

thought and design, which may well be ranked with the higher intelligence of reasonable beings. I think man is made wiser and better by his study of, and kindness to, domestic animals.

FOOD FOR MILK.

The question of the best food for producing milk is one which has elicited great attention. The recent experiments of Keohn, and others, seem to show that no change in the quality of food is capable of materially affecting the quality of the milk, so long as the ration is of such a quality as to be healthy, and is given in sufficient quantity.

What is meant by quality of milk here is its relative constituents, chemically considered, and does not embrace its taste, liability to decomposition, &c. In other words, according to the experiments, if a cow, on hay, yields milk that has four per cent of butter and four per cent of caseine, a ration of grain or meal, in addition to the hay, does not make the milk richer in butter or cheese, or materially change any of the other constituents. The different kinds of food may and do increase the quantity; but the relative proportion of constituents remain about the same. Thus, for instance, if a farmer desires to make his milk rich in butter, he cannot reach the result by a change of food, but must look for it in the breed of cows. These experiments seem to have been made with a great deal of care, and with a great variety of food—from that rich in starch, sugar and oil, to that containing much nitrogen, as bean meal. The later investigations of Bossingault seem also to corroborate this theory. If this be true, the practical farmer has merely to turn his attention to those kinds of food that are best adapted to keep his cows in a good, thrifty, healthy condition, and that will make them yield the greatest quantity of milk of good flavor. Of course, it is understood that these experiments have no reference to the milk of cows which are diseased, or which have been starved by being kept on an insufficient quantity of food, or that which is not supplied with the requisite elements of nutrition. In such cases, as is well known, the milk is thin and poor in quality.