

whitish brown, spotted regularly with dark brown or black spots, and by their having no bristles. The hair is long, thin, somewhat curly, and looks rough; the ears are fringed with long hair round the outer edge, which gives them a ragged or feathery appearance; the body is thick, compact, and well-formed; the legs short, the sides broad, the head well set on, the snout short, the jaw thick, the ears erect, the skin exceedingly thin in texture, the flesh firm and well-flavored. The bacon made from these hogs is very superior. This breed of pigs has been generally considered to be one of the best in England, on account of its smallness of bone early maturity, aptitude to fatten on little food, hardihood, and the female being such good breeders. Although termed the Berkshire breed, these pigs have been reared in various parts of England. Hogs of the pure original breed have been known to attain to an immense size, and weigh as much as 800 to 950 pounds. They are not however, generally of an enormous size, being much smaller than several of the older breeds. Their ordinary weight averages from 250 to 300 pounds, and some will, at two years old, weigh over 400 pounds.

#### CAUSES OF ABORTION IN COWS.

I would like to get some opinion from your many intelligent readers in reference to the cause of abortion in cows. I had one that dropped her calf about two weeks before her time, and I can give no cause whatever. Her feed had been corn-stalks once a day, with about one quart of corn meal mixed with about the same amount of wheat bran once a day, and run to a straw stack.—*Subscriber.*

*Bedford, Mich.*

This subject has frequently been alluded to in our columns, and the opinions and views of prominent dairymen both in this country and Europe given. The investigations have been useful in determining certain facts attending this disease. They have been given heretofore in our columns, and it would be impossible to condense them into the space of a single article of ordinary length for our paper. The main points in these researches and new facts, also, which may be elected, will appear as we can find room for them.

A correspondent of the *Utica Herald* says, in a recent article upon this subject:—"In tracing the history of the abortion of cows in Herkimer county, to its first appearance in dairy stock, it will be upon a close investigation to have been accompanied by the following surroundings, and peculiarly significant circumstances, which can be easily verified by those who may choose to do so, and also see what have been the various effects in the disease upon different cows among the same stock of cattle, as well as the mode of its communications when once its appearances had presented themselves to the owners of dairies.

"The stock first to abort were the following:—Those that had added the effects of a constant breeding in and in, for a series of generations, to which also was added the high feeding and close stabling of dairies, and the breeding from young stock, and that these abortions of cows can readily be pointed out in certain parts of townships connected with the development of the disease in its origin and progress to other sections of the country, and was

transmitted by the communication with aborted cows or bulls that had been kept with cows thus diseased.

"That the disease of abortion affects some cows but slightly; while to others it is more serious in its consequences, so much so that cases of an exceptional nature have indicated very generally such a diseased state of the system that even the water in the joints of the animal was found to be quite yellow when slaughtered, and that in efforts made to fatten such stock, so serious were the effects of the disease upon the constitution of the cows that no amount of feeding could be made to improve their condition, either in the flow of the milk or in the increase of flesh upon the system."

#### THE DIARRHOEA IN YOUNG ANIMALS.

The diarrhoea or dysentery (*Dysenteria neonatorum*) of sucklings is a disease which befalls the young animal's, colts, calves, and also pigs and lambs, at any age, from the very day that they are born until they have been weaned and accustomed to solid food; and generally it is acute and dangerous in a high degree, as long as the sucklings are very young, say less than two weeks old. In some districts this dysentery seems to be quite frequent, proves to be very fatal, and causes a great many losses. It is, however, one of those diseases of which we know the cause, and therefore, as we are almost always able to remove the same, the preventative generally is within our power.

The *Symptoms* are so well known, that a description of them are superfluous.

The *Cause*.—The immediate cause is too much acid in the stomach and intestines, which, instead of supporting the digestion, prevents it, decomposes the food milk, etc., and irritates the mucous coat of the digestive canal frequently to such a degree as to cause inflammation. Now, the question is—How does that acid come there? Let us see. Very many, but principally our dairymen, know that milk shut up for an unusual long time in the bag of a cow (and also of any other milking animal), when at the same time the animal heat and respectively the physiological exchange of organic material, is increased (either by uncommon muscular exercise, by high feeding, or by fever of excitement), it becomes changed, sour, and even conglobated in a similar way, and perhaps more and sooner, than it does when kept in a vessel exposed to a temperature of between 120 and 150 degrees Fahrenheit, after it has been milked out. Still change or acidification is yet a somewhat different one, where the milk under such circumstances is confined in the bag of the animal, and is secreted and kept under the influence of the increased physiological, or, in some instances even, pathological, exchange of material—organic waste and repair—which not only favours fermentation or makes the milk more apt to ferment, but also increases the amount of some of its constituent parts; that is, of casein and milk-sugar.

In an animal which is fed with heavy food, especially large quantities of grain, and such food in general as contains a great deal of nitrogenous substances, or in an animal which has severe muscular exercise, or is feverish or excited, the milk always is richer in casein and milk-sugar. Therefore as milk-sugar is changed by fermentation into