

CHAPTER V.

THE SECRETION OF MILK—MILKING COWS.

THE cow secretes milk in the mammal glands known as the udder, but incorrectly spoken of as "the bag." This udder consists of two glands running lengthwise of the body, which are separated by a fibrous partition dividing the udder into right and left. Each gland has two, sometimes three, outlets called teats. The udder is not divided into quarters, though each section is more or less independent of the section on the same side. This fact explains why a cow, having lost one teat, will give nearly as much milk from three as from four teats. The loss of two teats on the same side reduces her value nearly one half, and such a cow is not profitable. Sometimes a cow will have only two teats and about half the ordinary sized udder, showing a reversion to what was probably the original type of a cow's udder, viz., similar to that of the sheep.

The outer covering of the udder is the skin of the animal, and it is joined to the muscles of the abdomen by strong ligaments. This fact explains the "holding up" of milk, which is a bad habit contracted by some cows. Giving the cow something to eat while milking will often overcome this trouble.