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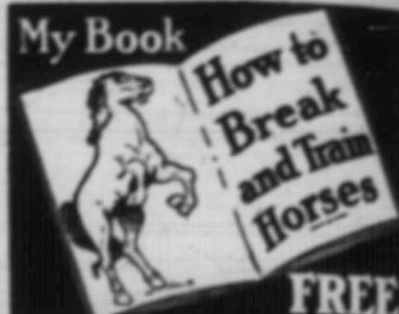
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to see a number of young cows that Amos Cruickshank was sending to the butcher. He said they were just the class of females that he would have liked to use in the foundation of his own herd, and in reply to his query as to why they were being sent to the shambles, Mr. Cruickshank said they were poor milkers, and consequently, unprofitable cows for him to use in his breeding herd. I have heard W. A. Dryden remark more than once, when he wanted to pay a high and well-deserved compliment to some cow in his herd, that she gave enough milk to fit her calf for the showing without a nurse-cow, and that is no mean compliment to a cow. Shorthorn breeders must not lose sight of this and I do not believe we can assist our breed of cattle more than by preserving as largely as possible their milking qualities. I suppose, to keep abreast with some of the other beef breeds, we must fit a few heifers for the showing and sacrifice something in that respect, but we can keep the greater part of our herds up to a high standard as producers of milk, either for feeding their own calves or for earning a cream cheque for the farmer.

We still frequently run across the man who says there is no dual-purpose cow, that you must have either beef or milk, that you cannot have both, and I suppose people will continue to make statements like that as long as the special purpose breeder lasts, which, of course, we hope, will be a good while, and generally, when a man is making this statement, he could be taken a very small distance and there be shown cows that are good, heavy milkers, and at the same time when dry will rapidly put on flesh and make not only an ordinary but a choice carcass of beef. The man who says there is no dual-purpose cow is like the old chap who, when he first saw the giraffe looked at it in bewilderment and said "There ain't no such animal." It is only a few years since a Shorthorn heifer in England won in the dairy Shorthorn class at one of the greatest English shows as a milking Shorthorn, and a little more than a year later was brought to the great Smithfield show and won a championship in the fat heifer class. The mother of one of the winning Shorthorn steers in one of America's biggest fat stock shows qualified in the record of performance as a milker. Hundreds of examples of a similar kind could be given and splendid herds of Shorthorns have been built up both in England and on this continent without getting away from beef type and conformation, thus producing the cow that will give the world milk, butter and beef.

Value of a Well-Fitted Sire

I would be inclined to urge pure-bred breeders to keep their stock bulls in good fit. I know that some men hold the opinion and, perhaps, in some cases not without reason, that bulls which are too highly fitted are not sure breeders. As a matter of fact, I have never thought there was very much in this, and I believe a breeding bull can be kept pretty close to show fit with perfect safety as to his usefulness, provided he is given plenty of exercise; and if you are breeding pure-bred Shorthorns and have bull calves for sale, there is nothing that will impress the buyer who comes to your farm so much as to be able to show him the sire of your calves in first-class condition. I do not care how good a bull you have, if he is in thin flesh, he is bound not to look very attractive. The practised, skilful eye of an experienced livestock breeder may see a frame that he knows would look well if it were covered with flesh, but these men are very much in the minority and the average breeder will like your bull a lot better if he has a good cushion of flesh actually covering his frame, and the man has not to draw upon his imagination to see it. I think there is nothing more detrimental to the operations of a good breeder than keeping his stock bull ragged looking, and I would scarcely be content with keeping him in moderate flesh. I would keep him looking real well. I might add in this particular that the stock bulls which I saw, in Scotland, on the farms of William Duthie, John Marr and James Dorno, were in fine condition and would appeal to the eye of any cattle man, even though he were not a skilful judge.



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