

The Dairy Stable in Spring.

At this season of shedding hair and close stable atmosphere, only scrupulous care will avail to keep the milk clean. It can be done, however, by conscientious cleanliness, to aid in securing which these few suggestions are offered.

1. Sweep any dust and cobwebs from the ceiling and walls. Clean surroundings induce clean habits.

2. Use extra bedding. If the supply is scant, the cutting-box will make it go further, both in keeping the cows clean and soaking up the liquid manure. Incidentally, the litter will work into the land much better than that made from long bedding at this season.

3. Use brush and card to remove loose hair, and scrape off pendant manure particles, usually much in evidence just now.

4. Dampen the flanks and udders just before commencing to milk. By dampness, of course, we do not mean dripping wet.

5. Remove each cow's milk at once from the stable, and strain immediately through two or more thicknesses of cheese cotton. A metal strainer is of little use, except to remove a few coarse bits of dirt, objectionable mainly on the score of appearance. The ideal condition would be to have the milk drawn and separated without coming in contact with a bit of dirt. Under practical conditions a little is liable to get into each pailful, and then the best that can be done is to remove it as soon and as carefully as possible. A cloth strainer is the best means of doing this, provided it is kept clean. Otherwise, the dust, dirt and hair are simply washed up in it, the soluble dirt dissolved, and the myriad bacteria attached brought into intimate contact with the milk particles in the most favorable condition to begin their work.

If you milk with moist hands, do not wet them by dipping into the milk pail, and be sure that no milk drops from your hands into the milk pail. Properly done, wet-hand may be cleaner than dry-hand milking. The former looks filthy because the dirt is dissolved, and then becomes dried and crusted on the hands. Many people who would strenuously object to milking with wet hands, get more dirt into the milk by milking dry-hand, only, the dirt, being dry dust, they do not see it. If milking with wet hands, have a wash-dish and towel in the dairy or separator-room, and wash the hands frequently. By observing this precaution, and rinsing the strainer every pailful, a great deal of the most objectionable filth may be kept out of the milk, and if the milk is properly cooled and cared for afterwards, no preservatives will be necessary to keep it sweet and good for city milk or cream trade, and no bad flavors will appear in the butter.

POULTRY.

Laying Competition.

The Utility Poultry Club of England annually conducts laying competitions, the eighth one of which has recently ended. In the competition, which lasted sixteen weeks, were thirty-six pens of four pullets each. White Wyandottes were the most numerous in the competition, there being thirteen pens of this variety, which ranged from third to last place. Buff Orpingtons were next in numbers, and ranged about as widely. White Leghorns led the list, with 245 eggs for the sixteen weeks. White La Bresse had 240, and White Wyandottes 226. The two lowest pens, both White Wyandottes, laid 113 and 101 eggs each, thus indicating that laying is a trait of a strain, rather than of a breed. The winners in preceding years were: '97-'98—1 and 2, Minorcas; 3, Langshans. In '98-'99—1, Buff Leghorns; 2, Barred Rocks; 3, Golden Wyandottes. In '99-'00—1, Silver Wyandottes; 2, Golden Wyandottes; 3, Buff Orpingtons. In '00-'01—1, Barred Rocks; 2, Buff Leghorns; 3, Lincolnshire Buffs. In '01-'02—1, G. Wyandottes; 2, White Leghorns; 3, Buff Orpingtons. In '02-'03—1, White Wyandottes; 2 and 3, Buff Orpingtons. In '03-'04—1 and 2, W. Wyandottes; 3, Buff Orpingtons. The first year of the competition the record was 161 eggs, but the last four years it has been above 200, the largest being that of '02-'03, 276.

The manager's report says: "All birds have been fed and treated exactly alike while they remained in the laying-houses. When any change of treatment became advisable, they were at once removed. The aspect of the entire range of runs and house is identical, and faces south. The houses, constructed to hold twelve birds each, are open-fronted and partially glazed, and fitted with canvass shutters. The floors are formed of dry dust covered with straw placed on the ground itself. The large subsidiary runs appear to have been most appreciated by the Leghorns and La Bresse. The trap-doors to these runs have al-

ways been arranged overnight, so that the birds had access to the fresh range as soon as they pleased to take it in the mornings.

The 144 birds have had 91 lbs. of mash (weighed dry) each morning. It has consisted of 2½ lbs. each of chopped salad, meat, bran, and meals (which last were changed every day). The meat, bran and meals were scalded together and cooked all night, the fresh-cut salad, which formed half the bulk of the food, being added in the morning. A quart of grain was fed to each twelve birds at night, and half a pint at mid-day. Oats have been the staple food, but barley and wheat have been considerably used, all of which have frequently been steamed and fed warm at night. The grain has usually been fed in the litter, which, in bad weather, has been forked into heaps as often as three times a day, flint grit and crushed oyster shell have always been before the birds. No spices, condiments or patent foods of any description have been used.

Let the Chickens Help You.

We all know how much better our biddies will pay their board bills, and some more, if they can have a chance to run about and scratch and dig, but it is not a very pleasant thing to have them operating about the dooryard or in the garden. There are places on most farms, and lots, where Mrs. Biddy can take her constitutional, and really be a help to the owner. If you have a neglected spot where the weeds and grass have gained a foothold, or if it is rough and hard, scatter fine grain all about and let them hunt for it for a few hours each day, and my word for it, you



Sarcastic Lad 23971.

First-prize and champion Holstein bull at the World's Fair, St. Louis, 1904.
(By courtesy of the Holstein-Friesian Register.)

will be surprised at the work they have done. My peach orchard was so full of rocks, and the space between the trees not wide enough to allow very much turning out for them, that no one was anxious for the job of plowing it, and so it waited nearly all summer, when I called my "feathered plows" up there. Long after the last grain is gone they are at work, and, no doubt, find many a worm, and perhaps a borer, which if left would soon make mischief. Hens, like children, must have something to keep them busy.—[A. M. N., in Vick's Magazine.]

S.-C. W. Leghorns Best for Farmers.

In the 19th January issue of the "Farmer's Advocate," W. J. Bell recommends the Leghorns, and gives proof that they are the best all-round fowl, while in the February 9th issue, E. C. Parker attempts to refute Mr. Bell's statements, and claims that the White Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks are a far better fowl, but I think he fails to prove his claim.

I have Leghorns and Rocks, both in one pen, and the Leghorns laid at five months, whereas an egg-laying strain of Rocks are only commencing to lay. The Leghorns are a hardy fowl, and will lay no matter how cold the house is. They are also non-sitters, and will lay more than any other fowl, take the year round, as, according to the following record for one year of 52 White Leghorns, for Mr. Douggan, of B. C., they laid 9,216 eggs, or an average of 177 eggs per hen. Can Mr. Parker beat this? If so, let "Farmer's Advocate" readers hear of it. I might just conclude by saying that it is eggs the farmer wants, and the Leghorns will lay when they are at the top price, and consume less grain. CLIFFORD CAMACK, Grey Co., Ont.

We can honestly say that if there is as good an all-round weekly agricultural paper as the "Farmer's Advocate," London, Ont., we have yet to see it.—[Canadian Poultry Review.]

List of Utility Breeds.

We have been asked by a correspondent to name the utility breeds of poultry. The professional expert to whom the question was referred suggested two lists, one of general-purpose utility breeds, the other comprising the best special egg breeds. As all poultrymen know, this question of what are the utility breeds is one that has often been fruitlessly debated. No harm, however, can come from the mere expression of opinion, so long as its author does not presume to dogmatize. Some, no doubt, would add Games to the subjoined list, and might omit one or two therein mentioned. The list is open to any poultryman's criticism.

GENERAL-PURPOSE BREEDS.

The following are good for both eggs and table use:

1. Plymouth Rocks—Three varieties, viz., Barred, White and Buff.
2. Wyandottes—Five varieties: Silver-Laced, White, Buff, Black and Partridge.
3. Orpingtons—Ten varieties, the best known of which are Buff, Black, White and Jubilee.
4. Brahmas—Two varieties: Light and Dark.
5. Cochins—Four varieties: Buff, Partridge, White and Black.
6. Dorkings—Three varieties: White, Colored and Silver Gray.
7. Houdans—One variety.
8. Faverolles—Two varieties: Salmon, and another I do not remember at the moment.
9. Rhode Island Reds—Two varieties: Single-comb and Rose-comb.

SPECIAL EGG BREEDS.

Leghorns.—Eight varieties: Single and Rose Bomb White, Single and Rose Comb Brown, Buff, Black, Dominique, Silver Duckwing. Of these, the White, Brown and Buff varieties are best known. Some strains of the White lay large eggs, with white-colored shells.

Minorcas.—Two varieties: Black and White; layers of large white eggs.

Andalusians.—One variety, Blue; lay large white eggs.

Spanish.—Black; layers of large white eggs.

The foregoing breeds and their varieties are classed in the American Standard as "Mediterranean." They are also known as the Spanish Family. They are well-known egg-layers, and are not exploited as table fowls, although White Leghorn broilers are sometimes to be found for sale.

Hamburgs.—Two classes, Black and Spangled. Their eggs are of medium size and white in color.

Buff Orpingtons as Utility Fowl.

Having read the recent articles in the "Farmer's Advocate" by several breeders, claiming the Wyandotte to be the best fowl for the farmer, I thought I would write, giving a few reasons why I think the Buff Orpington superior to the Wyandotte as a utility or farmer's fowl. But before saying anything further, I wish to state, as a breeder of R. C. W. Leghorns as well as Rocks and Orpingtons, that I can fully endorse all Mr. Bell has said in his recent articles regarding R. C. W. Leghorns as the best for egg production. It has been stated by several breeders that the Orpingtons are no good for broilers, and for that reason not as good as the Wyandotte for the farmer. I just wish to say there is no money in broilers for the farmer; he has not the proper brooder house, or the time to look after them, and had far better sell his eggs during December, January and February, when they fetch the best price, than attempt to raise broilers. Nor has the average farmer the time in June, July and August, in the busy season during haying and harvest, to kill and dress chickens and drive two to eight miles to market with them; the extra price at that time will not pay him for his time and trouble. Now, the Orpington will lay more eggs than the Wyandotte during the winter months, when they fetch the best price, and will also weigh more in the fall, and bring more money, when most farmers sell their poultry and have time to market it. At the last Ontario show, in the utility pen class, the Orpingtons won first and second prize, while in the dressed fowl class they only failed to get the sweepstakes on account of being overdone, or a little too fat, which shows their qualities and popularity as a utility fowl. Having white legs, and being a white-skinned bird, they command a better price for the export trade, and are also bringing a better price on the home market. Now, I am sure these facts will