

PRODUCTION OF MILK.

It is an old trite saying that "all the milk a cow yields goes in at her mouth." And I wish every dairyman would treasure up this motto as one of the golden rules of the dairy. It is just pure gold, every word of it. You may talk about breeds and the best cow for the dairy; but if you expect any breed to make milk without first putting it into her mouth, you will be most egregiously disappointed. I do not say but there is something in breeds; blood tells, whether the animal has four legs or two; but of whatever blood you select for the dairy, mark well that the animal is of good constitution, has a capacious stomach, and is a good eater. I am not talking to you from theory, but from practice. In my experience I have been able to take the common cows of the country and get a product of from 500 to 600 pounds of cheese per cow as an average for a series of years. Fish, of Herkimer, affirms that by breeding and by feeding he was able to make an average of 900 pounds to the cow. I never went much above 600 pounds, because I doubt the expediency of feeding meal and bran, at high prices, through the summer, when cows are getting plenty of grass and other succulent food. Do not stint in water or salt; and then, for winter-keep, an abundance of good hay, with roots, is all that is required.

In spring—after calving and until grass—I like strippings or oat-meal as an additional food.

I early learned this—that if you wish a cow to do her best, you must cultivate her acquaintance intimately, and be unsparing in little acts of kindness. You may whip and torture a cow into submission, but she will strike the balance against you in the milk pail. It is like biting off your own nose to spite somebody else, and never pays. I think one of the greatest faults among dairy farmers to-day is lack of kindness and consideration to domestic animals. Cows should be petted daily, and be made to feel that man is a friend and protector. All pain, fright and uneasiness checks the secretion of milk, and the man who is passionate and abusive in his herd never did, and never can, realize a full yield of milk from it. I think that anyone who has the charge of animals should study their character and disposition. It is an interesting study, and, under the law of kindness, you will not unfrequently bring out wonderful traits and exhibition of affection, which will show a fore-

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