

cow is about 284 days, or somewhat over nine months. The period is commonly supposed to be nine months, but cannot be reckoned upon to a certainty. The late Earl Spencer after having kept a record of the calving of 764 cows came to this conclusion :—" It will be seen that the shortest period of gestation when a live calf was produced was 220 days, and the longest 313 days, but I have not been able to rear any calf at an earlier period than 242 days." Lord Spencer considered any calf produced at an earlier period than 260 days, or later than 300, decidedly premature, or irregular, though in the latter case the health of the produce did not suffer. After the cow shows heavy in calf, which is usually after the sixth month, care should be taken that she is not allowed to over exert herself by climbing through heaps of straw, or breaking over fences about the yards. Neither should she be over-driven, or be exposed to the pushing and crowding of other cattle, as occurrences of this kind may cause an excited action of the animal's system, and possibly of the womb, to such an extent as to cause the cow to slip her calf. Such accidents will be prevented by having the straw yard and other appurtenances about the barns in proper order and condition. No very special system of treatment is required by the cow during pregnancy, except merely to keep her in comfortable quarters; especially in inclement weather; she should get a sufficiency of food, and care should be taken to prevent accidents. A resort to medicines, when the animal is not suffering from any disease is generally an error, as much as in the case of those people who take to doctoring themselves when they do not require it. The period at which a cow will calve is generally well known to the owner, if he pays proper attention to these things, both from the time of her reckoning, and from the symptoms which are usually shown at the time. As it approaches, Stephens says, in his *Book of the Farm*, "much more care should be bestowed in administering food than is generally done; and the care should be proportioned to the state of the animal's condition. When in high condition, there is great risk of inflammatory action at the time of parturition. It is therefore the farmer's interest to check every tendency

to obesity in time." This Mr. Stephens says, is to be effected by giving less fattening food, and as far as medical treatment can be applied, there is nothing perhaps so safe, as bleeding and laxatives. In Canada, unfortunately, it is generally poverty rather than over-feeding that the animals have to complain of. "It is in the eighth and ninth months that the critical period of a cow in calf occurs. The bulk and weight of the foetus cause disagreeable sensations in the cow, and frequently produce feverish symptoms, the consequence of which is costiveness. The treatment for this is bleeding once, in proportion to the strength and condition of the cow, and the administering of laxative medicine and emollient drinks, such as a dose of one pound of Epsom Salts, with some cordial admixture of ginger and carraway seed and treacle, in a quart each of warm gruel and sound ale." Turnips may be given, and they have a laxative tendency, especially the white varieties. For full and minute directions in case of slipping the calf, difficult cases of parturition, and of difficulty in getting rid of the cleaning, or after birth, &c., the farmer will do well to consult Stephens' admirable work. Perhaps Mr. Stephens on the whole, depends rather too much upon artificial treatment; he certainly gives very minute directions for it. In the majority of cases it is doubtless better to leave nature to her course, except in so far as proper diet and attendance goes, than to interfere. Undue interference by conceited and ignorant persons, is certainly sometimes productive of great mischief. But it behoves all farmers to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with these subjects, and then in cases of real difficulty, they will not be ignorant of the proper course to be pursued. Another excellent writer, the Rev. W. L. Rham says on this subject. "Cows must be carefully looked to at the time of calving, but except in urgent cases, nature must be allowed to perform her own office. A little common sense and experience will soon teach the possessor of a cow to assist nature, if absolutely necessary; and in cases of difficulty the safest way is to call in an experienced person. Drinks and medicines should be avoided; a little warm water, with some barley or bean meal mixed with it, is the most comfortable