

Milking Machines.

At the present time there is much interest being centered by dairy-men in the results of the trial tests of the various milking machines now in use in some parts of this country, and the United States. Probably the one most deserving of our attention at the present time is the Thistle Milking Machine, which is being given a thorough trial at the Dairy Department of this College. It would seem that the dream of mechanics for many years past—that of being able to milk cows successfully by machine—was about to be realized. As to conclusions in regard to this test, which has been going on for some time, we cannot as yet say with authority that it has been successful in all respects; but from the fact that it is now being used regularly to milk the dairy herd of twenty-two cows, each morning and evening, we can entertain very high hopes for the ultimate success of the new method.

The drawing of the milk from the cows is effected by means of suction, this action being produced by an air pump worked by steam—the pump being connected with the engine in the Dairy building for this purpose. There are soft rubber cups or tubes which fit over the teats, and when the air is exhausted from the pipe these produce a regular convulsive exertion on the teats, not unlike the action of the human hand, and which draws the milk into closed vessels without any exposure to the atmosphere whatever. By having on all the attachments twelve cows can be milked at once, and that in about five minutes; but by using a fewer number of attachments the twenty-two cows have been milked regularly in twenty-five minutes, it requiring the assistance of two attendants to change the cups and tubes from one can to another. Some of the cows through nervousness did not give down their milk readily at first, but later they seemed to accommodate themselves to their new treatment quite readily. We have ascertained that the first cost of the machine, besides that of running it, is about four hundred and fifty dollars.

It is a question as to whether the continued mechanical action of the rubber cups on the teats of the cow will produce any serious injury, and, besides, whether the sensitiveness of the cow whose motherhood some people are so effusively anxious to impress upon all of us will cause her to diminish the usual supply of milk, or deteriorate its quality.

Again, it is a question as to whether the expense and trouble required to manipulate the machine, washing it, etc., together with its first cost, will not more than counterbalance the many advantages. These are developments which it will be interesting to watch.

One thing in favor of any of these machines is that exposure of the milk to the air during milking is completely avoided, and this in itself is of paramount importance to the dairymen. By this means the common and very serious contamination of the milk by various bacteria is avoided, and a much purer product is thereby obtained.

At present the high cost of the machines will prevent any but the wealthy dairymen from testing them, and these will lead the way for the rank and file to follow when the success of the milkers is assured.

L. H. C.

OLD COLLEGE DAYS (and a few nights).

CHAPTER II.

HOME SICKNESS.

Medical men disagree as to what disease produces the most disagreeable sensations in the patient. Those who have had the sad experience declare, with one voice, that seasickness surpasses all other forms, while I, on the other hand, agree, declare and know, that there is a malady that "passeth all understanding," and that is homesickness. In case of seasickness, one ceases to care whether he lives or dies. In the case of homesickness, he not only wishes he were dead, but ceases to care what may become of him after he has "shuffled off."

At College, the disease is periodic. It breaks out regularly every year, but a fellow, fortunately, never takes it but once. Another peculiarity of the malady is that as soon as one recovers from its ravages he is eager to laugh and jeer at a new "subject."

We who have passed out into the "Madding Crowd," can now look back and smile at the incidents that happened to us during our first month at college, but few of us, I dare say, would care to go through it again. It is, in my belief, the most trying period of a young man's life. All have to experience it, and the way one takes it, and the length of the convalescence often materially affect the disposition and even foreshadows habit, that cling to a man through life.

There was no third year in those days, and the second year men owned the College. They would also have bought the town, only they didn't like it. Haughty! why, one of them would no more think of associating with a Freshman than he would with the Faculty. Both were too far beneath him. Why, one boy from my county, who had the advantage of me by one year, took me aside on the day I arrived and told me, in a subdued tone of voice, that he knew my people, and had nothing against them, but that he couldn't do much for me, as he was in the second year, but if I got any newspapers from home, and would bring them around to his room some night when none of his classmates were there, he would look over them for me. I thanked him, and immediately wrote home for papers.

Never shall I forget my first day's experience. I was a week late, and, taking a cab at the depot, I arrived in front of the College just before dinner. As I stepped out, some one from a tower window called out, "Hello, Fatty! Where did you get that hat?" I immediately put my hand to my head and took off my regulation flat "Christie," to see what was the matter with it, when a regular roar came from along the entire front. Looking up, I beheld heads at almost every window, and as I turned to pay my caddy, I was entertained with such remarks as "Say, boys, ain't he fresh?" "Great Scott! Get onto that collar," "Say, Fatty, got your lunch in that paper valise?" "Oh, Jeff! Come here, quick, and peep at the new freebie. Do you guess his ma or his pa cut that hair?" etc., etc.

In those days the President did all the office work, and it was a rare thing when he closed up before midnight. He, with his strong left arm, kept discipline in the College, and in those days when the College was struggling for recognition as an institution of higher learning, and boys were sent there by parents who could do nothing with them at