

Health Notes for the Farm

Electricity Has Some Bad Habits

STRANGE and painful things are liable to happen when you least expect them. Many a time the handyman-around-the-house wished he had not been so handy when he's been pulled up short with an electrical shock. It may simply have been carelessness, of course, but, on the other hand, it might have been because he just didn't know quite enough about it.

Even from a simple household appliance an electric shock is no joke, and in certain circumstances it can be fatal. With the multiplicity of electrical gadgets in the home these days, particularly the country home, the risk has increased accordingly. If anything goes wrong, leave it to the power board officials or other experts. Don't try to fix it yourself. Treat electricity with the respect it deserves.

Above all, don't handle anything electrical with wet hands, or while standing in the wet. Frequently, fatal accidents have been caused in the bathroom because a person has tried to switch on a plug while standing in the bath or on the wet floor. Never try to switch on the bathroom light while your other hand is on the tap.

Similarly, in the kitchen. Never turn on the tap with one hand and switch on the electric stove, or the jug, or anything else that switches on, with the other hand at the same time. Even if everything looks all right, there may be a tiny leak of current somewhere. And a tiny leak is enough.

Keep Away From Power Lines

Outside, there is danger also, mainly to children. They should be taught to keep away from power lines. For instance, the pleasant and innocent little diversion of flying a kite might not be so pleasant and innocent if the kite happens to be near a power line. The string might get entangled with the power line, it might even touch it only for an instant, and, if the string is wet, or damp, the small person holding the string might suffer death or grievous injury.

Children should never climb a power pole or a tower. The pole may have become highly charged.

The mischievous habit of trying to break insulators is inexcusable. A broken insulator might not cause only a pole to become dangerously electri-

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fied, but it might easily cause a live high-voltage wire to fall to the ground.

The cause of death in many cases of electrocution is paralysis of the nerve centre which controls breathing. If the heart has not been directly affected by the current, artificial respiration applied by the well-known Schafer's method often restores natural breathing. This allows the still-circulating blood to be aerated in the lungs. Full details of this treatment are given in pamphlet No. H-3 issued by the Health Department.

Treatment for Electrocution

The first thing to do in the case of electrocution is to free the victim from

the electric contact. The longer the contact the more liability there is to fatal injury. Knock the electric wire away with a dry stick or a dry coat.

If the patient has to be handled, do so with rubber gloves, or, if these are not available, improvise with a rubber tobacco pouch, golosh, or hot-water bag. Avoid touching the armpits, which may be moist with perspiration. A loop of dry rope, or a dry woollen garment, may be used.

Note the emphasis on the word dry. On no account touch anything damp or made of metal.

Having released the patient and placed him face downwards in a warm, dry place, artificial respiration can start. The paralysis of the nerves may last for some considerable time, and treatment sometimes must continue for hours. Keep the body warm, and don't discontinue your efforts until it is absolutely certain that the heart has ceased beating.

In the meantime, of course, send for medical help.

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It is surprising how few beekeepers know when and how to use the smoker correctly.

At the entrance to a hive guards are stationed to protect the colony from robbers of their kind, and when a beekeeper opens a hive he, too, is subject to attack if the guard bees are not forced back into the hive by a gentle puff of smoke from a bee-smoker, which also quietens the bees within the hive. Where a gentle strain of bee is kept very little smoke applied in this manner is usually sufficient, provided further light puffs are wafted over the tops of the frames while the lid and mat covering are being removed, and also an occasional puff directed at any bees which appear to be moving upwards over the top bars from the combs below. This will cause the bees to retire between the combs while the work of examining the hive continues. A little cool smoke is also useful in gently driving the bees from the ends of the frames in order that they may be placed down

without crushing any bees, which would excite other bees to sting.

Where smoke is roughly poured down between the combs, the bees will rush madly about in utter confusion and cluster in heaps along the side of the hive and under the alighting board. Such treatment disorganises the work of the colony for a considerable time, and makes the bees angry for days afterwards. Every motion while manipulating the combs and bees should be smooth and deliberate, with as little jarring of the hive parts as possible.

The ideal smoker fuel is one which burns very slowly and will not readily go out. Dry, clean, weather-worn sacking is best for these requirements, and, if rolled so that it fits neatly and fairly tightly, gives off a cool, clean smoke when the bellows of the smoker are not worked too vigorously.

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