

derable the present season, when 'cows eat everything but grass' as Instructor Adershold well expresses it.

Upon short reflection it will be conceded that the state annually loses an enormous sum of money on the so-called "off-flavored goods,"—butter and cheese—and far worse than that, a reputation that cannot be easily redeemed.

Again, it must be granted that a vast amount of instruction is annually given in regard to the handling and treatment of pin holey and gassy curds, and that a means whereby these difficulties could be overcome, would doubtless prove a great blessing to the dairy interests.

I will now add that I feel assured that the starter will partly, if not entirely, overcome some of these difficulties, and that the general use of it will eventually lead to the consumption of far more cheese than is at present consumed, and bring correspondingly higher prices for same.

I believe that the time of its general adoption in all butter and cheese factories is not far distant.

Furthermore, I would suggest that every butter and cheese maker give it a thorough trial and report the results of his experience through the *Dairyman*, which furnishes a most excellent means for communicating dairy knowledge.

The Bible says, "Love thy neighbor as thyself, and I would most emphatically say to the cheese maker, "Help others if thou wilt be helped."

JOHN MICHELS.

Fond du Lac County, Wis.

The same subject continued.—ED. HOARD'S DAIRYMAN:—In reply to the inquiry about lactic ferment would say it is prepared and sold by Chr. Hansen's Laboratory. A starter is prepared by pasteurizing a small amount of milk—from four to twenty pounds—and when the milk is cooled to 80 degrees, the ferment is added. This is done in the morning and by the next morning the milk should be clabbered, which is then called startoline. If fifty pounds of starter is wanted, that quantity of fresh morning's milk is pasteurized and enough of the startoline added to clabber the milk by the next morning. Experience will tell how much to use. Fifty pounds of pasteurized milk would require about two pounds of startoline. This starter is used and a small portion of it retained to plant in some pasteurized milk for the next starter. This propagation can be carried on till the flavor of the starter gets "off," when it should be renewed. A starter prepared in this way may smell slightly cooked, but leaves a perfectly clean mild acid taste in mouth.

Its properties for controlling flavor are indeed astonishing and with its use the acid in curd will develop more uniformly in a given length of time one day with another.

Neenah, Wis. E. L. ADERSHOLD.

### FARMERS' FAMILIES.

Although the dwellers in the country lose many of the advantages the city affords, as regards churches, schools, and society, the opportunities to attend intellectual entertainments, and to observe the ways of the world; the loss is compensated, in a great measure by the more natural way of living, the fresh air of Heaven, the delightful contact with nature, and the devout aspirations such environments bring to the thoughtful.

None have such good facilities to bring up a family to be God fearing and useful members of society as farmers.

"Example goes before precept" is always a true and wise proverb, but it especially applies in the case of a farmer's care of his family; his occupation is a purely domestic one, his family comes under his immediate control, in some respects even more so than the family of man whose business calls him from home.

To try to enforce the necessity of correct habits without practising them is the height of folly.

Children, when quite young, are close observers and judges of right and wrong: for a father to insist upon his son being temperate, and to be intemperate himself, will make the boy look upon him as a hypocrite who does not believe or practise what he preaches. How can an idle man expect his family to be industrious, or a careless one that his sons and daughters should grow up with habits of carefulness?

For a man to teach his children verbally, that lying and dishonesty are heinous sins, and cheat in a horse trade, doctor his milk or "Deacon" his produce—(Deaconing is an American slang expression for placing the best fruit on the top of the measure) is illogical and absurd.

The training of a farmer's family should begin with their earliest years; as soon as the little one begins to notice, it begins to love and take interest in the things of nature, and even then he is not too young to be taught to be kind to the dumb animals about the place.

To unmercifully beat a dog or a horse deserves punishment, but if it is done in the presence of a child the offence is augmented a thousand fold, for the child has seen an object lesson which he never forgets and is made, by frequent repetition of such barbarity, at last to enjoy it. The boy who has a cruel parent is to be pitied. (1)

The enormity of the sin of cruelty is lost sight of by him because it is committed by the one he naturally looks up to as an example; such a parent is also to be pitied, because if his son's heart is hardened, no one knows how cruelly he may sometime treat the very one to whom he should be a comfort, and who should have taught him by precept and example, to be kind, not only to him, but to all God's creatures.

To teach a child a natural habit of kindness, it is well to give him something to call his own; a chicken or perhaps a pig or sheep which he can tend, watch and take a special interest in, and the produce of which will form a nucleus for a fortune for all we know, if placed in the bank to the little one's credit; thus, at the same time a habit of saving will be inculcated, together with kindness and tenderness of heart.

The following true story will illustrate this: Tommy, four years old, was given by his mother, a sitting hen, and told that if he would be kind to her, feed her, and attend to her, that she, and her brood should be his own. Pleased with the prospect, he did this faithfully, and every chicken was a pet. But alas, they could not all be kept, and in due time had to be sent to market, this was a sad blow to the little fellow, but he was taught that it was inevitable, and in the natural order of Providence. The money they brought was placed in the saving bank to Tommy's credit; this kept on

(1) Thank you, the lesson is sadly needed here. In the Townships, the barbarous treatment of the draught-oxen used to be horrible.—Ed.

for several years until a sheep was purchased with part of the proceeds, her produce was used in the same way for several years, until a calf was bought, and her produce similarly appropriated. When Tommy was twenty one he had money enough saved to start him on a small farm which he managed, with the stock thereon, with such skill that he was looked upon as the model farmer in his locality. In due time he married the girl of his heart, and their family became proverbial for their kindness and prosperity.

Tommy's younger brother took the old homestead, his sisters were well married, but our friend was the most prosperous of the whole, and never had anything from his father's estate except the keep of one animal and her produce which never was missed. He used to boast that he owed his start in life to an old hen and the moral training her care involved.

We are apt to say it is difficult to keep our young people on the farm: it is true we cannot expect to make them all farmers, and it is well to allow a young person to follow the bent of his inclinations, for many a good mechanic has been lost on a farm and *vice versa*. But the more we encourage those whose tastes are for Agriculture the more likely shall we be to make them good farmers and contented with their lot, thus keeping them at home. Great mistakes are made by many in this respect; they think that as soon as a boy is strong enough he must work, and so he should, but not for nothing. Perhaps his board and clothes will be all that he can earn for some time, but he should be made to understand that he is earning them, and not receiving them as a matter of course, as he did when he was too young to earn them, and that value is received and given. As he grows stronger and able to earn wages, if he concludes to remain on the farm, why should he not receive the same remuneration as would a hired man if it would pay to engage one? If the farm can afford to keep a hired man why can it not afford to pay the son of the proprietor if he desires to take that position. It is not fair to a young man to keep him working until he is twenty five or twenty six years of age without any stated salary, and to oblige him to ask for a quarter if he wants to take his girl to the circus; he is discouraged and dissatisfied, and cannot be blamed if he kicks over the traces.

Recreation should not be denied to our young men; it is necessary to their health and the true development of muscle and character; to deny a young man little privileges such as taking a horse for an occasional drive, or keeping the check-rein too tight is not wise. If this is done it is not a wonder if the young fellow takes the horse or perhaps does worse after the old man's back is turned. If a farmer is situated so that he can send the son, who is to be a farmer, to an agricultural college, he should by all means do so. Farming now is reduced to a science, and to keep pace with the times it is absolutely necessary that a farmer should know, at least, the rudiments of advanced agriculture, which will be a basis for the farther knowledge he will acquire in practice, and until he starts for himself he will be of great assistance at home.

The farmer's daughter, will be naturally more under the control of the mother and will, girls not being as a rule so wayward as boys, be likely to submit to the influence of her loving tuition and advice; girls, having a

kind and considerate father and good mother, seldom fail to make good daughters, sisters and wives.

They, no less than the boys, should be encouraged to love all the farm animals and to take an interest in their comfort.

Household economy should receive special attention, and every girl fitted to be a farmer's wife, whether they ever feel that capacity or not; such training will be useful in after life, because a woman who can conduct a farm household will be well qualified to rule in any other.

There is no reason why a farmer's daughter should be debarred from participating in the feminine amusements, fancy work, the divine art of music, painting and literature, as long as they do not interfere with her legitimate home duties, and are not indulged to an extent that would be too expensive for the moderate income of her parents. A farmer's daughter has as much right to be a lady and an accomplished one too, if she has the capacity, as the daughter of a millionaire.

Refined ideas can injure no one, and true pleasure will result from their acquirement.

Correction of the children should be undertaken by one of the parents with the approval of the other; the child will not be benefited by a reproof administered by one, while the other takes part with the delinquent. Children should never be corrected when the parents have lost their temper; of course it is well to show righteous indignation at wrong doing, but, "like begets like," and if we let our children see that we have lost our temper it will arouse evil dispositions in them; therefore, let us wait until that state of mind can be subdued and not attempt to rebuke them while it lasts. Speak quietly to the child, with firmness and kindness, pointing out the grievous consequences of bad conduct, and the offence is not so likely to be repeated.

Harsh words, angry looks, continual scoldings, are not nearly so well calculated to sink into the heart as kind and loving expostulation and advice. If your children love you, they will obey you and feel your displeasure; if they fear you, their obedience will be due to that sentiment, they will be obedient only when they think punishment will follow disobedience, and no lasting effect in after years will result.

It is unfortunate that some of the rising generation are in the habit of asserting themselves a little too freely and do not quite so much respect their seniors as might be desirable. This is perhaps the result of the advantages they enjoy of so liberal an education as they at present receive. If a youth gets the idea into his head that he knows a little more than his father he may be led to look upon him as his inferior, and when this occurs, it is greatly to be deplored. Respect for the aged should never be lacking in a young person and when parents see it disappearing they should point to the saying of the old Latins: "*Modestia in adolescente est signum bonum.*"

The responsibilities of a farmer with a family are tremendous, he is responsible for their proper training to the God who gave them, responsible to them, as to the way he has taught them to live among their fellow men, and in the sight of that All-wise and All-merciful Being, responsible to his country for their bringing up to become good and useful members of the body politic. For, are not the farmer's sons the very bone and muscle of society. The more honorable, active, and intelligent our