

REGISTER THE MILKERS.**A Proposal to Establish a Milking Herd-Book.**

The British Dairy Farmer's Association, are considering the advisability of establishing a Dairy Herd-Book, in which all cows giving over a certain quantity of milk per year, can be registered, and at a late meeting they passed the following resolution:—

That this meeting heartily approves the establishment of a dairy herd-book, and recommends the Council of the British Dairy Farmers' Association to invite the co-operation of those members who are interested in the various breeds of dairy cattle in forming a representative committee, which shall consider and report on the best means of carrying out the object reliably and satisfactorily on self-supporting principles.

To make a cow eligible for such registration, the owner would be compelled to keep a milk register, a certified copy from which, of a cow's record for at least one year, must be furnished by the owner of the cow. If such a Herd-book could be made self-sustaining, and thorough inspection and tests made of all cows for registration this would not be the least valuable Herd-book. In this country it would be better patronized than any pure bred herd-book, for nearly every farmer is interested in it, whether his cows are pure-bred, grades or scrubs. If it would induce our farmers, to keep a milk register it would prove an invaluable missionary. The cows must give more than sufficient to pay for their keeping, and the surplus yield, is the farmer's profit; and only by keeping a milk and feed register, can this be surely ascertained. If such registers, were commonly kept, dairy farming would pay better, because farmers would not keep cows in their herds, that did not yield them a profit. To accommodate such a herd-book to all milking cattle, it would be necessary to have the milk tested, for butter fats and solids. Our agricultural societies and dairy associations should move in this matter.

Warmed Water vs Feed Drinks.

There seems to be considerable difference of opinion among dairymen and doctors on the wisdom of warming the water for stock in winter. If you keep your cattle in a warm stable, it would seem a good idea to take the chill off the water they are given in very cold and blasty weather, when they do not get much exercise. It would certainly be better if cows were never given water colder than 50 or 46 degrees. Cows drink a good deal of water at a time, and that it should be ice cold sometimes cannot be for their benefit. The dairyman, who

does not raise his stock but simply buys milch cows to sell them, when they have dropped off in their milking to a point that does not pay, will surely use warmed water for his cows in winter, as thereby he increases the flow of milk. While agricultural scientists are discussing and experimenting with warmed and chilled water for cows, breeders had better await the results of their tests. Few of them have as yet pronounced positively in favor of warming the water for stock, but the majority of those heard from, speak favorably of it. It is urged by some that it is unnatural that arguing cattle in their wild state did not have the water warmed for them. But there is nothing in such a contention. Our domestic animals are cultivated stock, and should no more be treated as wild animals than cultivated strawberries should be treated, or rather neglected, like their little wild brethren. It is right to study the nature and habits of our domestic animals, but they are kept for profit by most people, and as such, should be housed, fed and watered on business principles to yield the most profit. If the people of the Island of Jersey had treated their cows like wild animals instead of cultivating them as they did the "wonderful little butter machine"—the Jersey cow—would not have been developed. Again, the longer a growing calf is fed on warmed drinks after weaning, the faster and larger it will grow, and they usually develop into better animals by being so fed until they have passed over their first winter. Then, in what sense is it natural that they should be fed iced drinks the following winter? Where did the fallacy spring from that suggests that the cow in her "natural" or "wild" state berded among fields of snow and ice for five months in the year? Wide-awake dairymen will soon adopt the plan of giving their cows water with the chill taken off in winter, and it will become the rule where it is now the exception; and unless it is shown to be a positive injury to breeding stock, breeders will do the same.

The Cutter and Grinder.

The economy of cutting fodder for horses is well illustrated by the experience of the London Omnibus Co. They fed one lot of horses 16 pounds of ground oats, 7½ pounds of cut hay and a ½ pound of cut straw, and they kept in as good condition and did as much work as another lot fed 19 pounds whole oats and 13 pounds of uncut hay; thus by grinding the grain and cutting the fodder they saved 6 pounds of grain and 5 pounds of hay.

Dishorning.

There is not much of importance to be urged against removing the horns from dairy cattle. It is not a painful operation, when compared with ringing the bull, castration, caponizing and lots of surgical operations, for the purpose of correcting deformities or making domestic animals more useful, to man. It is ridiculous to call it cruelty. If you have a boss cow in the herd, that drives the rest from the water or feed, she is a positive injury to you. She proves a good milker, by comparison, because she drives the others from their water or fodder; or she may be a good milker under any circumstances, so that you do not want to part with her, yet she may injure other cattle, even to the extent of killing them. Take her horns off, and so make her harmless. Calculations have been made to prove that it takes a lot of extra feed to grow and maintain horns on cattle, in which case, we had better cut them off, because, cattle must be kept on business principles to make every cent toll. Don't be afraid to do it if you want to. If you would like to grow a herd of polled cattle, get some caustic potash,—ten cents worth will last you a year—and rub the embryo horn a minute or two, before the calf is a month old, or as soon as you can feel the little horn. If you would rather have polled cattle, dishorn what you have, or, sell them, and buy cows without horns. If you have a breed suitable for all requirements of your business, except their horns, then dishorn.

Destroying Alder Bushes.

In response to an enquiry in last Farmer concerning the extermination of alder bushes, Mr. Charles Maitart, of Lower Bedeque, informs us he has had some experience with this nuisance to the farmer. Some three years ago he desired to get rid of a lot of these bushes and the plan he adopted was to wait until the ground was frozen hard in the early winter when he broke or cut the alders close to the ground. By this means he completely rid his farm of these, and the fact that three years have passed by since that time without the roots showing any signs of growth is sufficient proof that they are dead. The reason of his success, he believes to be the fact that at the time the bushes were cut the sap was then in the roots. The same principle, he says, holds good in regard to the time of pruning fruit trees. If this needful operation is performed during the winter season much harm will be done to the trees, if indeed they are not killed. —Summerside Farmer.