

with Devons, I am sure it will succeed. It should be added that this breed is noted for giving rich milk, but in rather small quantities.

I need not say much concerning other breeds of cattle. The Dutch, or Holstein, is large, like the Short-horn, and no better—I think not nearly so good. The Galloway is fancied by a Scotchman here and there, with a peculiar eye for sable beauty, but most people will consider the Hereford a preferable animal. Of Swiss, Kerry, and other breeds nothing need be said, as they have no special points of superiority over the breeds that have been enumerated.

Permit me to say that DAIRY PERFORMANCE, irrespective of breed, is the grand thing to be aimed at. A poultry man, writing in one of the papers recently about breeds of fowls, bears down pretty hard on fancy birds that are poor layers, and says he goes in for a "business hen." In like manner I am down on \$20,000 bovines that haven't milk enough to suckle their own calves, and wouldn't fetch \$100 in the meat market. Let us go in for a *business cow*. She can be got without much trouble or expense. But if we are to have her, dairymen must stop their present careless, slipshod ways of breeding.

"That 'blood will tell' all thoughtful men agree,

But whether good or bad the story be
Which thus is told, depends entirely
Upon the blood itself—its quality,

If had the blood, the story bad will be,

If good the blood, a story good we see."

Along with the poor cows consign to the butcher the scrub bulls; or better still, go home and shoot them. Then they will neither gore anybody, nor curse the country with any more poor cows. A good dairy cow has four points, under the belly between the hind legs. She is the animal to choose for dairy stock, breed or no breed. According to the *N. Y. Tribune*, Mr. D. G. Roberts, a New England farmer, says of a Swiss cow, weighing 1,100 pounds, that she seems to be a standing contradiction to all the es-

tablished rules for selecting milkers by form—such as small head and neck, thin shoulder, flat ribs and loose joints. She is quite the reverse of all that, and yet, fed on good rowen hay and six quarts of corn-meal per day, she gives an annual yield of 500 to 600 pounds of butter.

Well, if she was mine I would marry her to a thoroughbred Ayrshire or Short-horn bull of choice pedigree, and with a good milk mirror, in the hope and prayer that she might have a female calf every time, which it would be my part religiously to save and rear. There can be no doubt that the best and surest way to secure first-class cows is to raise them from good milking stock. Too much dependence is placed on filling vacancies by purchase. The large annual demand for dairy cattle renders purchase to some extent unavoidable. But dairymen cannot too soon adopt the plan of breeding for themselves from their best cows, and raising all heifer calves. The only way of doing this properly is to avoid the use even of well-marked grade bulls, and breed carefully from thoroughbreds of undoubted milk strains.

As many cows must for a time be bought, dairymen should be well up in the signs of good milkers. It is possible nay easy, to become so expert as to be very seldom deceived. In this, as in everything else, practice makes perfect. There are, indeed, many superstitious and foolish notions as to the signs of good milkers, but the following will usually be found correct: A cowy look; large digestive organs; lustrous hair; bright eyes; double chine; broad hips; yellow, buttery tinge to the skin, especially inside the ears, and at the apex of the tail; prominent milk veins; and a good milk mirror. Sometimes, as with the weather in time of drought, all signs fail, which is but another form of stating that every rule has its exceptions. A word as to the milk mirror, or escutcheon, first brought to the public notice on the treatise of Guenon. It consists of a large broad, smooth shield below the cow's