

CHAPTER IV.

FEEDING DAIRY COWS.

THE following principles should be observed in the economic feeding of dairy cows :

1. Feed liberally, especially of the cheap, bulky foods. Make these as palatable as possible.
2. Feed the concentrates (meals) according to the milk-flow. Test the cows occasionally with an increase of meal, and note whether or not they respond.
3. Study the capacity, likes and dislikes of each cow.
4. Keep the mangers clean.

The cheapest and most valuable bulky foods, after grass, for the dairyman are corn silage, clover hay and mangolds. The cut clover hay (eight to ten pounds for each cow) and the pulped mangolds (thirty to forty pounds per cow) should be mixed with the corn silage (thirty to forty pounds per cow), if possible, a few hours before feeding, in order to soften the hay and make the whole mass more palatable and more easily digested. When hay is not available cut straw may be used. The cows and the young stock may receive practically all they wish of this cheap, bulky food. Corn fodder or cornstalks