

of great importance ; by it the families of the opulent are well supplied with luxuries, and those of the poorer classes with wholesale products of the soil. The industrious, conscientious, well educated gardener who prosecutes his avocation with zeal and intelligence, not only for the profit he can make, but for the love of it, occupies an enviable position in society.

The Dairy.

ONE WAY TO DEVELOP A DAIRY COW.

(Paper by Mrs. Ada F. Howie, at the Wisconsin Dairymen's Convention).

If it were necessary for me to apologize for a woman speaking on the subject, "One Way to Develop a Dairy Cow," I should without hesitation point to the renown already won by women in this field of labor.

Women of all ranks and conditions in life, from the hapless Queen, Marie Antoinette, who found relief from the nerve-taxing etiquette and political intrigues of a corrupt French court, in the simple task and peaceful atmosphere of her beloved dairy, to the peasant of lowly birth and humble aspirations who willingly permits herself to be yoked to the family cow and patiently trudges along the furrow beside this dual-purpose beast, while her husband contentedly holds the handles of a primitive plow, and all along the line for centuries, in a meagre history of one of the greatest and most ennobling occupations, may be traced the indelible imprint of women's work and influences.

In the year 1734, one Philip Falle, was so impressed by the beauty and meritorious qualities of a breed of cattle found on a small island in the English Channel, near the coast of France, that he considered them worthy of especial comment, and we are told by this able historian that "centuries of gentle care under the man-

agement of women" had wrought this marvel of excellence.

A little later, this same writer mentions, in a calm, matter-of-fact way, without even a suggestion of a desire to wink or smile at the maudlin sentiment of these simple minded managers, that "at the time of calving the cows are regaled with toast and cider to which has been added a little powdered ginger."

Surely this is but a brief description of the care accorded these little bovine mothers, and yet one may read between the lines, and the entire secret of a remarkable record of successful breeding stands out strong and clear, unaffected by time or change ; and by this sign we of a later day may infer that the women of this now famous isle instead of placing their affections upon an unremunerative parrot or poodle, being of a more practical turn of mind, had expended their best energies in the development of the finest breed of dairy cattle in the world.

In their devotion to this cause they had given more than gold and silver and precious jewels ; they had poured out upon the altar of advancement the wealth of loving hearts and kindly natures.

They guarded their cattle with the tender impulse of a true friendship.

Some of a more stern and less refined organization may have laughed loud and heartily at the mere suggestion of offering a cow toast and spiced cider, and yet the alert, shrewd dairyman of this day might quickly recognize a practical value in this unusual diet, for who can deny that spiced cider at such a time might not stimulate the enfeebled action of the stomach and thereby tend to ward off that to-be-fear'd monster, milk fever.

At any rate, whether or not this mode of treatment meets the approval of persons versed in cattle ailments, one can but admire and respect the sympathetic qualities that would prompt an owner to provide her pet with what, no doubt, was the rarest delicacy of her own liking.

More than a century has passed away since that dim insight into the methods