

test if he has not a good chance to win at least in his class. I strongly hold to the view that the progress of a breed will be best attained in competing in a test rather than under the score card.

I am willing to admit that a test may not be always right, some big worker may overcome a cow of more dairy form, but there are also great mistakes made under the judging system, and I hold that the test will be oftener right in showing the best producer. We talk of form or breed type, which is generally another name for breeders' fad, what would be good type in an Ayrshire would not do at all in a Jersey. Should this be so? Are not all breeds alike bred for milk and its products? As all have to come finally before the same judge, type is simply another name for fancy. Of course the wealthy have a perfect right to develop any fancy points, even if it is at the expense of the more essential ones, just as a gentleman we read of who saw a drake with two curls in his tail feathers and so went on and developed a breed that way; but in a country like this of hard-headed practical dairymen who keep cattle for profit the good producer is the cow that is wanted. There are hardly two judges that will place cows the same, but with the scales sixteen ounces make a pound every time, and the Babcock and lactometer are equally constant and reliable.

Yours truly,

GEORGE RICE.

P.S.—Daisy Texal 2nd was born September 16th, 1895, not 1894, as stated in former issue. G. R.

Woman's Influence in the Home

To the Editor of FARMING:

DEAR SIR,—As the year of '98 has passed, and we are already entered upon a new and untried year, I would like to ask your lady readers to take a peep with me at the annals of the past. Then let us pause and consider whether we are making the best use of our present opportunities, in order that we may be better prepared to grapple with the problems of the future.

In thinking of the history of olden times our minds revert to the early Britons and the Roman Conquest, or the struggle for constitutional and religious liberty during the time of the Stuarts, or, to come to our own country, we all remember the stories of the struggle between the Indians and white men, also the stories of the settlement of our country by brave men and women, who crossed the Atlantic to found new homes for themselves and their descendants. But what especial interest have we as women in these records? In Britain, before the Roman Conquest, women worked side by side with men for the good of the home and the country. At the death of a British chief his wife took the reigns of government. Thus we hear of Boadicea and her daughters urging the scattered tribes to action, and eventually dying in defence of their country. In the case of the Stuart period we all know the important part the women of that family took in the history of their time. We have the zealous, although bigoted, Mary; the wonderful statesman or stateswomanship of Elizabeth; the co-operative work of Mary and William, and the successful reign of Queen Ann, the last of her line.

In thinking of the struggles between the white and red men, our minds will at once conjure up the picture of the Maid of Vercheres nerving the men of the garrison, who were ready to faint and surrender, to action, and, with their aid, holding the garrison until relief came.

As for the brave women who faced hardships and difficulties in settling our country, too much cannot be said. In many cases they left the homes of refinement and culture, and were willing to face, side by side with our forefathers, the dangers and difficulties of Canadian bush life, and what have they left us? One of the grandest countries in the world; but, is that all? I think the richest legacy our grandmothers bequeathed to us was a spirit of noble determination and progressive action. But are we taking advantage of this legacy? How many women, especially in the country, are keeping in touch with current events,

either in the world at large or with those which more immediately concern themselves in the home? I think our grandmothers would consider all their sacrifices and teaching thrown away if they could hear many of their descendants to-day when, urged to try new and improved methods in what is generally considered women's work on the farm, such as the care of milk, the making of butter and the preparation of food, we hear the cry, "My grandmothers made good butter, etc., by the old system, and I guess I can do the same." Dear reader, this is a mistake. The women of the past certainly succeeded in what they undertook; but why? Because they used the most advanced methods then attainable. But, if they had acted on the plan many of the women of to-day lay down, they would have remained in the old country, content with the old systems, and would never have been willing to strike out in an unknown and untrodden path. I am sure their lives and examples should spur us forward, give us a thirst for knowledge and a determination to acquire it.

If women in the past have taken an active part in the destiny of the nation, what about the women of to-day? To my mind there never was a time when women have come to the front as at the present. This is certainly a women's period. The whole world seems to be looking to the women of to-day for the bettering of the race. Let us, then, not fail in our trust. We all agree that the home is the foundation of the nation. How is this foundation to be well and securely laid if the architects—mothers, sisters and wives—have not a clear and intelligent idea of the structure they are erecting? As the corner-stone of the structure is the physical and mental development of the growing boys and girls, it is necessary that the mothers should provide the foods most suitable for this development. But, how few mothers in the past have been able to do so, owing to a lack of scientific knowledge along these lines themselves! I think the day is not far distant when this knowledge will be within the reach of every young woman in the country. Technical schools for the instruction of girls in all household arts are being formed in the United States, and many Canadian women are advocating their establishment here. They are being ably seconded by nearly all our leading educationalists.

Mrs. Rorer, a well known speaker on this subject, was induced by the Experimental Union to deliver addresses in Guelph at their last session. Many were inclined to be skeptical before hearing her, but at the close of her lectures were fully convinced that there is not a greater need in the country to-day. Those who have studied the science of agriculture and the scientific feeding of animals all realize the great necessity there is that a scientific knowledge of foods used for human beings be understood. In one of Mrs. Rorer's addresses she made the remark that the Ontario Agricultural College seemed entirely a man's institution. I don't think she could have heard, at the time, of the Dairy School in connection with it, where ladies are not only allowed, but are warmly welcomed by everyone. This school is open to every Ontario girl, especially those from the farm. Scientific dairy work is taught in all its branches, giving one an insight into the vastness of the work and showing the wonderful opportunities for thought and research, thus removing the idea of drudgery that so many farmers' daughters have of dairy work. The system carried out in the Home Dairy is the same as ought to be practised in every home on the farm. A three months' course at this school would prove a lasting benefit to any one who would make an effort to attend, both from a financial and intellectual standpoint. The school opened on January 4th. I would again like to urge every one that can do so to attend.

Thanking you for this space in your valuable paper,
I remain, R. B. M.

THE BEST AGRICULTURAL PAPER IN CANADA.

RUSSELL, Dec. 23rd, 1898.

Please find enclosed \$3.00 for my subscription and renewal from Dec., '96, to Dec., '99. I don't see how we could do without FARMING. I think it is the best agricultural paper in Canada.

Yours, J. H. PILLAR.