

## THE GENERAL-PURPOSE COW.

This forms the basis for discussion among different breeders of dairy cows. Is there any such thing as a general-purpose cow? and, if so, is she, or is she not, what the majority of farmers want? Just at this moment, when milking breeds are being introduced, this is a very important question. Suppose, to get at our ideas in figures, we take two native cows. Flora gives 5,000 pounds of milk per year for five years. She is valued at, say \$50. Jennie gives 3,500 pounds of milk per year for five years. She is valued at \$50. Flora is poor in flesh, and, as we say, "milks herself poor." Jennie is in good condition and can be readily fattened when desired. The calves from Flora are poor, while those from Jennie are in good flesh. Flora's milk at, say, \$1 per 100 lbs. for five years is worth \$250. Assume she sold for \$10, the value therefrom is \$260. Jennie's milk at the same price is worth \$175; assume she sold for \$50 as beef, this makes \$225. Now if the steer calves are worth, say \$8 from one cow they are worth, say \$6 from the other. Aside from this there is a risk of losing the use of either cow for milk at any time through unavoidable circumstances. But one can be fattened, the other cannot. Hence more risk is taken on the poor than on the medium cow. And you will invariably find that the average buyer selects for his general purposes; and I think he is wise in so doing. Now the example given was not intended to be complete in all the details, but to merely illustrate what seems to me to be the best cow of the two mentioned. When a man buys natives he is compelled to make just about such decisions. We think that under the present management of farms the majority of farmers want cows that approach as near as possible to the general-purpose cow. We sincerely believe they will be of more profit, all things considered. There are cows that continue remarkably well the qualities of milk, butter, cheese and beef, and though not excelling in either are more profitable in all. Professor Morrow, of Champaign, Ill., says that what the average farmer wants is a general-purpose cow. To advocate strenuously this theory is repulsive to some breeders, but the theory is a good one and liberally endorsed by many representative dairymen in Iowa. It is true the farmer must specialize in his risk to be successful, but there is a limit to that specialization beyond which it is not profitable to go.—*J. N. Muncey, in Breeder's Gazette, Chicago.*

## A BLACK DIAMOND.

Sybill's Darling 2nd (4611), bred by James Argo, of Cairdseat, Aberdeenshire, Scotland—

the property of the Ontario Experimental Farm. Calved March 27th, 1880.

Sire, Etonian (1658.) Dam, Sybill's Darling, 4050, by Ballot (634). Dam, Fred's 5th Darling, 2363, by Scotland (725). Dam, Fred's 2nd Darling, 1046, by Reform (408). Dam Sybil, 974, by Black Prince of Bogfern (501). Dam, Ann of Bogfern, 539, by Banks o' Dee (12). Dam, Young Matilda, 177.

This young Aberdeen Angus poll cow, as selected for us by Mr. Hunter, of Alma, has already made her mark in breeding records,—her first calf, a bull, "Marquis of Huntly," by "Meldrum" (1759), brought \$550 when ten months old, at our public sale in September last. She is an unusually even animal, with all the build of a model beef—on the small side though—and so we were tempted with an offer of \$2,000 for her, last year. Cost, delivered at Guelph from Scotland, was \$373. But with all my respect for beefers, I think no cow is a cow unless she can raise her own calf.—*Prof. Brown, in Report of Ontario Experimental Farm.*



SYBILL'S DARLING 2ND (4611).

## TRAINING VICIOUS HORSES.

A very simple method and an improvement upon the Rarey system of training vicious horses was exhibited at West Philadelphia recently, and the manner in which some of the wildest horses were subdued was astonishing. The first trial was made on a kicking or "balking" mare, which her owner said had allowed no rider on her back for at least five years. She became tame in about as many minutes, and allowed herself to be ridden about without a sign of her former wildness. The means by which the result was accomplished was a piece of light rope, which was passed around the front jaw of the mare just above the front teeth, crossed in her mouth, thence secured back of her neck. It was claimed that no horse will kick or jump when thus secured, and that a horse after receiving the treatment a few times, will abandon his vicious ways forever. A very simple method was also shown by which a kicking horse could be shod. It consisted in connecting the animal's head and tail by means of a rope fastened to the tail and then to the bit, and then drawn tightly enough to incline the animal's head to one side. This, it is claimed, makes it absolutely impossible for a horse to

kick on the side of the rope. At the same exhibition a horse, which for many years had to be bound on the ground to be shod, suffered the blacksmith to operate on him without attempting to kick while secured in the manner described.

## BEDDING FOR ANIMALS.

The farmer who takes pains to "make up the bed" for his cow or horse, gains ten times more than the cost of the labour of so doing, says the *Prairie Farmer*. If all the material is passed through the cutter previous to being used for bedding, it not only adds to the comfort of the animal, but assists in the matter of cleanliness by reason of its great power of absorption. For this reason sawdust is becoming a favourite, as its fineness not only admits of its being handled easily, well spread in the stall, and promptly removed, but after having absorbed the liquid flows of the stall, still readily mixes with the matter in the manure heap. The merit of sawdust is

due to its fineness and to its absorptive quality. If any bedding is plentiful, fine and absorptive, it prevents loss of manure by intimately mixing with it, and as the droppings are more readily incorporated with a great mass of absorbent material the risk of evaporation and escape of gases is lessened. Now, if the labour of cutting is to be taken into account, it is more than balanced by facility in spreading the fine manure when it is hauled to the field

The cutting can be done in winter or during the wet days, and it is a luxury to spread nice, finely-divided manure. Good, fine, clean bedding adds to the thrift and health of the animals, is cooler in summer and warmer in winter, and those who use it prevent much loss.

WHEN a horse falls lame at uncertain and irregular intervals, and suddenly recovers and as suddenly gets lame again, it indicates that the cause is rheumatism, which is a form of inflammation arising from a disordered and usually acid state of the blood, and attacks the fibrous structures, the muscles and tendons of the body. It is frequently constitutional and hereditary, and shifts from place to place without warning and very suddenly, and it may as rapidly disappear by warmth, the heat of the sun or a change of the weather, rainy, warm weather being favourable. Indigestion will cause it to appear, or a cold, or even exposure to a slight change of temperature. The most effective remedy is alkaline salts, as acetate of potassa or hyposulphate of soda, given in one-ounce doses and continued for a week or two. Local applications of hot fomentations to the limb affected, or of stimulating liniment, will be useful. No corn should be given, and soft mash of bran or oats and linseed should form the bulk of the food.