

The Best Test—Curdled Milk

1. Will you kindly tell me through the columns of your paper which will test the best cream that has been kept for two or three days to ripen or cream that has been kept as sweet as possible? We have a Melotte Separator and send our cream to the creamery, and I always send all the cream except what I get the morning the cream man comes around, and I think as far as I know the fresher and sweeter it can be sent the better, that is, if the cream has got quite cooled after coming from the separator.

2. Do you know what causes the milk to be curdled in a cow's teat? We have them that way sometimes, and I often wondered the cause. It comes any time in the milking period, but it is just like that now and then.—A Subscriber, Queen Hill, Ont.

(Answered by H. H. Dean, Professor of Dairying at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont.)

1. If the cream is being tested with an oil test sample, then the cream will give a higher test if it is ripened or slightly sour, but such cream is not in the best condition for making fine butter after it has been delivered to the creamery. On the other hand, if the creamery man is using the Babcock test then the test will be higher if the cream be delivered sweet, and this is the manner of delivery which we recommend for all patrons of cream-gathering creameries. If the creamery men could get the cream delivered sweet, they would be able to make a much finer quality of butter than is now manufactured in our cream collecting creameries.

2. The curdled appearance of the milk which comes from a cow's teat is usually the result of an injury to the teat. If it is examined closely it is likely that your subscriber will find it is more in the nature of pus than of milk. It may be caused by a hook from another cow, by the cow stepping on a stick, or from some other cause. If the teat be bathed with warm water, or with some form of liniment the trouble will disappear in a short time, unless it is due to a gargety condition of the udder, for which give one and a half pounds of salts in addition to bathing.

To be an Interprovincial Fair

The Charlottetown Exhibition, to be held on October 8 to 12, is to be interprovincial in character this year, and for the first time in its history an opportunity will be given to breeders in the other provinces of the Dominion to exhibit there. The Dominion Government has made a grant of \$10,000 to this exhibition this year, which, with the local Government grant, will make a prize list of \$14,000. Prizes in many cases will be more than doubled.

The management are desirous of securing a number of live stock exhibitors this year at Charlottetown from the other provinces, and as their fair will work in with the Dominion exhibition they are making an effort to bring the live stock exhibits from Halifax to Charlottetown. All freight expenses on live stock from Truro in Nova Scotia, and Moncton, in New Brunswick, will be paid by them. Ontario, Quebec breeders, however, who intend going to the Dominion Exhibition at Halifax this fall should arrange to take in Charlottetown also. Write C. R. Smallwood, secretary, at Charlottetown for catalogue.

Nature About the Farm

Edited by C. W. NASH.

NESTING TIME.

Just at this season all the energies of our birds are concentrated upon the construction of their nests and the rearing of their young, and a very strenuous life they lead. From early dawn until well after sunset the little creatures are continuously busy foraging for building material or insects. In the case of some species, the males take no active part in the work of nest building or feeding the young, but even they have their time fully occupied in attending their mates, and no doubt giving good advice; in chasing and fighting rivals and in frequent bursts of ecstatic singing. From close observation of a good many species during the mating and early nesting season, I have come to the conclusion that most of them, if not all, have a song which is reserved for their mates alone. Only last spring I happened by good luck to hear a male Baltimore Oriole singing for the benefit of the female. The music produced by that bird was a wonderful rhapsody, low, sweet and long-continued, very different from and superior to anything one would expect from an Oriole. The Bluebird, too, has a low, long-continued warble, which it utters when close beside the nest while the female is sitting, and even the shrieking Kingbird, when moved by the spirit, can and does so moderate its raucous voice as to make a pretence at singing. Among the shore-birds and waders we do not generally expect to find songsters, yet, during the nesting season, several of them become more or less musical. Thus, in the good old days when Woodcock were abundant, the peculiar far-reaching, air song of the male, was one of the most noticeable voices of a night in spring, and on the prairies of Manitoba the weird, tremulous notes of the Upland Plover (Bartramian Sandpiper), as they come rippling and quavering cardinals, are sure to attract the attention of a traveller on the trail, who, if he be a stranger to the country, will gaze about him for a long time before he will locate the author of the sound, floating high above him, and showing as but a speck against the blue sky. Some few years ago, on the first of July, I was strolling along a sandbar, which formed part of the shore of Lake Ontario, when I met with one of those surprises which never fail to interest the lover of nature. The sun had been up for about an hour, and the morning was very bright and still. I had walked some distance and had seen much to interest me, but nothing unexpected, or particularly rare, when suddenly, from among the short beach grass, about ten yards in front of me, a small bird rose and circled spirally upward for fifty feet or more, uttering as it did so, a succession of twittering notes, which sounded like a number of the ordinary call notes of the small sandpiper run rapidly together. When the bird had ceased climbing skyward, it turned and circled over and around me several times, very slowly, but yet working its wings so fast, that they became indistinct and blurred. While so circling the song was uttered with greater vigor and the notes were more varied than before, until at last, after a supreme musical effort, it spread its wings and descended gently to the spot from which it rose. I moved forward quickly and then saw that the little musician was a

semi-palmated Sandpiper, and beside him was another, evidently his mate, for whose entertainment the aerial performance had been enacted. In a few moments they observed me and flew off together. They did not, however, go very far away, and in a short time came slowly back, running through the grass. I felt convinced then and still think they had a nest near there, though a search at the time and another a few days later failed to reveal it. The birds were near the spot on the second occasion when I visited it, but perhaps because it was later in the day, there was no singing. This little episode was interesting for several reasons, first, because this Sandpiper is not known to breed in this Province at all, its nesting grounds being the barren wastes of the north, and also because the aerial performance of the male was new to me, and, therefore, unexpected. We know that the ways of all our shore birds when on their breeding grounds in the far north differ widely from their habits when they visit us as transients in the spring and autumn. We know that the Woodcock, Snipe and some others, indulge in curious antics when inspired by "love's young dream," which causes these otherwise unmusical birds to make violent efforts to convert themselves into songsters. It would not, therefore, be very extraordinary to find, when more is known about them, that all the Sandpipers, and perhaps the Plover also, have the power to give vocal expression to the feelings which actuate them when seeking to win their mates, or when they wish to cheer and encourage them while they are engaged in the duties of incubation.

Eastern Dairy School

The following is a list of the successful candidates for diplomas from the Eastern Dairy School for 1905: Z. K. Anderson, Brandon, Man.; J. R. Ballard, McArthur's Mills, Ont.; H. E. Brintnell, Belleville; Geo. Coxhill, Annapolis; Thos. J. Ellis, Chertsville; J. J. Hogan, Jermy; Geo. Hudgin, South Bay; A. E. Murphy, Stanley Bridge, P.E.I.; W. J. Quinn, Martintown; J. W. Smith, Campbellcroft.

Appointed Sanitary Inspectors

Mr. J. H. Echlin, one of the dairy instructors for Eastern Ontario, and Mr. T. J. Dillon, of Toronto, have been appointed sanitary inspectors, under the amendment made last session, to the Act to prevent adulteration in the manufacture of butter and cheese. The former will look after Eastern Ontario, and the latter after Western Ontario. Both have special qualifications for the work.

Seed Growers' Convention

The annual convention of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association will be held at Quebec on June 27 and 28 next. The evening of the 27th will be given over to popular addresses by Hon. Mr. Fisher, Prof. Robertson, and the Hon. Mr. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan.

If you are unhappy, ask yourself intelligently each day, What is happiness? and see if you do not get what you seek and deserve what you get.