

The Farm.

Sunlight in the Stable.

Many Ontario dairymen have heard John Gould, of Ohio, at the dairymen's conventions discuss the care and treatment of the dairy cow, and know how competent he is to deal with the question. The following article from his pen, published in a recent number of The Country Gentleman, on the above subject, will therefore be read with profit by every farmer and dairyman.

"As it is a custom of mine to pay some attention to the window lighting of the many stables that I see in the course of the year, wherein dairy cows pass most of the winter months, I am struck times without number with the little regard which is paid to the proper lighting of a stable, and the little attention these men seem to pay to the value of sunlight in their stables. The usual rule is to put in a few small windows along the northern wall—few of any kind of size. In a large new barn which I recently visited, the semi-basement stable, in which more than forty cows were tied, had no light admitted from north, east or west sides save when the doors were open, and only four small windows on the south side. There seems to be a prejudice against admitting light full and free into a stable, a belief that comfort in a stable consists of making it dark and without ventilation; and then the owners wonder about a great many things that happen while their cows are in the winter stables.

"A stable should be as light as the sun can make it, and the windows so large that the sunlight can fall on the cows and floors, and, if one is afraid that there will be too much falling of temperature during the cold nights by refraction, put outside storm windows on, the air space enclosed by which is a sufficient protection. One of the finest dairy herds I ever saw was actually basking in sunlight. There were large windows with outside storm sashes; the temperature was kept very even, and ventilation was secured by flues and dampers—not by either cracks in the walls or open windows.

"The testimony everywhere is that the men who have these well-lighted stables are warm in their praise. In my barn I would no more think of going back to the dark little windows than of re-adopting the 1850 plan of letting my cows sleep in the wood lot in the winter. The verdict everywhere is that the cows are better cared for, do better, and are in better health and strength for the abundant light. A cow with the sunlight falling on her in the stable is having all the advantages of a sun bath, and thus escapes zero weather. In the well-lighted, sunny stable there is dryness to the air and freedom from staleness or disagreeable smells, which repay one over and over for the little outlay.

"I emphatically believe that the cow stable should never be a sub-basement affair or be walled in on the north side with a windowless stone wall. Stables should run north and south, and be so arranged that the morning sun comes in on that side, the noon shines in the south end window, and in the afternoon the west windows should get their share. My dairy barn is built this way, and I regard it as a capital plan, though the windows are not extremely large. With sunlight and absorbents I have not the least difficulty in keeping a warm, dry stable, and I know there are very few bad bacteria lurking about. It is not warmth and light that kills cows in their stable life. These are the conditions of June life, ideal days for the cow.

"Make the stable warm, comfortable and provided with plenty of air—without drafts—and a clean floor, absorbents to prevent slops, and road-dust and land plaster as disinfectants and deodorizers, and with sunlight falling into the stable and upon the cows, why should not health prevail and summer conditions of production? The dairy gospel of this and that is preached; but an emphatic recognition of the value of sunlight in the

stable has never been insisted upon as it should be. Good dairying requires sunlight. It requires a large measure of it poured into a man's brain, so that he can see the kind of cows he has, their feed, and care, and compare these with what good dairying should be, and may be, if lighted up with dairy intelligence and studious care."—Farming.

Propagating Roses.

Almost every one who cares for flowers at all loves roses. But perhaps every one does not know how easily they may be propagated. Let us plan for a bed of ever-blooming roses next summer. Begin by digging the soil to a depth of fifteen or eighteen inches in a sunny, well-drained spot. Work in a quantity of well-rotted manure—that from the cow stable preferable. Cut or break a branch five or six inches long from the rose, choosing wood grown in the early part of the season, which is now ripened. Plant three or four inches deep, pressing the soil firmly about the cutting. Invert a glass fruit jar over each one, burying the top of the jar deeply enough to keep it steady. The cracked jars which every housekeeper has left over from the canning time will answer for this purpose.

This planting may be done any time in November or even in December, if the earth is not frozen. When the first warm days come in spring lift the jars off and begin to harden the plants, being careful to replace them at night if there is danger of frost. Very probably there will be, even in April, times when it will be best to keep them covered both day and night. The uncovering may be deferred until settled warm weather. In this case it will be necessary to shade the plants from the midday sun for a time.

Plants thus started are on their own roots, and do not need to be disturbed by transplanting. It is surprising how much bloom they will give, even the first summer. By exchanging cuttings with friends one may soon have a good collection of roses without expense. Endeavor to obtain varieties which, while hardy, will flower at intervals through the summer and fall. There are many such. I hope in the future to give a list of some of the best of this class.

I have suggested placing the cuttings in a bed rather than scattering them on the lawn, because with this arrangement they can more easily be given the cultivation which is essential to the best success.—S. C.

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