

HORTICULTURE



Doctoring Trees With Chemicals.

More than a year ago we called attention to the fact that a certain company of men were selling to the farmers a process for doctoring trees with a chemical compound, says the Farmers' Review. The plan was to bore a hole in the tree and insert in it some kind of a mysterious compound.

Generally the leading agent of the company went to the orchard, bored the hole in the trees himself and inserted the compound. He claimed that this would protect the trees from all kinds of blights and all kinds of insects. He charged for his work 50 cents per tree, but liberally allowed the orchardist to pay half down and the rest some months later. The absurdity of the thing should have prevented farmers from taking up with the scheme. We published a warning at the time these men entered the field.

Soon we began to receive letters from Michigan saying that the agents were working there and that thousands of trees were being treated by them. In a visit to southern Michigan the editor of the Farmer's Review discussed the matter with many orchardists and with the director of the station at South Haven. Mr. Farrand as well as other experienced orchardists warned the fruit dealers to beware of the fraud, but the agent had persuaded so many of them that many hundreds of orchardists purchased the treatment from the agent. In one county alone 30,000 trees were treated. This represented \$15,000, of which half was paid down, the agent thus receiving \$7,500.

Later a few trees were treated on the experimental farm and the compounds were actually taken out and analyzed by the experiment station men. The compound was found to consist of some very simple chemical, a chemical which could in no way affect the health of the tree. The thing was a swindle pure and simple. It was reported that the agent never returned to collect the other 50 per cent. It is probable that he never will attempt to collect it, and it is further probable that he never intended to collect it.

It proved a mistake, however, to allow trees to be treated on the experimental farm, as it gave these agents an opportunity to say when they went to the eastern states to begin their work that the process had been tried and approved at the Michigan station.

We hope that this lesson, though costly to the fruit growers of southern Michigan, will prove of some value to other fruit growers that may have the opportunity to waste their money upon the same kind of treatment.

The idea is not a new one and has been worked in various forms in different parts of the country for a great many years. As it has proved so exceedingly valuable to the men who claim to know the secret, it is certain that they or others will continue to work it from time to time in various parts of the country.

Wounds on Fruit Trees.

An eastern fruit grower says: Wounds of any considerable size should be given a coating of paint or some other durable substance. A suitable dressing must possess two distinct properties. It must check the weathering of the wound and prevent the growth of bacteria and fungi, and it must be of such a nature as not to injure the surrounding bark. The dressing is of no value in the healing of the wound, except as it prevents decay. For general purposes, a white lead paint is most satisfactory. It is an antiseptic, and it adheres closely to the wood. Wax, shellac, tallow, etc., are lacking in both respects. Bordeaux mixture would be an admirable material for this purpose if it were more durable.

DAIRY NOTES

Creamery Milk Supply.

No creamery should be established where the milk from 400 or 500 cows cannot be obtained. Fifteen years ago it was believed that a creamery could be successfully run on the milk from 300 to 350 cows. That may have been so at that time, but at the present time the expenses of running a creamery are very much greater than they were fifteen years ago. The wages of men have advanced very much and creamery supplies have in some cases doubled in price. The commissions for selling butter are larger than they were, because it costs more to run the establishments of the commission men. It therefore requires a larger volume of milk to produce the same amount of revenue. Investigations in the State of Iowa show that a large number of creameries supplied by less than 500 cows have been compelled to suspend operations, due to the fact that they could not secure enough milk to yield them a profit on their business. It is for the advantage of the farmer to have his creamery supplied by as many cows as possible, for the reason that the less the cost of making a pound of butter the greater will be the price of milk received by the farmer. Thus in the largest factories it costs only one cent per pound for making butter. This is equal to four cents per cwt. of milk. In some of the smaller creameries it costs as much as \$.025 for making a pound of butter.

Every farmer should encourage his neighbors to keep more cows if they are supplying milk to the creamery. In some cases farmers that are prominent in the production of milk seem to have a jealousy in relation to the matter, they being prominent in that line. But they should understand that the more cows kept the better it is for them. The other men are not competing with them in the production of milk, but are co-operating with them; what benefits one will benefit the others. Large creameries seldom fail. This is because they are able to sell all their products to the greatest possible advantage. They are able to dispose of their buttermilk at large prices because they can send it in considerable quantities to distant markets, where they can secure permanent customers. The small creamery is unable to handle such a trade, and when they try it they frequently lose it because there comes a time when they are unable to supply the quantity demanded.

The very foundation of successful creamery work is a large milk supply, and every man interested in the creamery, whether he be the manager, butter-maker or patron, should labor for the increase of the milk supply. The limited milk supply is the danger point. It is at this point that the creamery is more likely to fail than at any other, and if the amount of milk be too limited to yield a profit on the returns, no kind of fine butter-making, no amount of skill in selling, and no measure of cleanliness about the factory can prevent its being a failure in the end.

Calves that are to be raised should not be left with the cow more than twenty-four hours after birth. Feed them for three weeks with warm, sweet milk just from the cow, however, then begin to drop off the new milk and add gradually sweet skimmed milk. At three weeks of age the calf will take some bright hay. Place it in a potato crate near enough so that the calf can get at it and yet not be apt to tip it over. It will prevent bowel troubles and make the calf grow nicely.

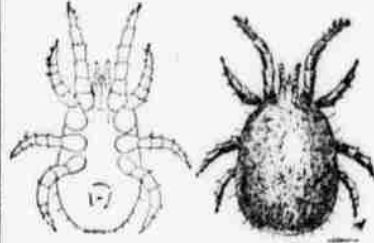
Scientific dairying requires a close study of the feeds of dairy cows.

Moldy hay should not be fed to dairy cows.

POULTRY

The Deadly Chicken Mite.

Herewith we illustrate the deadly chicken mite (magnified 25 diameters). The mite at its natural size can be readily known and recognized by means of the naked eye, but a magnifying glass will make him still more apparent. These mites are very destructive to poultry and kill more young chicks than any other pest. Their smallness makes them hard to fight. They multiply with great rapidity, and it is not unusual to find all the crevices in a poultry house harboring these mites. Sometimes a single crevice will hold ten thousand



mites. They swarm on fowls when they are at rest, and more than one sitting hen has had her life blood sucked out to such an extent that she has died hovering her eggs. To fight these minute creatures it is necessary to have all parts of the poultry house constructed of matched lumber and the cracks filled up with some adhesive liquid such as whitewash. The roosts and all nests should be movable. Nest material must be frequently changed if the mites are about. The roosts can be washed with kerosene or sprayed with kerosene emulsion.

Confined Birds.

I have seen a great deal in the papers about the superior laying that can be done by birds that have the run of the farm. Now, I do not believe that. I think it is better for the fowls to have the run of the farm, as they are healthier that way and also hunt their own living, eating up the bugs that would otherwise injure the crops of the farmer. But for the mere laying of eggs I think hens in confinement are as good as any. I find that, so far as the eggs are concerned, I get the best results in the latter part of the winter when the ground is covered with snow and when the hens would not run if they could. February and March are the best egg months with me, with April a good third, but the record in April is not due to the fact that the fowls have the run of the farm. I am willing to admit, however, that as hens are kept on some farms they will not do as well shut up as running, for the reason that they are stuffed all winter with an unnatural combination of foods.

I do not feed my hens in that way, but see that all through the winter they have as good feed as they would get in the summer time. They have green stuff and all the lime, meat, grit and the like, they will eat. I try to give them a bulky food. If they have that kind of a food it takes them longer to do the work of digestion, but the work is not so hard on the digestive organs. I am not much in favor of feeding the fowls only three times or twice a day. I think if they have a bulky food they can eat about when they want to and it will do no harm. —Phoebe Caldwell, Butler Co., Ohio

Fall pigs are very unpopular with the farmers. This is because they seldom make money out of the fall litters. The cause of this failure is the lack of facilities for taking care of young pigs in cold weather.

The fall is a good time to construct poultry houses.

HAWTHORN TREE THEIR MASCOT

Scottish Family Fears Disaster With Decline of Relic.

In two notable cases in Britain the family mascot is a tree. The foundation of Cawdor castle, near Nairn, are built round a hawthorn tree, and there is an ancient tradition to the effect that the disappearance of this tree will be a sign that dire misfortunes will shortly overwhelm the family. "Freshness to the hawthorn tree of Cawdor" is consequently the hap-



Hawthorn tree in Cawdor castle.

piest form of felicitation to the Campbells of Cawdor. The tree must be about five hundred years old, according to the most moderate computation, so that there cannot be very much "freshness" about it at the present day; but it still has its roots in the soil and its stem rises through the floor of one of the dungeons, where it may still be seen keeping the ancient legend in countenance.

DOG'S NAME IS IN DIRECTORY

Put Down on the List as "Robert Badgero, Watchman."

"Robert Badgero, watchman, 39 West street," is the way it read in the Utica city directory, and the woman who responded to the bell call told the man at the door that "Bob" was it.

"I'd like to see him," remarked the caller, for he was in search of a watchman for his establishment.

"Here Bob! here Bob!" called the woman, and a lively bull terrier rushed into the hall.

And then the woman laughed, for the Robert Badgero in the directory was none other than "Bob," the mascot of the Utica & Mohawk Valley Railway company, who had been listed in the directory as a "watchman" because that's just what he was.

Bob is probably the only dog on record who has his name in a city directory. He is the property of Milford Badgero, private secretary of General Manager Allen of the street railway. Bob is known by all employees of the line, and is always a welcome passenger, who need pay no fare.

A short time ago Bob went to Rome with the company's claim agent, and became strayed there. When the claim agent reached home Bob was there. He had taken an earlier trolley. —Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Girl is Hunting a Bachelor.

Miss Anita Weston, West Somerville, Mass., has written to the South Dakota census department asking to be put in communication with some bachelor. She calls attention to a "Hoping showing the preponderance of men over women in South Dakota," and says:

"It almost takes my breath away to think of all those bachelors out there. Here, it is just the opposite. Now, if the bachelors are really so plentiful, let me put me in communication with some of them right away.

"Consider it your duty as a Christian, only please don't infer from this that any man will do."

Census Commissioner Robinson is doing his best.