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1-1y

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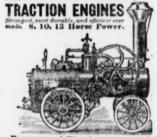
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AGRICULTURAL.

NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS. THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLI GENCE AND PROSPERITY OF THE FARMER.

Every farmer in his annual experience severy farmer in his annual experience tuscovers something of value. Write it and send it to the "Agricultural Editor of the Democrat, Bellefonte, Penn'a," that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

Prevention of Fowl Cholera.

Although the cholera of fowls is an exceedingly virulent and fatal disease, destroying vast numbers of birds of different species, and remaining on premises for years after being once introduced, we are satisfied, after a long series of experiments, that there are points in its natural history which enable us to control it with comparative ease and with a considerable degree of certainty. These points are:

1. The virus is not diffusible .- That is, the disease germs are seldom if ever taken up by the air and carried any considerable distance to produce the malady. The virus remains in the fixed form, and is generally, if not always, taken into the body with the food; it is distributed over the grounds, feeding places, etc., in the excrement of affected birds, and the food, drink and gravel are thus contaminated. Healthy birds may kept in coops within a few feet of the sick ones for mouths without contracting the disease; but if the former are now placed in the same inclosure with the latter they sicken in a few

2. The virus must be carried upon the grounds frequented by fowls before they contract the disease.—It is not probable that this disease originates, in any considerable number of cases, in any other way than by contagion. There is a possibility that it may originate in occasional instances by filthy surroundings if closely confined, or by feeding on decomposing substances; but there are few facts to support such a conclusion, and it appears certain that in the vast maority of cases the disease is imported and kept up by contagion alone.

It is thus brought upon farms either (1) with sick or infected fowls newly equired, (2) with the blood or parts of the bodies of dead birds carried on the feet of people or brought by dogs or other animals, (3) with infected manure or feathers, or (4) by wild birds, animals (rabbits), or even insects that have contracted the disease or have eaten the blood or bodies of affected birds recently dead. origin of the disease can generally be traced in country districts, where houses are a considerable distance apart, to recently acquired poultry. It is only in districts more thickly peopled, and then in exceptional in stances, that the germs are carried by wild birds or animals or by insects. PREVENTIVE MEASURES FOR GROUNDS

ALREADY INFECTED. 1. Is the discuse cholera! — Fowls frequently die in considerable numbers from diseases that are not conagious, and hence it is a matter of primary importance to decide as to he nature of the affection when cholera is suspected. In my own expeience I have found that this might be done with comparative certainty by inspection of the excrements With fowls the excretions of the kidneys are joined in the cloaca with he undigested parts of the food, and both solid and liquid excrement are which claims our attention.

After a fowl takes the contagion fifteen minutes. nto its body the first and only reliable symptom is a coloration of the urates. At first these have only a faint yellow tint, which rapidly changes, however, into a deep yellow color; up to this time the bird shows no other signs of the disease, its temperature is unchanged and its excremental permission of the greatest importance to prevent the healthy fowls from trespassing upon the infected grounds.

4. Fowls from neighboring infected premises to be rigidly excluded.—If it is important to keep healthy fowls from infected grounds, it is not less from infected grounds, it is not less from infected grounds, it is not less from infected grounds. or more days after this yellow color appears the urates are greatly in-creased in quantity and constitute the whole or a greater part of the discharges and an obstinate diarrhœa sets in; in a few cases the urates now

attract the attention of non-professional observers is the enlarged liver, which is nearly constant—it may be of various shades of color. Besides this the presence of yellow urates in the cloaca and uretars is a valuable

sign and is generally present.

2. Sick birds must be destroyed.—The excrements of sick birds are the principal means of spreading the

color in health; but a little observa-tion will preclude any mistake of this kind. The killing should not be by any method which allows the escape of blood, as this fluid is even more virulent than the excrement; wringing the neck is a quick and easy method of destroying the life. Once killed the bodies are to be taken beyond the limits of the poultry run and deeply buried. * * *

3. Healthy birds must be placed on disinfected grounds.—If a piece of land is at hand to which the sick birds

have not had access and which is consequently free from the contagion, the healthy birds should be penned upon it; but if all of the land is infected, then a piece is to be selected and thoroughly disinfected with the solution mentioned further on in this The fowls are to be restricted to this infected ground for several months, or even a year or more, if cold we practicable. The drinking vessels insects. and feeding troughs are to be new, or if used before they must be soaked for twelve hours with the same solution before being placed in the new inclosure.

5 Disinfection. - For this disease we have a very cheap and most effective disinfectant. It is a solution made by adding three pounds of sulphuric acid to forty gallons of water (or ½ lb. of acid to 3½ gallons of water) and mixing evenly by agitation or stirring. This may be applied to small surfaces with a common watering pot, or to larger grounds with a barrel mounted on wheels and arranged like a street sprinkler. In disinfecting poultry houses the manure must be first thoroughly scraped up and removed be-yond the reach of the fowls; a slight sprinkling is not sufficient, but the floors, roosts and grounds must be thoroughly saturated with the solution, so that no particle of dust however small escapes being wet. It is impossible to thoroughly disinfect if the manure is not removed from the roosting places.

Sulphuric acid is very cheap, costing at retail not more than twentyfive cents a pound and at wholesale but five or six cents; the barrel of disinfecting solution can, therefore, be made for less than a dollar and should be thoroughly applied. It must be remembered, too, that sulphuric acid is a dangerous drug to handle, as when undiluted it destroys clothing and cauterizes the flesh wherever it touches. The safest way is, therefore, to take a five-gallon keg nearly full of water to the druggist and have him place the strong acid in this; the contents of the keg may Prof. L. B. Arnold. then be safely transported and added

to the barrel of water. 6. Fumigation. - In those cases where the disease has been raging for a considerable time the feathers befowls on the disinfected run, to put them in a close building and thoroughly fumigate them with sulphur. For this purpose a pan of burning coals is taken and flowers of sulphur thrown upon them as long as the air an be breathed without danger of suffocation. When the disease is recognized at the outset this is not necessary.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES FOR GROUNDS NOT YET INFECTED.

1. Newly acquired birds to be isolated .- When cholera is raging in a locality, all birds introduced from other flocks should be placed in an inclosure by themselves for at least three weeks, until it is certain that they are free from the disease.

2. Precautions in regard to eggs.-All eggs from a distance to be used constantly voided together. They for hatching must be thoroughly are not mixed to any great extent, cleaned of all particles of excrement color, while the bowel discharges are ed to the boiling point before being of various hues. The kidney excretthrown upon grounds to which poultion will be hereafter referred to as try has access. The virus is always the urates, and it is the only part destroyed by a boiling temperature, or even by 140° F., if maintained for

3. Fowls not to wander upon adjoin-

important to exclude fowls living in infected quarters from entering on runs that are still free from the disease. Even though insusceptible to cholera and, consequently, healthy, they are able to carry the virus on become greenish, and exceptionally their feathers and feet and may even they are of a deep green color.

The only lesion seen in post-mortem examinations that is likely to ble to propagate itself in the blood ble to propagate itself in the blood. and tissues of insusceptible birds, there is reason to believe that it may still multiply in the contents of their

digestive organs.
5. Other infected substances to be excluded from the runs.—Manure from infected places is often purchased and spread upon land to which healthy poultry has access and thus becomes a means of spreading the disease.
This should either be entirely excluded from the farm or the fowls should principal means of spreading the contagion, and the first step in stamping out the disease is, consequently, to destroy all which are voiding yellow urates. Care should be had to make the distinction between the urates and the bowel dejections, for the latter are frequently of a yellow distance by various agencies and the latter are frequently of a yellow distance by various agencies and the same time valuable as a fertilizer for all garden crops.

A LIMITED RURBER of poultry can be kept upon every farm with profit, but an increase of numbers does not always produce proportionate good results.

should be guarded against when possible.

By a careful observance of these rules the fowl cholera may be excluded indefinitely, and may be exter-minated when it has made its appear-The writer has had a very virulent form of the disease among experimental fowls for nearly eight months, and though his home flock is but a short distance from them, but a few of these have sickened, and then the disease has been checked with the loss of a single bird in each instance. It is believed that the birds which thus contracted the disease were infected by flies, which would gorge themselves with virulent blood in the laboratory, where dissec-tions were made, and then fall victims to the poultry which were running about outside. No cases have occurred in this manner since the cold weather has destroyed these

Turning to Pasture.

The cows will soon be drawing their supply of food from the pasture instead of the barn. This gives such relief to the labor of the farmer, and at a time when everything is so press-ing, with a demand for immediate attention, that the temptation to get rid of the labor at the barn by turn-ing on to the pasture at an early day is almost irresistible. This, however, can only be done at an ultimate sacrifice, for every farmer knows that it greatly injures young grass to feed it down too early in spring. Then it only tends to spoil instead of satisfying the appetite of the cow. Her first taste of the green pasture fills ber mind with such dreams of luxuriant pasture that her stomach revolts at the dry old hay and ground feed she has been feeding on all winter at the barn. At the same time there is not nearly enough grass to satisfy her demands, and thus the milk supply is sure to run low at the risk of proving a permanent set-back to the cow for the season. To avoid this, all who can possibly do it should keep the cows at the stable without a single bite of grass until the pasture is far enough advanced to satisfy the herd after a few hours' grazing. Then the herd should be taken to the stable again to prevent over-feeding, followed by the dangerous trouble of hoose or bloat, for cows are very greedy with the first grass of the season, and are apt to greatly over-feed. This danger is much more to be feared from green clover than plain grass.

Hay vs. Ensilage.

The zealous friends of ensilage mislead in many directions-one of which is in figuring the cost of ensi-lage as compared with hay. In estimating the value of hay, it is figured come saturated with the contagion at what it would sell for in a distant and it is necessary, before placing the market-\$20 to \$24 a ton-while ensilage is figured at just what it would cost to grow it and put it in the silo, and too low at that -80 cents to \$2 a "Turn about is fair play." ton. would be just as fair to estimate hay at what it will cost to grow it and put it in the barn, and reckon ensilage at what a farmer could afford to raise it for to be sold and consumed off the farm, and if we were to do so the balance would be as much against ensilage as the customary figuring is now against hay.

To make a fair comparison of the expense to the farmer of wintering stock on hay and ensilage, both should be reckoned at what it costs to produce them, and when so estimated the margin will be quite as likely to favor hay as ensilage. A ton of hay, it is calculated, will go as far as three tons of ensilage, and some think furare not mixed to any great extent, cleaned of all particles of excrement average farms and however; the part exercted by the adhering to them, and the water with sharp figuring to make it cost more kidneys is easily distinguished, as during health it is of a pure white cloths or brushes used, must be raise that one ton of hay and barvest it than to grow corn enough to make three tons of ensilage and put it in the silo. There will surely be no very wide margin in favor of ensilage.

> MR. J. E. BENNOCK, Bradley, Me., estimates that the waste of barnyard manure on many farms, in conse quence of exposure to weather and eaching before applied to land, ranges all the way from one-half to seven-eighths of its entire value. If the same lack of care characterized other departments of husbandry "it would ruin the best farmers." He advocates sheds for storage, or barn-cellars, and composting with sods, muck, and all vegetable refuse, sink-water and chamber slops, with pigs as manipulators. As for ashes, it is, in his judgment, founded on experience, much better to apply them to the soil than to sell to soapmakers at market rates, which are only half their real worth for agricultural purposes.

Those who have soot, either of vood or bituminous coal, should carefully save it for use in the garden. It is valuable for the ammonia it contains, and also for the power of absorbing ammonia. It is simply charcoal (carbon) in an extremely divided state, but from the creosote it contains is useful in destroying insects, and is at the same time valuable as a