Mothers and daughters of all ages are cordially invited to write to this department. Initials only will be published with each question and its answer as a means of identification, but full name and address must be given in each letter. Write on one side of paper only. Answers will be mailed direct if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed.

Address all correspondence for this department to Mrs. Helen Law, 235 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

June:—The countries still neutral are: Spain, Holland, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, in Europe: Argentine, Mexico and a few small Republics in the western hemisphere.

Evangeline:—Why not try making some fruit candies for your Red Cross Sale? They are delicious and can be made according to conservation rules, without sugar. To make chocolate cherry drops, soak large red cherries overnight in cold water, after having removed the stones; in the morning drain them thoroughly. Place one cupful of clarified honey in a kettle and boil it a few minutes. Drop in the cherries a few at a time, and let them simmer until they are clear and translucent. Remove them with a wire skimmer and place them on pans in the oven to dry. Dip them one by one into sweet dipping chocolate. A fine fruit caramel is made by using one half cupful of maple syrup, one half cupful of golden corn syrup, one half cupful of peanut butter, and one glassful of strawberry preserves or one half cupful of chopped figs. Boil the mixture to the firm-ball stage; then pour it about an inch thick into greased pans, and when it is partly cool cut it into cubes or thin strips and wrap it in waxed paper.

A good watermelon candy requires one cupful of honey, one half cupful of white corn syrup, watermelon preserves, nut meats and the white of one egg. Boil the syrup to 230 degrees F. or until it spins a thread. Pour over it the stiffly beaten white of one egg and beat it until it is light and foamy. Add one teaspoonful of vanilla, one cupful of chopped preserved watermelon rind and one half cupful of chopped nut meats. Color the candy pink with a little fruit or vegetable coloring. Pour it into a buttered pan or mould to cool, and cut it into squares.

A delicious pear confection is made by letting ripe pears cut into long, thin strips or cubes simmer in maple syrup until they are transparent and thoroughly permeated with the syrup. Remove the strips to pans and then place them in the oven a few minutes. Next dip them into melted dipping chocolate. A little lemon rind or ginger root may be added to the syrup.

Cocoanut apple rings make a delightful refreshment sweet. Take sweet apples or semi-tart apples, peel and core them with an apple corer and cut them into thin rounds with the holes in the centre. Let them simmer slowly until they are clear in maple syrup or honey boiled until thick. Carefully remove them and place them on pans after dipping into grated cocoanut. The rings should be entirely covered with the cocoanut. If a little vegetable or fruit coloring is added to the honey or syrup, the apple rings will be made a pretty pink or any color desired.

Mrs. Lauder:—Here are some canning "don'ts" which answer your query and give you some further information:

Don't mistake simmering water for boiling water. "It was boiling just a minute ago" doesn't meet the requirements of boiling water at the moment of using.

Don't use old screw-tops. It doesn't pay.

Don't omit to watch your canned fruits and vegetables every day or two for twenty days. If they spoil during that time you have made some mistake in following directions.

Don't remove clamps from economy tops until jars are slightly cooled. The condensing steam creates a vacuum and the cover is held on tightly by pressure of air outside.

In canning cleanliness of equipment is important. The jars should be immaculate. Before packing in the jars, vegetables should be dipped into boiling water. This is called blanching. When removed, they should be plunged for a moment into cold water. This is the cold-dip. They should then be put into the jars immediately.

Run a finger around the edge of necks of jars, and if there are sharp little projections, file them off or scrape with an old knife. See that glass tops fit when placed without rubbers. They will be loose, but should not rock when tapped. Rocking tops will not make a tight seal.

War Worker:—You could do no better than plan to spend your vacation picking berries. You can readily understand that few men can be spared this year from the heavier kinds of farm work so that it is up to the girls to get busy picking. It is pleasant work and a minimum wage has been fixed for this year.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
JUNE 16

Lesson XL. Jesus On The Cross—Mark 15. 1-47. Golden Text, Mark 15. 39.

Verse 22. They bring him unto Golgotha . . . The place of a skull—The Hebrew word means skull. There is no general agreement as to the location of Golgotha. The traditional site lies within the present city. The gospels indicate that it was outside the city, yet near it, on a road leading from the country to the city. (John 19. 20; Luke 23. 26.)

23. They offered him wine mingled with myrrh—Drugged wine was offered to those about to undergo crucifixion, in order to lessen their suffering. Jesus refused it.

24. Part his garments . . casting lots—The clothing of the condemned became the perquisite of the soldiers on duty. John, who was an eye witness, distinguishes between the garments and the coat or tunic and states that the latter was not divided.

25. It was the third hour—Mark alone gives definitely the hour of the day. John says "It was about the sixth hour" when Pilate brought Jesus forth to the judgment seat. Some suppose that Jesus was brought forth by Pilate at the sixth hour of the Roman calculation, which would be the third hour according to the Jewish reckoning.

26. The superscription—Usually the criminal bore at tablet indicating his crime, which was affixed to his cross over the sufferer's head. It was in three languages, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

27. With him they crucify two robbers—Not "thieves" but "malefactors." Men of violence, desperadoes, perhaps fanatical zealots who were heroes in the eyes of the Jews.

29. Ha! thou that destroyest the temple!—That he spoke against the temple was the accusation of the two witnesses before Caiaphas (Matt. 26. 61; Mark 14. 58). That he had done despite to the temple had, therefore, become current among the masses of the Jews and highly inflamed them against him.

31. The chief priests—These do not, like the crowd, openly shout their derision, but mock him among themselves with the taunt, "He saved others, himself he cannot save." This taunt is his great glory. He would not exercise his power for his own advantage. Had he done so he would have yielded to the temptation which met him at the very beginning.

32. They that were crucified with him reproached him—Luke refers to only one of the malefactors as railing on Jesus and gives the incident of the penitent robber and Jesus' reply to his petition.

33. When the sixth hour was come . . . . darkness over the whole land—From twelve until three o'clock. This was not an eclipse, for it was full moon. Luke says it was due to the sun's light failing. Was it a local phenomenon or over the whole earth? The language is best suited to its being a local darkness.

34. At the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice—The ninth hour was the hour for the evening sacrifice (Acts 3. 1). The Greek indicates that the cry was strong and loud, as of one crying out for help. Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani—Mark gives the cry in the vernacular Aramaic. John and Luke record six other cries from the cross: 1. The prayer for forgiveness for his enemies (Luke 23. 34); 2. The promise to the penitent robber (Luke 23. 43); 3. The charge to Mary and to John (John 19. 26, 27); 4. The exclamation "I thirst" (John 19. 8); 5. The declaration "It is finished" (John 19. 30); 6. The final commendation of his spirit to God (Luke 23. 46). The cry here recorded by Mark is from one of the great Messianic Psalms (Psa. 22. 1.)

35. Behold he calleth Elijah—A word of banter from the unfeeling crowd, not a misunderstanding of the language.

36. Vinegar—The sour wine drunk by the soldiers, now given to relieve his intense thirst, one of the awful pangs of the crucifixion.

37. Uttered a loud voice—All notice the loud cry of Jesus in dying. It was, perhaps, the exclamation recorded by Luke (23. 46), "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Gave up the ghost—"Yielded up his spirit" (Matthew). "Bowed his head, and gave up his spirit" (John).

38. The veil of the temple was rent in two—The curtain which separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. The writer in Hebrews (10. 20) gives the mystical sense of the rending of the veil, "He dedicated for us a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh."

39. Truly this man was the Son of God—Literally "A Son of God." The centurion was in charge of the soldiers, coming doubtless from the barracks at Caesarea. The soldier doubtless knew nothing of Jesus' Messianic claims, but he felt there was something here out of the ordinary, something supernatural.

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Conducted by Professor Henry G. Bell

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged authority on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops.

Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. When writing kindly mention this paper. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.

R. H.:—Which is more profitable for winter forage, alfalfa or winter vetch? Must vetch be seeded every season or is it a permanent crop?

Answer:—As a general rule alfalfa is more profitable as a forage than is winter vetch. Alfalfa under favorable soil and climatic conditions will produce profitable crops for 4 or 5 years, if a field is well established. Vetch lives over winter but is really winter annual and has to be resown. Its seed is exceedingly costly on account of the American supply coming from abroad. Formerly most of it came from Eastern Germany. I have seen alfalfa crops under climatic conditions and soil conditions similar to Ontario producing 4 to 5 tons of alfalfa hay per season.

Subscriber:—Is it advisable to sow fertilizer in the spring on fall wheat? If so, what kind would be best to apply and how should it be applied?

Answer:—On fall sown crops such as wheat and rye, it is advisable to sow fertilizers at the time the crop is seeded. It is also advantageous to top-dress crops in the spring with fertilizers, the idea being to add available plantfood. For medium loam soils fertilizer analysing from 2 to 3 per cent. ammonia, 10 to 12 per cent. phosphoric acid are very serviceable on fall grain. If you have a grain drill with fertilizer distributing attachment this machine will give by all means the best application of fertilizers. If you do not have same, satisfactory application can be made by scattering the fertilizer broadcast through a lime or fertilizer sower. This should be followed by a thorough disking and harrowing so as to work the fertilizer into the soil so it can dissolve and come to the form in which the plant can use it.

Miss Apple Tree.

Miss Apple Tree wore sombre brown
All winter—such a simple gown!
In April she began to prink,
In May she put on white and pink,
With rosettes here and ribbons there,
And all the frills that ladies wear.

When summer comes she'll dress in green,
A scalloped frock of softest sheen;
And yellow gems and red she'll wear
For belt and necklace, very fair.
Oh, if a child I might not be,
I'd change into an apple tree!

The Little Birds.

Little baby birds are you
In your nest on high;
Downy bits from eggs of blue,
Calling to the sky;

Waiting, while the May days go,
Without songs or wings;
Swaying as the winds may blow,
Helpless little things.

Yet as sure as June times are
Followers of May,
So your wings will bear you far
O'er the hills away.

May they bear you where you will,
Far away, and then
Back o'er field and wood until
You're at home again.

And the songs that you will sing
In the months to be!
Will you, will you sometimes bring
Morning songs to me?

May your singing all be near
Those who ever find
In your songs a note of cheer,
And whose hearts are kind!

When Eyes are Opened.

Everybody noticed the place of a certain farmer when passing his home. He was a money-maker from the word go, owned a large farm, plenty of fattening stock, and was altogether very prosperous. His large house and barn and the surrounding grounds were what caught the eye. I could hardly believe that any man with so much ambition and success at farming allowed such a state of dilapidation as was presented there.

When the busy season passed and the new year fairly opened, I chanced to pass the place, and such a change had taken place as if some genius had suddenly transformed it. The house and barn had both received the first coat of paint for many a day, and ragged roofs had been replaced with new ones.

A fence along the road was retained on account of stock being occasionally at large on the public road, and it was now not the ragged picket fence of old, but the latest yet not expensive type of woven wire, with splendid gates to match. Posts at other gates that had leaned from being too loose or rotted were replaced with fresh ones that were now straight and solid, and gates that had swayed and dragged did not do so any more, on account of being well reinforced and fixed for service.

The henhouse had been reconstructed and whitewashed. All the farm tools had a shed where they stood clean and ready for the opening of another season. Before this it had been somewhat of a custom to let the implements take the open weather wherever they happened to be left after the work was done.

Hog pens were not now so near the house. Scrap piles had been removed and sold, and the boys of the place got some extra change for their trouble.

And the result of all this improvement? This farmer feels that it increased the value of his farm over 50 per cent., anyway. He had put it off too long, he said, for it cost more after so long a delay; but the getting at it, making the start, was the greatest task.

Anyone else could have done the same, provided he had had the determination. The house, barn, and their accompanying buildings are like jewels—if the setting or surroundings are bad the jewel itself can't help looking bad, and the whole thing doesn't look very valuable.

The wonder of this case is that this man's views became critical enough to take on a strong desire to act, to make the needed changes which now mean so much to him and his family, and are a positive delight to outsiders.

Posts That Refuse To Rot.

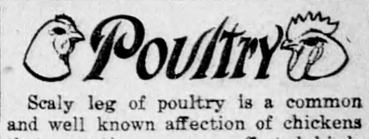
Fence and other posts when given the right preservative treatment seem to smile at rot germs and laugh at old age.

The best preservative for this purpose is coal-tar or creosote, boiled into the part of the posts to be placed in the ground.

Any tank or large can of sheet or galvanized iron which will allow the liquid to be heated to the boiling point, and which is deep enough to allow the posts to be covered with the liquid to a height of thirty inches, will do.

Posts to be treated should be thoroughly seasoned, and treated for about two hours.

If you can do no better you can certainly put on some creosote with a brush, letting the liquid soak into the wood as much as possible. Charring fence-posts is not so effective.



Scaly leg of poultry is a common and well known affection of chickens that sometimes causes affected birds to become worthless. It is caused by an extremely small mite that works in and under the crusts that form on the legs. Caraway or sulphur ointment will kill the pests.

Scales form at the point of invasion of the insect and under them the skin is irritated and bloody. Badly affected birds walk with difficulty and may even lose a toe; later they become thin, lose their appetites and prove worthless.

The disease is slowly contagious and for this reason a quarantine pen is desirable, so that purchased fowls may be treated for parasites and watched for any contagious or infectious disease.

To treat scaly leg the feet and legs of affected fowls are held in warm water for several minutes, so that the crusts are softened and can be removed. A mite killer is then applied to the dry diseased surface. The Ohio experiment station recommends the following mixtures: (1) Oil of caraway mixed in four times as much lard or vaseline and (2) flowers of sulphur, one dram; carbonate of potash, 20 grains, and lard of vaseline, half an ounce.

Some poultrymen have used a mixture of one part of kerosene and two parts of raw linseed oil with speedy effect. The legs of the affected fowls are dipped in this mixture, care being taken that the feathers are not wet.

Stump Pullers and Explosives.

Actual field experience shows that stump pullers and powder blasting should supplement one another.

The stump-pulling machines are made strong enough to pull out stumps of almost any size, but when stumps larger than can be lifted by one man are pulled, the disposing of them after they are out of the ground is as much of a job as pulling them. They have to be handled by horses or engines and derricks, or chopped into pieces, either of which is slow and expensive.

On the other hand, it is not worth while to punch a hole and prepare a charge of explosives with cap and fuse for a stump less than six inches or thereabouts in diameter. The chief reason is that the roots are so near the surface that there is not enough dirt over the powder, if it is placed close to the roots, to confine it and give proper explosive force against the roots.

The small stump is the particular object for the stump puller, and the larger stump for the powder. If the job of clearing is in a hard-wood, section, where the trees that were cut stood close together, and none of them, or few of them, measure more than six inches in diameter across the top, don't use powder. Get a puller, provided you have acreage enough to justify its purchase. The powder will take the stumps out, and will save buying a puller, no matter what their size, if there are only a few of them.

When the stumps measure a foot and up to two or three feet or more in diameter, powder is essential to split them up, and unless the acreage is very large the purchase of a puller is not justified. If you already have one, however, it may pay you to loosen some of the more widely spreading stumps with explosive, then pull out the pieces with the machine.

The Secret of Good Painting.

Many paint troubles are due to insufficient mixing of the paint in the package before it is applied to the surface to be painted. It is essential that paint be brought to an even consistency throughout before using. We advise removing the top of the can, and then pouring or drawing off the upper portion of the liquid into another vessel. With a stout, flat paddle beat up from the bottom the paint remaining in the can until it is even in consistency, and gradually return the liquid drawn off, stirring after each addition. Then pour the paint back and forth from can to can several times. Half-barrels and barrels are often fitted with agitators for stirring. No other device perfected for this work is better than a stout, flat paddle. One with holes bored through the flat part of the stick serves the purpose best.

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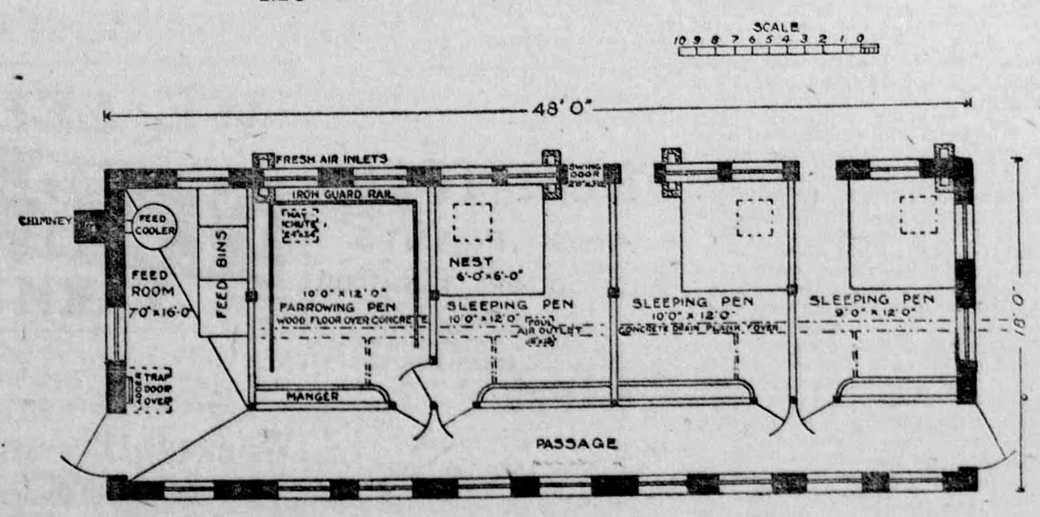
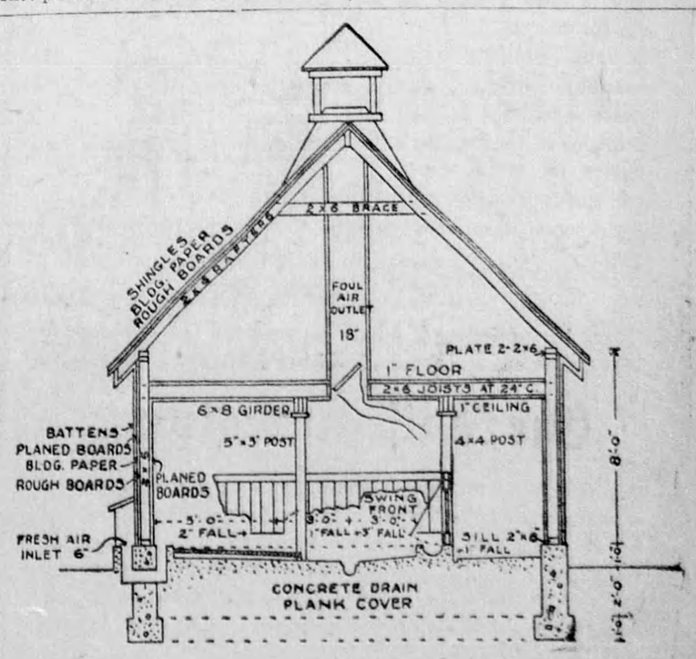


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Ground Floor Plan of Cheap Piggery.



CROSS SECTION