

## The Cause of Lunacy (Toronto Globe)

Among the ills to which humanity is subject there is none other so terrible as the mind disease. The purposeless eye, the mirthless laugh, the meaningless words of the insane awaken in us a pity too great for words. And when the guarded walls and the barred windows shut in not so many thousand "cases," but some one near and dear—the father who guided our first faltering steps, the mother perhaps who is dearer to us than even the hope of Heaven, the brother who lay beside us in the cot of childhood—there comes the strong desire to do what men can do to lessen for those who come after us the heart-break that results from the contemplation of mental disease.

What is the chief cause of lunacy? How can it be removed? Dr. Ferris, President of the New York State Commission in Lunacy, says that one out of 279 persons in that State is insane, and that it is a matter of record that 26.9 per cent. of the cases of lunacy in the State are the result of the use of whiskey or other spirituous liquors. That is not the random statement of some temperance fanatic but the deliberate verdict of a scientist who knows the facts as few men in America know them.

## Records Not a Matter of Breed

Editor, Farm and Dairy.—In several recent issues of Farm and Dairy I notice articles by Holstein and Ayrshire breeders praising up their respective breeds. These letters have been interesting to me insofar as I can obtain any information from them regarding feeding and the milk produced from such feeding.

Such articles are of educational value to the average dairy farmer if the writers would leave out some of the sarcastic knockings at other breeds. Naturally we Jersey men do not like to hear statements such as "the Holstein cow has beaten all records of the world," or "the Ayrshire cow is the most profitable cow in the world." We admit that each dairy breed has its own good qualities, but we have not in our midst that breed of cattle that will please the Ayrshire, Holstein, Guernsey and Jersey fancier combined. Each fancier of a particular breed is wrapped up in his own breed, and as the saying is, "is married to it," and naturally will fight for it and sees the strong points of his own breed more clearly than would the fancier of some other breed.

I have been studying the dairy cow for over 15 years, and I have come to the opinion that world record cows can be produced from any of the dairy breeds, and when they are produced they are like every other great thing—a freak of nature. We find that many a breeder has been disappointed in paying big prices for world record stock. When mated, their offspring are a failure as makers of world records.

## LEADING RECORDS

As a Jersey breeder I say we have room for all breeds, and the Jersey cow not by any means in the background. I give here the records of the 12 highest testing cows in the four leading breeds of dairy cattle:

Mary of the Glen (Guernsey).....	954.76
Barmaid of Pineshurst (Guernsey).....	952.89
Belle Dimple (Guernsey).....	906.89
Ontario Artie (Holstein).....	861.53
Barmaid of Pineshurst (Guernsey).....	860.39
Yeksa sunbeam (Guernsey).....	857.15
Sophie 2nd of Beam (Guernsey).....	854.54
Ouga 3rd's Pride (Jersey).....	851.73
Adelaide of Beuchamps (Jersey).....	849.62
Barmaid of Pineshurst (Guernsey).....	848.99
Belle Bloom (Guernsey).....	836.21

It is only fair to the other breeds to state that the publication of the record of Missy of the Glen was made obligatory by an injunction secured by the owner of the cow. If Missy be omitted from the above list her place would be taken by Jacoba

Irene and the remaining cows would each move up one. The Ayrshire cow Netherhall Brownie 9th would take 12th place. It will be further noted that all of the records above are official Register of Merit or Advance Registry Records with the exception of the Holstein tests, which are semi-official records from the standpoint of strictly official tests. In a strict classification, therefore, the Jersey cow Jacoba Irene, would head the list and give a place for seven Jerseys, four Guernseys and one Ayrshire.

If we could have the cost of each cow's feed or the amount of feed consumed, to produce each of these cows' records, we could form our opinion of the most profitable cow in the world. Even if the Jersey is the smaller of the breeds, she chews her feed faster than any of the other breeds and may be the largest eater.—George Laithwaite, Huron Co., Ont.

## The Bane of the Idle Acre

C. R. Barnes, Minnesota

Have you an idle acre on your farm? If so, why not at once put it to some use—if for no other reason, that it may work no injury to yourself or to your neighbor? Every such acre, in a settled community, is an accuser, branding its owner—so says a contemporary—"as either thoughtless, wasteful or shiftless; possibly all three." On any such acre, weeds may grow sufficient to "seed down" a township and to increase the labors of the whole farming population.

The broad areas of uncultivated land, which form so large a percentage of thousands of farms, are a standing indictment of our systems of landownership and taxation, as unreasonable and unjust. No man should be entitled to hold more land than he can fully cultivate or make otherwise useful to the community, as, for instance, in the growing of timber trees or in the maintenance of a well-stocked fish-pond.

Idle land should be so heavily taxed that nobody could afford to keep it out of use—it must be "Cultivate or sell!" But instead of observing this just rule, we punish with heavier taxation the farmer who improves and enriches his land, and let off, with only nominal taxation, the owner of idle acres.

## Notes for Dairymen

The popular and probably the better way to improve the dairy herd is to inject better blood by purchasing a good sire. The more expensive way is to buy the cows. The former method, it is only necessary to purchase the bull.

The extremely hot weather of the past few weeks has resulted in dry pastures in many sections of the country and the milk flow has dropped off greatly. It is the wise cow keeper who works against such a situation by growing some kind of soiling crop. There are few few farms, however, where fodder corn is not available, and there is no better time to make use of this feed than during the season when pastures are short and cows are dropping off rapidly in their milk flow.

If a temporary lull in the amount of milk for market was the only consideration it would not be such a serious matter. This is not the situation, however. A cow that decreases greatly in the milk flow because of a scarcity of green feed at this time of the year cannot "come back." The fall rains bring an abundance of green feed later on, but the cow is not in a position to make a profitable use of it unless her milk flow has been kept up during the dry period.



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