

## CHAPTER XVI

### ECONOMICS OF BREEDING AND FEEDING

**M**UCH of this book has been devoted to methods of feeding, care and management of dairy cows. Much stress in other chapters has been put on the absolute necessity of high producing cows in a successful farm business. As high production of milk can come only when the feed fed is correct in volume and in kind, it is worth knowing the extent to which the efficient use of this feed is due to the feeder's skill and how much to the inherent ability of the cow to make profitable use of feeds.

Although the best feeding methods are not by any means found on all dairy farms it is the writer's firm conviction that the general average of skill and knowledge on the part of the feeder is much higher than is the general average of the cow's ability to make good use of feed. It is his conviction also that the low average production of our dairy cows is due more to poor breeding methods than to poor feeding methods although the latter contributes a large share of the failure in the dairy herd. It appears reasonable to suppose that if a cow lacks the ability to efficiently