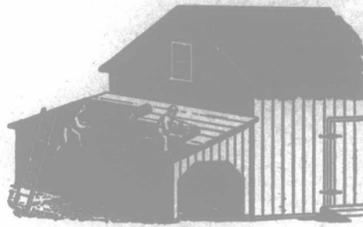
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