

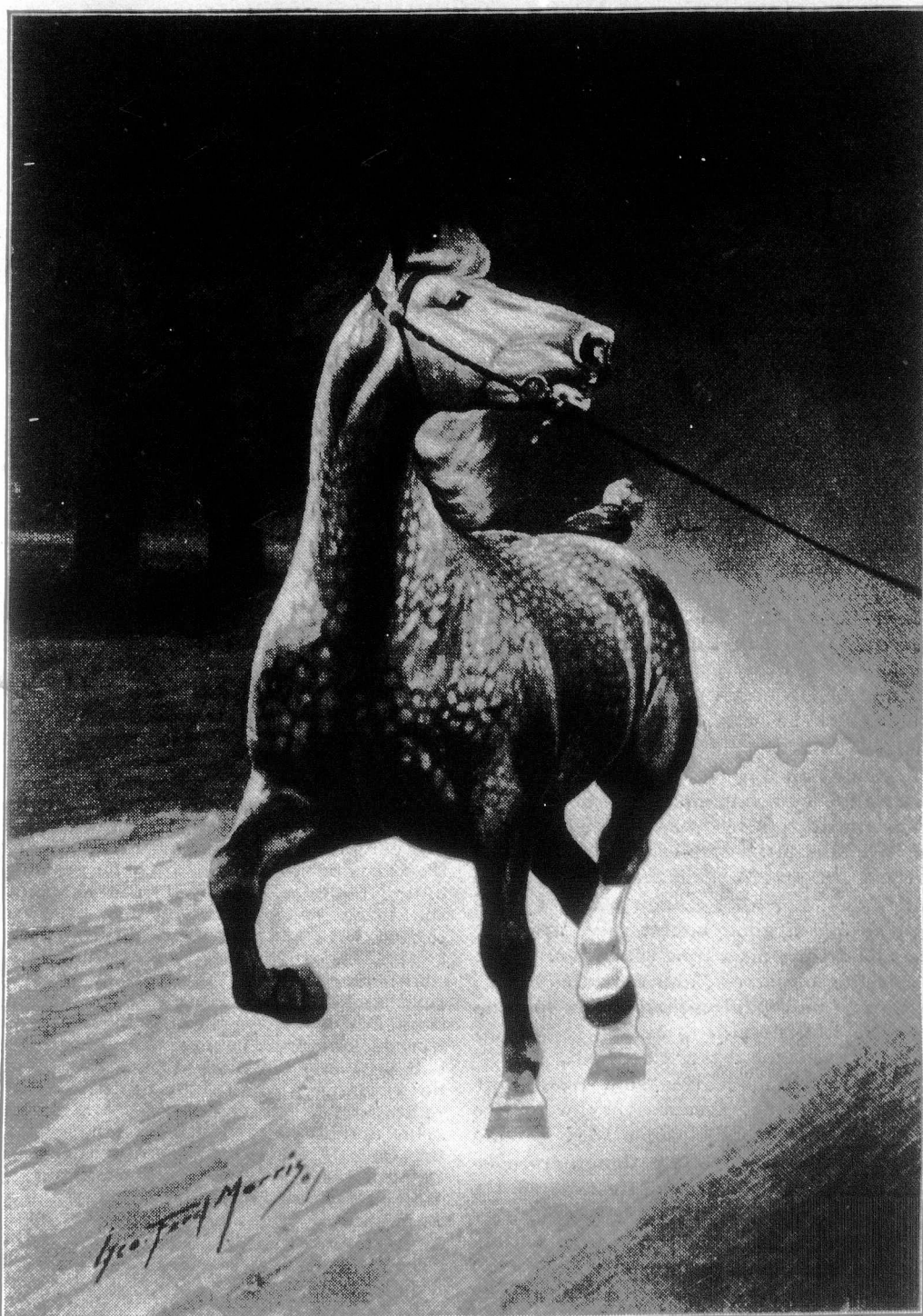
Dual Purpose Cows.

Considerable discussion has taken place in late years on the question of the possibility of breeding a class of cattle that will make first-class beef animals if fed for that purpose, and the females of which will make profitable dairy cows when used in that capacity. While it is scarcely reasonable to contend that cows of this class as a rule can be developed into the highest type of dairy producers or can be made to average as high in that regard as those of special dairy breeds whose breeding and training has been entirely in that direction, yet observation, experience and the records of milking and buttermaking tests have given ample evidence of the possibility of combining the two qualities, beef making and milk production, in a high degree in a cow that for the average farmer is perhaps more profitable than any other. The general farmer, who is not so situated or disposed as to make dairying a specialty, wants a class of cows that will give profitable returns at the pail and whose calves, raised on skim milk and fairly well cared for, will grow into beef animals that can be fed off at two and a half years old, weighing from 1,200 pounds to 1,400 pounds and showing smoothness of form and thickness of flesh fitting them for the export trade or the best markets available. And we are fully persuaded that by reasonably good management this result may be profitably and satisfactorily accomplished. There is ample room for the exercise of good judgment and good management in the feeding of calves during the first few months of their lives so as to raise them cheaply, or at least economically, and yet to give them such a good start in life as will, with fair after-treatment, ensure a profitable animal. There is often much loss in overfeeding with milk or feeding it cold to calves, causing indigestion and scours and thus weakening the constitution at the start. It is surprising on how small a quantity of milk a calf can be well raised if it is fed often, three times a day for the first month; new milk the first two weeks; and the milk always sweet and warm. Before the calf is a month old, as a rule, it can be taught to eat a little good hay and whole oats or chopped oats and bran by putting some into the mouth occasionally, and when it has once learned to eat there is little danger of a setback if its quarters are kept clean and well bedded.

It is true that as a rule the beef breeds are bred and managed with the sole object of developing their beefing qualities, without any regard to their milking propensities, the calves being kept as fat as the whole milk of their dams, supplemented by fattening meal rations, will make them, and kept closely confined the first year, a course of treatment that would quickly lower the milking tendency in even the special dairy breeds. Heifers so pampered in their first year are entirely unfitted to find for themselves when turned to pasture, being weak in bone and muscle, and cannot make as useful mothers as if they had been kept in only good thrifty growing condition and had been allowed ample exercise when young. While this hothouse treatment may be necessary in order to produce prizewinners, it is certainly a mistake to treat heifers that are not intended for show purposes in this unnatural way. And even the show animals would be vastly better in every way if given a reasonable amount of exercise. As a rule, the best milking cows in a herd of pure-breeds of the beef breeds are the best breeders. The milking propensity has a tendency to produce and maintain the feminine or cowy appearance we all admire, and a deep-milking cow gives her calf the best start in life, a start that may, with good management, be kept going on without check, producing the most desirable type of animal at maturity. To our mind, it would be well if most of the heifer calves in pure-bred herds were raised by hand, and if this were done in the case of those from good milking dams, the cows might give a good account of themselves in the dairy. However this idea may strike the breeders of pure-breeds, there can be no question that the general farmer who prefers grades of the beef breeds can improve their milking qualities and make them profitable in the way we have indicated.

In this connection we commend to the attention of breeders the sentiments embodied in the following extract from an article recently published in the Live Stock Report of Chicago, a paper devoted principally to the handling of beef cattle:

"The characteristics of a modern beef animal of superior excellence can better be obtained in conjunction with milk than without it. The fact is now recognized and accepted by some of the foremost breeders of Great Britain. The proprietor of one of the herds of Scotch Shorthorns that is at the present time in greatest favor in America, and one that has been most largely drawn on to maintain the excellence of our herds, pursues precisely this policy. This is not an isolated case. The cultivation of good milking qualities in the British beef herds is the rule and not the exception. If it were the rule here there



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THE PERCHERON STALLION CHAMBELLAN 27849 (46787).

Winner of first prize for stallion four years old and over at International Live-Stock Exposition, Chicago, December, 1901. Winner of first prize at the Show of the Societe Hippique Percheronne, Nogent, 1901. Winner of first prize at the Government Show, Vendome, 1901. Imported by Dunham, Fletcher & Coleman, Oaklawn Farm, Wayne, Du Page County, Illinois.

might be less occasion to import so frequently and so extensively.

"Suppressing milk secretion tends to weaken fecundity and thereby to shorten the reproductive period of the breeding animal. The best milkers are almost invariably the best breeders in the herd. The shy breeders are rarely if ever found among the heavy milkers. Cows that do not milk well seldom breed regularly until an advanced age is reached, and what calves they raise will be stunted unless provided with a nurse cow.

"The most important reason for combining milking quality with beef, however, is rarely considered at all. It is a prime factor in maintaining smoothness and quality. To suppress milk is to curtail fecundity or breeding quality, and to curtail or check breeding quality tends to unsex the animal, and as a direct result the females become coarse and masculine. They not only tend to become coarse and masculine in appearance, but coarse in substance and texture. The scant milker becomes a shy breeder and grows gaudy and uneven in her flesh. It is a rare exception to find a Shorthorn that will carry its flesh smoothly and evenly to maturity unless descended from good milking ancestry. The beef cow that gives a good flow of milk may be repeatedly fitted in high condition and reduced, and remain smooth, but not so with the dry cow. In the early days of the breed, when it was the rule to grow large, gaudy bullocks for the block, coarse, patchy carcasses were tolerated, but they are no longer wanted. The killer and the consumer severely discriminate against them. The compact, tidy bullock now demanded must be thick-fleshed, smooth and even and of superior quality throughout. A good flow of milk in the dam is conducive to this standard in the butcher's bullock and in the breeding bull; and the absence of it is detrimental."

The Farmer King.

Under the heading, "The King at the Cattle Show," the London (Eng.) Spectator of December 14th gave a graphic account of the visit of His Majesty to the recent exhibition of the Smithfield Club. It was remarked that: "The hereditary patron, adviser, chief competitor, and most famous stock-breeder of this closely-united and self-respecting body is the King himself. His Majesty has not only inherited the famous herds and flocks of Queen Victoria, but has for years been among the first of all breeders of certain kinds of stock. He has taken seriously to the business for very many years at Sandringham, and on a scale which very few private persons can emulate. He now has establishments, any one of which would be considered of the first quality, in Scotland at Abergeldie, in Norfolk, and at Windsor. At this show the combination was irresistible. His Majesty exhibited more animals and won more prizes than anyone else. Even if he had not, his support and encouragement of those who are doing their duty by the land and its people would have been just as hearty." In conclusion, our contemporary remarks: "Some of our readers may be a little surprised at the importance attached to the Smithfield Show, but, in truth, the pride and satisfaction felt in the show are perfectly genuine, for, in spite of our inability to make farming pay, every Englishman has a touch of the farmer somewhere in his composition. It is thus most natural that the King's very real interest in the show should add to his popularity. When he goes to the show he is visibly and directly sharing the chief enthusiasm of a very large portion of the nation."