

# FARM AND DAIRY

## RURAL HOME

### TIMELY SUGGESTIONS ON A DISEASE THAT CAUSES DAIRYMEN MUCH LOSS

Dr. H. G. Reed, Halton Co., Ont.

#### Heavy Cows Are Most Subject to Milk Fever—Proper Feeding a Preventive Measure—How to Feed Symptoms and Treatment Described

**C**OWS of all breeds are subject to milk fever provided they are heavy milkers. It seldom attacks a cow in which the milk secreting system is not highly developed; neither is a cow in poor flesh likely to develop the disease. A stimulating diet just previous to calving is a very potent predisposing cause, especially if the animal is a heavy milker. While all cows, and especially those which are profitable milkers, ought to be well fed, care should be exercised for a week or 10 days previous to calving in feeding the animal to see that the food be not over abundant nor too rich or stimulating in its nature.

The disease usually occurs in from a few hours to two days after calving; in rare instances it has appeared previous to the birth of the calf. When the disease appears in a few hours after the birth of the calf the attack is likely to be more serious than in cases where the symptoms have not appeared for a day or two after calving.

#### SYMPTOMS

The secretion of milk is arrested, the cow hangs its head, ceases to eat and paddles with its hind feet. After a time the breathing becomes rapid the cow aways from side to side, the hind legs double at the fetlocks and at last it falls and is as a rule unable to rise.

The patient will lie generally in a state of stupor with its head thrown against its side, although occasionally there will be great excitement, the head being thrown about from side to side, sometimes to such an extent that the horns are broken off. In very severe cases the patient will lie on its side, the legs and neck stretched out, the eyes glassy and the mouth open, the breathing heavy and stertorous. The paralysis is often so complete that all sensation is lost. The eyeball can be felt, and the animal will make no sign. A pen-knife may be thrust into the skin without any sign of pain. The only sign of life is the heavy labored breathing.

Preventive treatment consists of withholding stimulating food for a week or so before calving; no rich meals, such as wheat, peas, barley, or corn, should be fed. Silage, clover hay, and roots are suitable foods, as they are succulent and easily digested. The bowels should be kept open and, if necessary, a pound or two of epsom salts might be given to that end. The same care in feeding should be continued for a week after calving. In summer, when cows are on good pasture, the cow that is expected to calve should be placed in some field where the pasture is not so good, as many cases of milk fever appear when the pasture is abundant and rich.

In cases where the newly born calf is not allowed to suck its dam, the udder should not be milked out dry for the first two or three days. Milk often and remove only a little at a time and work up gradually to milking the udder out clean. A newly calved cow should be kept dry and warm and free from draughts of cold air, free from any excitement, and in fact made just as comfortable as possible as she has just passed through a more trying ordeal than many a farmer has any idea of, and really needs the best of care.

#### TREATMENT

There is no disease of the domestic animals that has in the past received such a variety of treatment as milk fever, nor no disease in which treat-

the gas or air, care being taken not to use too much force in the operation.

When the syphon is removed from the teat a piece of tape ought to be tied around the teat for a time to keep the gas from escaping. Proceed in the same manner till all four quarters are treated, and success is almost sure to be the result.

Many a cow has been killed by a farmer giving a drench in cases of this disease. The animal cannot swallow because of paralysis of the throat, and most of the fluid will run into the wind pipe instead of the gullet, and the patient will either die in a few minutes from suffocation or later on from inflammation of the lungs, depending upon the amount of the fluid which got into the lung substance. The farmer who has a case of this disease ought not attempt to treat at all, but send for professional help at once, unless he has the proper instruments.

### Shall Production Be Considered

E. D. Hilliker, Oxford Co., Ont.

Should a dairy cow be credited with her milk and litter production in the show ring? This is a subject I have never heard discussed. I believe, however, that as we keep dairy cows for producing purposes chiefly, we should not judge and give them prizes without a demonstration before the judge of what a cow can do at the pail.

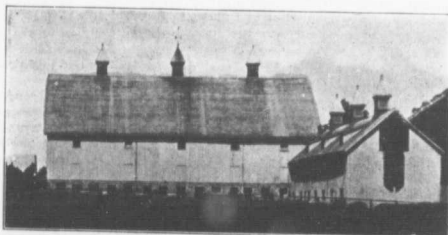
A cow of good dairy type with an apparently faultless udder, may be a very poor milker. To see her milked would do much to determine her true worth in a dairy herd. The aim of the dairy breeder should be a cow with every quality suitable to dairy production and with truefulness of type as well. Our breeders should be given

every encouragement to further this end.

I do not think this is being done, when we consider the large prizes which are awarded milch cows without fully considering their milking capacity. It would seem as reasonable to judge beef cattle by their milk production as to judge dairy cows as we now do.

I should say that about 25 per cent of the points awarded in the show ring should be allowed for production, this to be determined by the weight of milk given while milked before the judge; considering also its content of butter fat and other solids as at the present dairy tests. This scheme would perhaps be impracticable on account of the time necessary to test the milk, but if we aim at the best method I consider it far ahead of the present system of judging by external appearances only.

The story of the improvement of our dairy herd is all told in one word, selection. We culled closer and bred only from the best.—O. R. Bishop, Oxford Co., Ont.



The Home of a Fine Herd of Pure Bred Dairy Cattle

The central farm buildings on the Asylum Farm at Hamilton, Ont., are thoroughly equipped for housing their splendid Holstein herd and the feed required. Notice the number of windows in the stable wall—almost half the length is in glass. The cupolas on the roof are the outlets of a complete ventilating system.

ment was attended with much less success. But at present there is practically only one treatment for the disease, and fortunately it is most successful. The introduction into the udder of pure oxygen, or as has been demonstrated more recently of the atmospheric air, will almost without failure effect a cure of even the worst cases. The use of the atmospheric air is, however, dangerous unless it is forced through a medicated cylinder, as it abounds with germs, which are likely to cause serious udder complications if they are pumped into the gland with the air.

#### BE READY WITH THE APPARATUS

The dairyman who has not provided himself with proper instruments for the purpose should not attempt to treat the disease, as the chances are he will set up serious trouble because of not sterilizing the air forced into the udder. Before injecting the air the udder should be milked out clean, then an ordinary teat-syphon placed in the teat and attached to the jar of oxygen (or in the case of ordinary air) to a pump made for the purpose and the quarter very gently filled with