

The Welfare of the Home

Don't Say, "Stop That!" Without Saying "You May Do This."

By DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER.

The grandmother who had brought up seven children to vigorous, happy and well-poised maturity dropped in to see her young daughter-in-law. She was greeted by the sound of sobs and howls from behind the closed door. The young mother explained, her face set hard, "Elsie has been naughty. She is being punished."

The grandmother sank into a chair, praying for wisdom. "I never punished one of mine in any such way in all my life," she advanced mildly, "and they never disobeyed me, either."

"Why, Mother Burton!" cried the young mother incredulously. "That's just impossible. What did you do when they didn't mind, when they acted as Elsie did just now? She was so naughty. You see that lovely set of Stevenson? I told her three separate times not to touch it, but she persisted in handling the backs of the books with her sticky little fingers. What else could anybody do but punish her?"

"Well," said the grandmother, "Let's consider this case. I always tried to put myself in the children's place and tried to imagine why it was they wanted to do what seemed naughty, what there was in it that attracted them. Let's look at that Stevenson set. Yes, isn't it a beauty, all red leather and gold lettering? Why I believe it's the bright coloring that fascinated Elsie. There's nothing wicked in liking pretty, bright things. She'd be a little dunce if she didn't. Why, if that had happened to me, I believe I'd have tried giving her something bright and shiny that she could play with."

"No, you don't understand Elsie," said the young mother, "that wouldn't work with her. It's stubbornness. You ought to have seen how angry she looked."

"Well, perhaps you got her 'mad' up," suggested the grandmother, gently.

The young mother gave a sceptical, impatient gesture, "You can try it and see for yourself."

The grandmother went quickly into the kitchen while the mother was unlocking the closet door, and by the time the sobbing, excited child had come out, she was back with an egg-beater and a bowl of soapy water.

Elsie looked blackly at her mother and marched straight toward the forbidden books. "You see," breathed the mother triumphantly.

"Elsie," called the grandmother brightly, "just see here what I've got. Mother says we may play with it, you and I. See, when you whirl the water beater around, how it makes the water all froth up. It's as good as beating eggs. Come over and try it."

The egg-beater's shiny blades shone clearly as they whirled about through the glistening, foaming suds. Elsie was too little to contain more than one idea at a time especially when one of the ideas was such a beautiful one. She ran to the bowl and began to try to turn the beater.

At first Granny had to hold the bowl steady, but in a moment the deft little fingers caught the trick, and whisk! how the suds foamed up! She beamed as she beat, absorbed, radiant, the little eyes blurred with tears brightening, the little, sullen, angry face softening to a smile. "It's lovely," she pronounced solemnly.

Granny and Mother began to talk about the weather and a new recipe for cookies. The crisis was past.

When Granny stood up to go, half an hour later, she remarked casually to Elsie, "Oh, say, dear, Mother just loves those pretty red and gold books down there. And we are afraid that if you touch them, you'll get them dirty. You'll try to remember about that, won't you? You wouldn't like Mother to spoil your things."

Elsie's small mind had gone a long distance since that episode of the books. To her it seemed as though a long time had passed. And she certainly cared nothing about them, now. She nodded peacefully, her eyes on the shining water. "Oh, I don't care anything about the books," she said, "when I've got this."

Poultry

Some old poultry houses renovated and modernized and made suitable for housing a profitable farm flock, even though they are now in poor condition. If you have such a house with a step-ladder roosting system it can be improved by removing the old roosts.

pounds of unbleached wood ashes to every thirty square feet. Rake this in to a depth of two inches when the seedbed is being prepared.

Distances apart of seeds in the row depend on the kind of crop. If they grow bushy, they need more room. Radish, leaf-lettuce, spinach and onion seeds should be drilled in, one-fourth to one-half inch deep; on-

Soils and Crops

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...ice, boiled in sweet milk, a little salt, and in wet or cold weather a little cayenne pepper.

The young must not be raised on ground that was formerly occupied by chickens infested with gape-worms. Young turkeys seem to be ready subjects to vermin, especially head lice. If the hens are quiet, catch and treat them thoroughly while sitting. If the youngsters seem weak and listless two weeks old, the reason is usually lice. Anoint head, throat and vent with carbolated vaseline, and rub it in.

One-Third Acre of Strawberries.

Keep one-third of my one-acre garden in strawberries. Most growers get a new bed every other year for results; that is, harvest two crops then plow under the old bed. I use up my old bed with cultivator and hoe, fertilize with four spreaders of barnyard manure and prepare a third crop. I keep my patch in rows, mulching with two or three inches of straw when winter sets in. After freezing is over in spring I take off part of the straw and place between the rows. The plants readily come through an inch or an inch and a half of straw. The straw makes clean berries and a clean path to follow while picking.

A year ago last summer I picked 100 quarts, scripture measure. These were at twenty-five cents a quart, and brought \$575. Besides, we had what berries we needed for home use. That is better than any previous year. I plant both early and late varieties, such as Brandywine, which is a good early sort, and Williams and Glen Perry, which are later. This gives me a long season for picking.

It is wise economy to plant shelter-belts of evergreens, arbor-vitae, Norway spruce, and balsam fir, a portion of each with a sprinkling of other varieties to make a pleasant contrast.

Care of Seed Potatoes and Preparation for Planting.

Selection—In arranging for the seed supply of tubers for one's crop, the first steps should be taken during the growing season to get the seed from healthy, vigorous, large-yielding hills. When harvesting time comes these hills should be gathered separately from the rest of the crop. The tubers should be sun dried and all showing cuts, bruises or disease of any kind, thrown out. Such supply can then be kept for a seed area for the following season.

Where the main crop is destined for this seed trade, equally good care should be taken in the harvesting and sorting before going into winter storage. If the weather is bad at digging time, and the tubers have to be taken wet from the field, they should be spread out to dry on a barn floor or other airy place and be re-sorted before going into storage.

Storage—The best storage for maintaining vitality of seed tubers has not, so far as the writer is aware, been absolutely determined. Seed from a dry cellar with temperature running from 40 to 50 degrees has been equally vigorous with that from a moist cellar at a temperature of 34 to 38 degrees, though, of course, there would be great loss of bulk and weight in the former case. Potatoes kept in pits with excess of moisture and minimum of ventilation have also given vigorous plants.

When potatoes are first stored there should be free ventilation to carry off all latent heat and moisture and to reduce temperature to below 40 deg. If the floor of storage is very damp the bin had better be raised by a wooden floor. If it is dry there is nothing gained by the floor. If bins are very deep (over six feet) they had better be broken up by hollow partitions placed not more than ten feet apart; though the writer has seen potatoes keeping well in very large, deep bins.

The storage should be so constructed as to keep cool in the Spring. It should be possible to keep it below 40

degrees, to prevent sprouting until such time as the tubers are wanted.

Forced Sprouting—For an early crop, it is a common practice to take the seed tubers to a light room of about 60 degrees temperature by the 20th March, to give them four to six weeks to warm up and sprout. A thick green sprout not more than a half inch long is wanted. The exact gain in growth from this treatment has not been determined. In one trial at the Experimental Station, Fredericton, the difference in growth as between seed so treated and seed taken immediately from the cellar, was very slight. Plants from the sprouted seed were only from two to three days ahead of the others.

Disinfection—To kill any spores of common scab and, to some extent, Rhizoctonia, the potatoes should be treated with a disinfectant. The safest to use is formalin, at the rate of a pint to 30 gallons of water. The tubers are best bagged and then immersed for two hours.

Investigators are now trying out methods of disinfection whereby the use of heat and greater strength of solution will materially hasten the process of disinfection.

Cutting the Sets—Experiments have proven quite clearly that the most economical way to use seed is to cut to sets weighing not less than one ounce and not more than two ounces, with from two to three eyes to the set. Cutting by a machine or a cutting board may be economical in large commercial operations, but as when using these the size of sets and number of eyes cannot be well regulated nor elimination of internal disease carried out, the advantage of speed may not be good economy.

To make sure that no sets infected with Black Leg, Fusarium Wilt, Late Blight and other possible troubles are planted, the best procedure is, first to throw out all cut and bruised tubers, cut a thin slice off the stem end and then discard any tubers showing discoloration. Two knives should be used, one kept standing in a can of formalin solution; immediately a discolored potato is cut, the knife used should be put in the disinfectant and the other knife taken.

As the sets dry out quickly when cut and will heat if left in piles or barrels, they should be coated with dust. Gypsum, or land plaster, is one of the best materials to use, and if from two to four quarts is spread through the barrel of seed the sets will keep cool and firm without deterioration for days and even weeks. Air-slaked lime is frequently used and sometimes road dust and sulphur. Lime, if not thoroughly slaked, may injure the eyes and makes the set unpleasant to handle.

There is no dearth of kindness in this world of ours; only in our blindness we gather thorns for flowers.—Gerald Massey.

The Chinese, of all peoples, attach most importance to etiquette, the Book of Rites dating back to the 7th century B.C.

Chickens may be classified as several breeds, meat breeds, general purpose breeds and fancy or ornamental breeds.



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