

originated a plan five or six years ago that is much simpler and more easily carried out than the churn. She makes the sour milk as follows:

Take sweet milk; let it stand for from twelve to twenty-four hours; skim off the cream and add 2 tablespoonfuls of previously soured milk to each quart of the skimmed milk; let it stand in a moderately warm place until it sours or thickens just enough so that it separates from the side of the containing vessel but not enough for the whey to separate; then set it in an ice-chest or other cold place until wanted for use (if preferred warm, it can be used immediately). Put the part to be used in a pail, small crock or other suitable vessel, and by means of a revolving egg-beater thoroughly mix or agitate it for two or three minutes, and you will have an aerated, foamy milk far superior to ordinary buttermilk. If a richer milk be desired, fresh milk, cream and all, can be treated in the same way. Save a small amount of the thickened milk each day to set up fermentation in the next day's supply. We have used this the greater part of the year for five or six years in our family and find it satisfactory.

E. STUVER, M.D., Fort Collins, Colo.

Using Health Cartoons Without Credit

To the Editor:—On page 1090 of THE JOURNAL, April 5, 1913, you speak approvingly of the illustration which appears on page 7 of the *Bulletin* of the Rhode Island State Board of Health for January, 1913, giving instructions for the making of a sanitary drinking-cup from a sheet of paper.

Permit me to invite your attention to the fact that the illustration in question was published in the *Bulletin* of the Chicago School of Sanitary Instruction, July 1, 1911.

G. B. YOUNG, M.D., Chicago,
Commissioner of Health.

Safety-Razor to Cut Thiersch Grafts

To the Editor:—Since several physicians are reporting their use of the safety-razor as a knife, I wish to report my early use of it as a section-cutter for Thiersch grafts. In this it excels Thiersch's planoconcave razor or any other instrument I ever used. To make the safety-razor practical it is best prepared by grinding about one-eighth inch off the comb or guard. Then one can cut to the right angle, and the length of the graft is limited only by the size of the part from which it is taken. I first used the safety-razor in this way Aug. 20, 1909, to graft after a scald of buttock and thigh.

E. F. CONYNGHAM, M.D., Bonner, Mont.

Queries and Minor Notes

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS will not be noticed. Every letter must contain the writer's name and address, but these will be omitted, on request.

LITERATURE ON MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

To the Editor:—Please give references to works dealing with the examination of mentally defective children, factors causing such defects, diagnosis and educational treatment.

G. H. HUMPHREYS, M.D., New York.

ANSWER.—The following references include some good material on these subjects. First are given articles from periodicals, and then books.

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DESTRUCTION OF MOSQUITOES

To the Editor:—I am anxious to obtain some data regarding the elimination of mosquitoes in our neighborhood. I especially want to know the answer to the following questions:

1. The formula, or formulas, of the larvicide, other than oil, used in the Canal Zone; how to make it, dilute it, etc.; the method of use.
2. Is it (a) poisonous to animals drinking water in pools or streams containing it, (b) destructive to vegetable life, plants, flowers, grass, etc., among which it is used, (c) poisonous to fish in streams?
3. Is it possible to use safely copper sulphate solution for destroying mosquito larvae without injury to plant life? If so, how often should it be used, in what strength and what is the best method of application?
4. Can you suggest any method in a country neighborhood (suburban) which would be inexpensive and effectual and which the people would be apt to use?

J. P. LAIRD, M.D., Devon, Pa.

ANSWER.—1. The larvicide used in the Canal Zone is prepared as follows: Crude carbolic acid, containing about 15 per cent. of phenol, is heated to 212 F., finely pulverized resin is added, and the mixture kept boiling until the resin is all dissolved. Caustic soda is then added, and the solution kept at 212 F. for about ten minutes, or until a perfectly dark emulsion without sediment is obtained. The mixture is thoroughly stirred from the time the resin is added until the end. As the composition of crude carbolic acid varies greatly, the proportion of ingredients of the larvicide will vary, and it is necessary to have small experimental lots made in the laboratory and tested before the batch of larvicide for use in the field is manufactured. The average mixture is about as follows: 300 gallons crude carbolic acid; 200 pounds resin; 30 pounds caustic soda. The larvicide costs about 14 cents a gallon.

One part of this larvicide in eight thousand parts of water will kill the larvae in thirty minutes. As a mosquito larvicide it is used by spraying an aqueous emulsion (one part of the larvicide to five of water) over the surface and along the margins of pools and ponds or other mosquito breeding-places, so