

THE DAIRY.

DETERIORATION OF DAIRY FARMS.

Mr. R. K. Tomlinson, of Bucks County, Penn., writes an interesting letter to the *Philadelphia Press*, the largest part of which we copy below:

"Thirty or forty years ago it was the almost universal practice in this county to apply the whole of the barn-yard manure to wheat, seeded, as now, with timothy and clover. I think that the most marked examples of rapid improvement in farms that this country has witnessed were under this system, followed as it was by the most extensive dairymen of that period. The oat crop was a heavy yielder of straw in those days, and this, with the wheat-straw, the refuse of the corn-fodder, and usually a great mass of second-crop clover threshed for seed, found its way into the barnyard, and was mixed with the excrements of a full complement of well-fed stock. Within my recollection, and doubtless within that of many of my readers, is the sight of many such barn yards, with manure massed four or five feet thick, and saved by its very depth and solidity from leaching or wasteful ferment. Many farmers boasted of 250 to upward of 300 two-horse loads of such plant food, containing every chemical element needed, and more important still, giving the humus and the spongy mechanical condition of the soil necessary to withstand severe droughts; and, probably, most important of all for the clover plant, just coming into its best action the second year of its application when most needed for grass. Modern barnyards, with the oat-straw, and sometimes the whole of the corn-fodder and part of the wheat-straw fed to the stock, with no second-crop clover-straw, and with their manure removed by dribblets at all seasons, present no parallel in their offering to the wheat and clover crop. So heavy was the first season's growth of grass under the best application of this system, that James C. Cornell, deceased, one of Northampton's best farmers, found it more feasible to pasture than to attempt to mow the excessive growth; and surely such pasturing could not be harmful to fertility. Even on our sandy soils near the river, Stacy Brown and others secured a constant succession of the heaviest crops of clover and timothy by extra heavy and rich manure from fattening stock, put just where it would do the most good.

"Fifty or more years ago, when there was much latent fertility in the soil which clover better than any other plant could make available, the old maxim, 'Sow clover to improve the soil,' was doubtless correct. But now, when our soil, like everything else, is worked for all it is worth in immediate returns, that maxim needs to be reversed, and we should say, improve the soil in order to raise clover. Dairying is not necessarily exhaustive, and, if we do not improve our farms as rapidly as our fathers did, it is because we do not make as much and as rich barn-yard manure as formerly, and do not, as they did, give the clover plant the chief part of the benefit therefrom.

"Instead of cutting and feeding so much of our cornstalks and straw, had we not better pass more of them into our stables and barn-yards, and thus increase the quantity, and, by their protection, the quality of our manure? Or, if we must have a scanty pile of frequently disturbed manure, might we not by shedding, prevent this undue exposure to waste? If the clover plant must be robbed of that direct inheritance, which seems best fitted to its growth, need we, at least, put it so far away in the order of succession? The phosphates have been proved to give as good results on sod corn as on wheat, ought we not rather apply them to the former and save our barn-yard manure for wheat, or at least for spring crops, such as potatoes, millet, or fodder-corn, immedi-

ately preceding wheat? Instead of demanding a highly soluble fertilizer, which will flash in the pan on the wheat crop, had we not better supply a larger quantity of the cheaper and less soluble compounds which will reserve more of their strength for the grass crop?

"Lastly, when we are doing all we can to restore the grazing capacity of our arable land, which has decreased with the decadence of clover, we should increase our soiling practice. But as a true friend and large practitioner of soiling, I must give a warning note. Clover and the grasses must still be considered the sheet anchor of fertility and profit in dairy farming."

CHANGING THE DIET OF COWS.

Those who have dairy cows need to be careful in changing their diet. There is a great deal to be thought of in this connection. It is a fact, well established by the experience of dairymen, that cows which are regularly fed with grain while they are at pasture, even if the pasture is fresh and plenty, will give more milk and make more butter and cheese than cows equally good, but living on grass only; yet if a liberal ration of meal is given to the cows living on the fresh grass, the first effect is to cause shrinkage in the milk; and if the cows which have become accustomed to have meal with their grass, have their meal suddenly taken away, they will also shrink, the pasture in both cases being equally fresh and plenty. The loss of milk in neither case can be charged to inferiority of the food, since the changes in feed are the reverse of the other; while the effects are alike. The effect is due to a change in the action of the stomach to adapt its character to the digestion of an established food.

Whoever places much dependence on the strainer for securing clean milk will never make gilt-edged butter. Allowing dirt to get into the milk and then depending on the strainer to get it out is a very poor apology for cleanliness. More or less of the dirt, especially everything of a soluble nature, and some that is not, will find its way through the meshes of the strainer.

Our English cousins have been making some very elaborate experiments to determine the relative qualities of night and morning's milk. The decision is in favour of the milk taken from the cow in the evening being richer both in butter and cheese-making qualities. The milk of cows fed ground feed in winter was richer than that produced by the same cows from grass in summer.

An American exchange says: "Canada has become more emphatically a dairy country than the United States. With a population of 5,000,000, the Canadians manufacture annually 60,000,000 pounds of cheese, equal to twelve pounds per capita, while we, with 50,000,000 people, make 300,000,000, or six pounds per capita. With a population not exceeding one-tenth of ours, their exports of butter are about one-half as great as ours."

A DAY or two ago, says the *Breeder's Gazette*, we saw a fine, large golden-sorrel polled cow of about 1,000 pounds from the milk of which fourteen pounds of butter per week have been made this spring, and from her milk enough cream was taken, at the same time, for the tea and coffee for a family of three or four. Her owner is very methodical in his work and exact in all his statements, and for years has been widely and well known as perfectly trustworthy in word and act. The cow was out of a high grade Shorthorn, probably of the American Wood's pattern, and her sire a pure Galloway.

CREAM.

COMMON sense is not a common thing.—*Valaincourt.*

An Arab proverb: "All sunshine makes the desert."

To despise money is to dethrone a king.—*Chamfort.*

EXPERIENCE is the name men give to their follies or their sorrows.

A MAN of sense may love like a madman, but never like a fool.—*La Rochefoucauld.*

THERE is no joy where there is no love, and love begins to die when it becomes dumb.

God's almanac has but one day—that is, today; Satan's almanac has but one day—that is, to-morrow.

THE future of society is in the hands of the mothers. If the world was lost through woman, she alone can save it.

A CHEERFUL temper, joined with innocence, will make beauty attractive, knowledge delightful, and wit good natured.

MEN may say of marriage and women what they please; they will renounce neither the one nor the other.—*Fontenelle.*

"I'm saddest when I sing," warbled a young lady at an evening party; and the other guests said: "So are we! so are we!"

It is no mark of a wise or a holy man to boast of his being free from error, or to refuse to acknowledge when he is in error.

She: "So you would not take me to be twenty? What would you take me for, then?" He: "For better, for worse." They are now keeping house.

"At what age were you married?" asked he, inquisitively. But the lady was equal to the emergency, and quietly responded, "At the parson-age."

EVERY household should have at least a few flowers. Flowers exert an educating and refining influence over children. Have a few flowers for their sake, if for no other.

"Can't you trust me, darling?" murmured the impecunious lover to the daughter of an old money-lender. "Not without real estate security," she absently replied.

"Well, madam, how is your husband to-day?" "Why, doctor, he's no better." "Did you get the leeches?" "Yes, but he only took three of them raw—I had to fry the rest."

Aunt: "Has any one been at these preserves?" Dead silence. "Have you touched them, Jimmy?" Jimmy, with the utmost deliberation: "Pa never 'lows me to talk at dinner."

A LADY in the West of Scotland said to a certain humourist, "Really, Mr. Johnstone, there's nae end to yer wit." "Gude forbid, madam," answered the humourist, "that I should ever be at my wit's end."

LECTURE upon the rhinoceros: Professor—"I must beg you to give me your undivided attention. It is absolutely impossible that you can form a true idea of this hideous animal unless you keep your eyes fixed on me."

"WHAT did you say the conductor's name was?" "Glass—Mr. Glass." "Oh, no!" "But it is." "Impossible!—it can't be." "And why not, pray?" "Because, sir, Glass is a non-conductor." Deafening applause from the scientific passengers.

KIND words produce their own image in men's souls, and a beautiful image it is. They soothe and comfort the hearer. They shame him out of his unkind feelings. We have not yet begun to use them in such abundance as they ought to be used.—*Pascal.*