

has had three with his, he may have seven—in spite of the dosing—many a man has had as many without it. Without assuming to dogmatize in this matter, we confess that the longer we live the more we are inclined to accept newborn theories with a grain or two of salt. What are the scientists doing that they fail to give the world reliable light on this subject? Much credit is claimed for the Schmidt treatment for the cure of milk fever, and one veterinarian who claims to have been very successful with it, states that about the only cases in which it has failed in his hands have been those where the cow was dosed with salts before he was called, and yet that is the preventive that has been most persistently advocated, and in which the most faith is placed by dairymen generally. The subject is a live one, and is open for discussion, and any one who can throw a white light upon it will prove a public benefactor.]

Scotch or Nothing: Often Nothing.

The uninitiated, whether townsman or farmer, might think we were expressing a very marked preference for a brand of whiskey. As it happens, however, the reference is to the present-day craze for not only Scotch blood, but for certain Shorthorn families. The stronghold of this craze is in the States, fostered by those owning such families, and just now they are having their innings. The Canadian dealer, always anxious to make an honest dollar, sees his opportunity, and handles only the bovine aristocrats and persuades his friends to do the same. The baneful influence of such a craze is not at once evident, but is far-reaching, if not at present noticed.

Two main effects are to be found if looked for; first, the limitation in the number of bulls possible to use in a pure-bred herd, and on this point Wm. Duthie said to the writer, when the craze for family was being discussed: "We hardly know where to go for our bulls." The second effect is the lowering in quality of the pure-bred bulls available for grade herds. The theory of herdbook registration is to-day prostituted in the States and Canada, the latter not altogether blameless, being a slavish follower, and influenced by the dollars, and not, as it should be, for the advancement of the breed.

A Shorthorn is not a Shorthorn after it crosses the Atlantic unless it traces to the first 20 volumes of Coates' Herdbook; reductio ad absurdum!

Under such protectionist restrictions, we find that the bull Inspector, a noted winner in Great Britain, is ineligible for this country and the States, and we are the losers by such an unfortunate regulation and infatuation for certain tribes.

At Collynie one may see a cow (of the Vine family), wonderfully thick and deep, of character unapproachable, lines of the straightest; such a model, in fact, that her owner, the high priest of the Shorthorn cult in Great Britain, considers her his best cow. One may look over many a herd in the Old Country and pick out what he considers the plums, only to be told that the animal won't register in America. Five crosses back a bull was used whose dam didn't trace beyond the 21st or 25th volume of Coates'! Herdbook registration was introduced for the purpose of improving a breed and setting up high standards of animal excellence; instead of which, the effect is quite strongly the other way. Culls become valuable in the hands of the generous advertiser or the dealer who sleeps more soundly at night when he has in his possession the half-sister to Nicodemus (or some other fellow that brought a couple of thousand on paper, at auction).

The day before yesterday it was Bates and Booth, yesterday Cruickshank, and to-day it is pure Scotch, and the student of live-stock husbandry or the well-wisher of the grand old breed will be wondering what to-morrow will call for.

Persons professing to be "in the know" of the Shorthorn trade express the opinion that the closing of the States to the British Shorthorn is close at hand, and that the Canadian-bred one will be made an alien only a little later on.

The few who profit largely by the market across the line cannot be expected to move in a direction just now against their own interests—but the breed should not and must not suffer for the few. Northern-bred Shorthorns will always be required to rejuvenate the corn-fed stocks, a fact that our cousins to the South may overlook for a few years; the neeps-oats-bran raised Shorthorn is more virile than his corn-fed brother.

Move forward the limit from the 20th to 30th volume of Coates, and ten years later it will be wisdom to step forward another ten!

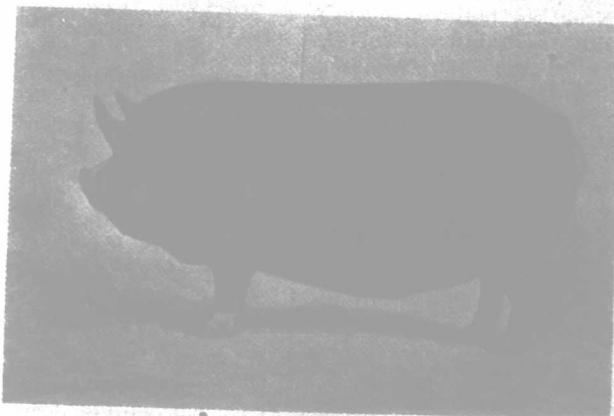
As the adoption by the United States breeders of the doctrine of protection is to be expected, it is high time for Canadians to take such measures to improve their cattle that when protectionists return to a saner state Canadian cattle will be of such excellence as to sell themselves!

NOMAD.

Prevention of Milk Fever.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

I have read with interest the articles in late numbers of the "Advocate" on the cure of milk fever, and I am glad to learn that methods of treatment have evidently been discovered whereby the lives of a large percentage of cows becoming affected with this dread malady have been and may be saved. But since there is good reason to



BERKSHIRE PIG.

Winner of champion prize as best single pig at the Empire Club Show, 1902.
BRED AND EXHIBITED BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE CHRISTIAN OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, K.G., CUMBERLAND LODGE, WINDSOR.

believe that a considerable proportion of the cows that have been affected and restored are by reason of unskillful treatment, or as a result of the disease, rendered less safe and less useful for future service in the dairy, it is surely desirable that earnest consideration be given to the possibility of prevention. It is surprising that so little attention has been given to this phase of the subject and it has occurred to me that our experimental stations might well take it up, and by comparison of different systems of feeding and management of cows immediately before and after parturition, seek to throw some light on the question. The impression, I believe, prevails that as a rule only cows that are liberally fed and are in high condition are liable to this ailment, but we know that it does occur in the case of cows not in high condition and not highly fed, and that it even occurs in the case of cows feeding on early succulent grass, in which case the bowels are naturally laxative and the blood, one would suppose cooled, making the conditions most favorable.

The idea has prevailed and has been widely published, that the administering of powerful purgatives previous to and after parturition is conducive to prevention and to cure, but that idea, it appears, is dissipated in so far as cure is concerned, by the testimony of veterinarians who have had signal success with the use of the Schmidt treatment, which consists in the injection of iodide of potassium into the udder without the administer-



ABERDEEN-ANGUS HEIFER, LYIA OF GLAMIS.

Champion at the Birmingham and Smithfield Fat Stock Shows, 1902.

THE PROPERTY OF THE EARL OF STRATHMORE, GLAMIS CASTLE, FORFAR, SCOTLAND.

ing of any medicine, the recovery in most cases occurring within four or five hours, the only unfavorable cases being those in which purgatives had been given before the doctor was called. The new theory that it is solely an udder complaint is supported by the testimony of the author of the new cure published in an English paper, the injection into the udder through the teats of pure oxygen, by which means recovery is made in 30 to 60

minutes, the only troublesome case reported being one in which the udder was milked out too soon after treatment, in which case a second injection of oxygen effected a permanent cure. So much for remedies.

With regard to prevention, let me say that I have given considerable thought to the suggestion contained in an editorial note in a late issue of the "Advocate," setting forth as a possible cause of so-called milk fever, or, more properly, parturient apoplexy, the common practice in dairy herds of removing the calf from the company of the cow immediately after its birth, and emptying the udder of the cow by hand milking. Such practice is certainly contrary to nature, and the fact that cases of milk fever are almost entirely limited to dairy herds, and rarely heard of in herds in which the cows are allowed to nurse their calves, seems to support the idea that the course of nature is the correct one for the best interests of both the mother and offspring.

In the experience of the writer, extending over twenty years in the management of a herd of Shorthorns, in which the cows were liberally fed previous to calving, the calves being allowed to suck their dams, not a single case of milk fever can be recalled, although there were not a few heavy milking cows in the herd.

Later, in an experience of twelve years with a herd of Jerseys, during which time the calves were removed at birth and fed by hand, heavy losses from milk fever were sustained, though care was observed to feed lightly before calving, and the cows affected were not heavier milkers than many of the Shorthorns, though of course giving milk much richer in butter-fat. As remarked in the editorial note referred to, cows calving on the range and being relieved of their milk only by the calf, which cannot possibly take it all for many days, are practically exempt from milk fever, and this would also seem to favor the idea that nature's way is the safest. The impression prevails that by removing the calf at birth the cow is less disturbed and more quickly gets down to steady work in the dairy, and that the calf more readily learns to drink from the pail, thereby effecting a saving of time and trouble, and I have noticed the publication of an article in the report of Ontario Farmers' Institutes, in which the writer, who I suppose preaches the same doctrine, not only advocates separating the calf from its dam at birth, but withholding all milk from it for twelve hours, so that it may become so hungry that it will gulp the milk down when offered it, and thus quickly learn to drink. The supposition is that in the meantime the cow would be milked to relieve her. Could anything be more unnatural or unreasonable. In the natural way the calf takes a little at a time of the first milk, the composition of which is calculated to move its bowels, and in the process of sucking, the glands of the mouth which supply saliva are brought into action. This saliva aids digestion and the health of the calf. The udder is relieved by degrees, giving comfort to the cow, while if emptied at one operation collapse is liable to ensue, which may

reasonably account for the attack of apoplexy which is incorrectly termed milk fever. This idea may to some advanced dairymen be regarded as a relic of old fogeyism, but to me it reads a little like common sense, and I would suggest to those who, to save time and trouble and milk, practice destroying the most of their calves at birth, that it might at least be worth their while to try the experiment of partial milking for the first few days after the cow has calved, if, perchance, there may be something in this theory of prevention. To my mind prevention is, as a rule, so much better than cure, and so much cheaper, that it is worth considering in this connection, and I would like to hear from others who may be able to offer more practical suggestions than I have done in this letter. The aggregate loss to the farmers of this country from this cause must be enormous.

EX ADVERSO.

Farmers fully realize the principle of reaping what is sown. Make a right start early, and all the years of your life will have added usefulness through that sowing.