

so it follows that as a general rule, the treatment afforded to dairy cows is now much more generous than it generally was, though the inference that might be drawn from this, to the effect that farmers are now more liberally rewarded for their outlay, is not by any means necessarily correct. Direct competition in dairy products—in cheese, butter, condensed milk etc., and through these indirect competition in fresh milk—is now a stupendous fact, whereas it did not exist when a good many of us were born who are only middle aged now.

Competition is so strong all over the world, cheese and butter being exported from Canada, butter from Australia and Denmark, bacon from Denmark, beef and cheese from the States, condensed milk from Switzerland, that it has caused the adoption of new lines of business, new methods of production, and, generally new treatment of dairy cows. All this is an interesting study in dairy evolution, and it is an open book to those who were interested in dairy farming when the first half of the century closed, and have been more or less interested in it ever since. The change however has come about so gradually, that it has not commanded more than a tithe of the notice it is entitled to receive.

It is to be feared, now, that the depression which within recent times has fallen upon the retail milk trade in England, has brought in its doleful retinue some modification of the liberal treatment of cows in milk and in calf, treatment had become general to a degree that was very satisfactory. For when you find dairy farmers whose cows are constantly in good condition, you may take it as a sure and certain sign that matters generally are fairly comfortable all round. This however will not be generally found where cheese and butter are the salient products, nor indeed will it be found where milk is sold, unless it is sold direct to consumers. When a man has a dairy farm near a town, and has built up for himself a profitable retail trade with private customers, and perhaps a sort of semi-wholesale trade with hotels and other large institutions, he will surely be found to possess a herd of cows, whose condition, winter and summer alike, is something more than store condition. No milk seller, indeed, who has to keep up a good supply throughout the year can afford to starve his cows at any time, be it summer or winter. To all such

men it is a *sine qua non* that their cows should always be in good condition, if they wish to make the best and most of their businesses. This is well understood in the trade. Wholly different from old time dairying, the milk trade of to-day means high pressure farming, so far in any case as the treatment of the cows is concerned : and in this way it has come to pass that the elements of the soil fertility sold off the farms in the form of milk have been more than compensated for in what has been brought on in the form of manures and feeding stuffs.

*(To be continued)*

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## TREATMENT OF DAIRY CATTLE

*(Continued)*

### Winter Milk

So far as the winter supply of milk for the trade can be a guide, we may take it for granted that the cows producing it will be in good condition—or to pay the least in fair condition. It will hardly pay a man to produce a lot of milk in winter unless he uses a good deal of corn, either purchased or home grown, and not always will it pay him when he does : and where home grown corn is extensively used for the production of milk it will follow as a matter of virtual necessity that purchased manures will be wanted to grow it with. This indeed is how the matter stands : corn of some kind must be used ; either purchased, or home grown stimulated by purchased manures. On all ordinary dairy farms this declaration will be found to be not very wide of the mark ; and while there may be a few exceptionally good farms here and there whose quality is naturally so good that but little of either manures or feeding stuffs must of necessity be purchased, whilst there are many naturally inferior ones that require a good deal of one or both. A prosperous milk selling farmer cannot avoid improving his farm. Look around even among the small farmers, and we find this to be the case : and we know it must be the case if the farmer is to push his trade, and realize whatever advantages there may be within his reach. For all this however it is to be feared that in many instances dairy cows are not now as liberally treated as they were not long ago.

### AUTUMN CALVERS

Assuming that cows have been “well done by,” as it is termed, throughout the winter, they come