

difficulty is increased. The circulation of air is unusually defective, so that the poisonous gases generated by the breath of cattle are not carried away. These, with the foul air resulting from the damp walls, combine to produce a condition of the air that is very destructive to the health and thrift of the cattle. The air they breathe is poisoned, and consequently the blood is not oxydized. The effect of this is to paralyse in a measure every function of the body. The flesh of beef cattle in this condition is unhealthful food, and the milk of cows is exceedingly impure and is injurious. The effect of this condition of air on the skin is also very serious. Its pores are chilled and closed; the perspiration is checked, and the waste matter which, in a healthful condition of the skin, is being constantly thrown off through its pores, is retained in the circulation and goes its round to the heart, the lungs, the brain, and all the organs, to give them its poison in the place of nourishing food.

We have had frequent occasion to observe the effect on cattle of the removal from stables entirely above ground to those in basements, and in every instance the result has proved that the theory advanced above is sustained by facts. The growth and improvement in condition are impaired if not stopped. We have seen animals wear their old coat all summer until September, in consequence of being tied in a basement stable for four weeks in spring.

If basement stables are to be used for stock, they should be closed in on all sides so far as possible with boards rather than stone, with frequent windows for the admission of light and air. If the basement is on one or more sides partly below the surface of the earth, that part should be laid up in stone and pointed, and the upper part boarded. With the greatest precaution, such stables are unfit for cattle.

Basement stories which are partly under ground, are very excellent for the storage of roots and manure, and when open on the sunny side answer very well as shelter for stabled cattle while they are out for exercise.

We remember that Mr. Juxian Winne, so celebrated as a skilful feeder of sheep, states that the lot which occupies a certain loft in a shed always thrives the best. — *Vermont Farmer*.

Quality in Pork.

We all know what a difference there is in pork. Breed has something to do in this matter, but not so much as many suppose. It is the *kind of feed* that makes kind in pork. Use milk or whey largely, and your pork is sure to be soft, flabby, and will fry away at least half. What is left is not relishable. Hence our dairy pork is our poorest pork, varying according to the amount of grain that is fed. So still-fed pork is in bad repute. Miscellaneous feed makes ordinary pork, often quite ordinary. Slop will not do; there seems to be too much water.

The grains are what is wanted to make good, *sweet* pork, pork that is solid and will fry well. Rank pork is unendurable, and yet there is much of it, and some people prefer it, like the pork from large strong hogs.

A dirty, offensive sty, is an element no doubt in producing strong or even fetid pork.

Have clean quarters, a clean animal, good ventilation, and feed grain. For drink give cold, not in any way foul, water. Corn for feed is the best, and old corn at that. Do not house too close, nor feed too sharp; look to the convenience of the hog; and fat him so that he is in good condition, not overfat, with possible diseased parts about him in consequence, the pork affected by it.

Old corn submitted to heat will yield most pork, but it is doubtful whether the quality is as good as when fed raw. So probably with all the grains.

We have had chances to note clear distinctions in the quality of pork. Where the dairy is excluded and the grains are fed, there is good solid pork; and, unless the hog is old and large, we find it to be sweet. We find it difficult to get good pork among the dairy-men, that is, pork that will not fry away too much, and is of a No. 1 keeping quality. This among all breeds, for all are kept here. We are fattening a pig for our own use, of mixed breed of Chester White and Berkshire, and we feed him old corn, ground, and give him water for drink. We expect the first quality of pork, and we shall not be disappointed. We have practised this for years, and seen it practised, and with unvarying success. The pork is always solid; cooks well in all forms; is sweet and toothsome, and more wholesome than the rank bacon. We have no difficulty in keeping our pork. — *Ex.*

The Alderney at Home.

The following description of the mode of pasturing and milking cows in the islands from which the celebrated Alderney cattle are exported will prove interesting:—

The care of the cows and dairy devolves entirely on the female members of the family, while the farmer attends to the growing crops, or busies himself in the other duties of his little farm.

The cows are tethered with a rope passing around the base of the horns, with a chain and swivel attached, and are fastened to pegs driven in the ground; they are moved to fresh grass two or three times daily. Should they be pastured in the orchards, an additional rope passes from the halter to each fore leg, and thus tied down, they are prevented from regaling themselves with the tempting apples that load the low hanging boughs, under which they graze.

The method of milking the cows is somewhat peculiar, the milking and straining the milk being done at one operation; the milkmaid with her tin pail, linen strainer, and

sea-shell, proceeds to the pasture; seating herself beside her cow, she soon completes her arrangements; the linen strainer is securely tied over the narrow mouthed tin bucket, and placing the long shallow shell on the strainer, with vigorous hands she directs the milky streams into the shell; quickly overflowing the shallow brim, the milk passes through the strainer into the receptacle beneath. This primitive method has been in vogue for more than a century; they claim for it the merit of perfect cleanliness.

While overlooking the operation, I could understand the use of the strainer clearly enough, but the employment of the shell rather puzzled me, until the milkmaid informed me that it was to prevent the streams of milk wearing a hole in the strainer; this solved the mystery.

Colour as an Indication of the Qualities of the Horse.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*, signing himself "Veterinarian," relates the following as the result of his observation in connection with the above subject:—

In the first place, I must apparently contradict myself, for colour really has nothing to do with either good or bad qualities; instead of which, temperament has all to do with colour, or nearly so.

Now, first, as to the dark chestnut and the dark brown: so far as my observation goes, they and the blood bay are more exempt from disease than any other colour, if we except the dun, or, as it is erroneously called, the cream, which is much objected to.

Dapple or dark grays are subject to fungous excrescences, commonly called warts.

Black horses are, according to my experience, more subject to affection of the eyes than those of any other colour. They are also, as a rule, faulty in the feet; and, although pretty, are not of a vigorous, rugged constitution.

What horseman does not, of his own experience, know what the different shades of the sorrel are subject to? They are, as a rule, the most skittish of the equine family. Who, among experienced, good horsemen, does not know that of all the baulky horses he has ever had to do with, more than half, at least, were light sorrels, or sorrels of some shade? The most vicious of all horses are to be found among the sorrels.

For intelligence or general usefulness, for beauty, and indeed for all purposes for which the horse may be required, the above three colours will fill the bill. Let no person for a moment understand me to affirm that there are no good, yea, very good, horses of all and every shade of colour; but I do wish to be understood to mean this—in breeding, breed always from the best, for it costs no more in any sense.

The white horse is usually of good constitution, and docile. The spotted horse is