The Dairy.

Do Mangolds Taint Butter?

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—I have been told that mangold wurzel given to a milch cow will strongly flavor the milk, and make it very disagreeable, worse than turnips. Is this true? I have a large patch in my garden on which I have raised enough carrots for this winter's supply, and was thinking of trying mangold wurzel, as it would be easier to cultivate. Shall I be right?

There are some persons who have such delicate gustatory organs that they profess to be able to distinguish butter made from milk given by cows that have been eating mangolds. We have no faith in their assertions, as we have never been able to detect the taint; and we should certainly say that mangolds do not taint butter. We have heard a man who, when he was told that the farmer from whom he was getting his butter, had been feeding turnips to his cows, immediately detected an intolerable turnip flavor in the butter he was eating. His reliability as a judge of butter was terribly injured after by the discovery that the said butter was made a fortnight before the cows had touched a turnip. Imagination has a great deal to do with some people's tastes.

"Deaconing" Calves.

Our position in regard to suckling calves upon young heifers—their first one or two calves say—is that this natural action encourages the mothers in giving milk. The idea may seem novel to some, and then there is a difference in heifers. Some are more "foolish" and sentimental concerning their offspring than others. In breaking a heifer to milk, I am apt to mix in with her calf a good deal, endeavoring to associate myself in the minds of both as a familiar object, so that my little stripping passes as a matter of course among the new and bewildering circumstances. As in times of general excitement, shrewd managers are very likely to be found—stripping the public purse. Barring the opinions that may obtain with the selfish and short-sighted against the policy of developing the lacteal secretions in this natural manner—by allowing a heifer to "fuss around with a young calf"—the plan must look quite reasonable. It is certainly a time-honored practice among careful farmers, and a good deal of observation and some experience will warrant me in asserting that early indulgence in the cares of maternity is no detriment to the future productiveness of the grown-up cow.

Shrewd cow-buyers—milk-men and others, go a-picking among the stock that has been bred and fed in the plainest normal farm fashion, preferring to add the extreme themselves. After three or four years of age, when the milking habit is formed, calves may be "deaconed" with less feeling on the part of the mother. She is used to the hand of man and becomes by habit reconciled to her lot. Your old cow is not a romantic or sentimental animal. I made a visit lately to our eldest cow, Clover, sold last spring. She wouldn't even look at me, or scarcely stop gathering grass long enough to smell of my hand when I lifted her head by the horn. This may not be precisely like refusing to look at her calf, but if you knew the intimacy formerly existing between us, you'd allow it was somewhat like. But this animal never showed much affection for her calves at any time.—*Hartford Courant.*

Cows Coming-in in Autumn.

A correspondent of a Western journal makes the following strong plea for having cows come-in in the autumn:—

The writer of this has frequently presented what seemed to him very decided advantages in the plan of having cows whose milk is to be used for butter making, calve in the fall instead of in the spring. The practice is not recommended for universal adoption, but it is believed that many farmers and dairymen would find increased profits by adopting this plan. Most farmers have their cows calve in the spring, say in April or first of May. Much the larger part of the milk is thus obtained during the summer months, when the price of butter is low, when milking and the care of the milk is troublesome, and when there is a pressure of other work on the farm. When butter begins to rise in price in the fall the yield has so dimished that there is comparatively little to sell. The cows have to be cared for and milked until in mid-winter, and perhaps one or two throughout the winter, although it not uncommonly happens that in the latter part of winter a farmer buys butter for the use of his family, paying as much for one pound as he obtained for two in June.

The plan suggested and successfully practised for some, is to have the cows calve in September, be well cared for in winter, giving milk until say the latter part of June. In this way the greater part of the milk would be given when butter is at a high price and in good demand, when the extreme heat does not make it difficult to make good butter, when there are no flies to trouble the cows or milkers, allowing the cows to rest during the warmest weather and the most busy part of the year on the farm. The cows must be cared for in any event, and the difference in cost between good care and that which would be given in any event would not be very great. Some milking must be done and some milk cared for during most of the winter, so that it is only a question of a little more work.

A more serious objection might seem to be, the difficulty in raising the calves. But in practice it is found that excellent results can be had rearing these fall dropped calves on skimmed milk, with a little meal, and that they are ready to go on the pasture in the spring in much better shape than the ordinary spring dropped calf is prepared for his first winter of dry food. The difference in the price of butter will more than counter-balance the increased expense in most cases.

PREVENTING THE CHURNING OF MILK IN THE CAN.—Experiments are being tried to prevent "the churning" of milk while being transported to market. The milk can is so constructed as to be hermetically sealed. Then, when ready for shipment, the air is exhausted, and as much milk forced into the can as will bulge it slightly from the force of expansion, thus making it like a solid body, and leaving the particles of milk no chance of "swashing" or undue agitation. Milk that undergoes much agitation during its transit to market is injured in its keeping qualities, while the churning has a tendency to separate a portion, at least, of its buttery particles.

THE DOG IN THE DAIRY.—In all that has been said about the care of cattle, says a sarcastic contemporary, it is surprising that a very important matter has not been noticed. It is the dog. This animal gets the cows up in the morning and hustles them up wherever required, and is an efficient aid in driving them up. There may not be as much profit in a dairy which is partly made up of dog, but there is very great convenience. Cows left out such a night as this are sure to be chilly in the morning, but let the dog go for them early and he will warm them up, thus effecting a great saving in stables as well as in time attending to the cows, to say nothing of the cost of feed, for while the dog is "fetching 'em" of course they will not want to eat; in fact, they will have no desire for feed in some time afterward..

Veterinary.

Cow-Keeping in Anticosti.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—Strange as it may appear, yet it is a fact, that although cows are kept in several places on the south side of the Island of Anticosti, yet only in our place, viz., at Ellis Bay, can they be kept for two years in succession. If milch cows are brought down from Quebec in the spring, they do well the first summer, even if they have only the natural grass, along the beach and in the openings of the woods to subsist on. They also do well the first winter, whether they are kept on hay, made from the natural grasses, or on Timothy and Clover Hay, but the next summer they must be dried up and fattened, or they fall off their feed and die of starvation the second winter. Cows so dying have after death been opened, but no appearance of disease could be discovered, all the viscera were apparently sound.

The only exception I ever heard of was in the case of a resident, who having a short supply of hay, fed his cow principally on the bark of the Mountain Ash, which was plentiful in his vicinity. The cow, a small animal of the French Canadian breed, was allowed about half a pail of bark cut up small every day, with what little hay he had, and she survived the second winter. The bark of the Mountain Ash is probably of a tonic nature, and perhaps from these facts, you may be able to suggest some mode of prolonging the lives of the cows on the Island without the use of the Mountain Ash bark, which is not obtainable in sufficient quantity in every part of the Island. A relative of mine who resides on the Island, with others, might like to get it.

SABAWAK.

We are inclined to think that the cows die from lack of heat-forming elements in their food, sufficient to keep up their vitality during the long and severe winter of Anticosti. We should recommend, in addition to the hay given to them, which probably does not superabound in nutriment, a plentiful supply of some such carbonaceous food as oil-cake, corn or oats. Whiskey or 'ale might do a great deal toward keeping them up if they got very low.

The Epizootic and Influenza—A Vapor Bath.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—The epizootic, although in a milder form than two years ago has, for some time, been prevalent amongst the horses in this part of the country as well as in other places. Dr. Nurse and Dr. Diet have carried our horses through, without the assistance of Dr. Physic: a liberal allowance of boiled barley was given them, a little work in fine days, but at other times they were kept in the stable. If I had had no barley, I should have given them boiled oats, flax-seed and bran.

This disease is probably caused by atmospheric influences, to which cause we may also attribute a mild type of influenza which is now prevailing amongst the bipeds in this part of the country. I have found a slight purgative, followed by a vapor bath just previous to retiring to rest, and care to avoid exposure to the weather for two or three days, sufficient to effect a cure. A vapor bath is easily obtained by placing a pail half full of hot, not boiling water, under a cane bottom chair, let the patient be divested of clothing and sit on the chair with a blanket thrown over the shoulders and reaching to the floor. If a cane bottom chair is not at hand, a short narrow board may be laid accross the pail, and the patient should sit on that. From fifteen to thirty minutes at a time is long enough. Should any faintness be felt which is sometimes the case, it is a sign that the water is too hot and the blanket should be thrown open a little to allow the steam to escape. Simple as this remedy may appear, I have by resorting to it often broken up a cold at its first appearance, which might otherwise have proved troublesome.

SARAWAK.

Foot Rot in Sheep.

When foot-rot has for some weeks been neglected and the sheep continue on soft ground, which favors the superabundant growth of degenerate horn, it becomes confirmed and difficult of cure. The secreting textures persist in pouring out lymph and weak faulty horn instead of the tough, firm, protecting covering of the healthy foot. One of the chief difficulties in the way of cure is to restore the secreting parts to their sound state. The first step must however, be, with a strong sharp knife, whilst the hooves are soft, carefully to cut away all loose unsound horn. Where the hoof is extensively affected, this cannot be done all at once; two or three operations will be necessary.

Fungous, bad smelling growths which appear in most troublesome cases are got rid of by any strong astringents. Butter of antimony is often used for such purposes, and in cautious hands answers fairly. Some shepherds use it mixed with about equal parts of impure carbolic acid and diluted with two or three parts of oil. In some districts copper sulphate ointment, made in the proportion of one to four of fatty matter, is in good repute, and is improved by the addition of about one part of the antiseptic deodorising carbolic acid. Such treatment may be varied by dressings of zinc chloride solution, or mercury pernitrate solution.

It will always be found that the successful treatment of foot-rot depends not so much on the particular dressings employed as upon careful paring away of faulty horn, examining and doctoring the foot at intervals of two or three days, avoiding strong caustics, and placing the flock on dry, firm ground. Amongst sheep on arable land foot-rot is usually cured quicker than in those on grass.—*North British Agriculturist.*

KEEPING CABBAGES.—A Dutchess county (N. Y.) market gardener thus describes his method of keeping winter cabbages: "I go through the patch, taking two rows at a time, cutting all the good heads, leaving a few loose leaves on each, and drop them at my left hand. This makes four rows in one. A man then takes the first-class heads and pitches them to me. I catch them and place them in two rows, two side by side, with two on top and a third one as a cap. I generally place them in heaps of fifty. I serve the second class in the same way. I now take a corn knife and cut off the stumps with the loose leaves remaining, as also the soft cabbages, and feed to the cows. I now cover these heaps of heads with about six inches of soil. The line of the heaps ought to extend north and south. In winter, when I wish to get at them, I break into the south end with pick or hoe, put in my hand and draw them out for about two feet, break down the frost and proceed thus until they are all out."