

sometimes go to his neighbor's creamery, where he knew they were making fancy butter, and secure some ferment which he applied to his cream. In that way he sometimes succeeded in improving his butter to extra.

To find the very best milk for a starter we also pasteurized each cow's milk by itself in a good herd. The cow which left the least of the settled matter we find on the bottom of a can of pasteurized milk we called the best one. Whenever we can improve our grade of butter by using a pure culture, so that it will pay for its expense, then is the time to use it.

While we know that we cannot obtain everything from a starter, I think the time has come when we ought to adopt one kind for general use. As we have it now, I do not wonder that uniformity is something unknown in this country. One is using buttermilk, the second takes from a can of sour cream; the third just leaves some sour cream in the bottom of the cream vat; the fourth makes ferment from sweet cream; the fifth does not make any at all; the sixth heats skim-milk in the morning and uses it the same day; the seventh uses full milk; the eighth Hanson's lactic ferment; the ninth B 41 fresh, and the tenth B 41 stale. I don't doubt but that I have forgotten some.

As to butter for export, it might pay to adopt some good, pure culture, besides pasteurizing the cream, owing to better keeping quality; but that we will have to experiment with if we want to compete with our brothers on the other side of the water.

In Denmark they say that three things are necessary to being a good butter-maker. The first is cleanliness the second cleanliness, and the third cleanliness. Be sure that you are in possession of these three qualities when making a starter.

Travelling Libraries for Farmers

Something for Our Farmers' Institutes to Take Up

This is a reading age, and everywhere people are clamoring for something fresh to read. The outcome of this increased desire for brain food has been the establishment of free libraries in our cities and larger towns, for the purpose of supplying the residents of these places with reading matter. This plan is all right in so far as the cities and towns are concerned, but up to the present time no very feasible plan has been devised for supplying the farmer and his family with reading material. And who needs it more than he, separated as he is from his neighbors and friends? But as yet nothing of a practical nature has been done, in this country at least, to supply the agriculturist and his family with good, up to date reading matter such as a resident of a city or town has at his very door.

In some of the United States there has been a movement of late in the way of remedying this matter that promises to develop into something tangible and practical. As yet the movement is in a somewhat experimental stage, but sufficient has been learned to show that the plan is feasible and of such a nature as would fill a long felt want in rural districts. This movement is along the line of having free travelling libraries, and the plan as carried on in the States of New York, Michigan and Iowa, and to some extent in Minnesota, though not by State Government, is to have a number of small libraries prepared under state control and at the expense of the state, which may be loaned to the various country districts making application for them. When one of these libraries has been read through by the people in one locality it is then passed on to some other section and another library supplied in its place. In this way the people in any locality may have at their disposal during the course of a year practically a library of many thousands of volumes.

As an example of what can be done in this line, the women of Minneapolis last winter gave about one thousand

volumes to be used for the benefit of the people living in a county near that city. These were divided into groups of fifty volumes each and each group packed into a neat travelling case. Any community was free to make application, and soon a number of these small libraries were out among the people, and everyone in that county had practically access to the whole one thousand volumes.

But, to come nearer home, the question is whether such a plan is workable in this country. We think it is. If free travelling libraries can be successfully operated in the states we have mentioned there is nothing to prevent their being carried on here, especially in this province. This would be a good line of work for our farmers' institutes to take up, especially those having large surplus funds secured from excursions. With a few hundred dollars, and supplemented, if need be, by Government assistance, a respectable library might be got together that would prove of great benefit to the members if arranged as we have described. Members could be selected in the different localities to take charge of the smaller libraries and return them when finished to the secretary and secure another one in its place. There seems to us to be something of value in this plan, and we would like to see it worked out by some enterprising institute.

An Egg-Laying Competition

The following table gives the results of an egg-laying competition, which was begun on October 26th, 1898, and concluded on February 14th, 1899, a run of sixteen weeks:

Pen.	Month	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	Pts.
1 Faverolles		0	17	44	17	78	136
2 Black Langshans		8	6	40	20	74	148
3 Brown Leghorns		18	35	44	30	127	254
4 Buff Leghorns		4	59	42	49	154	303
5 Buff Leghorns		6	29	37	20	92	184
6 Minorcas		11	31	27	13	82	162
7 Black s.c. Orpingtons		6	46	36	10	98	196
8 Buff s.c. Orpingtons		0	11	60	50	121	242
9 Buff r.c. Orpingtons		29	43	24	20	116	232
10 Barred Rocks		8	60	48	33	149	298
11 Buff Rocks		20	33	35	21	109	218
12 Gold Wyandottes		26	20	22	65	133	256
Total		136	390	459	348	1333	

Each pen contained four 1898 pullets. A fortnight was allowed prior to October 26th for the birds to get accustomed to their new surroundings.

In regard to this competition, which was conducted by the Utility Poultry Club, at Penrith, England, the *Farmer and Stockbreeder* has this to say:

"The result is interesting. I believe I called it that before. And there are some morals to be learned from a study of the tabular statement, and the notes of the secretary, but I confess I don't see that the competition proves anything in particular, the object being practically to find which breed or strain could produce the best winter layers. The results one will note are diverse, and in some cases unexpected; take for instance the case of the Minorcas pen of six; they laid little more than half as well as the winning Buff Leghorns, and yet it would be absurd to say Minorcas are only half as good as Leghorns. Some of the birds commenced moulting as soon as they arrived, which naturally put them back, while what handicapped others was the indifferent laying of one or more birds in the pen, which only contained four. The secretary gives a word of advice on this head, advising breeders to choose their layers carefully to avoid heavy-looking, thick-headed, lazy birds. This brings us to an interesting point—viz., the art of telling a good layer from an indifferent at a glance. Speaking generally, a good layer is an alert, active bird, but experience alone, plus a certain aptitude, will give the poultry owner the gift of detecting which are wasters and which valuable. To say a lazy looking bird is a bad layer is speaking broadly; nearly all sitting breeds look lazy, sleepy, beside a healthy, active Leghorn or Minorca; often again a