

seven and a half pounds of feathers, which would make a pretty good-sized pillow for a baby.

The two drakes and four ducks that he intends to keep over will be picked again before cold weather, five pairs that he will sell for breeding stock will not be picked; that leaves twenty-nine market ducks, and as he will send them to market dressed, he will of course have the feathers. It is quite safe to say that his crop of duck feathers for this year will foot up at least to fifteen pounds. It may be that Stahl can buy feathers at forty-five cents per pound, but here we don't sell them at that price. This boy has sold his duck feathers to a sister who is contemplating matrimony, and he is to receive seventy-five cents per pound, which is exactly what she would have to pay for feathers in a neighboring city, and run the risk of buying somebody's old feather bed at that. Only a few years back I paid ninety cents per lb. for feathers enough to make a pair of pillows, and I have always had my suspicions that they were "mixed"—i. e., about one-third of old, steamed-over feathers were mixed in with two-thirds good, live geese feathers, and all sold for a first-class article.

Just how much our boy will realize from his market ducks it is impossible for me to say, but rating them at an average price of one dollar each, he will doubtless clear something like thirty dollars from his duck business this year. The five pairs that he will sell for breeders—three pairs are already promised—will bring him twenty dollars. He says that he will make one hundred dollars from his ducks, next year, and I believe that he will. He has already taken orders for several sittings of eggs.

Oh, yes, ducks are a pleasant kind of poultry to keep if you only know how to manage them—pleasant because they are profitable.—FANNY FIELD in *Ohio Farmer*.

## DAIRY.

### KICKING COWS.

I tied the cow up by the head (not legs), procured a good switch (not club) and proceeded to milk, and for every kick I returned one good smart blow with the switch on the offending leg. A few kicks and blows sufficed for that time. At the next milking only three or four blows were required, and at the third milking one kick and one blow were sufficient, and ever after the cow was as gentle as need be. Three important points are to be observed in the above treatment:—1. Uniform kindness and gentleness. 2. Never strike a cow for kicking when I am in the yard, or she will learn to run from you. 3. Only one blow for each kick.—*Chr. Rural New Yorker*.

### WATERING MILK TO GET MORE CREAM.

A western correspondent says a dairyman of his acquaintance claims that by adding water to his milk he is enabled to get a larger percentage of cream. He wants to know "whether this is a fact, or nothing but a mere notion."

In answer to this question, it may be said to depend upon circumstances, and the methods employed in setting the milk. Some years ago, before the ice-system of setting milk was adopted in this country, it was claimed by certain butter-makers that an increased quantity of cream was obtained by adding water to the milk, and the subject was brought up for discussion at one of our dairy conventions. In or-

der to get more directly at the facts, a test was made of some samples of milk, in per cent. glasses, at a temperature of about 60 deg. Fah., the time of setting being eight hours. Dividing the sample of milk into two equal parts, one part, filling the glass, was set directly for cream, and yielded 7 per cent. at the end of the eight hours. To the other part an equal volume of water was added, and a quantity taken off the watered milk equal to that of the whole milk sample. This sample of half milk and half water yielded during the eight hours 5 per cent. of cream. Now, if the percentage of cream in the two samples had been in proportion to the quantity of milk, the watered milk should have yielded only 3½ per cent. of cream. The cream of the watered milk, however, appeared somewhat thinner than that from the whole milk sample. The conclusion arrived at in these experiments was that in very rich milk there might perhaps be some advantage in diluting it, or thinning it with water, in order to get up more cream than on the plan of setting.

At the time of making these experiments, the cream-gathering system, originating at the West, had not been brought out, and hence the use of water in securing a larger volume of cream had not the significance that it has at the present time when cream is bought by the inch, as is largely done on this system in Iowa. It will be seen from the experiments referred to that the watered milk threw up one and one half per cent. more cream in volume than the rate yielded by the undiluted milk during a given time; but as some creams yield more butter than other creams, it must not be assumed that the butter value of the two creams referred to was in the same ratio as the percentages shown in the creams, respectively.

If, however, it is a fact that the watering of milk increases the volume of cream without increasing, to much if any account, the amount of butter, then this practice of watering milk to increase the volume of cream is liable to descend into a fraud where cream is bought by the inch. There must always be an objection to the purchase of cream by measure, as is done at the West, unless some standard of butter value for every patron's cream be obtained. To place every patron's cream on an equality, without testing the butter value of each, would seem to be unfair to those who have superior butter-yielding herds, since creams from different herds may differ so much in their butter-yield that this fixing of a common standard cannot be effected in practice without doing injustice to some of the patrons or to the purchaser.

Of course the method of setting milk has an important influence upon the condition or density of its cream. In experiments with milk set on the ice-system, and from cows recently calved, nearly all the cream in the milk was obtained. This was shown not only by testing the skimmed milk with Fessler's lactoscope, but by treating skimmed milk in various ways to obtain additional cream. The skimmed milk was not only watered, and then set aside to cream, but portions were heated, and then rapidly cooled, while other portions were treated by different methods, but all without avail in securing any appreciable quantity of cream. From these experiments the inference was drawn that no system of watering milk of newly calved cows, when it was set on the ice method, would have increased the quantity of butter, though possibly the volume of cream may have been increased by

such watering, the cream being thinner or less dense. Perhaps milk drawn from cows a long time after calving might have given different results. The question of watering milk to increase the volume of cream, may have some practical importance to those who purchase cream by measure; for if cream is bought by the inch, a dishonest patron might resort to watering his milk for the purpose of increasing the volume of cream, caring nothing as to the ratio of butter it yielded.

If any one has made a series of well conducted experiments in watering milk at different seasons of the year for the purpose of increasing the quantity of cream, doubtless an account of such experiments would be of much interest.—*Country Gentleman*.

I am well satisfied with the chromo I got from you. I think the paper and chromo well worth the money.

JOHN K. PERKINS,  
Exeter.

### BREEDING FOR THE DAIRY.

A correspondent of one of our English exchanges says:—

"The Channel Island breeders, casting everything aside, have gone for butter cows for generations. Their efforts, consistency, and patience have been amply rewarded. Had short-horn breeders not directed their capital and efforts toward the population of beef makers, but seen the great advantage of a combination of beef and milk, we would, doubtless, have to record as deep milking in this the champion tribe. Being convinced that the short horn, take it all in all, is *par excellence*, the best of the bovine race in this or any other land, where it has established itself; and its aptitude for ready acclimatization and accommodation to new pasturage, and for its proved value for crossing purposes, it stands pre-eminent. No other breed pays so good a percentage on outlay. The grazier will not say me nay, neither will the butcher, and the dairy farmer, now halting between a variety of opinions, will, by the efforts now being sedulously and generally adopted, be forced, ere long, to give his adhesion. Meat and milk are not incompatible.

### EFFECTIVE WORK.

The following specific information, imparted by thoroughly reliable people will convey a clearer idea than any amount of abstract reference, how certain desirable results are being accomplished. Mr. Alex. McKeechie, Rochester, Ont., says: "I was a perfect cripple with rheumatism in my arms and feet for more than two weeks, when I was advised to try St. Jacobs Oil. I did so; in two days I went to work, and at the end of a week I was as well as ever. I consider St. Jacobs Oil a 'dead sure' cure for rheumatism in every form." Mr. James Dempsey, Coburg street, Ottawa, is pleased to remark: "Having suffered for some time past with rheumatism in the back, I am gratified to say that I have been completely cured after a few applications of St. Jacobs Oil, and can confidently recommend it to any one suffering in like manner."

A Sunbury girl who married recently says that her husband would soon be a wealthy man if he would only work as hard now as he did when he was making love to her.

### HOW WOMEN WOULD VOTE.

Were women allowed to vote, every one in the land who has used Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription" would vote it to be an unfailing remedy for the diseases peculiar to her sex. By druggists.



## APIARY.

### OFFICERS OF THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

President, R. McKnight, Owen Sound. 1st Vice-Pres., Dr. Shaver, Stratford. 2nd Vice-Pres., W. C. Wells, Philipstown. Sec'y-Treas., R. F. Holtzman, Fisherville.

Executive Committee—Dr. Duncan, Embury; J. B. Hall, Woodstock; D. A. Jones, Boston; D. Chalmers, Musselburg; Dr. Thompson, Stratsville; M. Rafter, Cedar Grove; and N. B. Colcock, Welland.

HONEY should be kept where it is perfectly dry if desired to be in prime order.

W. K., of Carlton West, writes: "I set out fourteen stocks of bees last spring, and have increased to twenty-seven; has been very poor year for honey here; my Holy Land bees are earliest out in the morning, and consequently they get the start of the others in quantity of honey."

J. ARNOTT, JR., Maxwell, Ont., writes us his experience with bees in the following terms: I put eighteen colonies in chaff hives last fall. I lost two and sold two, which brought the number down to fourteen, which were in good condition. I have divided up to thirty, and extracted 330 pounds of honey from them, but fed back 160 pounds of honey and \$18 worth of granulated sugar, so that they may have enough to winter on. This is the worst honey season I have ever known.

### PREPARING FOR WINTER.

Written for the CANADIAN FARMER.

As the time for the winter packing of bees is now approaching, and as it is not wise to leave all preparation to the last minute, so that everything has to be done with a rush, and, as there are so many ways advocated, there are a few things which I think really necessary to consider, whatever hive may be used. Perhaps a beehouse substantially built is best in some respects, inasmuch as the hives have no need to be built double walled, which makes them so large that they are inconvenient for manipulating. By those, however, who are not able to build a substantial beehouse, some other convenient way has to be brought into practice. In the first place, it is necessary to have the walls of a beehouse two feet thick? (as I understand Mr. Jones, of B. eton, is) to be filled with sawdust. If it is, how is it that a few inches is considered enough for the packing of hives, as they are more exposed to all kinds of winter weather than the bees in a beehouse possibly can be, if the house is properly constructed. At present I have three hives of bees; I am not able to build a beehouse, and I do not know that I ever shall be, and, for the reason stated above, I am afraid that a few inches of packing is not safe. Therefore, under this consideration, I have got a rough box sufficiently large to pack the bottom eight inches deep, the four sides a foot thick, and the top a foot or more, with the hope that this will be sufficient (all other things being equal) to bring them safe through to the spring of '83. I have thought a good deal on this subject, and have been no little concerned about it.