



## Horticultural Department

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### The Good Work of Agricultural Colleges.

It is no uncommon thing to hear criticisms of our Agricultural Colleges on the score that many of their graduates turn to other lines of work than that of farming after passing through college. Is that a valid criticism? No. I would not have a son of mine pass through a college of any kind with the idea that he is to be drilled for a special kind of work and nothing else. The real work of an education is not to stuff a young person with information, however valuable, but to develop his mental faculties so that he may be qualified to carry on his pursuit after his line of work has been chosen. The young man who steps from the college with his diploma in his hand is not a finished product, he is merely qualified with a disciplined mind to take up some particular line of work and prosecute it successfully. Much is to be learned by any one after he has left the college walls. The man who stands in the shade and whets his scythe is doing a very necessary work toward cutting the field of grass, but he becomes an expert in mowing only by swinging that scythe as he lays the cut grass in swaths. He will make far better headway in the hay field than the one who has a dull scythe. So the educated man with his disciplined mind will far outstrip the one with an untrained mind in any of the pursuits of life. We do not go to college merely to acquire knowledge but to fit ourselves to acquire knowledge in our chosen line of work. And this acquisition of knowledge goes on during all our lives. I am acquiring knowledge now after having passed my "three score years and ten" and can do such work

### Are You a Quality Man?

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far better than I could when twenty-five or thirty years old.

It is no criticism on the agricultural college if some of its graduates turn to other pursuits than that of farming. I would consider an agricultural college a poor place to send my boy if all he secured was a great mass of facts about farm matters. When I was in college I was thoroughly drilled in the higher branches of mathematics. I chose a profession that has nothing to do with such studies, but I have always been thankful that I secured the mental discipline that came with my mathematical studies. I once heard a well educated man say that he could tell from a minister's sermons whether he had studied geometry and conic sections. Mental arithmetic, algebra and geometry if thoroughly mastered will help a man to be a sound logician.

But the statement that the graduates from our agricultural colleges do not go back to the farm is not borne out by the facts of the case. Discussing this matter one of our papers has this to say:

Professor Kennedy of the Iowa State College furnishes the following information pertaining to the occupation of graduates of the animal industry department of the Iowa agricultural school for the years 1910 and 1911 which is of special interest in this connection.

Sixty-six men were graduated from that department during the years mentioned and are engaged in the following lines of employment: Farming, fifty-two; college instructors, eight; agricultural journalism, three; teachers of agriculture in high schools, two; dairy test work, one. Professor Kennedy states that practically every one of these young men could have accepted positions at salaries ranging between \$1,000 and \$1,800 had he so desired, and adds that "it is a showing like this which makes college work worth while from the standpoint of the teacher."

There are two gratifying points in this summary. One is that nearly 80 per cent of the Iowa animal husbandry graduates go back to the farms and the concrete work of animal husbandry; the other that a comparatively new profession carrying a good living and great opportunity has been opened to ambitious young men. Few college graduates can go out from classical college work to positions which pay \$1,000 to \$1,800 at the outset and which are fertile of opportunity for advancement as any others which pay less at the start. Another very gratifying thing about it from the young man's point of view is the demand which absorbs the supply and is for more. While other professions are being overcrowded and divided of opportunity that of animal husbandry is begging for innumerable capable, competent and trained men to fill the places which wait for them.

#### THE GREEN APHIS.

According to letters that have come to me I judge that the ravages of the green aphid must be bad in certain localities this summer. I am not surprised at this. Up to the middle of July the spring and summer were remarkably cool. Cool weather is favorable to the aphides of all kinds. These insects are classed as the soft-shelled insects as all lice are. Very

hot weather is very destructive to these soft-shelled insects. It would greatly surprise any one, who has no experience along this line, to see what havoc will be wrought among all forms of aphids by a few hot days. If the springs are cool in the Yakima valley the aphides multiply very rapidly, but as soon as a temperature of 90 or more is reached, they are cooked so completely that no further harm is done that summer. Somehow a few survive the heat, "just enough for seed," but their damage is not perceptible. Now in sections where the summers remain cool, these insects continue their destructive work. It is claimed by one of the best informed horticulturists on Puget Sound that the green aphid does more harm in this region than the codling moth. The same is true in the higher and colder regions of Montana. It follows, therefore, that in any section where the temperature rarely reaches 90 above, the ravages of the green aphid will have to be fought.

What is the best way to destroy this pest? One of the best things to be done is to render the eggs nonfertilizable. The eggs of the green aphid can be found on the young twigs of infested apple trees. If we spray in the winter or early spring, before the leaves put out, with the lime-sulphur wash, it will destroy the fertility of the eggs. A strong solution of kerosene emulsion will accomplish the same result. Where the San Jose scale has to be dealt with, the lime-sulphur wash is to be preferred, for in this way we kill the scale and destroy the eggs of the green aphid. Prevention is always better than a cure if it is equally effective. In the summer we can use kerosene emulsion, a strong solution of whale-oil soap or almost any sticky substance. We can not use strong caustic sprays in the summer time for these will injure the foliage. We must use a spray that will close up the breathing pores of these insects. They have no lungs but breathe through small

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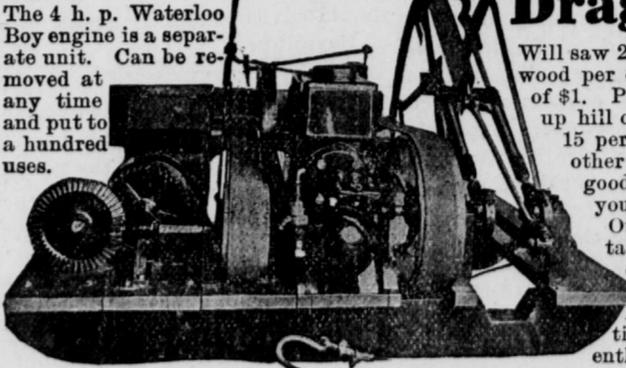
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