

ry and cumbrous weight during the latter stages of pregnancy; and besides, her offspring, would become contaminated with sickness and disease, which, sooner or later would be communicated to their progeny.

The system of "crossing" is founded on a principle just as secure, as regards care in selection, as that adopted by Bakewell in breeding in-and-in. For, it is well known that certain diseases are hereditary, and so is color, none of which can be changed nor got rid of except by crossing. This tendency of "like begetting like," is forcibly illustrated in the results of crossing various breeds of cattle, such as Devons with Herefords, both the color and form of the parent animals being thereby modified or changed.

As a general rule, animals produced by crossing are the most profitable either for meat or milk. Most of our good breeds have been perfected by this system, and selection has long maintained them. A cross is comparatively the operation of a moment; and its end once attained, the breeder's object is *not to repeat*, but to *maintain* it.

B.

### Milking Cows.

This is a subject of too much importance to be passed over; and I fear that I must add that it is a subject far too much neglected. The milking of cows resolves itself naturally into two heads, viz., how to milk, and when to milk.

*How to Milk.*—It is astonishing what difference there is in good and bad milking. 1. If every drop of milk in the cow's udder be not carefully removed at each milking, the secretion will gradually diminish in proportion to the quantity each day left behind. This fact is well established, and is to be well accounted for on philosophic

principles, as well as borne out in practice. Nature creates nothing in vain, and the secretion of milk in the cow only suffices to supply that daily loss—the milk left behind in the udder is re-absorbed into the system, and consequently the next milking will be so much the less in quantity. But another reason why every drop of milk should be taken away, is to be found in the well-known fact that the last milk is doubly as good as the first milk, hence, if not removed, there is not merely equal, but double loss. 2. Milking should be conducted with skill and tenderness—all chucking or plucking at the teats should be avoided. A gentle and expert milker will not only clear the udder with greater ease than a rough and inexperienced person but will do so with far more comfort to the cow, which will stand pleased and quiet, placidly chewing the cud, and testifying by her manner and attitude that she experiences pleasure rather than annoyance from the operation. Cows will not yield their milk to a person they dislike or dread. I have taken some trouble to acquire the art of milking, in order that I might be able to describe it. You take the teat in your palm, enclosing it gradually in your fingers, tighter below than above; but not absolutely tight anywhere—a portion of the upper part of the hand—the thumb is uppermost—embraces a portion of the udder, and the whole hand is drawn gently downwards, towards the extremity of the teat, between the thumb and the forefinger; very little practice enables the milker to do this with ease, rapidity, and tenderness. I need not say let the hands be carefully washed before each milking; but I dare say it is seldom thought necessary to wash the cow's teats. This, nevertheless, should be done, and it will then be found that the milk will flow more freely with any teats than if you wet them with the milk; at least, I find it so, and think myself an expert milker.