

The calf, of all the animals on which the farmer is dependant, certainly fares the worst, and to him "fair play" is too often unknown. Yet, however great the value of milk may be to man for other objects, it must surely be unwise to rob the calf as much is frequently done; let him not be denied pure as good milk for a time, and only as he gains strength let other food be substituted.

As soon as the calf is dropped, nature prompts the cow to lick her offspring, and I am disposed to allow her to do so, feeling satisfied it is a purifying process, very beneficial to the calf, and under which it seems to be really at times relieved with life itself, besides cleansing the calf from the viscous matter by which it is overladen; the mother also is benefitted by this operation, obtaining thus a medicine suited to her present situation—one which nature designs for her.

I am aware it is sometimes the practice to take the calf at once from the cow, in order to prevent her from knowing and becoming attached to it, and thereby guarding her against fretting, which would not only interfere with her proper yield of milk, but aggravate the fever which already prevades the system; in this case becomes necessary to rub the calf with cloths and whisks until it is dry and clean. It may, indeed, in certain cases be desirable to remove the calf at once, as some cows, and especially those with their first calf, plainly show an inclination to injure it. But, as a rule, it is better to allow the cow to lick the calf; and so much importance do some breeders attach to this operation that, when the mother shows a disinclination to perform the office, salt and meal are sprinkled on the body, to tempt her to do

Supposing the operation of licking or rubbing have been duly performed, the calf should be left quiet for some time in a place by itself, and beyond the mother's hearing, when she will very soon forget it, as it is, doubtless, desirable that she should do.

The following reasons may be briefly assigned for giving the preference to rearing by hand rather than allowing the calf to "run" with the mother, in spite of the advantages which the natural process has in promoting the secretion of milk, and thus aiding the organs of digestion. When a cow is allowed to suckle her calf, she will not give her milk to the hand during the time the calf is "on her," and seldom so kindly afterwards; neither when he is removed after a few weeks, will she readily suffer a nursing to be bestowed on her. If the cow fails ill it will then be too late to endeavour to substitute the pail for the mother, and in all probability the calf, reared at all, will prove an unthrifty, unpaying animal; again, if a cow bring up two calves at once, the fastest sucker will have an undue share of the milk; lastly, rearing by hand is the most economical method, as guarding against all

irregularity or failure in the supply of food, which may be regulated to suit the object in view—diluted, mixed, increased, or decreased, according to the age of the animal, so as both to promote growth and make the process of weaning almost unfelt.

The cow herself should never be hurried or overdriven, as any increase in the ordinary respiration produces a heat in the milk which takes from its excellence. Respiration is a species of combustion; at every breath we inhale oxygen from the atmosphere, which unites with and consumes the fatty matter in the food. Cows when overdriven or worried breathe more frequently, inhale more oxygen, and consequently, more of the buttery portion of their food is consumed, leaving less to impart richness to the milk. On this account, in very hot weather it is well to house cows by day, thus relieving them from the irritating attack of flies, and to turn them out at night; on the other hand, it is well known to experienced dairymen that their cows yield more milk in warm, pleasant weather, when they have the run of a sheltered pasture, than on a bleak field, in cold, rainy days—a difference which the same theory of respiration equally accounts for.

The old, and I trust almost exploded, system of giving medicine to the calf, in order to cause it to expel the first glutinous faeces (or meconium) is so contrary to nature that it must be censured. The delicate intestines of a newly born calf are not prepared for castor oil or spirits.

Let its own mother's first milk, colostrum, or beistyn, be given two or three hours after birth; it is nature's medicine, unfit for human use, but prepared with a wisdom beyond ours to meet the requirements of a newly-born calf. This "colostrum" appears at every delivery, and from its peculiar nature produces a purgative action, and causes the "meconium" to be voided, which for some time before birth, has been forming in the intestines of the calf.

We have heard of an eggshell filled with spirits being put down the unfortunate animal's throat—the spirits to invigorate, and the eggshell to clear the way and lubricate the passage to the stomach. Some give the egg, yolk, white, shell and all; and in Ireland, the panacea of all Hibernian woes—whiskey—is thought to be the "elixir of life" for calves, though it must be said that the sister kingdom of England has its breeders, and some of celebrity, who do not fail to administer the glass of spirits in every case where a calf is born.

By thus early overtaxing the stomach and thwarting nature in its well-ordered course, the seeds of delicacy are surely sown. Medicine should not be tolerated until there is actual cause for its use, and then let it be administered by some one who can not only judge of the disease, but suggest a remedy to meet it. I hold it to be a great mistake to overload the stomach of a newly-dropped calf; so I consider the "beistyn"