

The results obtained by the flock owners who followed the clean-chick campaign have been shown by a decrease in chick mortality and an increased egg production the following year. In Connecticut, considering data from more than one-half million chicks, the cooperators who followed all eight points in the campaign had an average chick mortality of 7.9 per cent, whereas those who failed to observe the rules for clean chicks and clean land lost 22.3 per cent. The cooperators just mentioned also averaged 40 more eggs per bird than the other poultrymen.

The eight points of the Connecticut "Grow-Healthy-Chick" campaign are as follows:

1. Clean chicks.
2. Clean incubators.
3. Clean brooder houses.
4. Clean ground.
5. Clean litter.
6. Clean feed in hoppers.
7. Clean management.
8. Clean laying houses.

In South Dakota the data from 50 farms showed 13 per cent less chick mortality in flocks on clean ground on which chicks or old hens

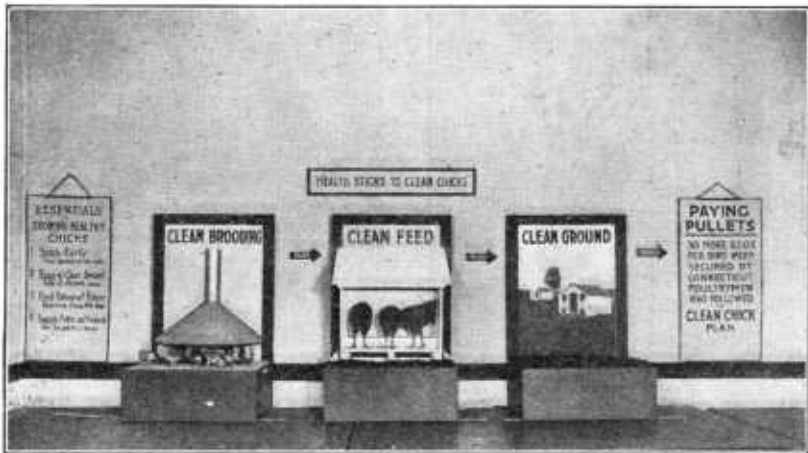


FIGURE 39.—A portable exhibit prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture to assist in the "Grow-Healthy-Chick" campaigns

had not been ranged the preceding year, than in flocks in which old ground was used for the baby-chick runs.

H. L. SHRADER.

CHILDREN'S Sun Suits Benefit Health and Promote Happy Play

Sunshine makes the garden grow, and we are just finding out that, if properly applied, it makes Johnnie grow, too. However, this information has so startled many mothers that there has been a tendency to sun bathe him a little too much. In the case of young children such baths should be given for only a very short period at first and with only a small part of the body bare. As the baby gets accustomed to the sun, the amount of the body exposed and the time allowed for the bath can be increased. We have all had cases of sunburn and know what a disagreeable and painful experience it is.

For the older child also, gradual exposure is important, and unless he is ill and the doctor has ordered special treatment, it is not necessary that he should shock the neighbors by playing in his birthday suit. The Bureau of Home Economics has recently devised some suits which are attractive enough to please the most fastidious and still allow a great deal of sun and air to reach the body. Sleeveless, low-necked, and short-legged rompers are suggested for the child who is not accustomed to much direct sunlight. When cut in one piece, these are the easiest kind of play suits to make and launder. A binding of contrasting color adds a great deal to their attractiveness.



FIGURE 40.—Loosely-woven cotton fabrics make effective and durable sun suits



FIGURE 41.—Sun hats protect the head and add to the attractiveness of sun suits

After the skin has put on a protective layer of tan more open garments can be used. Those with sleeveless waists of net have proved popular. Cable net, marquisette, or a fabric of leno weave may be used. If desired, overalls may be worn as sun suits, but it is well to see that the legs are cut short and the straps are wide and well fitted up on the shoulders. Much needless annoyance has been patiently borne by the American boy who wears that time-honored piece of apparel. Have you ever noticed that he spends much time pulling up shoulder straps that have fallen down over his arms or hitching up his trousers in order to relieve the strain of straps that cut into his shoulders?

Best Fabrics for Sun Suits

Many questions have been asked concerning the best fabrics to use for sun suits. These have been answered by studies made at the Bureau of Standards, of the United States Department of Commerce. The results show that, comparing fabrics of the same weight, there is practically no difference in the amount of ultra-violet light transmitted through bleached samples of cotton, linen, and the two kinds of rayon tested. If any preference can be given to the kind of fiber, bleached white cotton and one kind of rayon (regenerated-cellulose rayon) is somewhat better than most of the other fibers. Whatever the kind of fabric, if it is dyed or yellowed with age or wear, the ultra-violet transmission is greatly reduced. Since it is not very practical to dress a child in all white for his play hours, and since sun suits made entirely of loosely woven fabrics would not answer the purpose, a compromise has been struck in the two suits illustrated. These have open-mesh white cotton tops and the lower parts are fast-colored cottons heavy enough to be serviceable but probably allowing some transmission of the health-giving rays.

In planning all of these suits it is important to see that they fit well and are so comfortable that children soon forget they have them on. It is especially desirable that the sun suit be made so as to encourage good toilet habits and that it is not so designed that the child is tempted to step out of it and go on his way in "nature's own."

RUTH O'BRIEN.

CHIMNEY Cleaning Without Sweep's Aid Requires Only Salt Soot-coated chimneys can be readily cleaned without the aid of a chimney sweep. If when the fire is started in the fall the flues fail to draw properly because of an accumulation of soot, one of the following remedies will generally prove effective.

Common salt is one of the simplest materials to use. Before being applied the salt should be dried and the fire put into good condition with a substantial bed of hot fuel on top. Sprinkle about a pound of salt on the fire close to the furnace door, shut the door, and open all dampers so the fire will burn as rapidly as the drafts will permit. Keep the dampers wide open until the fumes have disappeared, or approximately half an hour. The soot is acted upon by the sodium and chlorine, which are dissociated when the salt is heated, and disappears as a gas or falls from the flue lining as scales. Additional charges of salt may be needed to remove heavy deposits of soot. Occasional applications of salt throughout the heating season will keep the flues clean.

A material sometimes used instead of salt is metallic zinc; a sheet about 6 to 8 inches square is generally effective. The jacket on a dry-cell battery is composed of zinc, and for this reason beneficial results are secured by the common practice of burning old batteries on a hot bed of coal.

Another method of cleaning a chimney flue is to fire a revolver, loaded with a blank cartridge, up the chimney. The flue opening, or fireplace, should be draped with an old blanket or burlap to prevent soot from falling back into the room. Fires should be extinguished before this method is used.

When wood is used as a fuel, especially green wood, creosote is likely to form. This is a sticky, tarry deposit which may be removed with