

Around the Office Desk

Hubbard On Food Values

Ashtabula, Ohio.
October 26, 1928.

Dear Mr. Morley:

After reading your genial letter, "Mac and I go East" the summing up of the brown patch problem being in a more confusing state than anticipated, suggests a thought to me that may have some value.

My reading on the nutrition question of the human animal is clarifying one cardinal principle on food values. For maintenance of health there must be an alkaline reserve. Diseased tissues are always bathed in acid surroundings. The vitamin is the actuating force that sets up chemical action necessary to making the new combinations from vegetable life into food combinations for animal life. Most or all diseases are preventable.

Now if health is only maintained where there is an alkaline reserve and if all animal life is either directly or indirectly dependent on the chemical laboratory of vegetable life it would follow that vegetable life must supply sufficient alkaline properties to support animal life, and, therefore the alkaline element in vegetable life should predominate also.

There is an old horticulturist in England that has maintained a fine nursery of fruits on just pulverized rocks, naturally several different stone formations are used. He does not use manure or manufactured products. He does not spray, neither does he have to combat parasites or fungi, and always has a clean fruit. An Oregon man is growing fruits on this principle.

Why is it that in every district there are plants that are indigenous and immune to destroying forces? In Brazil the home of insects and fungi there are delicate and luscious fruits in their forests free from blemishes. (I know.) My reading leads me to conclude that it is the presence of one of the elements that makes it unsuitable for insects or micro-organism to live on and sulphur has a conspicuous place in this. It may be that our grasses are getting too much nitrogenous food and too little alkaline mineral elements.

Formal education too often leads to rules of thought

that closes the mind to anything that is not orthodox. Look at the doctors, not one in twenty insists in curing constipation with natural foods, but rely on pills. They suggest some right foods, but do not insist on them. Constipation is unknown to all other animals than those that are house broken. It may be that our scientific agriculturists are like the doctors. Their principal aim has been to increase production and doubtless have made much progress in this, but at the expense of a well balanced plant.

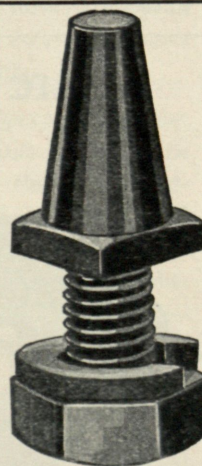
I like your thought of not forcing grass during the hot months. It fits in with mine. Nature intended that plants should undergo some drying up in hot weather and probably it knits the fibre into something stronger and better balanced for this change.

My reading is along the line of food suitable for us. It has been interesting and profitable. I have no training for scientific observations in actual practice only a taste for analytical deductions of its laws.

Dr. Amos F. Hubbard.

Burkhardt Re-Elected

All retiring officers were re-elected at the annual meeting of the Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers, November 5. Fred A. Burkhardt is president, Bert Sheldon, vice-president and Frank Ermer, secretary-treasurer. The association will give a dinner January 21 to green committee chairmen of the district.



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