

EFFICIENT FARMING

YOUR MEDICINE CHEST FOR YOUR LIVESTOCK

A medicine chest for your livestock, and some knowledge of how to use it, may save you some veterinary bills, and perhaps the life of some of your animals. Here are some hints you may be able to use:

Label all medicine and keep poisons locked up so the children will not get hold of them. I find it a good idea to destroy drugs I find unlabeled. Often dope might look like something else, and if used instead of a remedy it may cause more trouble.

Keep all medicines in the chest. Powders should be kept in air-tight containers, for they lose their strength when exposed very long to air. I find sterilized fruit jars will do nicely. When you buy drugs always insist upon fresh stock. Stuff on shelves for a long time may lose its strength, and thus be useless.

Especially if you have a large amount of stock, you will want for compounding drugs a large smooth table or counter with drawers. One of the drawers may be divided into compartments for bottle corks, tin boxes of different size for ointments, and some tin or cardboard boxes for powders to be dispensed in teaspoonful or tablespoonful doses in the stable.

Here too may be kept labels for the boxes, a graduate for the measuring of liquids, a glass funnel or two, and some squares of paper for the wrapping of separate dose powders. In another drawer or compartment should be kept an assortment of clean bottles, chiefly half and one pint, but with a few smaller and larger sizes. There should also be one or two strong long-necked pint and quart bottles for drenching. On the table may be kept scales and weights, a mortar and pestle for the pulverizing and mixing of drugs, a large slab of plate glass, china, or slate, and a flexible knife for the mixing of ointments. Here, or in a cupboard in the stable, should also be kept a hook and noosed rope for the drenching of horses, a spray pump for the application of fly repellents, and a special pump or syringe or two feet of one-inch rubber hose with a large tin funnel attached, for rectal injections.

The veterinarian uses many alkaloids and poisons, as well as other special drugs, which cannot safely be given by the layman. As colic drenches usually contain some narcotic, a small supply should be obtained from a veterinarian for emergency cases. Fever mixtures, worm powders, tonic powders, liniments, blistering salves, and other combinations of drugs may also be obtained in the same way—Dr. A. S. Alexander.

IN MY APRON POCKET.
I have a 20-acre farm which is in good shape, fairly well stocked, and within reach of a good market. Until 1922 I did not keep regular books. I am at a loss to understand how I have resolved never again to neglect this indispensable aid to making the farm pay.

On January 1, 1922, I provided myself with a daybook and ledger. In the daybook, which was vest-pocket (I should say apron-pocket) size, I jotted down in pencil a brief memorandum of all transactions of selling, buying, or paying out money for working expenses. At night I carefully transferred these pencil notes to the ledger under appropriate headings. Once a month the ledger was balanced.

I kept account in another book of all work done on the farm, and of the returns obtained or the losses incurred from every investment. Each cow and calf had a place in this book. All purchases and sales of poultry were balanced against the egg-producing record of my hens, or the value to me of chickens marketed and used for the table.

This soon resulted in my making radical changes. It brought to my attention that I was feeding, housing, and milking three cows who were doing the work for me of a single high-grade animal. Having reached this conclusion, I lost no time in selling these cows and buying a fine registered cow and her first calf. My returns in milk and butter sold have greatly increased, while the cost of feeding and work has been reduced two-thirds.

I found from my records that beekeeping was paying me well, in proportion to the small amount of time and expense involved. I had not regarded my bees seriously, and only kept three hives. I now have twelve hives, with Italian queens and have put in a quarter acre of buckwheat, and as much crimson clover, for their use. A grocer who deals only in "fancy" products buys all the honey I have to sell.

On the other hand, my books showed me the futility of maintaining the small flock of turkeys I have been keeping. My attention had been fixed upon the excellent price the birds brought in the Christmas market. I had not realized the cost of egg-feeding, the hours of attention the young birds demanded, and the constant expenditure of my time and attention during the nine months it took to make turkeys marketable. I am not raising turkeys this year. Were I differently situated, there would doubtless be money in them, as it is, they are only an expense.

A carefully kept record of egg production has enabled me to weed out unproductive hens. Now I have an army of pullets working for me of which I am justly proud. My books have taught me to eliminate, as far as possible, the casual customer, and have a regular market for all my produce. I have learned where to buy, as well as to sell.

They have enabled me to collect many small accounts that I might have overlooked, and, on the other hand, are a constant reminder to pay my own bills with the least possible delay. Altogether, my accounts are one of the best investments of time that I could make.—Mrs. M. J. Jenkins.

Reaping and Threshing One Operation.

The only reaper-thresher in operation in Canada this year is on the Dominion Experimental Farm at Swift Current, Sask. It cuts a 12-foot swath and will cover from 30 to 35 acres per day.

It is really a combination of a binder—minus the binding attachment—and a small separator, without the usual feeder and blower. As it is cut, the grain is carried directly to the separator, and from this the threshed grain goes through a spout into a wagon attached to the left side of the machine. The straw is dropped at the rear in a winnow.

The machine may be drawn by a tractor or by horses. If horses, then 12 are needed for a 12-foot bar. Combines of various widths up to 30 feet are made and in use. All of the cutting and separating mechanism is operated by an engine mounted on the frame of the combine.

The one process method eliminates the cost of the twine, and of stooking, and when the work is finished the saving will be found to just about represent the cost of threshing. The cost of the machine is round two thousand dollars. Two men operate it, so the good wife has no such bugbear as "cooking for threshers."

The reaper-thresher is not a new invention, but for a good many years has been in general use in the Argentine and Australia, in Mexico, and also in the United States, as far north as Kansas and Nebraska, and every year it is coming farther north.

This is the second year it has been used on the Swift Current Experimental Farm, and the Supt. J. G. Taggart, has found it very satisfactory within its limitations. It has not been his experience that it shatters the grain any worse than the old method of harvesting.

Yet it has its limitations and drawbacks. As the grain does not stand in stook, the entire field must be dead ripe, or it will heat or mold in the bin; and in a windy country every day that the grain remains standing is a risk. All this must be considered in the operation of the reaper-thresher.

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Saving the Rainy Day.

To the farmer and his helpers who wish to make the best possible use of what otherwise might be a period of enforced idleness during inclement weather, I would suggest the installation of labor-saving grain chutes.

I have been in barns where the horses were fed in the basement, also the cattle, the granary directly overhead. Day after day the farmer goes up and down the stairs carrying up and sometimes hay for feeding his animals. This is certainly a useless expenditure of motion or human energy. But there is, too, a quarter of an hour or more wasted each day that might be more profitably expended. The half of a rainy day is ample time in which to construct a conveyor spout from the

grain bins above to the feeding alley, which would have effectively taken up this lost motion.—G. Everitt.

These are the days when the methods of our fathers are being severely challenged.

The Sunday School Lesson

DECEMBER 9

The Outreach of the Early Church, Acts 8: 1 to 15: 35.
Golden Text—Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.—Acts 1: 8.

LESSON SETTING.—The time had come when the Gospel, having begun in Jerusalem, must reach out. Geographically, Samaria looks like the most natural place for the extension of the Gospel. But it was an unlikely field when we remember the hatred existing between Jew and Samaritan. A fierce persecution of the Christian Church had broken out under the leadership of Saul. God uses this wrath of his enemies for his own purpose.

I. PHILIP BEGINS A GREAT WORK IN SAMARIA, ACTS 8: 4-8.

Vs. 4, 5. They that were scattered abroad. The martyrdom of Stephen marks the beginning of persecution. The leader of the persecution is Saul, afterwards of the great apostle of the Gentiles. He manifests as a persecutor the same intensity of purpose that he afterwards shows in the service of Christ. The result of the persecution was that many disciples fled wherever safety was most assured. Every where preaching the word. This scattering of the disciples brought about the very thing that Saul sought to prevent: It was like trying to extinguish a fire by scattering it. Every fugitive was a witness for the truth. Philip. He was one of the seven "deacons," appointed to attend to the distribution of alms among the poor Christians, ch. 6: 1-6. Samaria, the capital city of the district of Samaria. Preached Christ unto them. Rather, "proclaimed the Christ unto them." Philip presented Christ to them as the Messiah. Without doubt he would speak of the beauty and love of the life of Christ, but his main theme was that this Jesus who had been crucified had risen again, and was the fulfiller of God's divine purpose and the answer to men's expectations.

Vs. 6-8. The people with one accord gave heed. There is a general and ready response. The people are ready for the message. We may prove that the program of missions must be universal by pointing to the definite command of Jesus to go into all the world as well as by the spirit of the Old Testament utterances. We may also prove the same fact by pointing to the world response made to the world appeal. Hearing the miracles which he did. The meaning of the word translated "miracle" is "sign." A miracle is a sign, a seal, a confirmation by God of the human message. Unclean spirits, palsies, lame. The miracles were varied in their nature. They are all miracles of mercy. Great joy in that city. The gospel was to the people of Samaria "good news."

II. PETER AND JOHN CONFIRM THE WORK, ACTS 8: 14-17; 25.

Vs. 14-17. When the apostles at Jerusalem heard. The apostolic band remained in Jerusalem in spite of the persecution. Very naturally they were not only leaders in Jerusalem, but their authority extended with the extension of the gospel field. They were the living witnesses of the risen Christ. News is sent to them of the great happenings at Samaria. Sent unto them Peter and John. They came not as critics and censors, but as helpers and advisers. Their presence would be a confirmation of the words of Philip. Prayed that they might receive the Holy Ghost. The New

Testament clearly points to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a special manner and degree. The apostles here, by their prayer to God, make it manifest that the gift was the direct gift of God, and not in their own power. Laid their hands on them; an outward sign of the imparted gift.

v. 25. When they had testified and preached. Thus with wholeheartedness they endorse the new extension of the gospel. Returned to Jerusalem; rather returned towards Jerusalem. Preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans. John had once proposed to Jesus that he should command fire to consume the inhabitants of a Samaritan village that rejected Jesus (Luke 9: 54) but his whole attitude is now changed.

APPLICATION.

I. The outreach of the early church came about through being thrust out, Acts 8: 4-8. The spread of the church from Judaea into Samaria was not the result of cool deliberation or a missionary resolution carried unani-mously. If something out of the ordinary had not happened, the disciples would have tarried in Jerusalem indefinitely, and humanly speaking, there was some danger that Christianity might continue to be a mere annex to Judaism. But Stephen, that morning star of St. Paul and of the Protestant reformation, started a new movement out of the old Jewish church. For this he was arrested, tried, condemned and martyred. This action caught fire and became a general persecution of the early Christians. The scattered followers of Jesus bore witness to him in new places, and with a vigor refreshed by trials. It was a good thing for the fortunes of the faith that this outbreak of fury came. Blessed are ye when men shall persecute you. Blessed is any good cause that has not too easy a time. A kite rises against the wind. The blood of the martyrs has been the seed of the church. Though God can take good out of good, he can take good out of evil as well. God can make the wrath of man to praise him.

II. This outreach of the early church into Samaria was spontaneous in effort, but followed up by the careful supervision of the central church at Jerusalem, vs. 14-17. That Christianity should be organized and governed from some central point from within, surely needs no proof. It was Christ himself who established the fellowship of disciples. He said, "I will build my church." No mere host of secret disciples could have successfully buffeted the waves of persecution in early times, or survived the inundation of the barbarian invasion of the Roman Empire in later days. In our age there is a tendency to over-emphasize individual liberty, and to resent suggestions from the centre. Let us remember that there can be no great output of strength without co-ordination, and no co-ordination without centrality of control.

III. The outreach of the early church was formally reported to the central church and systematically approved, v. 25. There was here no mere arbitrary exercise of power without any regard to the free play of enthusiasm on the part of Samaritans. Not only was enthusiasm obedient, but authority was sympathetic.

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The Wild Rabbits.

Among the sandhills.
Nearby the sea,
Wild young rabbits
Were seen by me.

They live in burrows,
With winding ways,
And there they shelter
On rainy days.

The mother rabbits
Make cosy nests,
With furry linings
From their breasts.

The tender young ones
Are nursed and fed,
And safely hidden
In this warm bed.

And when they are older
They all come out
Upon the sandhills,
And frisk about.

They play and nibble
The long sweet grass
But scamper away
Whenever you pass.

Condition in Poultry Necessary for Production.

The experience of the Ontario Agricultural College Poultry Department has been that a hen will not lay if not in good condition. She should be healthy, free from any disease and show plenty of vigor and activity. The first pullets to lay in the fall have been the early maturing ones. The pullets that have developed slowly in body and feather have been just as slow in starting to lay. The results of liberal feeding and general good care have always been reflected in the pullet, flock and a full egg basket during the period of early winter high prices.

Push the Bean.

We may search the entire list of vegetable foods and not find one that supplies the splendid balance of nutritive elements that the bean does. Nor have we one which gives to the consumer such a high degree of energy.

Nature has supplied to this product an unusually liberal percentage of protein. It has twenty per cent more of this element than has corn, potatoes or onions. As compared to wheat, it carries fourteen per cent more, and it even contains a seven per cent greater supply than does beef.

In the amount of energy, it is unexcelled. It has double the calories that are found in many of our meats and eggs; leads by a long way the whole list of vegetables and contains even twice the calories of that par-excellent food, milk. It is not our purpose to urge the full substitution of beans for these other foods. Beans have a place when used in combination or as a change, and particularly to the person who is doing hard physical labor, the quantity of beans included in the ration can be relatively large to the advantage of both health and economy.

Long ago the army and navy, those efficient institutions whose dietitians do everything to secure the maximum of results from the food consumed, learned the value of beans in the strenuous life of the soldier.

These facts, taken with the favorable keeping qualities and easy handling, make beans a product which should be favorably known in every household of the land.

The general consumption of beans ought, therefore, to be encouraged. How shall this be done?

A "No Smoking" sign on the door of each large laying house is not a bad idea for the poultryman. Each house is thoroughly covered with litter, and it should be dry litter. Such material burns easily, but visitors to a poultry plant may not consider that fact unless the sign acts as a reminder.