

fined in a yard, or in closer quarters, they will take the scraps and waste of the kitchen—Some persons allow them to feed out of the swill-pail, but this practice cannot be commended. Cobbett says, in his "Cottage Economy:"

"When I was in the army in New Brunswick, where, be it observed, the snow lies on the ground seven months in the year, there were many goats that belonged to the regiment, and that went about with it on shipboard and everywhere else. Some of them had gone through nearly the whole of the American war. We never fed them. In summer they picked about wherever they could find grass; and in winter, they lived on cabbage-leaves, potato-peelings, and other things flung out of the soldiers' rooms and huts. One of these goats belonged to me, and on an average throughout the year, she gave me more than three half-pints of milk a day. I used to have the kid killed when a few days old; and, for some time, the goat would give nearly, or quite, two quarts of milk a day. She was seldom dry more than three weeks in the year.

The same writer adds, that "goats will pick peelings out of the keuel and eat them. They will eat mouldy bread or biscuit; fusty hay and rotten straw; furze-bushes, heath-thistles and, indeed, what will they not eat, when they will make a hearty meal on paper, brown or white, printed on or not printed on, and give milk all the while? I may add to Cobbett's list of odd delicacies by stating that my own goats have gnawed smooth the rough sides of my pile of hemlock bark, and have cleaned out all the powder-post from the sills of the woodshed!

But goats like most other animals, prefer clean food, and will not devour all the above-mentioned things if a supply of more desirable edibles are at hand. In the winter, it is well to lay in a few hundred pounds of hay—second crop is preferable—a few carrots and some fine feed. Indian meal is sometimes given to them, but it is too drying. They need water occasionally, but do not drink much.

The goat is one of the most hardy of our domestic animals, enduring easily all extremes of heat and cold. It needs the shelter of a shed or barn in wintry and stormy weather, and will lie anywhere on the floor, preferring a board to a bed. Its natural activity and nimbleness, together with a capricious disposition, fit this creature to enjoy a state of freedom. When roaming wild, on its native mountains, it loves to climb the most dangerous and inaccessible places, clinging on the verge of precipices by its wide-spreading and sharp-edged hoofs, and defying the pursuit of the hunter. This inclination it manifests in domestic life, by scaling sheds, walls, wood-piles, &c., with great agility. But the goat will bear confinement extremely well, continuing in good health and yielding the usual quantity of milk. On shipboard it is healthier than any other domestic animal, and is highly

valued on account of its sportiveness, its fertility, and its ability to give milk upon such food as is there obtainable.

The milk of the female goat is sweet, and nourishing. It has the body and amount of cream, is viscid and strengthening, little ductive of oil, but abundant in the milk cheese. In tea and coffee it is far superior to cows' milk, and will go at least as far as imparting color and flavor. In all kinds of cooking it is equally excellent. It has no unpleasant taste and is not affected by what creature eats. Onion tops have been given to the females, by way of experiment, without imparting an oniony taste to the milk. I use two pints of goat's milk to be as good to a foal in every way, as three pints of cows' milk.

For most feeble and sickly children, as well as those in health, it is invaluable. It descends to form curds in the stomach, as cows' does, and is therefore frequently prescribed by physicians in cases of extreme weakness. It is sold for this purpose in Salem at twenty-five cents a quart. Invalids abroad often resort to mountainous districts of Ireland and Saxony to derive benefit from the use of this, which is there known as "goats' whey." Colman noticed that the Irish mountaineers about the Lake of Killarney, kept from thirty to forty goats apiece, for the sake of the milk to that delightful region. In Spain and Portugal, goats are abundant, and in Lisbon, milk is more commonly used than that of cows. The goats in those countries are driven into the cities in the morning, and milked at the door of the houses. The district in France most celebrated for goats is the Canton Mont d'Or, which in a space not exceeding two leagues (six miles) in diameter, upwards of eleven thousand are chiefly employed to supply the city of Lyons with cheese. There are several other interesting particulars relating to the goat, which I will give in another paper. G. L. STEBBINS.

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HINTS TO FOWL KEEPERS.—B. S. H. gives the *Prairie Farmer* his method of keeping fowls, thus: "The way I keep my hens healthy, is in the first place, by giving them plenty of corn and oats, also some buckwheat. Last fall I commenced throwing out ashes, my stoves in a pile near my yard, so as to mix with compost in the spring. I soon discovered my hens came to the pile every day, as soon as light, (cold or heat,) through the holes. They would pick up and eat coal, the size of a wheat kernel to a thimble. My hens commenced laying in November, and laid ever since. They are last year's eggs. If they cannot have access to wood, pick up and burn all the bones you can find and pound them fine, and place them where they can have easy access to them."