

receive back from \$150 to \$200 clear profit. This twenty-five dollars per year is the profit to the individual of an extra quart of milk at a milking, but to our country, if the product from each cow could be thus increased, the aggregate results would be something almost fabulous to mention. I think these results are worth striving for, and that by judicious exertions, far more than this can be obtained.

To accomplish these results more attention must be paid to the selecting and breeding of our dairy stock. If we have cows that exhibit the points of a first-class animal, we should preserve their stock. There is certainly a fair margin of profit in the high price which good cows command. We select the seed we plant with care, because we know that without good seed we cannot expect good crops; we select the largest, soundest and best developed ears of corn for the next year's crop; and understand that like produces like in the animal as well as the vegetable kingdom. If we want to raise a fine colt we take our favorite mare to some person who takes pride in good horses, we do not shrink from the cost, because we know that such a colt from such stock is worth, the moment he is foaled, much more than common stock; we feed him well and treat him kindly, and are almost certain to raise a fine horse.

How very few of our dairymen, in the aggregate, take any such pains with their dairy stock. If there is some scrub of a calf too ill-favored to make a good steer, the chances are that he will be promoted to the position of father of the herd, and used without enquiry as to his parentage or the milking qualities of his dam, merely because his services are cheap, and they are generally as worthless as they are cheap. This shortsighted policy breeds an uncertain and inferior stock, and our dairymen scour the country in search of the few moderate milkers produced from such a source. I do not mean to say that all dairymen pursue this

course, for I know there are some who seek with intelligent and profitable efforts to improve their stock. There are Shorthorns, Ayrshires, Devons, Alderneys, and other choice breeds of cattle from which you may select, or, if you prefer, there are choice native cattle from which, in time, with judicious care and proper crossing, the dairy herd can be greatly improved. With better stock, too, will come better care, for we are more apt to take pride in our best fruits, our best flowers, our best horses, and our best cattle; and as the standard of excellence is raised inferior animals will prove their unprofitableness, and will speedily be disposed of. The treatment of dairy stock, to produce the best results, is a subject that as yet has not received that attention its importance demands. A careful study of an animal will reveal the fact that it possesses a certain degree of intelligence which will be observed in its recognition of the persons who are in the habit of handling it. If the treatment is kind it will reciprocate by friendly action. If the treatment is harsh and brutal, it will exhibit fear and a desire to get away from the presence of the persons caring for it. Fear creates a certain excitement in the animal, which is injurious to its prosperity, and consequently to that of its owner. Quietness, ease and familiarity, aside from plenty of food and water, seem to be very essential elements in the production of increased results. A cow should never be allowed to be abused in the way of kicking or being struck by those in our employ; strict rules of this kind should be laid down for the guidance of those who have the milking or care of our cows, and that brutal usage of any kind will forfeit the engagement and render the party liable to damages, as damages you must sustain from such a cause by the less flow of milk that is sure to follow from ill-usage of the cow. The food, the quality and the quantity, also the time and manner of feeding, require careful study. The natural food for feeding dairy stock is grass. It may be in a green or dried state. When taken in a