

CHAPTER III.

DAIRY COWS AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DAIRY HERD.

SELECTION.

THERE are good milkers among nearly all breeds, but they are rare in some and more common in others. The wise dairyman will select his cows from among those breeds which are characterized by dairy qualities, rather than from those noted for beef-making. Whether a cow will change her food largely into milk or into beef will depend upon inherited characteristics and upon training. Both of these are potent factors in deciding whether a cow will be profitable or not. When selecting cows for breeding, as well as for milking purposes, it is important to have animals which belong to milking families or strains, as well as belonging to one of the dairy breeds. Cows of any breed may be developed into dairy animals by a process of selection and training; but this is too long a task for the average dairyman. A cow's milk-yield depends not so much upon breed as upon her own characteristics and her food and management.

As regards size, choose a small cow where the supply of food is somewhat limited, and larger ones where there is an abundance of feed.