

pair of pillars, or the handle of a screw driver and gently tap the shoulder of the pan, Fig. 2, until it takes the position shown in Fig. 3.

You will note that the shoulder of the pan is now just barely holding the trigger in place; in fact if you sneeze real hard, the pan will release the trigger. This is what is known as a hair-trigger set and is very important in mole-catching. The slightest upheaval of the soil under the pan when set with this fine adjustment will cause the release of the trigger and the downward penetration of the tines. In other words the mole is monkeying with dynamite. More moles go under traps without being caught due to the too coarse adjustment of the trigger and pan-shoulder than for any other reason except one which I will now explain in detail.

Traps Kick Out

Let us say that you have the trap set according to the directions above. A mole comes along, lifts the soil under the pan and the trap springs releasing the pointed tines. According to all the laws of the prophets, the tines should snap down into the soil and pinion Mr. Mole right where he stands. But as a matter of fact in about nine cases out of ten the mole escapes. Why? Because the motive power which drives these tines into the soil consists of a heavy spring. When this spring uncoils, it kicks so hard that the trap rebounds and is lifted partly or completely out of the ground and the tines at best only penetrate the soil for an inch or so, not deep enough to pin the mole.

In other words the manufacturers have failed to make provision for the trap holding itself in the ground when the spring uncoils. Fortunately there is a very simple way of overcoming this tendency of the

trap to push out of the soil when it goes off. The secret consists in placing a common brick on top of the handle of the trap. When the trap goes off, the brick holds the trap down until the tines have penetrated their full length and then calmly fall off. A mole-trap without the accompanying brick perched athwart its handle is just about as useless an instrument as a rake without teeth.

So, in the last analysis, the secret of success in trapping moles are three in number. First, set the trap squarely over the tunnel; second, set the pan-shoulder and trigger on a hair-trigger edge; and third, put a brick on the handle of the trap to hold it down when it springs.

Change Trap Location

Here's a few more pointers with regards to mole-trapping. There is usually more than one mole in a run; I have caught as high as sixteen, one or two each day until I had cleaned them out. When you reset the trap in the same place day after day, the moles get wise and refuse to dig under the trap. I believe this is due to the blood of the previous victims which warns them that all is not normal at that particular spot. At any rate, the proper thing to do is to move the trap a few feet along the run in the direction from which the moles are coming and reset the trap. Secondly, where you have a long, well defined mole-run, it is always good business to use more than one trap. String a half dozen traps at intervals along the run so that by the law of averages you are bound to clean them up in the minimum length of time.

In conclusion would advise that I have never enjoyed any measure of success in trying to kill or repel moles by filling the runs with cyanide, red pepper, arsenic, etc.



Louisville (Ky.) board of park commissioners has centralized its repair work in a fine shop, part of which is shown herewith. The focus of repair work saved a lot of money