Prevent Dairy Casualties.

Many serious losses in the dairy business are caused by careless mistakes which might be prevented. On one farm a fine cow died and the postmortem found a piece of wire which the animal had eaten. It pays to pick up nails, tacks, pieces of wire and metal scraps of all kinds which may become mixed with feed and be eaten by the animals. Scratches from broken-down barbwire fences often cause needless injury to dairy cows.

When there is a wooden floor in the barn it is best to examine the boards at least once each year. Sometimes the floor behind the stanchions may decay and then some day a cow breaks through, and even though the fall to solid ground is only one or two feet, a broken leg may result. Even if the cow is only strained and bruised by such an accident it may cause a serious reduction in the flow of milk.

An icy approach to the barn or the water trough may cause cows to slip and suffer injury. An animal may break its leg by a heavy fall when hurrying into the barn at feeding time. It is best to keep the ice away from the approach to the barn and throw salt or dead ashes on spots where the ice is apt to accumulate.

Horns are often a useless ornament on a utility dairy cow and sometimes the animals injure each other with their horns. In primitive times the cows of the plains needed horns to fight their natural enemies, but now the farmer is busy fighting enemies for them and the horns are just as well removed. The best way to do it is with the old reliable caustic potash stick applied when they are calves.

Fire is another cause of many casualties in the dairy business. The oil lantern is placed near a pile of hay. Scene two, the hired man hits the lantern over with a pitchfork full of hay. Scene three, the barn is soon in flames. Scene four, the farmer and his family are surveying the charcoal and mentioning the fact that the insurance money will hardly build a pigsty at the present cost of labor and material. When farmers can all have properly installed electric lights in their dairy barns it is going to save a lot of fine cows from a terrible death. Until that time it pays to be careful and place the oil lanterns where they will not be knocked over by the hired man or kicked over by the stock. Smoking in the barn is another cause of serious losses and the farmer who cannot milk and feed his cows without smoking at the same time had better sell the farm and get a job in a poolroom. The hired man who insists on smoking around the barn should be fired to-day or the barn may be fired to-morrow. Possibly the hired man will be good-natured and stop smoking in the barn if he receives the request delivered with skilled diplomacy.

Sometimes cows are pastured near swamps, drainage ditches or rivers where the banks are soft and marshy. Recently a farmer lost a fine registered cow which became mired in a ditch, and when she was found her condition was such that she had to be killed. When cows are missing at night, there should be no delay in hunting them up if they have access to soft ground. If a cow is immediately found she can often be rescued without serious injury. If she is allowed to remain in such a position long, it may mean a dead cow or a cow that has to be killed.

Spring is Time to Clean Up.

Spring housecleaning should not be confined to the house, but the practice should be made general to include the barn hog quarters, sheep sheds, cattle barns and chicken houses. A general clean-up not only improves appearances, but is one of the safest weapons for warding off disease. All work of this kind should be done thoroughly, for disease germs hide in remote corners and a good disinfectant should be applied freely. Spring is a good time to clean up and disinfect the premises, but the work should be repeated as often as it is necessary.

It has been clearly proved by science through the aid of high-power microscopes, that there exist numerous minute animal and vegetable organisms—germs—and that it is common for these organisms to find their way into the animal body and produce disease. If these germs could be confined to the animal body and die with it, there would be no such thing as an infectious disease. Unfortunately, however, the germs are thrown off by the animals through the excretions and lie in the soil, in the litter of stables, upon the floor and walls, and in cracks and crevices. Here they remain and maintain their virulence, ready at any time to be gathered up by an animal in its feed or to be blown about in the dust and drawn into the lungs.

For example, tuberculosis in cattle. Cattle infected with this disease pass myriads of these germs with the manure, and it is not difficult to understand how the average stable becomes filled with them. And here again it is not difficult to understand how one diseased animal may contaminate extensive premises.

Many of the vegetable organisms are very difficult to destroy, for the reason that they contain spores. A spore may be likened to the seed of a plant, for it bears about the same relation to the germ as a grain of wheat does to the plant.

To those unaccustomed to the work, disinfection may seem a most complicated process. Any approved method, however, is comparatively simple when carried out carefully, although, like many another procedure, it is one in which attention to details counts for much. It is important to bear in mind that the causative agents of many diseases are extremely small and may remain for an indefinite time in dust, cracks, and crevices of buildings, so that efforts aiming at the eradication of disease from contaminated premises must be thorough in order to be effective.

In the work of disinfection nature has provided man with a most valuable ally—sunlight. The dark and sunless building will be a favorable breeding place for bacteria, and structures which admit the greatest amount of sunlight will be the less favorable for their development. Sunlight cannot be considered more than an accessory in the destruction of bacteria.

Disinfection with drugs, such as formalin in a five per cent. solution, or carbolic acid of the same strength, or creolin in a five per cent. solution are very effective and economical. These are best applied in a solution by means of a spray pump. All superficial dirt should be removed first. Whitewash mixed with one of the above solutions is very effective.

Black Hen Eggs.

The other day a boy went to the provision store and asked for "half a dozen black hen eggs."

The grocer laughed. "Eggs from a black hen!" he said. "How can you tell them, my little man?"

"I can. My mother told me how."

"Well, here you are. Let me see you pick them from the crate."

The boy carefully selected the six biggest eggs he could find, put down the money on the counter and said, "These are black hen eggs I have taken!"

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THE FARM HOME ATTRACTIVE

By E. W. GAGE.

The possession of attractive home surroundings is not beyond the reach of any farmer who owns his home, while several tenants have made their stay enjoyable by a few brushes here and there. There is little relation between the size, costliness, or simplicity of a home and its surroundings as compared with its attractiveness that may be given it by proper arrangement and careful upkeep. Beauty is not to be measured by expense, and ornament of any kind is not needed so much as a neat and well-kept appearance.

Farm folks are coming more and more to appreciate the value of home-like and inviting surroundings as a background for family life. The ideal home and home life is the reward for which we are striving. Then, there is that pleasure which comes to the family having home surroundings to be proud of. It is an obligation which every citizen owes his community to have his home as attractive as possible. One little farm mother put the truth in a sentence, "Let the home beauty be its sole duty." This is the proper spirit. The farm home may be made beautiful by simple means. Neatness and orderliness come first; these combined with a good green-sward about the house and a sheltering growth of trees and shrubs, a veritable garden may soon be developed.

The farm home is a combined residence and business headquarters. As the farm business is but a means of the home life, it is of first importance that the farm as a whole should make for pleasant home life. If children are the most important crop the modern farmer produces, then it follows that the most important function of a farm is that of supporting a good home. If every farm child were in attractive home surroundings, many of the problems of life would be solved, and we would not be facing the question of keeping the boys and girls on the farm.

The influence of farm environment has a subconscious but potent effect on children. Even while the barn is only a playground to the children, here may be taught orderliness and thrift, as also in woodlot, orchard, meadow, and field, all giving one grand example of living object lessons of good farming. The orchards, while not primarily intended to serve an aesthetic purpose, may form the most beautiful part of the farm. An orchard of standard apples could profitably be planted near the farm home to become a part of its background of surrounding trees.

The pleasant farm surrounding is vital, both for the present welfare of the individual home and for the future of country life. Wide-awake young people will usually hesitate at leaving an attractive, prosperous farm home for uncertainties of city life. But consider the farmstead as a whole. It is not merely a question of a few daisies here, fresh paint and new porches, broad lawns or tidy door yards, but of having living places that, in their whole effect, are pleasing and elevating to older folk and children alike.

A well-planned and well-kept yard will greatly improve an ugly house; a pleasing house makes it far easier to lay out an attractive yard. A house with a poor yard, or none, is inhospitable and forlorn. Both the house and grounds must be kept in mind in planning.

One of the surprising features about an attractive home surrounding is that few people can describe it when they have left it behind. In planning farm homes an expert advises that there are seven points that we should emphasize:

1. The place must be well furnished with trees and shrubbery.
2. The house should be prominent and should have a good setting.
3. There must be an open space of lawn.
4. The trees and the smaller plants should be massed or grouped at the sides or at the rear rather than scattered all over the place.
5. There must be no unnecessary fences, walks or drives.
6. There must be no curiosities conspicuously placed in the yard, such as piles of stones, odd rocks, or shells.
7. The place must be neat and well-kept so that it may look as if the residents gave it loving care.

The house being headquarters, this should be connected with the highway and the surrounding buildings by serviceable walks and drives. It should have an attractive setting. That is the first and main purpose of the yard, by which is meant two distinct ideas: first, the house should have a background of sufficient growth of trees and shrubs to give it a protected appearance; second, the setting should afford opportunity for outdoor life on the lawn and in the shaded corners.

A good lawn may be said to be more important than any other feature. Neither shrubs, flowers, nor house will look well unless set off by lawn space. Use good seed and give the permanent grass liberal applications of fertilizers. Many farmers feed everything about the farm but the lawn grass. Constant care is necessary to make a good lawn, though when the lawn is well established care may be given at odd moments. Neglect at the outset will prove disastrous. A thrifty lawn is an insurance against weeds.

The customary use of vines and shrubs to cover unsightly places is a misuse. The aim should be to so improve the grounds that there is nothing to hide. In arranging the planting about the farm home the less that is used to obtain an effect the better. Study the scene as it will look when mature. For example, lilac bushes grow to large size, and each should be allowed plenty of space to develop, instead of crowding the bushes in order to obtain a quicker effect. It is better to use individual bushes at the corners of the house or in groups about the porches than to plant an unbroken mass of shrubs about the base of the house. A continuous fringe of plants is almost as monotonous as none at all. Three trees, more or less, planted about the house will afford shade and give the house its background and frame. Elm, sugar maple, oak or similar tall, strong trees are best. These afford shade without keeping air currents and light from the house.

There are three ways in which vines may be used to great advantage; first, to cover fences, walls, or arbors; second, to cover, and thus to prevent the wash of steep banks; third, and more important, to drape and adorn doorways. No matter what vines are used about the farmyard, the best should be reserved to mark the entrances to the house and to festoon the porches. Bittersweet, Virginia creeper, trumpet creeper, and such old-fashioned vines are all good for walls and arbors.

A flower garden is a beautiful part of the farm surroundings, and an object seldom seen on farms. A garden is supposed to be a place for flowers, but it may also be a place for plants in which one is especially interested. The old-fashioned garden was a jumble of hardy shrubs, perennial flowers, and annuals. Those who are fond of novelties of the nurseryman's catalog or rare individual specimens for their peculiar characteristics, such as the color of their leaves, their distinct habits of growth, their beauty, or their oddity, should have gardens into which all such plants may be gathered.

Inasmuch as walks and drives are the most conspicuous, these should be made as direct and short as possible. When distances are short, straight lines are best; but where terminal objects should be hidden, practicable curved lines may be contrived. The grades of walks and drives must be easy, not only for progress alone, but to prevent washing. Crown the centres of the drives to prevent them from becoming muddy, using gravel for the walks and drives when possible.

Aside from the domestic attractiveness which follows time and energy expended in beautifying the farm home surroundings, the value of the farm on the market is increased. Although the farmer may be satisfied and intends to remain on the farm, and is not eager to sell, he should consider it his duty to maintain the highest valuation of his farm possible. The day has passed when farmers are afraid to plant shrubs, trees and vines, and keep an attractive surrounding for fear their taxes will be increased. They are thinking more and more of the welfare of their families, of having contented wives and children, and every progressive farmer will welcome the day when he may possess a farm home that will cause envy to those passing through the country.

The width of a perch should be not less than two inches.

In giving medicine to fowls, where it is not taken in the food or water, the bird should be held on the knee; with the left arm the wings should be held down and the beak should be opened with the left hand while the dose is given with the right hand.

To scald geese properly have the water as near boiling point as possible, without boiling. Take the birds by the heads and necks; immerse and lift up four or five times; then wrap in a blanket for two or three minutes to stam, after which the feathers are readily removed.

To catch a hawk, take a dead rabbit or chicken and skin a place on it to steam, after which the feathers a stick with a hook on one end and push through the bait and through the ring of a steel trap into the earth. Set the trap to one side of the bait. This should be placed in an open field near a tree where hawks alight.

Save the lawn clippings from the first cuttings of the season. I dry a great amount of them and store in clean sacks. The fowls will eat them greedily all winter, if the clippings are first soaked overnight. I put an inch layer in a pan, add an inch of good oats, and another layer of grass clippings to cover the oats. I wet this thoroughly, and in a few days I have a pan of thrifty, growing oats to throw to the hens.

For table egg production hens should be unmated. An egg that is strongly fertilized is soon subject to decomposition. Allowed to remain in the nest for hours at a time, and sometimes for days, the embryo begins to develop, and when the egg is handled the cell is ruptured. Decomposition immediately sets in, and the flavor of the egg is spoiled in consequence. That unmated hens will lay a greater number of eggs than those mated has been demonstrated by the laying contests.

A hen that sits too closely to the nest, seldom getting off to eat, drink or dust herself, can spoil a hatch as readily as an incubator that is not properly run. Some hens impart too much heat and others not enough. Buyers of eggs often make the mistake of rushing them under hens, or into the incubator, the moment they arrive. This should not be done. The eggs should be unpacked and allowed to rest on their sides for twenty-four hours, so the yolks may have a chance to spread and get out of their cramped positions.

A Bowing Acquaintance.

"Willie," said the minister to a bright little fellow of six, "do you know the Ten Commandments?"

"Not very well," replied the youngster. "I just know 'em by sight."

Doughnuts will not absorb the fat in cooking if you add a quarter teaspoonful of ginger to the batter. The spice will not affect the taste of the doughnuts.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
MAY 11.

Lesson VI. Sin and Its Consequences —Gen. 3:1-24; Rom. 1:18-23; James 1:15. Golden Text, Rom. 6:23.

Gen. 3: 1-13. Temptation and Fall. "The serpent." The story is used by the Hebrew writer as a symbolical narrative or parable, to show the origin of sin in the world. It is a part of the spiritual history of humanity. Adam and Eve represent the human race, the garden is his primitive, childlike innocence and happiness, and the tree of life represents his communion with God, in whose favor is his true life and from whom separation or alienation means death. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil stands for the law which every man must obey if he would preserve his life, and the serpent represents the temptation of appetite and low desire. As one writer well says: "The story of his (Adam's) temptation, fall and consequent forfeiture of Paradise shadows forth some of the greatest mysteries of the human lot—the strangely mingled glory and shame of man, his freedom of action, the war between the law in his members and the law of his mind. It thus comes to have a universal significance, and shows each man, as in a mirror, his own experience. When he reads this narrative his conscience says to him, like a prophet of God, 'Thou art the man; the story is told of thee.' "

The serpent is the insidious power of temptation. Later theology identified him with Satan, the arch-tempter of men. The outward lure, with its suggestion of something good withheld, and its falsehoods, finds response in natural, not evil, appetite and desire. Evil comes to the man only with his yielding to the temptation and disobedience to the law. The lower nature, which should be in subjection, gets the mastery. Appetite rules and the spirit is enslaved.

"Ye shall not surely die." The steps of temptation are accurately described. There is the parleying with the tempter, the question, the doubt, the feeling that something very desirable and good is being withheld, the looking upon the forbidden thing until the desire grows, the yielding, and then the tempting of another to share the guilt.

"Their eyes were opened." There is the awakening of conscience, the sense of shame and fear where there had been before neither shame nor fear, and the hiding from God. With the first conscious sin of disobedience innocence is gone. Each tries to shift the blame upon another. "The woman . . . gave me." "The serpent beguiled me."

Gen. 3: 14-24. The Consequences of Sin. "Cursed art thou." The symbolism is continued. The prostrate form of the serpent and his sinuous movements suggest the degradation and deceitfulness of sin. The natural dislike and dread with which the serpent is regarded is like the hatred which every healthy mind feels for falsehood, cruelty and uncleanness.

Verse 15 has been called the Protevangel, the first gospel, because it declares the ultimate victory of the man over the serpent, that is, over the temptation to do evil. The conflict may be long, but victory is assured. The serpent-head of wrong will be crushed, even though man himself suffer in the gaining of that victory. Our Lord Jesus Christ, in His sinless manhood, has proved the declaration true, and we through faith may share His victory.

So also the travail and pain and wearisome toil of life, not evil in themselves, become here symbols of all the train of suffering which sin has brought into the world—the grief, the heartache, the disappointment, the wreck of love and the pain of sacrifice.

"As one of us." The maturity of knowledge, in which one becomes like God in the power to distinguish good from evil, comes all too quickly through disobedience. That which should have been the climax of a normal growth becomes through sin the attainment of a movement. But it is the attainment of a distorted and corrupted nature which can no longer enjoy the favor of God (i.e., have access to the tree of life), and so the guilty ones are driven from the garden, and cannot return because the sword of judgment bars the way.

A graphic and terrible picture is drawn in Rom. 1: 18:23 of the consequences of sin—the "wrath of God" and the loss of a true knowledge of Him, and the vanity and folly of idolatry.

"The wages of sin is death," not mere physical death, which is the common lot of all, but the death of the soul through its alienation from God. For "when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (James 1: 15.)

The Witch in the Woods.

The birds and the frogs and the other animals in the big woods wished for rain. For days and days not a drop had fallen.

"The ground," said Hop Toad, "is so hot it almost blisters my feet."

Leap Frog, too, complained. "There is scum all over my pond," said he.

"My tongue is as dry as sand," said Hop Toad. "I declare, everything will die unless it rains. Let's go to see Simon Song Sparrow."

Leap Frog and Hop Toad jumped and jumped until they came to a tree with leaves all curled by the heat. Leap Frog grunted, and Simon Song Sparrow hurried out.

When the two guests had finished speaking he nodded. "My throat is so dry I can scarcely sing," he said. "There is no good water to drink and no place to take a bath."

Tufty Titmouse fluttered into the elm tree. "Bath!" he piped. "I haven't had a bath for weeks."

"Let's all go to see the King," said Simon Song Sparrow.

Bee Martin, King of the birds, agreed that rain was badly needed, and needed right away.

"What shall we do?" the others asked.

"Go find Mary Yellowthroat," said Bee Martin. "She lives in the willow tree down in the lane. Tell her to come here at once."

When Mary heard that the King wanted to see her she came fluttering. She bowed her wee yellow head before him.

"Mary Yellowthroat," said the King, "somewhere in this big woods lives a witch who can send us rain. I do not know where she lives, for she has not been here long. But I know one thing: she must be angry, because she will not let it rain. Go find that witch and beg her to send a few drops of rain."

"I will try," Mary Yellowthroat promised simply and bowed her wee head again.

As she flew away the other creatures heard her calling, "Witch-ity, witch-ity, witch! Witch-ity, witch-ity, witch!"

Hop Toad and Leap Frog and Simon Song Sparrow listened to her voice growing fainter and fainter as she flew: "Witch-ity, witch-ity, witch!"

Early the next morning the rain began to fall in big drops. All the animals and birds were full of joy. They bathed in the water and drank at the pools. Then they got together and planned to give Mary Yellowthroat a party to show their gratitude.

But Mary returned with tears in her eyes. "I did not find the witch at all," she sobbed. "I called and called, but I heard no answer."

Mary had always done what she set out to do, and now her little heart was nearly broken; but the King smiled.

"Never mind, little Mary," he said kindly. "The rain is here anyway."

Mary could not be comforted. "But I could not find the witch," she sobbed.

"I saw Hop Toad and Leap Frog just now," said Bee King Martin, "and they were grinning from ear to ear. I hear Simon Song Sparrow singing his best song. I saw Tufty Titmouse taking his bath. Mary, cheer up."

"How can I cheer up?" Mary said.

The King thought a while. "I tell you what to do," he said. "Find the witch in the woods and thank her for the rain. Maybe you can find her now."

"I'll try," answered Mary Yellowthroat; and she went away calling just as she had called before, "Witch-ity, witch-ity, witch!"

To this day you can hear Mary still calling the witch in the woods. She has called so long and so often that the young folks of the woods do not speak of her now as Mary Yellowthroat; they call her Little Witchity.

But Mary does not care. She just keeps on trying. It makes her happy to do her best. To this day whenever there is a drought she calls twice as hard as ever, "Witch-ity, witch-ity, witch!" And always, sooner or later, it rains.