

while to encourage the breeding of sows to be extra large milkers, as the pigs can easily be satisfied with other feed that is equally good for them. Skim-milk from the dairy is the best, with the addition of some cooked wheat middlings, of which a very small quantity will thicken when cooked so as to fill a large pail. If one or two tablespoonfuls of linseed meal are cooked with the middlings, the feed will be nearly or quite as good for the pigs as that which the sow furnishes, and there is no limit to the amount that can be made. There is, therefore, no excuse for letting young pigs grow unthrifty because their dam does not furnish a proper supply of milk."

Now, while we are not disposed to make excuses for the breeder who allows his young pigs to become unthrifty because the dam is a poor milker, we cannot by any means agree with the above statements that there are very few large milkers among sows and that it is not a point worth encouraging in a brood sow.

In our experience, with a herd containing from thirty to forty brood sows, we have not only found that some of our sows were capable of producing a large quantity of milk, but we have found this capability to exist more especially in certain families, and we have always considered it a most necessary point about a brood sow, as we have always obtained far the best results at the least expense from litters that were well nourished by their dams from start to finish.

Exhibitors, Judges, and Judging.

Nothing is more natural than that a breeder who has invested his money in animals of high cost, exercised his best skill in their mating and care, and performs the very arduous labors incident to a proper exhibition at perhaps a distant fair or fairs, with the expectation of making or maintaining a reputation in the show ring, is considerably less than human if not somewhat anxious as to the manner of man or men who, as judges for the time being, hold him and his in the hollows of their hands. Fortunate he is if as the hour of the contest arrives he can say to his superintendent, "I am satisfied with your judge; for he knows the points of superiority and the characteristics of the breed; he is an honest man who respects his manhood, and has the courage of his convictions, regardless of consequences. I will cheerfully abide by his decisions."

The exhibitor who comes into the ring in this frame of mind and adheres to it even when most of the prizes go to others; who wears a smiling front, answers questions politely with few words,

refrains from trying to fill the judge with information not asked for as to the excellence, pedigree, and previous prizes of the animals now on view, has his stock in blooming, but not overdone, condition, brings it forward promptly under good control, and is not too persistently fussy with lampblack and spit-curls, is very likely to find a share of the ribbons coming his way. I have never known an exhibitor, at any fair or under any circumstances, who was not the gainer there and afterwards by being a gentleman. He at once wins consideration by it from the judges and officials, and reputation that has a money value, and more later on, because purchasers will seek him out from the mere fact that he is recognized as a self-respecting gentleman, rather than a small bore boor whose highest ambition is a blue ribbon, and to "beat" somebody by being "sharp." As I now recall my show-ring experience at many county fairs, various state and two-world's fairs, the great prizes and enduring victories have been won by men who kept their mouths shut and never "kicked"; men who, if defeated (and all encounter defeat at one time or another), wasted none of their precious time in whining, cursing the managers, or belittling the judges, but went home to renewed efforts for better deserving the next year's prizes. It is these that are the leaders in the business to-day, possessing the most friends and the widest trade. On the other hand, no exhibitor who is always suspicious, always being wronged by judges and managers, constantly afflicted with abdominal pains, and always sure some unseen but very improper influence is depriving him of a fair deal, so far as I know, ever attained any considerable eminence or permanent success among the stockmen.

I will say, further, I have seen very little of the rascality so freely talked about in connection with many shows, and the alleged corrupt practices have never come under my observation. I have never seen a board of managers who did not seem to do the best they knew; I have never had actual knowledge of any exhibitor's seriously attempting to tamper with a judge, nor have I seen a judge work (when all the responsibility was his) who I did not believe did the very best he was capable of. There are, to be sure, what others regard as more or less glaring mistakes made on every fair ground, but I am satisfied that in the main they are errors of the head and not of the heart. Judges are sometimes chosen who, from one cause or another, may not be well qualified, and they make erroneous awards—not necessarily because the judges are bad, but because, like those who selected them, they are human. This