

## The Dairy.

### Philadelphia Butter.

The superior quality of the above, to the general average found in other cities and places of resort, is a very common observation of travellers. Its excellence has indeed become proverbial, and there may be several reasons given.

1st. The character of the pastures in the dairy districts around Philadelphia comprises a mixture of grasses. We find among these, varying of course, somewhat with the locality, Kentucky blue grass, (Poa pratensis), greatly valued by our best dairymen, red clover, white clover, herds grass, timothy, sweet scented vernal and rye grass. The mixed character of this pasturage is probably of some importance. Where the pasture is chiefly red clover, it is a common remark here that the butter is apt to be strong.

2nd. Our dairy farmers are very particular to take out of their herd every cow whose cream, partaking of an oily character, does not separate freely from the milk and harden readily. We once owned a cow of this character, and had to churn every cow's milk separately before we could find which she was. The cream was what is called *ropy*, and would never harden into anything but oily butter. It spoiled the butter of 20 cows, when mixed with it.

3rd. When milk is allowed to stand too long, as, for instance, in a spring house, below the proper temperature, it becomes mouldy, which of course hurts the quality of butter. This is obviated by keeping on hand a pan of sour or thickened milk, a table-spoonful or two of which is mixed with every pan of fresh milk, when it is first put in the spring house. This hastens the decomposition or souring of the milk, which it is believed here is indispensable to secure the whole quantity of cream from each pan. The rule is generally for pans to stand for three milkings before the cream is skimmed off and put into the cream pot.

4th. The care of the cream is considered important. It is put in a tin vessel, about 15 inches deep, by 10 or 12 in diameter. A hole is made below the level brick or plank floor of the spring house, in which the cream pot is plunged up to its rim in water. This keeps down the temperature, and prevents fermentation. Very particular care is used to stir it well round once or twice daily.

5th. Churning not less than once a week contributes to make prime butter. Most of our best dairymen churn twice in the week through the summer.

6th. The cream being in proper order, the *churning* and *working* of the butter follows. If butter gathers soft in the churn, no subsequent working or manipulation will make good butter out of it. It is essential that the butter "come hard," and this is insured by throwing in a lump of ice, and working it around a few times in the churn with the butter, &c., when it first begins to break.

It is then transferred to the butter table, and all the water and buttermilk worked out of it in a very few minutes, no matter how large the quantity, by one of our patent butter workers. A sponge enclosed within a soft muslin cloth is used at the same time, and when the process is through, it would be difficult to discover a single trace of either water or buttermilk.

The salt is applied at this first working, and thoroughly incorporated, by the fluted rollers of the worker. The use of any water at all in working is generally avoided by our best dairymen.

The late D. B. Hinman, President of the Chester County Agricultural Society, often replied to visitors from a distance, who said they could not make such good butter as he gave them, "that they were too ambitious. You try," says he, "to save both the butter and the buttermilk. I am content with the pure butter, and allow the other to drain off."

7th. Entire cleanliness in and around the spring house, is scrupulously observed. The milk pans, buckets, strainers, &c., are daily scalded and exposed to the sun, and all noxious odours, which milk and cream absorb so quickly and readily, carefully avoided. An old lady on a dairy farm once told us that she fully excused her son for giving her a sudden and violent blow on the month. Thoughtlessly she had gone into his spring house, smoking her pipe. A sudden blow, and stamping under his foot, dashed away pipe, tobacco, and smoke. One minute more would have done the business, and damaged the quality of his whole churning. He had been obtaining an extra price for a choice article of butter, sold

always in advance, and took the only method to save his reputation, as he thought.

8th. After working, and printing into half pound and pound lumps, each separate piece is rapped up in a clean white rag, often with the owner's name on it, packed in the tub among ice, and brought into market as fresh and hard as it leaves the spring.

Butter made in the above way is now selling (6th mo. 1st.) at 60 cents per pound in Philadelphia market, and has brought for many weeks the past winter 75 to 85 cents per pound. Such butter is one of the luxuries.—*Phil. Rural Advertiser*.

### Don't Run the Cows.

Now, boys, we have a word to say to you. When we were of your age we always had to drive the cows to pasture, and go and bring them, too. Sometimes we got a little late, or were anxious to get off to play, or a cow found a bit of good, sweet grass, better than she had found all day in the pasture, and would stop to take a bite and fall behind the rest. That was provoking, and we were apt to give her a pretty severe lesson. In fact, we were guilty of hurrying up on many occasions. It was all wrong, but we little knew how much injury we were inflicting on ourselves, as well as on the cows.

Now it is perfectly well known that overdriving causes the milk to be heated and feverish, especially in hot weather, and this milk is not a healthful article of food, either as milk or when made into butter or cheese. Cows that are abused, kicked, or roughly treated, cannot give good milk, and no process of manufacture can make it into so good an article of diet as milk that is not injured by such treatment.

Never let the dogs chase the cows. A worryment of this kind not only lessens the quantity, but injures the quality of milk, and it should be carefully avoided. Dogs are, generally a curse among a herd of cattle, and particularly so among milch cows, unless they are trained to drive and tend them, as few of our dogs are.—*Mass. Ploughman*.

GLYCERINE is the best article for curing cracks in cow's teats. Apply it twice a day after milking.

LOOK OUT FOR THE LACTOMETER.—At the Trenton, N.Y., Cheese Factory, this little instrument told a tale which excited suspicions against the fair dealing of two "patrons" of the association, and detectives were set to watch, when both parties were seen to add water by the pailful. The matter created quite a stir, but was hushed up so far as private claims are concerned by the payment of \$50 each, and an agreement that on eighth should be deducted from all the milk they had delivered this season. Verily the way of the transgressor is hard.—*Country Gentleman*.

A Good Cow.—Mr. Joseph Brown, of Delavan, Wis., writes to the *Rural New Yorker* thus of a rare specimen of the bovine race:—"I have a cow that gave 1,496½ lbs. milk during the month of June last, from which my wife made 66 lbs. of butter. Said cow was 13 years old last spring—received no feed during the time, except what she got from a good pasture—has always been kept in good condition and milked regularly. Each milking was weighed during said month; the most she gave at any one milking was 28 lbs., the least 19½ lbs. The June after said cow was 7 years old she gave 1,334 lbs. milk from which was made 62 lbs. 7 oz. butter. She is said to be one-fourth Durham."

TRAINING CATTLE TO JUMP.—A Western farmer says he makes it a rule that whenever cattle are made to pass a fence, whether through bars or "slip-gap," to leave one rail for them to pass under. This gives them a downward tendency, and lessens their inclination to jump or look upwards, as they are sure to do when a lazy attendant throws down a part of the rails, and makes them vault the rest. Cattle may be learned to go over any fence, by the careful training they often get for this end, and performed as follows: First starve them, or give them poor feed, which will make them light and restless. As soon as they go over the lowest part of the fence after better provender, make them jump back again, and put on one more rail, saying, "I guess that will keep 'em out." Next day, (as of course they will be in mischief again), repeat the process, adding another rail; in a short time they will take care of themselves, and harvest the crops without charge.—*Tucker's Rural Affairs*.

## Veterinary Department.

### Puerperal or Milk Fever.

This disease consists in a partly febrile and partly inflammatory state of the system, accompanying the formation of milk, and always occurring more or less after calving. In some instances the fever becomes very great, and inflammation of the peritoneum acts in. When this takes place it is called parturient peritonitis. The symptoms are tolerably well marked, and are rapid in their course, frequently gaining their full intensity in six or eight hours. The animal has an unsteady, reeling gait,—the pulse is high, beating from eighty to ninety per minute,—the muzzle hot and dry,—the respiration also very much increased,—the gait becoming still more unsteady, and in a short time the animal falls down. When lying she is very restless, and perhaps makes ineffectual attempts to rise. She moans continually, and stretching out her neck looks around at her flanks, as it were pointing to the seat of the disease. In most all cases there is obstinate constipation of the bowels. In fact all the secretions are stopped, and the urine is retained within the bladder. If these symptoms gradually increase, death soon supervenes.

This disease occurs in cows of all ages, and may follow any kind of parturition. However, it generally arises from bad usage immediately preceding or during parturition. It generally shows itself about the third or fourth day after calving. A *post mortem* examination reveals the whole peritoneal surface of both the intestines and the uterus, covered with a dirty granular lymph. If the disease has lasted for a few days there is an effusion of fluid into the abdomen; while the substance of the nerves going to the abdomen are thickened and darkened in their character. The veins in the neighbourhood of the uterus, will be found to contain either broken down lymph or pus. The lungs and liver are found often congested. In the treatment of parturient peritonitis, as the bowels are constipated, a smart dose of purgative medicine, such as epsom salts, must be administered:—one or two pounds combined with two drachms of calomel, and eight to ten drops of croton oil. Give also every two hours, from thirty to forty drops of tincture of aconite, until five or six doses are given. If the abdominal pains continue, a pound of castor oil may be given, combined with two ounces of laudanum. Apply cloths wrung out of hot water to both the loins and abdomen. The teats should be drawn regularly and frequently; and the patient encouraged to take as much liquid as possible.

In other cases the brain is congested, and is called parturient apoplexy. It is also very rapid in its course, and more fatal than peritonitis. It differs from the latter in being active congestion of the brain, accompanied by inflammation of the spinal cord. It is most likely to attack cows that are good milkers and in high condition, and generally occurs about three days after calving. The first symptom observed is a deficiency in the quantity of milk, and the yield gradually diminishing at each milking, the urine is suppressed and the bowels costive, the eyes begin to get dull, the pulse quickened, and as in peritonitis, the cow has a staggering gait, lies down and is unable to rise; the breathing becomes stertorous, a state of coma sets in, and the eyes become of a dull opaque leaden colour. This disease requires energetic treatment. In the early stage, blood-letting is useful, which should be followed by a very large dose of purgative medicine combined with a diffusible stimulant repeated at intervals. Clysters should be administered often, as if the bowels can be freely moved the cow may be considered safe. After an animal becomes comatose it is useless administering medicines. This disease may be prevented to a great extent. If a cow is in very high condition she should be fed sparingly some days before calving, and also allowed exercise and plenty of water. As a sequel of parturient fever, paralysis sometimes occurs to such an extent that the cow is unable to rise, in other cases she partly loses the power of her hind quarters. Paralysis may continue for weeks and even months and still perfect recovery may take place. When it becomes somewhat chronic, the powdered nux vomica given in doses of two to three drachms twice a day has been found of much value in causing and expediting recovery.