

notice, that it is in general highly expedient for the beef grower—the farmer who depends largely on his regular cast of fat cattle—to attempt breeding his own bull. It is only a few individuals in any district who have the taste and skill requisite for this difficult department of the business, not to mention the large capital which must necessarily be invested in it, the precariousness of the return, the great liability to casualties of such high bred animals, and the additional expense of their housing and maintenance. On Tweed side, the breeding of bulls is confined to a very limited number of persons, chiefly Northumbrians, who, by devoting their whole attention to this department, are able, from year to year, to furnish a class of bulls which are steadily improving the general breed of the district. The contrary practice is at this moment compromising the character of this valuable breed of cattle in several districts of Scotland into which they have been more recently introduced. Made wiser on this point by experience, the farmer of the Border purchases from some breeder of established reputation a good yearly bull, which he uses for two or three seasons, and then replaces by another in like manner. This bull serves his own cows and those of his hinds, and some of the neighbouring villagers; and thus, though his own stud be limited to six or eight cows, he can select from the progeny of his own bull as many calves as he requires to make up his lot, and has them more uniform in colour and quality than could otherwise be the case. As the male parent, among sheep and cattle, is known to exert by far the greatest influence in giving character to the progeny, and increasingly so in proportion to the purity of his breeding, it is evidently much for the advantage of the beef grower to spare no reasonable trouble and expense in obtaining a bull of thorough purity, and then to select his calves with the most scrupulous attention. From overlooking all this, how often may lots of cattle be seen, on the best of land, too, which can only be fattened at an enormous expence of food and time, and, after all, are so coarse in quality as to realise an inferior price per stone. Occasionally a few beasts of the right sort will be seen in such lots, which, by going a head of their fellows, to the extent of £4 or £5 a-piece of actual market value, show what might have been done by greater skill or attention on the part of the owner. It is very desirable to have all the cows to calve betwixt 1st February and 1st April. If earlier, they will get almost dry ere the grass comes, and calves later than this will scarcely be fit for sale with the rest of the lot. When a calf is dropt, it is immediately removed from its dam, rubbed dry with a coarse cloth or wisp of straw, (this being what the cow would do for it with her tongue, if allowed,) and then placed in a crib in the calf-house among dry straw, when it receives a portion of its own mother's milk, which, being of a purgative quality, is just what is needed by the young animal. For a fortnight, new milk is the only food suitable for it, and of this it should receive a liberal allowance thrice a day but means should now be used to train it to eat linseed cake and sliced Swedish turnip; and the readiest way of doing so is to put a bit of cake into its mouth immediately after getting its milk, as it will then suck greedily at anything it can get hold of. By repeating this a few times, and placing a few pieces in its trough, it will usually take to this food freely, and, whenever this is the case, it should have as much as it can eat, that its allowance of milk may be diminished, to meet the necessities of younger calves which are coming in succession. This is of the greater im-

portance that it is always most desirable to avoid mixing anything with their milk by way of helping the quantity. When a substitute must be resorted to, oatmeal porridge mixed with the new milk is perhaps the best. Sago has of late years been much used for this purpose, but an eminent English veterinary surgeon has recently expressed a very decided opinion that its use impairs the digestive powers of the animal, and predisposes to disease. The sour smell invariably found in a calf house, where porridge or jelly of any kind is mixed with the milk, is proof sufficient that indigestion is the consequence. An egg put into each calf's allowance, and mixed with the milk by stirring with the hand, is a good help, and never does harm; but, with this exception, it is best to give the milk warm and unadulterated, however small the quantity, and along with this, dry farinaceous food, turnips and hay, *ad libitum*. If more liquid is needed, a pail with water may be put within their reach, as this does not produce the bad effects of mixed milk. Indeed, in this, it is best to keep as closely as possible to the natural arrangement according to which the calf takes its suck—at first frequently, and then at longer intervals as it becomes able to eat of the same food as its dam. The diet of the cows at this season is a matter of some consequence. Swedish turnips yield the richest milk, but it is too scanty, and calves fed on it are liable to inflammatory attacks. Globe turnips should, therefore, form their principal food during the spring months. Care must also be taken that they do not get too low in condition in the autumn and winter, and for this end it is well to put them dry at least three months before calving. Some may think this long; but, on a breeding farm milk is of little value at this season. The cows, when dry, are kept at less expence, and, by this period of rest, their constitution is invigorated, greater justice done to the foetus, now rapidly advancing to maturity, and so much more milk obtained after calving, when it is really valuable. When the calves are from four to six weeks old, they are removed from their separate cribs to a house where several can be accommodated together, and have room to frisk about. So soon as the feeding-yards are cleared of the fat cattle, the calves are put into the most sheltered one, where they have still more room, and are gradually prepared for being turned to grass; and, when this is done, they are still brought in at night for some time. At six weeks old, the mid-day allowance of milk is discontinued, and at about fourteen weeks they are weaned altogether. When this is done, their allowance of linseed cake is increased; and, as they have been trained to its use, they readily eat enough to improve in condition at this crisis, instead of having their growth checked, and acquiring the large belly and unthrifty appearance which used to be considered an unavoidable consequence of weaning. The cake is continued until they have so evidently taken with the grass as to be able to dispense with it. They are not allowed to lie out very late in autumn, but, as the nights begin to lengthen and get chilly, are brought in during the night, and receive a foddering of tares or clover foggage. When put on turnips, the daily allowance of cake (say 1 lb. each) is resumed, and continued steadily through the winter and spring, until they are again turned to grass. This not merely promotes their growth and feeding, but (so far as the experience of five or six years can determine the point) seems a specific against black-leg, which was often so fatal as altogether to deter many farmers from breeding. It may be well to