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PRFE to Conservatory Students R. VICTOR CARTER

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BETTER MILK.

rewing Demand For Cleanliand Willingness to

improvement now being wrought in the handling of milk for human consumption, says The Breeder's Gazette. Until recently no common article of food was so universally filthy as milk. Rarely was a combination found by the student of this problem where the cows were healthy and fed with wholesome food, the stables clean and well ventilated, milkers neat and tidy and the vessels thoroughly scalded each time they were used. Milk produced in the country for city consump tion was fairly wholesome, but that produced in cities or in their immediate vicinity was usually of the vilest character, because the trade, as a rule, was in the hands of ignorant foreigners who kept the cows in filthy, dark

the highest extreme. American entérprise is at last getting hold of the milk supply in many quarters, and the improvement is already quite marked, though it is growing far less rapidly than it should for a reason which will only be believed by those who have carefully studied the subject. It is a surprising fact that as yet no large part of city consumers stand ready to demand pure milk and pay that price for it which cleanliness and healthfulness make necessary.

sheds and fed them upon the waste products of breweries, distilleries and

vinegar factories, the putrid masses

from which were often disgusting in

Some years since an Omaha paper sent a reporter out to examine the milk supply of that city, and it was found that a majority of the dairies about the city were extremely filthy as to cows, stables, milkers and utensils. The reporter followed the milk from production to distribution and was surprised to find that wagons from the filthiest dairies circulated freely along the most aristocratic avenues and that much of the milk they sold was left at the back doors of the finest residences On consulting the producers he was told that the rich people were unwill ing to pay fair prices for good milk and were constantly seeking to secure their milk at a lower cost, rarely making any inquiries as to its purity and wholesomeness. The one object always was "one more milk ticket for a dollar." Some German has figured out as follows :how many hundred pounds of cow manure are consumed daily by the residents of Berlin, and it would not be difficult for any person who has looked into the matter a little to make a similar calculation for a city like Chicago. People who will lose their appetite for breakfast at a soiled napkin or a speck of dirt on their plate, will call for a glass of milk drawn from a bottle or pitcher containing sediment that advertises itself and drink this mixture with equanimity, even though the last drops in the glass show vile contamination. Not one in ten stops to inquire if the milk he drinks is a germ grower or simply

Nor does this statement cover the worst phases of the case. Milk is often not only dirty, but it is drugged with chemicals which threaten the health tive poisons are now freely used by milkmen, especially during the summer season, to prevent milk and cream from souring. Dirty milk sours much more quickly than pure milk, and the producer of the contaminated product gets even with his more conscientious competitor by throwing in a handful of drugs and then showing the buyer that his milk will keep sweet even longer than the other. The buyers of such milk take with each glass a quantity of drugs which would surprise them, and these materials are swallowed along with the filthy milk by infants and invalies under the doctor's care, the physician rarely knowing or realizing that he has a competitor in the drug line in the family milkman.

Dairy Butter.

At the Indiana state fair the best tub of creamery butter scored 961/2 points, while the best 15 pounds of dairy butter scored 971/2 points and the best five pounds of dairy prints scored 98 points. This may be taken as evidence that those who will take the necessary care to have their milk clean, from healthy cows fed on wholesome food, can handle it so as to make creamery that receives milk from so bear upon the discomfitted Boers be many patrons, some of whom seem to think a good butter maker should be able ers and guns and much spoil should to make good butter from almost any material they may furnish him. While we are willing to admit that there is much dairy butter which is very inmuch dairy butter which is very inferior to the average product of the creamery, there is some that is much better. The trouble with dairy butter for the dealer and consumer is that such as scores 97 or 98 points does not often reach them. There is usually a home market for it, which keeps it there. Probably the dairyman who has such a market finds it more profitable than to supply city dealers. American Cultivator.

Two Kinds of Thinness. To have a cow thin by giving large quantities of milk from good feeding and to have her thin for lack of food are two entirely different conditions. In the one case she is strong, vigor ous, active and full of rich blood, while in the other she is faint and weak and gives but little milk .- Tennessee Farmer.

Little Salt and Much Work. Neglecting to sait the cows regularly nakes the milk hard to churn.

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BLOODY BATTLE

Correspondent With Buller Says One is at Hand

nd He Predicis a Great British Victory With the Capture of fluch Spoil and Many Prisoners.

London, January 3 .- The following a summary of the situation in Natal, published in the Daily Telegraph. It was written by Bennett Burleigh, the veteran war correspondent, and is

"Frere camp, Sunday.-Following is what I may term an end of the year review of the situation as it now stands.—Despite many drawbacks and various unsatisfactory matters which might and could be remedied, the mili-tary situation is better more secure, and more hopeful for us than since the outbreak of hostilities. This is the case elsewhere, but particularly so in Natal. The invasion of this colony is now slowly, perhaps many will say too slowly, but surely being rolled back. There is no longer any danger at Pietermaritzburg to-day; the country is secure from the foe practically from Colenso south. A few raiders may for a short time venture along the hills as far as Estcourt, but I doubt if ever they will water their horses again in the Mooi river.

"Ladysmith, although on account of its situation a place difficult to defend, continues easily to hold out and is repelling the Boer attacks, for the enemy have never relished coming to close of the user. Salicylic acid, boracic quarters, nor have they shown any sitions. Their one method is to catch our troops in the open from cover and overwhelm them with fire. For not many days more will Ladysmith's gallant garrison be required to tie low be-hind their works. The relief column will surely free their hands from guarding the town and camps, and enable them to cut in upon the retreatable them to cut in upon the retreat-ing commandos. To-day Buller has within hail a force of all arms equal to that of the Boers, eagerly demand-ing to be led against Joubert's men and Free Staters, who are before Cothe enemy between Colenso and Lady-smith, all told, number between 20,-000, and 30,000. What with renegades and the colonial Boers recruiting their total strength in the field must be near sixty thousand. Joubert and Botha have made the most of their advantage of position by emplacing many cannon, some of large calibre, up to 15 centimetres, and by constructing numberless trenches and works. Their position, I assume, will be judiciously flanked, and the enemy rolled back,

rolled back,

"War is even more uncertain than cricket, but the soldiers will not fail the country. That is absolutely certain. If they are given a fair chance to engage upon anything like equal terms, I plump for complete Heitish victory. It is given me further to forecast that if the punishment meted out to and the pressure brought to

NOT A NATIVE.

"Has Eugene Dobbins always moved in the first circles?" "I have my doubts; he walks on a hardwood floor, as if he were afraid

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THE RODENT HUNTER

HOW THE PROFESSIONAL RAT CATCH-ER DOES HIS WORK.

He Uses Traps. Tongs. Ferrets or His Hands and a Bag. as Circumstances May Dictate-The Method of Attacking a Stable Described.

Professional rat catchers, who devote themselves exclusively to freeing build ings from rats, are found in only a few of the very largest cities of the country. There are rats everywhere, and so it comes about that the rat catcher is more or less of a traveler. Trips of 50, 100, 200 miles and more in various directions out of the city are not so unusual as to be considered remarkable. These include considered remarkable. These include trips to cities and towns and places in the country. The structures that are freed from rats include not only private houses in city and country, but also factories, and ships, and stores, and hotels, and storehouses, and stables, and in fact buildings of all sorts. The rat catcher makes contracts to free a building of rats, and also to keep it free, by the month or the year. A rat catching con-tract running up into four figures, that is to say of \$1,000 and more, would not be

an unheard of thing.

City rat catchers lay their work out in routes for greater convenience in han-ding, and the places on these routes are visited as often as may be necessary to keep them free of rats. There are three or four professional rat catchers in the

or four professional rat catchers in the city, each employing a number of men.

Rats are caught with traps and with traps, the greater number with traps. Both cage traps, in which the rats are caught alive, and spring traps, that kill them when caught, are used, the larger ways of the traps used being of the number of the traps used being of the last described kind. Ferrets are also sometimes employed in rat catching.

The means adopted for catching the rats may depend on the place and the cir-cumstances. The rat catcher looks the place over and determines on the way in which to go about it. Perhaps he stops np most of the holes and establishes what are practically runways that lead the rats to his traps. There may have been a dozen traps in the house and rats caught in none of them. It might be that a trap would be set right over a rathole and that a rat would come up and crawl under it to get into the hole, but keep out of the trap. It is not likely to be so with the rat catcher's traps. He knows entic ing baits or a preparation to put on baits that makes them so attractive that the rats cannot resist them, and he catches rats when the amateur in that line, the householder, fails. The rat catcher varies the trap arrangements according to circumstances and uses the tongs in various places, perhaps in kitchens or in picking rats off pipes or elevated places or reaching into recesses, and tongs might be used in catching rats in stables.

In a stable the bait would be scattered in various places where it would be convenient to get at the rat with the tongs while it was feeding. The feed, scented with the enticing preparation, is put in the same places and at the same hour for two or three nights in succession. The bait is not in large chunks, as of bread or cheese, that the rats could pick up and carry off, but it is perhaps oatmeal, which it can pick up only a grain at a time and which it must stay there to eat. The preparation put upon it is so attractive that it might induce a wild rat to take the food from the rat catcher's hand. The lights are all turned down, and this stable work is not done on moonlight nights, when moonlight coming in through open doors or windows or spaces might cast shadows that would alarm the rats. The operator carries a small lantern with its inner reflecting surface so fixed as to throw but a slender beam of light.

When everything is ready, he throws this beam upon the place where the rate are feeding to locate them. There may be one or there may be more of them. The light dazes the rats for a second or so, and the rat lifts up its head to look. In that brief period the rat catcher gets it with his tongs. If there is more than one rat, he sweeps the first one caught around the other, on the ground, which helps to keep the other there until he can reach for it. He may have arranged ten places in the stable and gets rats in every one. He will reach into the manger with his hand, where there may be two of three rats, and sweep them together in such a manner that he can grasp the bunch by the tails. He lifts them up with a swing that dazes them for a mo-ment, at the same time calling to a keeper who goes with him on such occasio holding the bag into which the live rats

This bag has attached to it at the top a tape, not as a gathering string, for there wouldn't be time to close the bag in that way, but to hold on by, held between the bag holder's teeth, thus giving him both hands free with which to open and close the mouth of the bag quickly. When the rat catcher calls, and swings the rats around, the bag holder opens the mouth of the bag, and the rat catcher drops in the rats. They recover almost instantly from their temporary bewilderment, and the instant they strike the bottom of the bag they start to scramble up the sides to get out, but the bag hold-er closes the mouth promptly and keeps it so till there is occasion to open for an other rat.

It might be that working along with the tongs and lantern the rat catcher would come upon rats unexpectedly, or when the bag holder was not at hand. Then he would swing the tongs right around under his arm and close his arm down on the rat and draw the tongs away and leave the rat there, giving it away and leave the rat there, giving it another soon for company if possible to help keep it quiet, as it would be more likely to remain with another rat nestling up against it. If a rat catcher should swing a wild rat up in the air and catch it when it came down, he could lay it on it when it came down, he could lay it on the outside of his arm and it would stay there, for a moment at least, perfectly quiet, so surprised would it be by that extraordinary experience. Rats caught in such ways would, of course, be got rid of as promptly as might be into the bag. While of the traps used the greater number are of the kind that kill the rat when caught, still with traps and tongs many rats are taken alive: Years ago thousands of live rats were in the winter season collected for rat pits. The humber gathered nowadays for this purpose is everywhere very small owing to the ex-istence and activity of societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals. A few live rats are sold to physicians for experi-mental purposes, but substantially all of, the great number of rats taken alive by professional rat catchers are destroyed.— New York Sun.

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