

THE DAIRY.

TROUBLESOME MILKERS.

Cows are often troublesome on being milked, and the kicks and knocks which they receive for this restlessness only render them the more fretful. If they cannot be overcome by kindness, thumps and cuts will never make them better. But the fact is, restless habits were engendered in them by the treatment they received when first put into the stable, when, most probably, they were dragooned into submission. Udders and teats are very tender immediately after calving, and especially after the first calving; and when unfeeling, horny hands tug the teats in stripping, as if they had been accustomed to the operation for years, no wonder that the young and inexperienced cow should wince under the infliction, and attempt to get rid of her tormentors by kicking. Can the "critter" be otherwise than uneasy? and how can she escape the pain but by kicking out a heel? Straps or strings are then placed on the hind legs to keep the heels down, and the same is perhaps done to her tail. Add to this the many trials and scolds uttered by the milker, and a faint idea of how a young heifer is broke into milking may be conceived.

Some cows are naturally unaccommodating and provoking; but nevertheless nothing but gentleness toward them will ever render them less so. Some cows are only troublesome to milk for a few times after calving, and soon become quiet; others kick pertinaciously at the first milking. In the last case, the surest plan is for the milker, while standing on his feet, to place his head against the flank of the cow, stretch his hands forward, get hold of the teats the best way he can, and let the milk fall to the ground; and in this position it is out of the power of the cow to hurt him. Such ebullitions of feeling, at the first milking after calving, arise either from feeling pain in a tender state of the teat—often from an inflammatory state of the lining membrane of the milk chamber, or simply from titillation of the skin of the udder and teat, which becomes the more sensitive as the heat increases; or, the udder being still hard, gives pain when first touched; and should the udder be difficult to soften, the calf should be allowed to suck at least three times a day, until the udder becomes soft. This will doubtless cure the udder, but may cause another species of restlessness in the cow when the calf is taken from her, therefore it is preferable to let the milker suffer some inconvenience than run the chance of the udder of the cow being injured.

Be the cause of irritation what it may, one thing is certain, that gentle and persevering discipline will overcome the most turbulent temper in a cow. Milking affords different degrees of pleasure to different cows. One yields her milk with a copious flow, with the gentlest handling; another requires great exertions to draw in streams not larger than a thread. The udder of the gentle one has a soft skin, and short teats like velvet; while that of the hardened one has a thick skin, and teats long and tough, like tanned leather.—*Prairie Farmer*.

SHELDON ON MILK.

The modern development of the milk trade is a thing that would have astonished our forefathers, if it had been told to them. What the farmers would have done during the recent years of depression, if they had all been compelled to make their milk into cheese and butter, if, that is, there had been no milk trade as we see it to-day, it is difficult to imagine. Even as things were, with a large and an increasing proportion

of the milk produced in Britain consumed as milk, the price to which cheese sank two years ago was lower than had probably been seen during the present century. Things are now better, and a healthier tone prevails among dairy farmers. Cows are milking much better this year, and the price of cheese, if only a fair quantity of it is made, will enable farmers to pay their way. Milk sold at 6 cents a quart is more profitable to the farmer who can realize that price than any possible cheese-making or butter-making can be. Milk at 4 cents a quart, in fact, is equal to \$21 or \$22 a cwt. for cheese, and to 80 cents or 80 cents a pound for butter, so that 8 cents a quart, the price milk is generally retailed at, would enable farmers to save plenty of money. It may be said, indeed, that farmers, as a rule, can pay their way if they receive 4 cents a quart for their milk, without the cost of retailing it, and this for both summer and winter's milk. For the summer's milk only, which is so much less costly to produce, farmers in many cases could carry along at 13 cents to 14 cents a gallon for the milk, providing the rents they have to pay are moderate, and their land is well adapted to milk-producing.—*Agricultural Gazette*.

THE CARE OF COWS

The dairy requires, in fact, scrupulous care in every department. It is a delicate industry. And the care must begin with the cow. It is not enough to have a good cow and to feed and water her properly: she must in fact be made a pet of. That description of her treatment is the very best that can be made. In handling her it should be done as if she were a frail, delicate thing, liable to injury from the slightest rough touch or unkind word. Remembering her excessive nervousness, she ought never to be frightened, indeed not any more than a considerate person would frighten a child, which a considerate person would never do. Nothing is capable of vexing us more than to see a dog playfully tormenting a cow. The reader has often seen it. The dog enjoys the sport, but the cow does not, and if it were our dog and there was no other way to stop the annoyance, we would make a target of him. The manner in which cows are treated in going to and from the pasture, and often in milking, is nothing short of brutality. They are hurried, screamed at, swore at, and sometimes clubbed, while the officious dog is on hand to add his voice to the distracting medley. The system of the animal is all shaken up, the nerves all unstrung, and reason must dictate that the milk must suffer injury. The cow that is treated as if she were a valuable friend that has nothing to fear, and that knows she has a friend in one who has the care of her, will do the very best she can, and actually appear to try to do it. Animals may not know as much as we sometimes give them the credit of knowing, and their apparent extra effort to repay kindness may be in no way the part of intelligence, but they do appear sometimes to exert themselves as a special recognition of kindness. Perhaps this often may be true of the horse, but the cow appreciates kindness as much as any other animal, and in the midst of the quiet that results from kind treatment she does much better than she otherwise would, whether she tries or not.

BUTTER COWS.

The agricultural papers have had much to say about large yields of butter, chiefly from cows of Jersey blood, indicating the strong interest which the subject of improved stock of this kind has obtained upon the agricultural community. In breeding for useful qualities, the claim that

"blood tells" in cows as well as in all other branches of breeding, has recently received a forcible demonstration in the case of the young cow Bomba, 10,830, that last summer accomplished a two months' (sixty-two days) test in which she gave for the first month eighty-nine pounds fourteen ounces, and for the second eighty-four pounds five ounces of thoroughly-worked butter, weighed before salting. She is less than four years old, has had two calves, and after being four months in milk is reported to be still making two and a half pounds of butter a day. As the yield exceeds any heretofore reported of so young a cow, her owner, Mr. A. B. Darling (says the *Herald*) has addressed a request to the Directors of the American Jersey Cattle Club for the appointment of a disinterested committee to inspect a special test of the cow. She is the result of a peculiarly strong combination of the blood of other great butter cows. Beginning back four generations with Colonel Hoe's Alpha, whose incomplete tests indicated over twenty pounds a week, her pedigree takes in Europa, that made over fifteen pounds a week; Eurotas, that made 778 pounds in a year; imported Violet, whose partial tests were equivalent to nearly twenty pounds a week; and also derives the English Rieter blood, which was the crowning success of forty years' careful breeding from tested cows by Mr. Philip Dauncey, of Horwood, England, whose dairy for years supplied the Queen's table, and whose stock, descended from his bull Rieter, has brought by far the highest auction prices reached in England long before Eurotas and other great butter cows had demonstrated its value in this country. By such methods of breeding for a direct purpose as Bomba illustrates, American breeders expect to gradually establish a fixed quality, confirmed by generations of special merit, that will transmit useful results, and raise Jersey from her average standing as a merely ornamental cow to one of unsurpassed value in her specialty.

THE PROFIT OF COWS.

The *Darlington (Wis.) Republican* publishes the following statement, made by the proprietor of a creamery of that place: "The total income of twenty-eight patrons was 55,936 from 211 average cows, equal to \$26.80 per month for the average time, five months and twelve days. All farmers know that with proper handling a cow will give a flow of milk eight months in the year, and many contend that a heifer started right will flow eleven months at five years old. Call the season eight months, and we have as the butter product \$38.96. Every calf dropped is worth \$5, the skim milk is worth at least \$3. Here we have the average cow producing nearly \$47 a year. Is it any wonder the dairy farmers in New York, Pennsylvania, and Northern Ohio live in fine houses and have big barns? What our farmers want to do is to get rid of their poor cows, quit sowing flax and wheat, seed down, club together and buy a few Jersey bulls, and in five years Lafayette county will show cows good enough to sell for \$100.

The length of time that a cow goes dry has quite as much to do with her value as a milker as her butter product per week. Going dry for a long period is a matter of habit, and if a young heifer is not milked until pretty nearly her time for calving, her value as a cow will be greatly lessened thereafter. After drying up once for three or four months before calving, it is very difficult to get a cow to give a paying amount of milk later than this date at a subsequent time.