DAIRY

Fatal Separator Accident.

Some time ago, in reply to a correspondent, we cautioned against running cream separators at too high speed, as accidents have been known to occur from the bowl exploding under influence of the terrific internal pressure. Shortly afterwards we received a letter implying incredulity, and asking for particulars. We replied, citing two or three instances, though we were unable to recall the dates or places Lately we noticed in the New York *Produce Review* the following item, describing a serious accident on a dairy farm in Grant Township, north-west of Le Mars, Iowa. brought about by overspeeding a hand separator. Three boys, the oldest over 17, were seeing how fast they could make the separator go when something snapped. One boy was instantly killed, a piece of the machine striking him in the face and penetrating to the brain. Another was struck in the eye by a fragment and will probably lose his sight, while the third was lucky to escape with only a broken arm. The machine was revolving at a terrific speed when the accident happened, and the broken fragments were scattered in all directions with bullet-like velocity. Of course, it is plain that in this case the boys were running the machine away beyond its proper speed, but the incident illustrates the danger, nevertheless.

A Scrap Over the Milk Question.

The subjoined clipping from the letter of a correspondent in *Hoard's Dairyman*, will carry folks back to old-home scenes, till they fancy they hear the conversation and see the mother bending her back over churn handle and butter bowl:

"We had a family scrap at our house this morning," said a sprightly girl while making a call at a neighbor's. "Pa wanted to send the milk to the creamery, and Ma wanted to keep on making butter at home. It ended in a compromise, half the milk being sent and half kept at home for Ma to fuss over. She says she wants to eat her own butter and know how it is made. Besides that, she thinks they don't give fair returns from the creamery, for it always appears to her that she gets more butter out of the milk than they do.

"But the way Ma fusses over the butter is enough to drive you wild! You know, our well is quite a way from the house, and Ma pumps six to eight pails of water and lugs down cellar every time she churns. I don't know what under the sun she does with all of it, but she uses it in some way. And she won't let any of us help her, even refuses to let us turn the churn handle.

"Now, the rest of us know well enough that it's all nonsense for her to do it. We could eat creamery butter as well as other folks. If it tastes good and looks clean, I don't care how they make it. Ma says, too, that the milk we get back ain't fit for the calves to drink. So, taking it all around, we have big times over the cows. Pa says he's going to sell every one of 'em. But I guess he won't do that."

Skim Milk for Calves.

It is sometimes said that sweet skim milk fed directly from the hand separator has caused the death of calves and young pigs (writes Professor H. E. Van Norman), but I know of no specific case in which this is true, or of experiments which indicate that sour skim milk gives better results than sweet; in fact, the evidence is very largely in favor of sweet skim milk.

The skim milk directly from the separator has more or less air in it, as may be seen by the foam on top of it. I have fed this milk within three or four minutes after separating to young calves, and never have had any trouble which might in any way be traced to the skim milk. This would not prove, however, that allowing a young calf or pig to overload its stomach with new milk more or less mixed with air would not prove injurious, though I question very seriously whether this cause alone would produce death. In my opinion, if skim milk is allowed to stand ten minutes or so after separating, the light foam from the top removed, and only a moderate amount of the fresh, warm milk allowed each animal, no injurious results are likely to occur.

Many farmers think that because the fat has been removed, a calf must be given all the skim milk it can drink, and many calves suffer from too much skim milk; also from feeding cold skim milk and from sour skim milk, more especially if it is sweet one day and sour another.

While satisfactory results are reported from feeding skim milk, I recommend the use of sweet, still warm from the separator.

POULTRY

Suggestions From an Expert Poultry Man.

The following remarks upon poultry keeping were addressed by H. L. Blanchard of the State of Washington to the members of farmers' institutes in British Columbia:

"I deal in poultry chiefly for egg production, and the money I have lost was because I did not start right. What do we find in keeping poultry Why, some hens don't lay 100 eggs a year; some will lay 200 a year; and doubtless you have proved that it costs as much to keep a poor laying flock as a good one. I am sure you will find it quite a job to buy a good laying flock; people won't sell them any more than they will their best dairy stock, and some of the poorest hens we have might be the highest thoroughbreds. It is not a good plan to take eggs for your sittings from your flock promiscuously unless known to be good layers. This matter of selection of hens for egg production is found out only by study. A hen that won't lay in the fall after moulting, is not, as a rule, worth her keep.

"I have hens that are netting me $3 per hen per year, and a hen that won't yield more than $1.00 a year is not worth much; and my observation here in British Columbia is to the effect that poultry is more valuable than with us; every farmer should have at least 100 hens; I can see nothing to hinder it; and this amount at $2 a hen a year profit is quite a nice little thing. The same attention in detail is needed in poultry as in dairying or anything else, to get the best results. Poultry must have good quarters, not necessarily expensive ones. I built a new house last year, at a cost of $240, for as many hens. This cost covers all the fencing, and a running faucet conveying fresh water clean through. There are eight rooms with a runway for each room of 30 feet wide and 100 feet long. The largest cost was that of labor. Now if I had to build this in the East, according to climatic conditions, why the cost would have been greater.

"It is a bad plan to crowd too many hens together. A cow cannot give milk without feed, nor can a flock of fowls give eggs and not much egg-producing food given. I never allow more than 25 hens in a properly constructed house of 10 by 15 feet. The house I use, and what I find the most convenient, is the continuous one, as against the Cullander plan. I have also experimented several times and find that fowls kept within a moderately limited range have done the best, but they must be supplied with egg-producing food, good scratching places under cover, with plenty of gravel and straw litter, as exercise is indispensable to secure the best results.

"A question was asked here, "What would people do with their eggs if all were as successful as you?" Mr. Blanchard replied, there was no fear of overproduction in this line for fifteen years at least. The importation of eggs last year was in the neighborhood of, $300,000. Egg production in Washington is five times higher than ever before, and the price was never better than last year, and I can safely say that persons embarking in this branch can figure on a good trade for the period I have named, and this may not be said of other callings in this age of competition. There is no section so favored in this respect as is this Northwest country.

"Mr. Blanchard here depicted on the blackboard what plans he adopted in building poultry houses, both for cleanliness and accommodation. Wide perches of two by three inches laid flat ways, are good for chest expansion. Now, a few words on vermin. These never, or very seldom, trouble my poultry yards. I wash underneath and both edges of my poultry perches with carbolinium, as well as using a little in the white wash, and I know this will prove effective for two years, and may be for a good many more, if a good dust bath is provided. I adopt the plan of hanging everything from the rafters, The continuous house I just built is one, I say, of eight rooms, and the inner doors are hung to open each way, with two windows 3x6 feet in each compartment, hung inside to swing back to the wall; and for glass I now use muslin inside, and the outside frames are covered with wire netting. I have observed that these muslin made windows are fully as warm as glass ones. I have tested this by placing buckets of water in various houses, and I had more thickness of ice where glass was used than where muslin existed.

"Mr. Blanchard here stated that his daughter looked after 600 hens, with an average of three hours work a day. Now with my years of experience and profit, I have not bought more than 300 pounds of beef scraps. This is with me quite superfluous though I have nothing whatever to say against beef scraps; they are good if you have to buy anything. A good balanced ration is all that's needed. I grow a good crop of wheat, oats, barley, corn; in fact, sufficient for my purpose; and I feed a mixture of half wheat and barley, and quarter oats and corn all mixed together in these quantities, and all the green food necessary. And with this ration, and the houses kept clean and a pure running supply fresh water, it is rare to have any disease; and if we discover any fowl suffering from an ailment it is isolated and if no response is made for the better, after a couple of days, by a change of diet, its head is chopped off and buried, hen, head and all."

Horticulture and Forestry

Large Fruits at Emerson.

Anent the progress of the fruit growing industry in Manitoba a representative of the *Free Press* writes of the work of one of Emerson's citizens, Mr. Badgley, as follows:

"As an experimentalist in fruit growing Mr. Badgley has rendered invaluable service to the people of southern Manitoba. Records of his experiments have been accepted as authoritative by the governments of the province and the Dominion. His experiments have proved conclusively that many varieties of fruit, hitherto claimed to be non-productive in southern Manitoba, can be successfully grown. Mr. Badgley commenced his experimental work in fruit growing fourteen years ago in a plot of ground adjoining his residence. He set out twelve crab apple trees of the Hislop and Transendent varieties, imported from Crookston, Minnesota; also the same number of hardy varieties of eastern apples. His experiments with the crabs proved eminently satisfactory and they were bearing the third year. Each successive year new varieties of apples were added to the orchard in the following order: Virginia Crab, Martha Crab, Duchess Oldenburg, Hibernal, Autumn Strawberry and Yellow Transparent. Experiments were also made with several varieties of plums and the Compas cherry. Mr. Badgley has now upwards of one hundred and fifty trees and of these fifty-six are bearing fruit this year. Last season he picked over thirty bushels of fruit and this year the yield is slightly in advance."

A Selection of Evergreens.

Recent work with different kinds of plants has about convinced horticulturists that trees that flourish a few hundred miles south of the international boundary line but which do not grow naturally north of it can be induced to do so with very little trouble. This fall in a dozen different parts of Manitoba apples have matured and other so called tender species of trees are yearly becoming adapted to our conditions. Summer cultivation of the soil and a slight attention to protection make possible in tree growth feats that a few years ago were considered impossible, anent this subject the remarks of O. M. Peterson of the Minnesota Horticultural Society upon evergreens are timely. In part he says:

"Of all the different varieties of evergreens now used for windbreaks on the farms in this section of the country the one known as the Scotch pine undoubtedly stands at the head of the list as the best tree for that purpose. This pine has many points in its favor, being very hardy, of quick growth and easily transplanted. It has been more largely planted than any other evergreen and seems to be still gaining in popularity.