



FARM POULTRY

ERADICATE LICE AND MITES

Sodium Fluorid Makes an Effective Powder and Should Be Used Freely—Use Kerosene.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The free use of an effective lice powder is always in order. Sodium fluorid makes an effective lice powder. In applying the powder hold the fowl by the feet, head down, and work the



Dusting Chicken With Sodium Fluorid a Most Effective Remedy for Lice and Mites.

powder well down into the feathers. A dust bath is essential in ridding the fowls of lice.

The free use of kerosene or crude petroleum on the roosts and in the cracks will exterminate mites.

Whitewashing the interior of the house thoroughly once or twice a year helps to keep it sweet and clean.

FOWLS FOR BREEDING STOCK

Health and Vigor Must Be First Points to Keep in Mind When Making Selection.

Eggs may be perfectly fertile and yet hatch unsatisfactorily, and the first consideration must be the production of hatching eggs with strong, virile, well-nourished germs. This can be done only by a careful selection, mating and management of the breeding stock and affording the eggs the proper care after they are laid. Health and vigor must be the first points to keep in mind when selecting the breeders. The rule that good seed must be used if one expects a successful crop includes the chicken crop as well as those of grass and grain. The breeding flock should include only sound, healthy, well-fed stock, and all fowls that have at any time suffered from any serious illness or show any faults or defects, such as crooked back or breast, hawk-bill or snake-head, pale face, rattling in throat, foreign growths upon any part of the body, leg weakness or string halt should be promptly discarded.

CHILLING OF MUCH BENEFIT

Wet-Pack Poultry Arrives at Destination in Poor Condition—Slow Railroads Blamed.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The chill room developed by the United States department of agriculture for the preservation of poultry and eggs and to prepare them for transportation to market has proved of great advantage to small poultry packers. Packers who have had to ship in less than carload quantities have found that wet-packed poultry has spoiled in enormous quantities because of slow transportation resulting from congestion on the railroads. Packers equipped with the small chill room recommended by the department have found that poultry dry-chilled and properly packed arrived at its destination in good condition, while wet-packed fowls in the same car were in bad order. It has been found also that the method recommended by the government requires less ice than the ice-packing process.

LEAVES MAKE GOOD LITTER

Not Advisable to Leave Them on Floor Too Long—Throw Sweepings on Garden Patch.

There is no litter better than leaves outside of clover or any of the dried grasses, that fowls find nourishment in. But do not allow the leaves to lie too long on the floors, as the fowls pick at them until they reduce them to almost dust. Pack away plenty of barrels, as you must be sparing of higher-priced scratching material, and throw the leaf sweepings on the garden patch.



BOY SCOUTS

(Conducted by National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.)

WHY HE IS IN SCOUTING.

The question, "Why are you taking such an active part in scouting?" was asked of Medad E. Stone, president of the Tucker Tool and Machine company of New York city, and Mr. Stone unhesitatingly replied:

"I am in scouting today because of what the scout movement has done for my sons and for many other boys who are now wearing the uniform of the United States and nobly fulfilling their scout oath to 'do their duty to God and our country.'"

"I came into scouting because of what it promised to do for boys. That was seven years ago—and the promise has been abundantly kept. But the boys do not receive all the benefits of scouting. The men who give them leadership gain fully as much. I would urge every boy to join a scout troop. "If you want to understand scouting, go with some scoutmaster on a hike with his troop or to camp with them some day. Sit at their campfire, watch them at work and play. You'll get a vision of what scouting means, and you'll want to have a share in it. "And scouting needs men—and needs them now. You can do your country the biggest kind of a good turn if you'll help to do the work of the many scout leaders who are over there."

FRENCH BOY SCOUTS BUSY.

A letter from former Scoutmaster Geoffrey W. Talbot, now in France, says:

"I was with the French army, and I found that scouting in the large cities in France has a big hold on the people and that the French scouts are very like our scouts. I went to a splendid scout rally in Paris, and must confess they put on an entertainment even better than any I have seen our boys do. "Every Sunday I used to see patrols of scouts starting on hikes out in the country near Paris, and they were a fine looking lot of boys. Practically all the messenger boys of the American Red Cross were French boy scouts, and the only good messengers we had at the 'Y' headquarters were scouts, so you see scouting does good to the French boys as well as to ours."

HELPING THE OLD SOLDIERS.

Veterans of Past Wars Appreciate Assistance Given by Scouts.

GIRL GUIDES OF ENGLAND.

In England, when the success of the boy scout movement had completely won the public to the program developed by Lieut. Gen. S. S. Baden-Powell, a demand arose for a similar organization for the girls of the country.

Calling Lady Baden-Powell to the leadership, those who were interested began the development of a program as distinctively feminine as the boy scout movement is masculine. Avoiding even the terminology used in the boy scout movement, the leaders adopted for the new organization the name "The Girl Guides of England." The membership of the organization comes from all classes. The largest and most exclusive private schools in England were among the first to take up guiding, and from their ranks have gone out girls who are now commissioners for large areas. The girl guides are no less plucky than the boy scouts and they are living up to the highest and best principles too. The membership is now over seventy thousand and is growing rapidly.

The main activities of the guides are those connected with building, handicraft, service for others and health.

DOINGS OF THE SCOUTS.

The scouts are good at salvaging. The boys of Troop No. 177 in the Bronx, New York city, are collecting tinfoil and lead and also fruit pits but best of all they are gathering all the short pencils for the sick soldiers in the base hospital there.

The boy scouts of Auburn, Wash., are very proud to be given the honor of belonging to the fire department and are anxious for some kind of a conflagration to occur that they may have a real tryout.

Famous Dickensian Hotel



The Bull Hotel, Rochester.

BEFORE the days of Pickwick.

presumably the Bull hotel at Rochester was merely a comfortable roadside coaching inn between Dover and London, with no claim to fame other than that of being a favored resort of the military from the adjacent town of Chatham. It is true that Queen Victoria—then but a princess—was compelled, because of a mishap to the bridge across the Medway and the stormy weather, to stay in the inn with her mother, the duchess of Kent, for one night only. They were on their way to London from Dover. The event happened on the 29th of November, 1836, and caused a flutter of excitement in the city and inspired the proprietor to add the words "Royal Victoria" to the inn's name, and to justify the adornment of the front of the building with the royal coat of arms, writes B. W. Matz in the Christian Science Monitor.

But it remained for the Pickwickians to draw the inn out from the ruck of the commonplace and to spread its fame to all corners of the globe; and the fact that it once had royal patronage is nothing in comparison to the other fact that it was the headquarters of the Pickwickians on a certain memorable occasion. That is the attraction of it; that is the household word wherever the English language is spoken. Indeed, that was the one notable event in its history which filled the proprietor with pride, and in his wisdom, in order to lure visitors into its comfortable interior, he could find no more magnetic announcement for the signboard on each side of the entrance, than the plain unvarnished statement: "Good House, Nice Beds. Vide Pickwick."

It may have boasted a history before then; it is difficult to say. It existed in 1827 when Dickens housed the famous four within its hospitable walls; and he doubtless knew it long before then when, as a lad, he lived in Chatham; anyway it was always a favorite of his, and furnishes the scene of many incidents in his books, in addition to the part it plays in the early portion of the "Pickwick Papers"; it is no doubt the original of the Winglebury Arms in "The Great Winglebury Duel" in "Sketches by Boz" and is certainly the Blue Bear of "Great Expectations." He frequented it himself and the room he occupied on these occasions is known as the Dickens room and is furnished with pieces of furniture from his residence at Gad's Hill. We know, too, that he conducted his friends over it, on these occasions when he made pilgrimages with them around the neighborhood.

The house has been slightly altered since those days, but it practically remains the same as when Dickens deposited the Pickwickians in its courtyard that red-letter day in 1827. Its outside is dull and sober looking, but its interior comfort and spaciousness soon dispel any misgivings which its exterior might have created.

The entrance hall is as spacious as it was when Dickens described it, in "The Great Winglebury Duel," as ornamented with evergreen plants terminating in a perspective view of the bar, and a glass case, in which were displayed a choice variety of delicacies ready for dressing, to catch the eye of a newcomer the moment he enters, and excite his appetite to the highest possible pitch. "Opposite doors," he says, "lead to the 'coffee' and 'commercial' rooms; and a great wide rambling staircase—three stairs and a landing—four stairs and another landing—one step and another landing—and so on—conducts to galleries of bedrooms and labyrinths of sitting rooms, denominated 'private,' where you may enjoy yourself as privately as you can in any place where some bewildered being or other walks into your room every five minutes by mistake, and then walks out again to open all the doors along the gallery till he finds his own."

And so the visitor finds it today, although the interior of the coffee room may have been denuded of its compartments which the interview between Pip and Bentley Drummle in "Great Expectations" suggests were there on that occasion. It was in this room that the Pickwickians breakfasted and awaited the arrival of the chaise to take them to Dingy Dell; and it was over its blinds that Mr. Pickwick surveyed the passer-by in the street, and before which the vehicle made its appearance with the very amusing result known to all readers of the book.

Has Not Been Much Altered.

The commercial room is across the yard, over which on one occasion Mr. Wopsle was reciting Collins's ode to Pip in "Great Expectations" with such dramatic effect that the commercials objected and sent up their compliments with the remark that "it wasn't the Tumbler's Arms."

From the hall runs the staircase upon which took place the famous scene between Doctor Slammer and Jingle, illustrated so spiritedly by Phiz. Those who remember the incident—and who does not?—can visualize it all again as they mount the stairs to the bedrooms above, which the Pickwickians occupied. They remain as Dickens described them, even in some cases to the very bedsteads and furniture, and are still shown to the interested visitor.

"Winkle's bedroom is inside mine" is how Mr. Tupman put it. That is to say the one led out of the other, and they are numbered 13 and 19; but which is which no one knows. Number 13, by the way, is the room the queen slept in on the occasion of her visit, eight months after the appearance of the first part of Pickwick.

Number 17 is claimed as Mr. Pickwick's room, which is also the one Dickens occupied on one occasion, and the one in "Seven Poor Travelers," from which the occupant assures us that "after the cathedral bell struck eight I could smell the delicious savor of turkey and roast beef rising to the window of my adjoining room, which looked down into the yard just where the lights of the kitchen reddened a massive fragment of the castle wall."

Assembly Room Still There.

An important feature in those days, and presumably today, was the ballroom, "the elegant and commodious assembly rooms to the Winglebury Arms." In the "Pickwick Papers" Dickens thus describes it: "It was a long room, with crimson-covered benches, and wax candles in glass chandeliers. The musicians were securely confined in an elevated den, and quadrilles were being systematically got through by two or three sets of dancers. Two card tables were made up in the adjoining cardroom, and two pair of old ladies and a corresponding number of stout gentlemen were executing whist therein."

The room itself is unaltered. There hang still the glass chandeliers, and at the end is the veritable elevated den where the fiddlers fiddled. Although today it is not used as a dancing room on account of the military and naval demands of the town, there may come a time when it will revert to its old glory and tradition.

But the pleasant fact remains that the Bull inn exists today and the Dickens tradition clings to it still. One instinctively goes there as the center of Dickensian atmosphere with which the old city of Rochester is permeated. "Winkles' next house," which Jingle informed his friends was "Dear—very dear—half a crown in the bill if you look at the waiter," may have been more famous and more pretentious an inn than the Bull in the old, old days—it was known as the Crown, dated back to 1390 and associated with Henry VIII and Hogarth—but its fame is a thing of the past and doesn't count.

DADDY'S EVENING FAIRY TALE

BY MARY GRAHAM BONNER

THE BULL SNAKES.

"It's a shame," said the bull snake, "the way people don't like snakes." "You don't mean to say they don't like us?" asked Mrs. Bull Snake.

"That's what I mean, sad to relate," said Mr. Bull Snake.

"And what might the reason be?" asked Mrs. Bull Snake.

"Well, in the very first place of all people don't like snakes. There is no special reason for this. To be sure, there are many dangerous, bad snakes, but lots and lots of people don't like any snakes."

"Even when we are nice, gentle, helpful, kindly snakes?" asked Mrs. Bull Snake, blissing in surprise.

"Even then," said Mr. Bull Snake. "That's the unfairness of it all. If they didn't like dangerous snakes I wouldn't mind, but when they say they don't like nice, friendly snakes they hurt my poor feelings."

"They hurt mine too," said Mrs. Bull Snake.

"Well, don't become down-hearted, Mrs. Bull Snake, for I have pleasant news and cheerful tidings for you."

"Dear me, dear me," hissed Mrs. Bull Snake, as she wriggled a little in the



"People Don't Like Snakes."

long grass, "you are so smart that your talk is far beyond me."

"Didn't I make you hear?" asked Mr. Bull Snake in a louder tone of voice.

"Oh yes, I heard all right," said Mrs. Bull Snake; "only you talked so wisely."

"When you said my talk was far beyond you I thought you meant you hadn't heard it and that it had gone off in the distance somewhere."

"No, I meant it was far beyond my intelligence, not far beyond my hearing," said Mrs. Bull Snake.

"What would you have explained?" asked Mr. Bull Snake.

"I don't know what it is to be down-hearted," Mrs. Bull Snake answered. "I don't know just what it means. I would like to have that explained."

"When you are down-hearted you are sad, and I was afraid you were becoming sad hearing so much about folks who didn't like us."

"Oh, now I see," said Mrs. Bull Snake. "Well, I won't become down-hearted then because you said you had pleasant news for me. But what are cheerful tidings? I know what cheerful means, but how about tidings? Do you mean something good to eat?"

"No," laughed Mr. Bull Snake, "cheerful tidings are about the same as good news and I will tell you the pleasant story I have to tell you, right away."

Mrs. Bull Snake wriggled in a comfortable position and said, "I am ready to hear, Mr. Bull Snake." So he commenced: "I have been feeling sad for some time over the way folks didn't like snakes. It seemed to me rather hard on the snakes as I've said before. There are so many harmless snakes and we shouldn't suffer for the bad ones.

"Well, I was becoming sorrowful, mournful and depressed (and all of those words mean the same as sad), when I heard of a farmer near here who wrote a letter to be published in all the papers round these parts. Papers, my dear Mrs. Bull Snake, are things people read where they learn what is going on in the world—they read the news, in short."

"Now this farmer wrote to all the papers and he said that folks shouldn't kill the bull snakes in these parts because we did a lot of good in destroying the gophers and mice which would hurt the alfalfa. You know the alfalfa is the grass or clover or whatever they call it which is all about us and which is fed to the animals. It is very delicious, the animals think, and it is very good for them. We protect this food for them and the farmer wrote that we should be protected too. He also said that we were good, well-behaved snakes. Isn't it fine to have someone appreciate us?"

"Splendid," said Mrs. Bull Snake, "and it makes me feel like working all the harder to protect the alfalfa or clover for the good, kind farmer who said such nice things about us."

And they both went to sleep, dreaming sweet dreams of the kind farmer who liked them.

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The Girl Who Laughs.

The girl who laughs because she is sunny-hearted and finds things to enjoy as she goes along adds enjoyment to others as they go along. There is something in a smile that calls out a smile, and spontaneous laughter is the most catching thing in the world. No one is likely to scowl when a free, joyous laugh is heard.—Girl's Companion.

LIVE STOCK

CHEAP RATIONS FOR HORSES

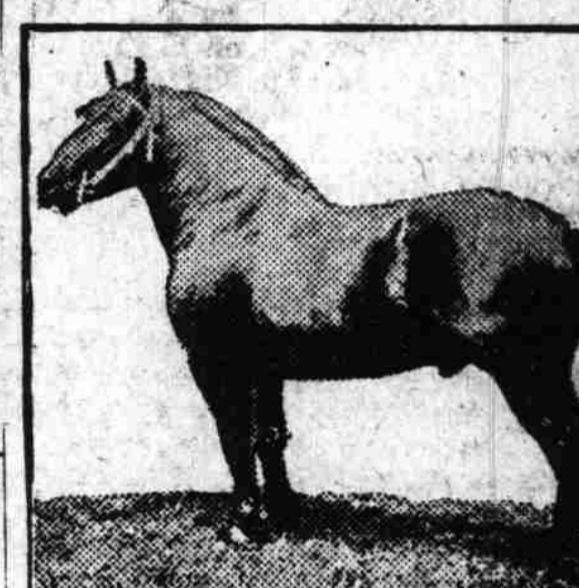
Animals Performing Hard Work May Be Given Straw and Corn Stover in Limited Quantities.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Cheap feeds, such as straw and corn stover, have a place in the horse ration. For growing colts and for horses doing hard work these roughages may be fed in limited quantities, supplementary to a more nutritious ration.

A caution is timely in regard to feeding bulky roughages low in nutrients. Horses have comparatively small stomachs and their digestive anatomy is in no way suited to handle a great bulk of feed. Little nourishment is derived from a pound of such roughage, and in maintaining a hard-working animal too great a bulk of feed would necessarily be taken into the body. It is therefore desirable to combine with a limited quantity of stover or straw sufficient legume hay, grain, or other nutritious feed to meet the individual requirements of the horse. A small portion of some laxative feed, such as silage, roots, bran, or alfalfa, may well be included in a ration containing a large proportion of corn stover or straw.

Cottonseed meal has met with considerable disfavor among horse feeders, but it may be fed in limited quantities if due care is exercised. It is



Character, Soundness and Good Conformation.

a very heavy protein concentrate but is not particularly laxative in character, and is quite likely to produce digestive troubles unless the quantity fed is limited. Its proper use is as a supplement to a carbonaceous ration, one-half pound daily being usually sufficient, although in some parts of the South several pounds daily have been fed with success. The more favorable results have come from feeding it in connection with grains and blackstrap molasses. Cottonseed meal is not palatable to horses, in most cases not more than two pounds daily per animal should ever be given, and before that limit is reached special note should be taken of its effect. Most horse feeders prefer the use of oil meal. The following rations are suggested for horses:

Maintenance Ration for 1,000-Pound Idle Horse.

Ration 1:
Corn stover 3 pounds
Alfalfa hay 3 pounds
Corn on cob 5 pounds

Ration 2:

Oat straw 3 pounds
Alfalfa 3 pounds
Cane molasses 3 pounds

Daily Ration for 1,000-Pound Horse at Light Work.

Corn stover 5 pounds
Bermuda hay 5 pounds
Cottonseed meal 1/2 pound
Cowpeas 2 pounds
Shelled corn 5 pounds

Daily Ration for 1,000-Pound Horse at Severe Work.

Corn fodder 4 pounds
Alfalfa 3 pounds
Barley 3 pounds
Soy beans (ground) 1 pound
Shelled corn 1/2 pound

Daily Ration for 1,250-Pound Idle Horse.

Ration 1:
Corn stover 11 pounds
Alfalfa 5 pounds
Bar corn 4 pounds

Ration 2:

Oat straw 10 pounds
Pea hay 4 pounds
Common beets or other roots (or silage) 4 pounds
Oats 4 pounds

Daily Ration for 1,250-Pound Horse at Light Work.

Barley straw 5 pounds
Alfalfa hay 6 pounds
Rolled barley 3 pounds

Daily Ration for 1,500-Pound Idle Horse.

Corn fodder (with ears) 12 pounds
Alfalfa 5 pounds

GROUND SOY BEANS FOR PIGS

Found to Be About 10 Per Cent Superior to Wheat Middlings in Test at Wisconsin.

As a supplement to cornmeal for growing and fattening pigs, the Wisconsin station found that ground soy beans proved about 10 per cent superior to wheat middlings, figuring the cost of the seeds as the same. The Indiana station compared rations of two parts of cornmeal and one part of soy-bean meal with cornmeal and wheat middlings in equal proportions and with five parts of cornmeal and one part of tanqueray for pork production. The soy-bean ration produced the largest daily gains, and this with the smallest quantity of feed consumed for each pound of gain.