

MANCHESTER, IOWA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1903. VOL. XXIX--NO. 33.



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PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, Franklin Street, Manchester, Iowa.  
O. L. LEIGH, M. D., Office in the Adams building on Franklin Street, Telephone 218.  
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- INSURE YOUR PROPERTY** against fire and tornadoes in the old reliable Phoenix Insurance Co., BRONSON & CARR, Agents.

### Why I Went to the Foot.

Billie Parker Butler, in Frank Leslie's Popular Weekly for May.

Was ever a maiden so worried?  
"I admit I am partial to Jim,  
For Jimmie was promised to me,  
When I'm old enough to wed him;  
But then I love teacher, too, dearly,  
She's always so lovely to me,  
And she's got a kind and a sweet-tempered,  
And gentle as gentle can be.

I wouldn't for worlds hurt Jim's feelings,  
For he never would let me go,  
And I knew teacher thought I made "fool"  
But Jimmie said "sit" and maintained it  
As long as he stood on the floor.

"Two plus two equals what?" was the problem,  
For he never would let me go,  
And I knew teacher thought I made "fool"  
But Jimmie said "sit" and maintained it  
As long as he stood on the floor.

And I saw I must soon choose between them,  
For I was the next in line  
Should I side with my teacher or Jimmie?  
What a sad situation was mine.

And just as my heart with this problem  
Of friendship was sorely vexed,  
I was called to my room by the other,  
For teacher had said, "snappy," "Next!"

It was then that the brilliant thought struck me,  
That by compromise I could contrive  
To let both have what I wanted,  
And that's how I came to say "live."

### The Chicken Mite.

By John J. Hepp.

According to the twelfth census Iowa led the States of the union in the number of chickens three months old and over, having June 1, 1900, 18,907,673. The value of Poultry raised in 1899 was \$9,491,818.00 and the value of eggs produced during that time \$10,016,707.00. Allowing for the necessary inaccuracy of such statistics it is still certain that we have in this state a vast poultry industry whose interests are deserving of our closest attention.

The mite attacks other species of domestic fowls besides the chicken, also at times becomes a serious pest to horses stabled with fowls or near them and even becomes parasitic upon man. This bulletin deals only with the mite as it affects chickens, but the principles which it sets forth can be applied equally well in all conditions under which the mite exists.

One of the most formidable enemies of chickens in Iowa is unquestionably the chicken mite, scientifically called *Dermanyssus gallinae* Redi. My observations have demonstrated that chickens infested with mites are exceedingly unprofitable. The cost of keeping them is very much reduced. Indeed, when very badly infested they are totally incapacitated for performing work.

The hens will cease laying. The ovaries undergo atrophy and on autopsy will be found shrunken and in a condition unsuitable for work.

In several cases in which I made observations I found that egg production was greatly reduced or altogether prevented during the spring and summer when, under normal conditions it would have been at its height.

Hatching hens will often either die on the nest as a result of the mite infestation or will leave their eggs, literally driven away by the vast hordes of mites which accumulate upon them.

In one case I was able to determine with certainty that the mites were introduced into a flock by a rooster that had been bought in a neighboring flock which proved on examination to be badly infested with mites. There is no doubt that mites may be carried from one premises to another upon all sorts of intermediate bearers.

To provide against infection of a flock in this manner any new fowls which are brought in from infested premises should be quarantined and treated by dusting with pyrethrum powder until all the mites have been destroyed.

In one case I tried to exterminate the mites in a henhouse by means of fire applied with a torch, but the attempt was unsuccessful.

I am next resorting to the use of kerosene emulsion and found it very effective. The emulsion is made as follows:

Take one-half pound of hard soap and shave it into a gallon of soft water and put it on the fire and bring it to a boil. By this time the soap will have dissolved. Then remove the soap solution from the fire and stir into it at once, while hot, two gallons of kerosene. This makes a thick creamy emulsion which is made ready for use by diluting with ten volumes of soft water and stirring well. It can be utilized as a spray, dip or wash.

It is necessary to use soft water, for hard water decomposes the soap and destroys its emulsifying power. In my experiments I used white laundry soap, but any good hard soap will do.

For the sake of brevity I refrain from recounting my various experiments, but will detail in a general way a method of applying the emulsion based upon my experimentation which will be found effective by those who will thoroughly try it.

Make up as much of the stock emulsion as it is thought will be needed. This can be kept in a suitable vessel and a portion taken out and diluted as needed. If the bucket or holder attached to the spray pump holds five gallons, one-half gallon of the stock emulsion should be taken and put into the bucket or holder and four and one-half gallons of soft water added and the whole well stirred. It is then ready to be sprayed on the places occupied by the mites. A beginning should be made at a particular place and the whole habitation of mites sprayed in a regular order of which account it should be taken so that the spray order may be followed in subsequent sprayings. The spray should be directed with special care into all crevices, holes, joints or other hiding or breeding-places of the mites. The first spray of

kerosene emulsion will kill within five minutes all of the mites and eggs with which it comes in contact, but many mites will be left in the hiding-places unaffected by the spray. Hence the spraying should be repeated as soon as the first spraying is completed. Even this will not kill all of the mites, hence a third spraying should be done as soon as the second is completed. At each repetition the beginning should be made at the same place and the same order followed as in the first. These three sprayings done in one day and in rapid succession will destroy nearly all of the mites, but as my researches have shown, many eggs are left in places untouched by the spray. If mites are seen crawling about the building the next day, it should be sprayed again. One might ordinarily suppose that he had not exterminated the mites, but such is not the case, for, in about three days, a crop of young mites will be found hatched from the eggs which escaped the first spraying. If these would be allowed to go undisturbed, it would not be long until the building would be as badly infested as at the beginning. Therefore the spraying should be repeated once every three or four days, spraying two or three times on each occasion, for about two weeks. The spray should be applied to every part of the building that is likely to contain the mites. In a two-story building they will crawl up the post and find lodgings on the second floor even if chickens do not go there. In one case I found a colony of mites on the outside of a small door in the second story of stable in which chickens are kept and which was badly infested with mites. If such a lodging-place is overlooked, the mites will not be exterminated. The procedure just described will with very little doubt be effective in ridding the place of mites, but I would advise that a constant watch be kept and the spraying repeated when mites are seen at any subsequent time. It is not necessary nor advisable to exclude the chickens from their regular coop while the process of extermination is going on except while the spraying is in progress. Extermination of the mites may be hastened by dusting the fowls with pyrethrum powder after they have gone to roost on the evening before the first spraying.

The cost of the remedy is very small. The cost of making thirty gallons of the emulsion is as follows: Two gallons kerosene at 18c.....36c. One-half pound hard soap at 8c. 4c. Labor.....5c.

Total.....45c.

This will be enough to spray the ordinary farm henhouse once.

In order to insure good results it is very important to have a spray pump which is durable and which acts easily and effectively. Such a pump should be obtained as it may be turned to any one of the many farm stores to which a spray pump is adapted. While a very cheap pump may be made to serve in an imperfect manner, it will be found in the long run to be poor economy to try to save money by buying a cheap, poorly made pump. By investing \$7.00 to \$10.00 a desirable article may be obtained. While a copper holder costs more it lasts so much longer than tin as to fully repay its cost. The Bordeaux nozzle should be used. With it one can get a spray of fineness and the nozzle can be instantly adjusted so as to emit a forcible jet in order to throw the spraying fluid into fissures and holes. There are many good, reliable makes of spray pumps and different kinds may be seen in almost any implement store.

The chicken mite is one of the worst enemies of chickens in Iowa. The mites live and breed in fissures about buildings and feed upon the fowls when they go upon the nest or perch.

Mites may be introduced into a flock by a fowl or other bearer brought from an infested premises.

Mites may be exterminated by thoroughly spraying the building and its contents with kerosene emulsion.

Kerosene emulsion kills not only the mites, but also their eggs, when it comes into contact with them.

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It is an annual custom with us to inaugurate a Clearing Sale of Couches during the month of August. This year we offer you better values than ever before. We have never had as complete a line as now.



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