

Tree Culture—Winter Insect Remedies.

Most persons are likely to think of insect remedies as consisting chiefly of the direct application of insecticides, but this is erroneous. Just as contagious diseases often fail to afflict those persons who are most sanitary in their habits, so are insect attacks generally unknown upon the premises of most persons who take certain preventative precautions before the pests themselves appear.

Winter time measures against insects may at first appear to be unusual, but it must be remembered that it is then that pests are unable to escape, if found, and also at that time vegetation is in its winter condition and consequently more resistant to the effects of unusually strong insecticides which must then be applied in order to be most effective. It is necessary to kill the insects without injuring the vegetation they infest. Certain plants, such as the peach, are so delicate that during the growing season they are injured by almost any kind of application that would be severe enough to kill certain kinds of the insect pests, such as the scales. During the winter time, when the leaves are off, the plants are much more resistant than are even the scale insects, and more effective remedies can consequently be applied at this time. Also, it is now that we can reach the eggs and chrysalids of certain kinds of insects that could not readily be destroyed at other times. For example, the immature of the codlin moth are now under the loose scales of bark around the trunks of the fruit trees, and the eggs of the apple aphid or plant louse are to be found by the millions on the twigs of almost every apple tree. At this time of year we can safely use a spray of kerosene and water, of any desired strength, or even pure kerosene. One of the best remedies for scale insects and plant louse eggs is to spray on a calm winter day with pure kerosene, covering the tree with a very fine film, but not letting it run in streams, then setting fire to it. It is said to burn just enough to kill all scales and eggs and not injure the tree. Another first-class remedy for these pests is to wash or spray the trees well with a strong solution of caustic whale oil soap, two pounds of soap to one gallon of water. This will kill scales on rose bushes and elsewhere, but it must be thoroughly applied, and used when there is no foliage.

At this time of year scrape the trunks of trees and burn the scrapings, thus destroying the larvae of codlin moths. On a day when the fallen leaves are dry rake them up and burn them, thus killing dozens of different kinds of hibernating insects; but be sure first to save the toads that may be hibernating there and put them in a safe place for the remainder of the winter, for these animals are very useful about the premises. It is quite important to burn the last vestige of every plant that remains in the garden and truck patch, for the insects that will infest next year's crop are now lurking in the old cabbage stalks, and leaves, the remains of the potato, melon, and squash vines, and under any and all debris in which they can find concealment. Board piles, brush heaps, and corners of rail fences are favorite places for hibernating insects. Clean up now and save next year's crops.—H. A. Surface professor of zoology Pennsylvania State College.

For the benefit of those who have been caused a great deal of anxiety by a balky horse, lost trains as well as temper, and sometimes even ruined the horse, the next time they have the experience to run across a balky horse, no matter how bad he is, let me tell you how to start him ninety-nine times out of a hundred.

Of course it may fall one time in a hundred. When a horse balks, to make how badly he sulks or how up he is, do not beat him. Don't throw sand in his ears, don't use a rope on his fore legs or even burn straw under him. Quickly go and pat him on the head a moment. Take a hammer or even pick up a stone in the street, tell the driver to sit still, take his lines, hold them quietly while you lift up either front foot, give each nail a light tap and a good smart tap on the foot, drop the foot quickly and then chirp him to go. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the horse will go right on about his business, but the driver must keep his lines taut and not pull or jerk him back.

If I have tried this once, I have tried it 500 times, and every time I have suggested it people have laughed and even bet \$5 and bottles of wine that I could not do it. So far I have won every bet. This may make you smile, but a horse has more common sense than most people are willing to give him credit for. The secret of this little trick is simply diversion. I am a firm believer that with kindness and proper treatment a horse can be driven with a string.—Horse Shoers' Journal.

The long periods of drought nearly every year have caused many of the expert stations to examine closely into the matter of soil moisture. The time has come, owing to forest destruction, when the question of soil moisture is the most important that can be considered in relation to farming. The plant derives its food supply through the agency of the water which it drinks in or absorbs from the soil, with the aid of the membranous surfaces of the roots, with their root hairs, which later greatly increase the surface connection of the plant with the water of the soil. Large quantities of water thus taken in by the plants are "breathed out" into the air through the leaves, and the amount is enormous, field crops consuming 200 to 500 pounds of water for each pound of dry matter the plants add to their own weight in growing. The roots of field crops are much longer, much more numerous, spread farther and penetrate into the soil to greater depths than many persons realize. When the upper portion of the earth is often too dry for the plant to feed some crops send their deepest roots downward from four to six feet or more, though the greater number of roots are in the upper 18 inches of soil.

A novel way of curing horses of the kicking habit is practiced in Germany. A bag of sand or gravel is hung from the ceiling of the stable in such a manner that the bag will be a little distance behind where the refractory horse is standing. Whenever he kicks he will strike the bag, and in return will receive a smart blow from it, which he will remember.

It may take a few days to impress upon his mind that he will always be rewarded for his unmanly conduct in this manner, says the New York Herald, but unless he is exceedingly stupid he will quickly learn the lesson, and then the bag may be removed. It is asserted that a horse once cured in this manner will never again think of kicking, but whether this is true or not time alone can tell.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

We may, however, well pause over the coiffures. Aigrettes have given way almost entirely to dainty chaplets of delicate foliage and flowers, and especially are they in evidence on the younger belles. Who might be so many bewitching bacchantes or queens of the May, to judge by these fascinating little wreaths which do not quite meet at the back. The foliage is of the most delicate sort, while the blossoms are either of the smallest or are tight little buds of the larger flowers.

Da Barry wreaths are so much in vogue that all manners of materials are made up into the Da Barry headdress. These half wreaths are of flowers and leaves, of plaited grass, with bunches of the grass on each side of the hair; of satin ribbon, with or without floral effects, and plaited ribbon that passes around the back of the hair and ends upon each side of the head in jaunty little bunches and knots.

Laurel crowns are as popular now as they were in the days long ago. These vie in point of popularity with the frosted leaves of holly and oak, sprinkled over with the highly mistletoe berries.

Holly berries glow amid green or frosted leaves in the Da Barry wreath, of in the simple wreath worn in front and not around the back of the hair. Little bows of red velvet, less than half an inch in width are used to tie the back of mistletoe and holly wreaths, and give a pretty touch of color to them. When ribbon figures in the head-dress it is twisted and knotted and draped, rather than tied in a regular bow.

Miss Mary Andrews, of Hamilton, Ohio, has been installed as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Kansas City. She is the only woman preacher in Missouri.

1st. Skirts are to be fuller. This is not a sudden freak of fashion, but has been coming gradually for some time. Around the hips the fullness is controlled by putting it into fitted yokes, or to shirring it in several rows; around the foot it flows out unrestrained.

2nd. Skirts are to be lighter—lighter materials, like grenadine, mistral, crepe de chine, voile and etamine are being used.

3rd. These materials make silk linings necessary, and the drop skirts of silk are made and shaped like the outside part.

4th. Nearly all the new skirts have panel fronts, and the trimming on them runs up and down instead of around.

The jackets take one of two forms—either give the effect of a bolero or have long full skirts over the hips. None of them with stand-up collars—but all are flat around the neck like some of the coats that have been worn with fur this winter.

The sleeves are full and loose, and gathered into cuffs at the wrist.

One pretty suit of light-weight broadcloth, with a blouse jacket, trimmed bolero fashion, a postilion back and three little cape collars.

Another, of chevot, with a long Russian blouse, trimmed with a shoulder cape.

Where the white spots appear on polished surface from the dropping of liquids or from heat, the immediate application of raw linseed oil will gradually restore the color. The oil should be left on the affected spot for several hours or over night. Alcohol will perform the service if applied at once to rosewood or highly finished mahogany. In each instance, when the color has returned, the spot should be repolished with a piece of cheesecloth moistened with turpentine.

For chapped hands into one pint of clear water pour one half ounce of pure glycerine, four tablespoonfuls of powdered borax, one block of gum camphor and one half pint of bay rum. This preparation is an old and tried remedy. It is also good for chapped hands.—Woman's Home Companion.

No fashionable wardrobe next summer will be complete without a suit of white embroidered linen.

Shirtings are revived and are to be used in a variety of ways upon modish spring costumes.

Fruit, especially grapes, currants and cherries, will be extensively used upon spring head coverings.

Skirts are not to flare. The tight clinging skirts of a year ago have given place to shapes that fall in pleats and loose puffs from a yoke.

There are three styles of jackets exhibited among the correct tailor gowns, these being the paletot, the straight-round blouse with hip piece, and blouse with tail front.

The shirt-waist suit of natural-colored linen will be one of the most swagger of the season.

"Every sleeping room," says a lecturer on house building, "should have a fire-place or a ventilating flue, of fifty square inches area. The smaller the room the more important this becomes. The neglect of this precaution, which is common in apartment houses, is a serious matter, and will not be without an injurious effect upon the health of the occupant." It is on these practical points that the woman electing to build a house this spring should inform herself.

A glass of hot water and lemon juice taken before meals will cleanse the stomach of mucus. In this instance no sugar should be added. Lemon juice, hot water and salt instead of sugar is a remedy advised for sick-headache and biliousness.

Hot water is far more of a medical property than many believe or know. Because it is to be had for the making, thousands think it valueless, on the theory that what comes easiest is oftentimes least thought of. The uses of hot water are, however, many. For example, there is nothing that so quickly cuts short congestion of the lungs, a sore throat, or rheumatism as hot water when applied promptly and thoroughly. Headache almost always yields to the simultaneous application of hot water to the feet and back of the neck. A towel folded several times and dipped in water, and quickly wrung out and applied over the forehead and neck, will gradually afford prompt relief. A strip of flannel, or napkin, folded lengthwise and dipped in hot water and wrung out, and then applied around the neck of a child that has the croup, will sometimes bring relief in ten minutes.

The woman of Bethany, Mo., organized an improvement association, and in four months the streets had been cleaned, the court house square made attractive by vases of growing plants, and the city council has been requested to enforce sanitary ordinances with greater vigor. This little town has less than three thousand population, but this association has opened a fine public

waiting room, light and airy, furnished with toilet conveniences, and reading matter, and beautified with plants and pictures. The association employs a matron to look after the comfort of guests.—The American Mother.

Typhoid Fever.

Impure Water by no means the Sole Habitat of Germs. New Facts Recently Disclosed. Raw Vegetables and Fruit the Source of Many Cases of the Disease—Seven-Tenths, says a Well-Known Baltimore Specialist.

The annual epidemic of typhoid fever is at its height and Health Boards and physicians are making more than the usual efforts to trace the source of the disease. It is not always well to become panicky when you hear somebody about the water supply; it's something terrible—'thick with typhoid germs.' The efforts of health authorities to secure pure water have reduced the number of typhoid cases it is true; but the disease is still too frequent to trace its sole source to impure water. While everybody knows that impure drinking water has long been considered the main thriving element of the typhoid bacillus, in a town like Bellefonte, where the water is reasonably pure the season round, some other source must be looked to for the great majority of typhoid cases.

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

The Chicago Health Board has just made an exceptionally valuable discovery. Puzzled to note that the highest mortality of typhoid fever was in a region of the city where the water was least contaminated—a district called the "Ghetto," because its inhabitants are mainly Jews of the poorer class—the health inspectors started an investigation. They found that these people consumed large quantities of raw vegetables grown in their gardens, upon which the overflow of vaults and cesspools has been spread as fertilizer.

An analysis of the ground in which these vegetables grew showed it to be reeking with typhoid bacilli.

Even peeling the vegetables eaten by the Jews in Chicago made little difference, as the minute germs would find their way from the hand or knife to the fresh surface. Boiled the vegetables were harmless. The typhoid germ is almost indestructible except by heat of not less than the temperature of boiling water. It will live indefinitely frozen in cakes of ice. Experiments have proved that this germ will live thirty-two days in distilled water. It hardly needs food to enable it to exist.

DR. CATHELL'S THEORY.

Bearing on the theory of typhoid germs on fruit and vegetables, Dr. Cathell, of Baltimore, says he is convinced that seven out of every ten cases of typhoid fever which have come under his notice since he has been practicing medicine have been caused by eating fruit or vegetables upon the surface of which the germs were concealed.

"If there has been typhoid fever in a locality it is very reasonable to believe that the germs have gotten into the soil, and especially in view of the way farms and gardens in the vicinity of Baltimore are fertilized. Now the germs get into the wells and streams by being washed down by the rain, so why should not fruit and vegetables which have been in contact with that soil bear the germs on their surfaces."

"The rain frequently washes the earth up on the tomatoes as they hang on the vines, and peaches and apples fall to the ground and often lie in puddles of water which may be infested with the germs of typhoid. They are picked up, rubbed and taken to market."

"If you will look at a tomato you will frequently, and, indeed, generally, find earth on it in one place or another. Where it joins the stem there is often quite a cavity left when the vegetable is gathered, and there are generally seams and depressions in it, in which you find traces of the soil. That is where I believe the germs lurk. Why, when a man has a peck of tomatoes from a locality where there has been typhoid, he probably has 40,000 germs."

"Many people will take a tomato or a peach and eat it, and with the germs that are on it, without stopping to think what danger they may be running. The fuzz of the peach makes it easy for the germs to cling. Radishes, too, which come right out of the ground, may be a source of danger, and cantaloupes would be another were it not that we do not touch the rind with our lips."

"Typhoid germs live and propagate in the soil, and they may be there for months or perhaps years after there has been a case of the disease near by."

"What strengthens me in my belief that it is the dirt on the fruit and vegetables that people eat that gives them typhoid is the fact that the disease is only prevalent during the season when there is a great deal of fruit and vegetables and people are most apt to eat them raw. Take the skin off of the peach, apple or tomato when you eat it and in that way you will avoid the germs. This is such a simple precaution that anybody can follow it, and the theory itself is so simple a one that I am surprised that it has not been generally advanced. In all the course of my reading of the literature of typhoid fever I have never come across it, however."

IMPORTANT "DON'TS."

M. S. Sehsinger, Ph. D., a New York bacteriologist, gives the following list:

Don't drink water of doubtful purity until it has been boiled for thirty minutes and then cooled.

Don't eat raw vegetables until they have been thoroughly washed in pure water.

Don't let flies in the house; keep them away from all food supplies.

Don't fail to disinfect everything that comes from the room of a typhoid fever patient.

Don't neglect to consult a doctor at once when you have a hot head and a bilious feeling, with intermittent fever, it may be typhoid fever; give yourself the benefit of the doubt.

Proposed Lee Memorial.

I Move to Erect a Statue of Him at Gettysburg.

Erection of an equestrian statue of General Robert Lee on the Gettysburg battlefield will be the object of a bill which will be introduced this week in the Legislature by Representative Thomas V. Cooper, of Delaware county. Col. A. M. McClure is the author of the bill.

The proposed act will appropriate \$20,000 and provide for a commission to cooperate with Virginians in obtaining a statue of General Lee. This commission, it is specified, shall consist of the Governor, the Adjutant General and five veterans of the Union army.

The statue is to be of bronze and the site for its erection some point on Seminary Hill. It is provided that Virginia must also appropriate \$20,000.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

A Bark Destroyed.

The bark Abiel Abbott, Captain Hawkins, went aground one mile north of Ship Bottom light near Barneget Bay New Jersey last week, and is fast going to pieces. Five of her crew of nine were picked up by the life-savers, but it is believed that the four other members were killed by falling wreckage.

The Abbott was bound from Turks Island for New York, laden with salt. During the heavy weather she lost her bearings and ran aground. The strain caused one of her masts to fall, and it is thought that four of her crew were killed by the wreckage. The other members were in a dying condition when taken from the wreckage by the life-savers.

The crew of the life-saving station is continuing the search for the other members of the crew.

The Abbott will be a total loss. One of the rescued men, whose name is unknown, died from exposure in the Ship Bottom life-saving station. The condition of the four other men is critical. They are unconscious. The men were rescued by the life-savers three miles at sea. They were taken off the bark's house, which they had used as a raft.

This is the third vessel wrecked within the past three weeks near this station.

The best time to prune fruit trees just before the sap begins to flow—from February to April—according to the latitude. The wounds will then heal over rapidly, without leaving dead wood or scars. The next best time is from the middle to the last of June, when the sap flows afresh and the trees commence a second growth, but heavy pruning should never be practiced in June. March pruning may be saved by pinching and rubbing off superfluous sprouts during the growing season.

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