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## The Milk Goat

By ALEX T. MACINTOSH

SINCE the dawn of history the milk goat has been a constant friend and companion of mankind, and has been one of the greatest assets to the human race, supplying much nutritious milk for infants or adults, yielding its savory flesh for food, and providing the material for garments or rugs as they were required. There is no doubt that the goat was domesticated at a much earlier period than cattle, presumably because they were smaller and milder in their disposition. As an efficient converter of weeds, brush and the various grasses into nutritious food material, the goat has no superior among the domesticated animals of to-day, and when it is remembered that a good milk in one year, it will be realized how valuable an asset she is to the world of to-day.

In Eastern lands and in the Continent of Europe the milk goat is an established fact, and probably her absence would be felt more keenly than any other animal. On the North American Continent she is rapidly coming into her own, making a place for herself that in a short time would indicate that she would be second to none. Perhaps the goat has been maligned more than any other single animal on the North American Continent; it has been the butt of the vulgar crowd, and even today there are prejudices against her that prevent the public from taking the intelligent interest in this little animal that they should. She has been designated the poor man's cow because she was cheap to buy and because she converted cheap grades of feed into food of the highest nutritive value.

The demand for milk goats on the North American Continent at the present time has caused a change in this title, and no longer is she known as the poor man's cow, some even suggesting that she has become the rich man's hobby, but to the author it would be more correct to call her the sane man's cow. No family can have a better asset than a good milk goat. The average milk goat will provide in the neighborhood of three quarts of the richest kind of milk per day. This milk is more like human milk than that of any other animal. It is more easily digested than cow's milk, and many persons who cannot digest cow's milk can readily digest the milk of the goat. This is on account of the fat globules in goat's milk being so small; in fact, goat's milk is three times more easily digested than cow's milk. Again, goats are practically im-

mune from tuberculosis. In proof of this 800,000 carcasses have been carefully inspected in France and the United States of America, and not a single carcass has been found to be effected in any small degree. The analyst to the Royal Agricultural Society of London, England, gives the following judgment:

"That the cream globules in goat's milk are smaller than in cow's milk, and as the milk is more concentrated than cow's milk, the cream globules are contained in a more perfect state of emulsion than cow's milk; in consequence of which hardly any cream arises to the surface on allowing goat's milk to stand 12 hours or longer. It is this quality of goat's milk that explains the fact that it is more easily digested by young children than cow's milk."

The three principal families of milk goats are the Anglo Nubian, the Toggenburg and the Saanen. The Anglo Nubian originated in the East and is well known in Asia and Africa, while the Toggenburg and the Saanen have been developed in Switzerland. The Nubian is the largest of the milk goats. It provides richer milk than the others. Professor Washburn, in his recent book, "Productive Dairying," says:

"It is a good goat of any breed that will average two and one-half quarts of milk a day for eight or nine months of the year. One that will give more than this is specially desirable. The Angora goat, which is not considered a good milk animal, gives from two to three quarts of very rich milk but for a comparatively short period. The Nubian, or African, produces from five to ten quarts per day. The yield of the best goats of Switzerland averages about four quarts daily."

The Island of Malta has also become famous as the developer of a breed of goats known as the Maltese, and there are other breeds peculiar to certain localities and countries in Europe, but the breeds that are best known in this country are the Nubian, Toggenburg and Saanen. As a companion for children, and as a means of education, no animal is of greater value than a milk goat, and the writer is of opinion that if in this country milk goats were more common, and therefore their milk more generally used, that the infantile mortality would be greatly decreased. The Manitoba Milk Goat Association are at the present time taking a census of all those who desire to get milk goats. The secretary of this or-

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