## Hints to Dairymen—No. 2.

WRITTEN FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE BY J. SEABURY.

Calving time is a critical one for the dairyman as well as the cow, and in which he will have his judgment and experience fully tested. Hence, the months of March and April will be a time of care and anxiety, and in which he will have to be on the alert and watch his herd with a keen, discerning eye, and see that they are all in a good, healthy condition. To every one who has one or more cows we would say, Watch them closely during this period. Keep them as comfortable as possible, and do not, upon any consideration, allow any of them to go back or stand still at this season of the year. By all means keep them thriving and in good heart. Every dairyman should know that it is easier to keep flesh on his cows than to put it on after they have lost it. Negligence and inattention, and the want of plenty of good feed at this time of the year, will be the means of his losing heavily the coming summer; for a cow will not and cannot milk well which is in a weak and thin condition; besides, her milk is nothing like as rich as one that is in good condition and healthy. The months of May, June and July will find her, instead of giving a good, heavy flow of milk, recruiting her system and putting on flesh which she should have previously during the winter months been putting on, and by the end of that time she will be more inclined to continue putting on flesh, and when cold weather comes in the fall, she will, in all probability, go dry. Hence the importance of keeping a close and watchful eye on your herd and see that they are all in a thrifty condition. If any are not doing as well as you would like to see them doing, find out what is the matter with them; watch them closely; see whether they are eating their share of feed. If their appetites are not good, or they are nice about what they eat, tempt their appetites with some roots, warm bran mashes, or some boiled oats or barley. Another splendid thing is boiled flax seed. Every dairyman should have a bushel or two for that purpose. A good handful boiled with two or three quarts of oats or barley for each cow, and mixed with as much or more cut hay or straw, make an excellent mess for a cow. If you have none, do not fail to get a peck and sow the coming spring in one corner of your cornfield, or some other field, and you will be pleased with the result. In fact, it is good for man and beast.—There is nothing better for horses for keeping their coat and skin in a healthy condition. If you have any roots, now is the time for the cows to get them; but by all means aim to have them last until they are turned out on the grass. Cows that have had a liberal supply of roots for a length of time and are discontinued, will go back in their milk very materially, and that is a point which every dairyman should avoid by every means in his power, for when the flow of milk is checked, it takes time to bring it back again, and every quart lost in that way is like the hours and minutes of our lives—they can never be recalled or regained. If you have not many, feed a few—ever so little every day will do them good—but be sure they are fed regularly. No dairyman should be without more or less roots of some kind—they are food for his cows, food for milk and food for the manure heap. Some farmers say that you cannot have good manure without them. One thing we do know, and that is, the farmer who has plenty of roots always has plenty of manure, and invariably a good farmer. While on this point we would say—Feed your cows as you would feed yourself—regularly, and with a variety of good, nutritious food. Take, for example, our best breeders of thoroughbred stock—look at the attention and care they give their stock. Suppose dairy cows were cared for and fed in the same way, what would be the result? It would astonish the dairyman.

There is a great diversity of opinion as to which are the best kind of roots for cows. Some writers argue that carrots and mangles are best, and that turnips are not fit to feed to cows. Others say that they never have had any bad results from feeding turnips to cows giving milk. I am of opinion they are all good for cows if properly fed and in the *proper time*. My firm opinion is, that the proper time to feed roots, particularly turnips, is immediately after milking, and upon no conditions to vary that time—better let them go without than deviate. If turnips are fed in this way, I venture to say that there will in no instance be any turnip flavor in the milk. Instances have come under my notice in which the feeder (who did not believe in this practice) fed the cows when being milked, the result of which was that the flavor was plainly perceptible in the milk and butter. Let those who have turnips try this plan, and they will be satisfied with the result. But they must not feed too heavy, and, when commencing, give a small quantity and gradually increase. Another excellent thing for feeding cows is bran and oil-cake, scalded, and fed warm. Bran is very rich in the elements of milk, more so than corn or pea meal; especially is this the case when cooked, bran being hard to digest in its raw state. Many farmers and dairymen lose sight of the value of bran by feeding it in comparison with meal in bulk, forgetting that a given measure of meal will weigh not far from three times as much as bran. Two quarts of meal would be thought a moderate feed for a cow, but six quarts of bran would be thought a large one.

It is a great mistake in feeding cows to give them all the hay that can be crowded into them. If the hay has been cut early, when in the blossom, or before, it will do very well, as well cured hay at that stage digests very easily. But when cut later on it is dry, and, being full of woody matter, renders digestion slow, and they will not give as much milk as they would on a more digestible diet. If cows are to give a good flow of milk during the winter season, they must be aided in digesting their food by giving them such feed as will be easily digested and converted into milk. The more a cow can digest beyond what is needed to sustain animal life, the more milk she will give, provided she has the proper milking qualities. That is one reason why many promising cows fail to make good milkers, because their digestive organs are not powerful enough to produce much more than is sufficient for the sustenance of animal life.

Every dairyman should have some means of heating or cooking feed for his cows, particularly in the spring; he will find it a great saving of feed as well as a great stimulent in the production of milk.

Another important thing is water for the cows. Do not allow them to go a half mile or mile, as is often the case, to some creek or ditch, and there drink a quantity of water which is the next thing to freezing, if it is not mixed with snow and ice. Cows that are not subjected to such treatment will not go to water till they are absolutely compelled by extreme thirst to do so, and then, when they do go, they will drink too much and, by so doing, they chill their whole system, and will, perhaps, stand and shiver for hours. A dairyman who gives his cows such treatment is wasting a quantity of his best feed, for they will have to eat that much more to warm up that ice water to the proper temperature. Every dairyman must know that animal heat is kept up by the food which the animal eats. Warm stables and plenty of good water from a well or cistern in the yard, are great savings of feed. There is no better investment that a dairyman can make than by putting down a good, large well or cistern, or both combined, beside his barn, so that the cows, and, in fact, all his stock, can be watered without going out of their yards. A very striking illustration came under my notice a few years ago. There was a small, low ravine that ran near the barn and stock yard, and which drained several of the adjoining fields. Into this ravine the owner put a tile drain with a number of feeders and lap drains, letting it come to the surface opposite his barn, so as to furnish water for his stock. From this drain there ran a nice stream all the winter, and never froze. To this the cattle went regularly twice a day, and sometimes oftener, whereas previous to this, when they had to drink from a hole chopped in the ice, they never went more than once, and, on cold and stormy days, not even that.

The colder the weather the more plentiful and nutritious should the feed be in order to keep up a vigorous and healthy circulation through the system. Experiments have been tried in which the giving of milk-warm water to cows has largely increased the flow of milk.

In-coming cows should be treated with great care. They should have cooling and laxative food. Scalded bran and middlings will be cooling and healthful. When the calf is expected, the cow should be turned into a loose stall or into a quiet stable, alone.

## Cheese Factories.

As the season for building cheese factories and making improvements in the old one is at hand, we give a few suggestions which may be of use to those who are not very well versed in th business.

In building, select a clean, dry, airy site, high enough so that all the water, washings, &c., can be carried some distance from the buildings so as to prevent all bad odors and foul smell, which are very injurious to the milk and cheese, as well as to the health of all living in the vicinity. We think that if some of the old factories throughout the country were moved from their present sites and placed on clean, fresh ones, and every precaution taken to keep the water, whey, &c., from soaking into the ground and laying about the factory, it would be one step towards their making a very much better article of cheese. The owner of every old factory should not fail to give his factory a thorough overhauling every spring before commencing operations, and see that every article in and about the building is well cleansed and sweetened; also, all the vats, hoops, presses, &c., should receive a coat of fresh paint. It will add greatly to the appearance as well as making them much easier to be kept clean.

Also, be sure and have a good supply of pure cold water, either from a spring or well; this is very requisite, as no factory can be successfully carried on without an abundance of water.

Put up your building in a good substantial manner, and finish off with some little taste, and put on a little paint; also, plant a nice lot of trees of some kind around the building and see that they grow. We believe that the temperature of curing rooms would be very much reduced in hot weather by their having a fine row of maple or some other clean trees around the factory. It would cause a circulation of air and keep the rays of the sun from striking the building. Another important thing is to have the hog yard (if one is kept) a long distance from the factory; it should be 40 or 50 rods away, or even farther. There is nothing more disgusting than to see the hog yard within a