

months. It lays quite a number of eggs, and generally sells a cent or two better than the common market fowl.

Then comes its likeness, the Wyandotte, a bird of very much the same quality both in regard to eggs and weight, although its markings are much finer and the lacing is more perfect. This breed is eventually, to my mind, to become the rival of the Plymouth Rock as the farmer's bird. They lay a goodly number of eggs, and grow to a pretty good weight. The one great beauty of these two breeds lies in their early maturity both as regards eggs and meat. Then comes the Leghorns. This breed does not mature so early in regard to flesh, but does mature earlier for eggs. The laying of eggs is the forte of this breed both in the brown, black and white. Of these I think the brown Leghorn the hardiest, also the best layer. This breed, I should not think would do well in Canada, owing to their large combs and wattles. The brown Leghorns are the most common, the black most scarce. This breed is of the Spanish class, most of which are noted for their egg-laying capacities. Others of this class are the Andalusians and the black Spanish. These are both very good layers, and quite hardy.

A long list might be made of the many different varieties bred by one or two fanciers, but they are not common.

The Cochins are a breed that mature rather early, although the young chicks incline to legginess. The most hardy, I think, is the Partridge Cochin. Then come the buff, black and white. The buffs are much admired by a large class of fanciers and farmers. The Partridge Cochins are also well liked by a large number of fanciers and farmers, as are also the blacks and whites. The Langshan is also much admired by a very large class of farmers and fanciers as birds for crossing on the common stock. They give large size, which is a very essential point to farmers who breed poultry for market.

Another large breed which is much admired for both size and egg-laying qualities is the Brahma. Your correspondent has found the last season that this breed is becoming very popular among farmers, and especially Canadian farmers, as the large number which has been shipped there will testify. Of these there are two varieties, the light and dark Brahmas. The light variety is much preferred by some, the dark by others. But of this more anon.

#### GRAPES OF THE SOUREST DESCRIPTION.

From all that can be gathered it appears that prior to their public sale the Jerseys composing the famous Burnside Park herd were allowed to materially deteriorate in condition before being offered at auction. If this be true they are not the first cattle that through carelessness or bad management have been allowed to go off condition just at a time when they should have been looking their best. It is also true that the famous butter cow Princess 2nd died within a few months after the completion of the greatest butter test ever accomplished.

On the strength of these two facts a tremendous howl has been raised over the cruel practices of gentlemen who have made the most successful butter tests with their Jerseys. Because Princess 2nd died a short time after a phenomenal butter test, is far from being proof that she died from the treatment to which she was subjected during that test. The truth is that many of the editors who are preaching long and solemn funeral sermons on the death of Mrs. Shoemaker's wonderful cow and upon the hard luck that has followed the Burnside Park herd, merely do so because it is a rather easy subject upon which to grind out editorial when subjects are scarce. It looks to be very cruel, of course, to force a poor cow to eat so much more than she wants that she will die of the effects of it. And if that be cruel, what shall be said of the monster who will extract so much butter from a poor little Jersey that she has nothing left with which to sustain life?

For the benefit of the many agricultural editors who never saw a cow, it may be well to explain that a Jersey cow, in fact any kind of a cow, takes her food "by the mouth," as the doctors say, just as a dog or a cat would. It may be further explained that with a Jersey cow, and indeed we might say with any cow, eating is a purely voluntary act, so that the alleged cruelty so far as feeding for these tests is concerned is neither very immediate nor far-reaching. With regard to the extracting of the butter from the Jersey cow, or in fact from any cow, it may be a little more difficult to make ourselves clearly understood by the class of agricultural editors for whose edification we are just now writing.

The butter is not extracted in bulk by means of a surgical operation, as might be supposed. It is detached from the cow in a fluid form by a process known as "milking," so called because the fluid thus extracted is called "milk." This fluid, from which the butter is afterward taken, must not be confounded, however, with a fluid bearing the same name which flows from large brass-hooped tin cans that are carried about in wagons in every large city, early in the morning. If the milk is allowed to stand in a clean, cool place for a reasonable space of time a thick yellowish scum is found to have risen to the surface, and this is called "cream" (not to be confounded with ice-cream), and this cream, when suitably agitated and kept at a proper temperature, is converted into butter and buttermilk. Sometimes, when extraordinary results are desired (as in the case of butter tests), all the milk is agitated or "churned," an operation which takes its name from the "churn" or vessel in which it is performed. Thus it will be seen that it does not require any powerful surgical process either to feed the cow or extract the butter from her during these "horrible tests."

But it was not one or two in the large army of agricultural editors who would not know a cow if they saw one, who originated this outcry about the cruelty of butter tests. It was practical men who ought to know better—men who found their affections set upon and possibly their money invested in, cows that were not likely to greatly distinguish themselves as butter producers even

under the most favorable circumstances. Some of them may have been sufficiently deluded to be running after that Eutopian-bred animal the "general purpose cow," but whoever they were and however situated, they found that such cows as Mary Anne of St. Lambert and Princess 2nd were able to accomplish feats in butter production such as they had never supposed within the limits of possibility, judging from the capabilities of cows of the breed they felt bound to think the best. A short time ago grumblers of this type contented themselves with saying that a grade Shorthorn, or a native, would do as much on the same rations, but none of them tried it, or if they did they never gave to the world the result of their experiments.

Just now, however, the cry is changed to "improvidence and cruelty." What the next will be no one knows, but whatever it may be the motive will always be much the same, jealousy of the bitterest type.

But aside from showing a paltry childish spirit, these carpers are doing harm in the way of clogging the wheels of progress. Nobody among all these fault-finders appears to realize that these experiments are productive of any good. True, it may not be wise to give one of these heavy feeders all the rich food she will consume and properly digest, from one year's end to another, but it is one thing to test a cow for a week and another thing to have her producing butter at high pressure as long as she lives. The owners of Princess 2nd, Mary Anne of St. Lambert and other famous butter cows have done a great deal for cattlemen and farmers by their experiments. They have established the unquestionable value of the Jersey as a butter cow, and have shown to the world what careful breeding and judicious management can do in butter production. No one can doubt that the offspring or near relatives of such great cows are to a large extent be endowed with similar capabilities. The feats accomplished by these cows confer the same benefits upon the bovine race that the achievements of Maud S., Luke Blackburn, St. Gatien, Foxhall, Plesantrie do upon the equine race. They show of what the race is capable and what form, character and blood lines are found to produce the best. Horses have broken down in training before they ever faced the starter, others have broken their necks at the first hurdle, and yet no one of common sense will raise such a howl about racing as these people who have not first-rate cows, do about butter tests.

Horsemen sometimes make mistakes when trying to do the best they can with their race-horses, and why should the cattleman escape without occasionally falling into error?

Some say Princess died of over-feeding, others say that during the test she broke out of her stall and helped herself at the feed-box till she could hold no more. It is also said that by an unfortunate accident this famous cow caught cold and died from the effects of it. But whether this cow was destroyed by the great strain on her system incurred during her last butter test or not does not materially alter the case. If she was destroyed in this way, that does not constitute any valid reason why butter tests should be discontinued. Nobody will say that