

The Dust Question to be Kept at the Forefront.

It is quite evident that the movement agitating for and demanding clean streets and the suppression of the dust menace and nuisance is extending in earnest and growing in imperative intensity. People are beginning to perceive the dire fact that dust particles are aviating microbe rafts—or germ aeroplanes, if you please—that the dangerous and disgusting feature of the dirt is the communicable dust into which it is pulverized by dryness and propagated by wind gusts, automobile wheels and exhausts, and by so-called street cleaners, who sweep against wind and traffic without sprinkling or caring, even when they have the water pots to do so—which seems to be the exception.

If the people are really awake, alert and organized they will, with righteous indignation and a sweeping potency, demand the removal of dirt and the suppression of dust, and expect the work to be done thoroughly and the street-cleaning bureau to prove its efficiency. Officially, as well as industrially, efficiency is more of a matter of management than of the individual capacity of the subordinate labor or the mechanical adequacy of the equipment. Men and machines to do the required work are not so difficult to obtain, but the uniform and insistent training and the close and conscientious inspection by a full and dependable force are elements of fundamental importance for good results. Further, the example of official efforts toward street cleanliness will educate the people to emulate the same in cleaning and flushing the sidewalks. The object of legislation meanwhile is to compel responsible household and business people to keep their sidewalks clean, even where abutting buildings are vacant. Legislation will educate as well as activate a tendency to this betterment for public decency and comfort as well as health and sanitary safety.

No question is settled until it is settled right, and this dirty dust question will not be settled until the dust is settled right, by systematic and steady reduction and removal. It is the essence of science and of common sense to face facts. Any one with half an eye can surely observe and feel that the streets and sidewalks are abominably and constantly dirty and the air extremely dusty, except when it rains. What are our standards of cleanliness, if we say they are not so, or even only slightly or tolerably so? Or has long familiarity bred neglect, because, having eyes to see, we see not; hearts to feel interest and indignation, we feel not; minds to understand, we know not what to do and wills to do, we fold our hands serenely and slumberingly and act not; or because of foxy politics and pharisaical procrastination we pull back or pass by those who have the starter and motor qualities to initiate and drive ahead for a cleaner, healthier and neater city?

This anti-dust agitation as a public health movement is not at all of recent origin; it has, indeed, continued for more than fifteen years; but only lately has been renewed, last winter in connection with the grip epidemic, and in July and September as a warning in relation to the infantile paralysis prevalence.

It will be our object to serialize and summarize our past and present information concerning the dust menace and the methods and management for its abatement and abolition, for the latter is not at all a utopian fancy, but a practicable probability.—By Howard S. Anders, A. M. M. D.

Penn State Sweeps Country in Butter Judging Contest.

Highest honors in the butter judging contest at the National dairy show have been won by students of The Pennsylvania State College. The three-man team, which represented Penn State, returned from Springfield, Mass., bringing more than \$300 in prize money. In addition to winning the team prize from eight of the foremost agricultural schools in the country, the State College students were rated first, second and third in the individual scores. State led the field by more than 200 points over South Dakota, its nearest competitor. The team was composed of Silas Page, of Pittsburgh; Elmer Saylor, of Spring City, and Birch Ober, of Enterprise, Pa. I. J. Bibby, instructor in dairy husbandry at State College, coached the winning team.

The Women, Too, Will Vote.

Two political parties working tooth and nail to elect their candidates, and one boss dominating both factions is the unusual situation at The Pennsylvania State College. Students in the course in political science have divided into Hughes and Wilson supporters, and both organizations are combining the college community for votes. Dr. George F. Zook, associate professor of history, holds the election result in the hollow of his hand, for he is the instructor of the class. Equal suffrage has been extended to the women students for the first time, and they will exercise their ballot privilege at the mock election to be held next week.

Two of a Kind.

Two wretched looking tramps were brought before a justice of the peace. Addressing the worse-looking one, the justice said, "Where do you live?" "Nowhere."

"And where do you live?" said the justice, addressing the other. "I've got the room just above him."

FARM NOTES.

—Berks county shows an average below last year's average.

—Reports from all sections of the State indicate that the buckwheat crop will be a failure and that less than sixty per cent. of the average yield will be produced.

—The long drought in mid-summer yield of wheat of 24 bushels to an acre while Lebanon shows 23.5 bushels, Lancaster 22.9; Delaware, 22.5; Chester, 22.5 and Bucks 21.4 bushels.

—Like wheat and buckwheat, the oats and rye crops will be below average this season, with rye being far below average this season, with rye being far below last year's average.

—"Many farmers who find no time for doing the work of the farm at the time or in the manner they would like to do it, must do the best they can with the limited amount of labor available," says J. T. Campbell, farm adviser of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. "I have met many farmers during the past season who wish to use lime on their land, but were so crowded with their work that liming could not be done. To such, let me recommend hauling the lime during the nice days of late autumn after the rush of cropping is over. If the lime is hauled and applied to the land at this time it will be in readiness for next season's crops. The fields are generally dry and solid at this season and the lime can be spread as hauled, right on the sod or other land needing it. It will be plowed down at the next plowing and its full benefit may not be realized till it is plowed up again, but the fact that it can be applied at this time, when otherwise there is not time for applying it, will offset the slight loss that may take place."

"I would prefer to have the lime applied to the plowed land and worked in, but in the rush of seeding time this is frequently out of the question. Most of us cannot farm as we would like to farm but must farm as we can. Many of those who would feign advise the farmer in his work knows little of the conditions confronting the man in the fields. Get the lime and apply it when other work is not pressing, it will be profitable."

—Provided conditions are right most fruit trees may be planted in the fall as well as in the spring, over the greater part of Pennsylvania. The chief point favoring fall planting are: Such trees usually get an earlier start in the spring, the soil and weather conditions are generally more favorable for planting in the fall than in the spring, the dangers of improper winter storage are avoided and the fullest stocks and choicest trees are available from the nurseries.

The essentials for successful fall planting, according to Dr. J. P. Stewart of the Pennsylvania State College are: A proper amount of moisture in the soil, well prepared holes into which to set the trees, well matured trees, and sufficient open weather to enable the roots to get some connection with the soil before winter. The conflict between the last two items is the usual point of difficulty in fall planting. In general, however, the young trees are sufficiently mature by the early part of October to permit the usual digging and stripping of foliage without material injury, and any time within the month of October is usually early enough to enable the trees to get properly established before cold weather arrives. The roots usually remain active much longer than the tops.

Where the conditions outlined can all be obtained fall planting is probably preferable. Where they are lacking in any important particular or rigorously, it is generally safer to defer planting until spring.

—It being so extremely important that poultry, during the cold fall days and night rains and the bad weather of winter, to do well, be properly and comfortably housed, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture urges farmers and all others keeping poultry at this time to do the following things to their poultry houses this month.

First, to thoroughly clean by removing all rubbish, litter, dung and interior fixtures; by sweeping down all walls, etc., and applying a coat of white wash. And to do this on a clear sunny day so as to promptly dry out.

Second, to see that the roof is tight and does not leak in the heaviest storms.

Third, to batten all cracks to the north, west and east and if there are any windows or openings on the north side or in roof or at eaves to close up tight, with boards.

Fourth, to arrange or rebuild so that from 50 to 80 per cent. of the south side is in openings and in glass. It is important though, that there be not any considerable amount of glass in a poultry house. A house with a twenty-foot frontage to the south and eight feet from floor to roof on this side—the roof should always slope to the north, if it does not, turn the building or change its location until it does—can have an opening ten feet long by five feet high placed in its exact centre and can have an ordinary sized window on each side of opening and be about right.

Fifth, to put in a floor, or an insulated cement floor. A great many farmers balk at this expense but it is the thing to do if poultry are to have any chance at all to make good in bad weather. Board or cement floors in the poultry house are really feeding floors and floors under good management are always covered with deep clean litter with some grain always therein and the chickens always busy scratching. Such floors become polished like wax and the only cleaning they need is a weekly shaking of the straw to one side and the sweeping together and removal of the dirt and fine stuff.

Sixth, and most important of all, the chickens must like the house and be willing to spend most of the time therein, with the door open. If they won't do this there is something wrong with the house and a sure sign that the poultry is again going to be a loss this winter.

Making Hog-Cholera Serum and Virus.

Recent years have witnessed such a general adoption of the practice of vaccinating hogs to protect them from cholera that the scientific production of serum and cholera blood, or virus, has become a commercial undertaking of considerable magnitude. Anti-hog-cholera serum is made from the blood of a hyper-immune hog. An animal is selected which has had cholera and has recovered or has been vaccinated. It is placed in a portable crate and wheeled into a laboratory where a block and tackle is employed to raise it up in a frame so that it cannot move. An incision is then made in the animal's ear and the proper amount of virus injected into one of the veins through a rubber tube. An injection of about one quart is used for an animal weighing 200 pounds. If the hog survives this infusion of diseased blood it is killed at the end of two or three weeks and its blood is drawn off and used for serum.

—Plans for the State corn, apple, butter, milk and wool show which will be held at Harrisburg on January 23, 24 and 25 are being worked out

and announcement of the premium list will be made within a short time. Indications point to one of the best shows they have ever held in the State.

Electric Threshing Outfit Used by Kansas Farmers.

During the wheat harvesting season in Dickinson county, Kan., this year, threshing was done electrically for the first time, so far as it is known, in the history of the State. A group of farmers in one locality were unable to engage a steam outfit for the time it was desired. They therefore joined together, forming a co-operative association, issued stock to the amount of \$1,200 and bought a separator and fair-sized motor. With this equipment they threshed their wheat, obtaining electric current from the transmission lines of a lighting company supplying energy to towns in that vicinity. The farmers reduced their threshing expenses 50 per cent., cutting the cost per bushel from eight to four cents. This saving paid for the equipment, which will be depended upon in the future.

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