THE FARM FRONT
by John Russell

One of the hundreds of quotations I think I know—until I try to put it down on paper—is the one that somebody will probably set to music, one day, and title it THE PARIS-ITE'S SONG.

* * *

I'm not going to look the quotation up; but from memory it runs something like this, "Great fleas have smaller fleas upon their backs to bite 'em; and smaller fleas have lesser fleas, and so proceed ad infinitum."

* * *

Which should be enough to introduce some observations from Dr. Charles W. Brown, of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry. He says that nearly every farm has had some experience of animal parasites. Some have had hog troubles, or an animal hit with Bang's Disease. Or maybe—and I know this will hit right home with many of my readers — cattle that have reacted to the T.B. test.

* * *

And here is what Dr. Brown has to say about some of the more common disinfectants, and the way they should be used:

* * *

Preparation of Buildings: Before you use any disinfectant the building should be thoroughly "dry-cleaned." Remove all litter and manure. Spread it on fields where livestock will not come in immediate contact with it.

"In case of wood or concrete floors, it will pay to clean them religiously," Brown explains. "Dirt forms a protective layer around the bacteria, protecting them from the disinfectant."

* * *

Application: Some kind of a pressure sprayer is probably the most satisfactory way to treat a building.

* * *

Physical Agents: Perhaps there is no better soil disinfectant than heat. You can use a burner or flame thrower on open lots. They are dangerous in buildings. The prompt burning or burying of dead animals, dead chickens and aborted fetuses can not be stressed too much.

Burning is best only if you completely burn the entire carcass. Otherwise, burying deeply and covering with quicklime is good protection.

* * *

Sunlight: Sunlight is a wonderful disinfectant. It's not only one of the best, it's free. The disinfection properties of sunlight are greatly reduced after it comes through ordinary glass.

* * *

Formaldehyde Solution (Formalin): A 4 per cent solution of formaldehyde in water is considered a reliable disinfectant. This is made by adding one part of formaldehyde solution to nine parts of water. It has deep penetrating powers and a penetrating odor. The gas is very irritating to the eyes and nose.

* * *

Carbolic Acid (Phenol): Both carbolic acid and phenol are extremely poisonous and must be handled with extreme care. Carbolic acid is one of the old-time standby, farm disinfectants.

Both should be kept under lock and key, so there is no possible danger of children coming in contact with them.

Today, other disinfectants which are not so dangerous to the user are preferred. A person using even weak solutions of carbolic acid must take precaution to protect the skin.

However, a 5 per cent solution of carbolic acid is satisfactory for ordinary bacteria. It will not destroy hog cholera virus or the spores of anthrax and tetanus. It must not be used in dairy barns, since milk absorbs the chemical, takes on an odor and taste.

Dr. J. Stewart Lott, London, Ontario, who has been awarded the first fellowship granted by the Ontario Division of the Canadian Cancer Society. Dr. Lott will continue cancer research studies in England and Europe.

Inside Trilby—Trilby, a circus elephant shows everything down to her tonsils as she opens wide to let trainer Frank Noel check her gum after extraction of a five-pound tooth. With help of 8,000,000 units of penicillin, the gum is healing nicely.

Saponated Solution of Cresol: This is a soap solution of cresol you can get at most drug stores. It must be used in soft water. In a 2 or 3 per cent solution, it is effective against hog cholera virus. It also is valuable in disinfecting the premises following the finding of a tubercular animal.

Four ounces of an approved cresol solution to a gallon of water is recommended for use in buildings.

This should be handled with care, though it is not as poisonous as carbolic acid. It should not be used in dairy barns.

* * *

Lime: Quicklime is easy to apply, and can be scattered around barns lots, where it will destroy most common disease agents with which it comes in contact.

Usually the lime is applied by slaking with water, then diluting the slaked lime four to one with water.

One pint of water to two pounds of quicklime is usually the correct proportion for slaking. Lime solution is also irritating to the skin and eyes. Lime will not destroy anthrax spores, tetanus organisms nor the tubercle bacillus.

Lime solution is often added to other disinfectants because it shows any areas that are missed.

* * *

Lye: Lye is a very effective disinfectant around dairy barns and hog houses. A 2 per cent solution is useful against Bang's disease infection. A pound of lye with five and one-half gallons of water is the usual mixture.

If the water is hot, the mixture is more effective. Lye is not effective in destroying tuberculosis germs. Extreme care should be used in handling concentrated lye.

* * *

Chlorine: Chlorine disinfectants are not practical for use on barns and in lots since any organic matter destroys their usefulness.

* * *

Hypochlorites: This is the name applied to chlorine disinfectants sold under a variety of trade names for use on dairy equipment. You wouldn't use them on a hog house, but on your separator or milking machine. The strength of solution and directions for use are usually printed on the label, and should be followed.

* * *

Sodium Orthophenylphenate: This is very valuable in destroying germs of tuberculosis. It has an advantage over cresol in that it is odorless—it can be used in dairy barns.

It should be used as a 1 per cent solution by dissolving in hot water.

* * *

Iodine: This applies to animals—not to humans. Iodine for livestock is sometimes useful as a skin disinfectant. Tincture of iodine is a common preparation. No bandage should be applied after its use.

* * *

Remember: Select a disinfectant for a particular use; there is no general disinfectant that will serve all purposes. And guard against indiscriminate use of disinfectants.

Most hog diseases are easily carried on the feet of humans. A plan of disinfectant at the door of the hog house or the feed-lot gate may prevent a disease outbreak in your hogs.

Clean ground is a preventive for parasites—not against virus diseases like hog cholera.

A MAN in Northampton parked his car outside the police station while he went inside to buy a $5 ticket to the policemen's ball. On returning, he found a parking tag on the car.

SPORTS
by A Sixbit Critic

A prominent California educator—college president or some such—has come out with a suggestion which is at least interesting. He urges that school children, when studying mathematics, should be taught practical things, such as the gambling odds on horse-racing, draw poker, slot machines, radio give-away programs, sweepstake tickets and so on. This educator thinks that if the kids grew up knowing how little chance they had of winning, they wouldn't gamble at all.

* * *

Well, maybe he could be right. But somehow or other we are just a tenny mite doubtful.

* * *

Now this idea about the advisability of such education for the young is by no means new. Years ago they used to tell about an insurance agent who had similar notions, and who constantly deplored the ignorance of the rising generation about such matters. One day a young fellow came wanting a Life Insurance policy, so the agent started to question him, his life and habits. "Tell me," asked the agent, "in a six-handed table stakes poker game, what would you say a pair of jacks would be worth, before the draw?"

* * *

"Six handed? Table stakes?" replied the applicant. "Why, a pair of jacks would be worth every chip you had!"

Big Bookie—Frank Erickson is booked in a New York police station after a County Grand Jury, probing organized gambling, returned a 60-count gambling and conspiracy information against the bookmaking figure. He faces a maximum of one year in prison and $500 fine on each count.

"Son," said the insurance man solemnly, "go on home, and don't come back. I don't want your business, because you're a bad risk. In fact I'm surprised that you've even lived as long as you have."

* * *

But that is all by the way. Before we got off on that detour we were expressing doubt as to whether education of the sort proposed by the Californian would eradicate the gambling urge, no matter at what age you tried to apply it. As an illustration, let us,—as a partially-reformed horse-player, give an illustration from real life.

* * *

Away back when we and the world were considerably younger we had a friend who—although he had a pretty fair position—was constantly broke because of his burning passion for having a bet on a horse in every race that was carded. We had given him the old stuff about "You can beat a race, but you can't beat the races," and all the rest of it, but it made no difference. Finally we thought that maybe a mathematical demonstration would help.

* * *

"Listen, Mac," we said to him. "Get yourself a pencil and a piece of paper. Now, you know that the 'bite' at a race track is around 20 per cent. Every time you put a dollar in those mutuel machines, only eighty cents of it comes out."

* * *

"I know that as well as you do," he answered. "So get on with what you have to say, if anything, because I'm in a hurry."

* * *

"Well, let's suppose, just as an example," we continued, "that on a certain day there are just a thousand guys at a certain track, and that each of them has just a hundred in his kick. So they make an agreement that they will bet all they have on every race. Naturally, some of them are wiped out in the very first race. But out of that hundred thousand dollars, with a 20 per cent bite, how much comes back after that first heat?"

* * *

"I don't need any pencil and paper for that," answered my friend Mac. "It would be eighty thousand or thereabouts."

* * *

"So that eighty grand goes back on the second race," we said. "What is the comeback when it is finished?"

* * *

"Sixty-four thousand," replied Mac after a moment's mental figuring.

* * *

"So there's sixty-four thousand bet on the third," we persisted. "Fifty-one thousand comes out," was Mac's answer, "only I wish you'd hurry up and let me get going."

* * *

But we weren't to be derailed, taking him right down through an afternoon's racing and showing him how, after seven races, that original stake of one hundred thousand had shrunk to just about one fifth of that amount.

* * *

"So now you can see what suckers all you horse players are," we concluded triumphantly. "In addition to all the other chances you take, you're trying to buck a racket that will automatically shrink a hundred grand into a little over twenty thousand in just seven races."

* * *

"I thank you kindly, pal, for the lesson and the sermon," said Mac. "But I've got to get going. I know that you haven't any money, so I've got to hustle around and try and dig up a few bucks. Honest John Calder has a real good thing in the sixth at Thorncilffe—one that might pay eight to one or better—and I'd hate to be looking out the window when it comes down. So long. I'll be seeing you."

* * *

"Just a minute, Mac," we replied. "Here's two bucks that we were going to give the milkman on account, but we can always stall him off somehow. Put the deuce on Honest John's good thing. It's pretty near time he had a winner and, as you say, it would be a shame to miss it."

* * *

That, as we said before, is a true-to-life incident; or as near enough to the truth as makes no never-mind. And it should show why we personally doubt whether mathematical education, even if started in the kindergarten, is ever going to eradicate the desire to gamble. We may be mistaken; but we think that the only remedy for that disease is the same that the old fellow in Tom Brown's School-days said was the sole cure for "the rheumatics."

* * *

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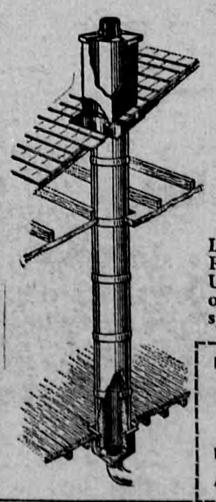

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