

Moreover, did you notice whether the milker's clothes were perfectly clean or not?

Recall to mind what you have learned about dirt and bacteria, and you will soon realize that if any dirt enters the milk from any source—from the milker's hands or clothes, from the milk-pail or the stable, from the cow's udder or teats, then this dirt, containing as it does many kinds of bacteria, will sow bacteria in the milk. These bacteria in warm weather grow rapidly and soon turn the milk sour, and sour milk is bad for everyone who drinks it. It is especially bad for babies, and causes illness and death among thousands of them every July and August.

Milk is a splendid soil in which to grow bacteria. The warmer the weather the faster they grow, and the more quickly the milk turns sour. In mid-winter it sours very slowly. If it freezes, it will not sour at all, because, the bacteria do not grow in the cold.

From what has just been said, it follows that, if we desire to keep milk sweet, we must do two things: we must keep it free from dirt of every kind, and we must keep it cool.