

CONSTRUCTION OF MILK-MAKING MECHANISM

To have good dairy cows, improved and better than those we already have, it is necessary to put into practice, the principles I have explained in Bulletin No. 30. We must make use of heredity.

1.—We must use for breeding only the good cows; those producing sufficient milk to pay for their food, stable rent, care received, and still more giving a profit to their owner. Remember that these good cows, giving a profit, without being altogether scarce, are not very numerous. The average annual production of our cows is less than 3000 lbs of milk. Therefore there are many poor cows, which must be weeded out and replaced by better ones. Unless it is an absolute necessity, these cows which lose money, will not be bred to refresh the herd. If possible only the best cows will be bred.

2.—We will use a bull, having in him, in a latent state, good milking aptitudes. For this he must not only be born of good parents, but also of a good line of ancestors. All his female ancestors shall have been very good producers of milk, all his male ancestors shall have been descendants of good cows as well.

If we use only our best cows and breed them to a good bull out of a good cow, the female progeny will in later years, become good dairy cows. Their quality will be according to that of the bull which sired them. Let me say that the choice of the herd bull is of great importance. First because he is half the herd. He alone having more influence than have all the cows; next it seems that he is more potent in the transmission of dairy qualities than are the cows.

I therefore advise you to make a better selection of your herd-bull. It is not sufficient to buy a pure-bred animal, it must be out of a remarkable dairy cow. Take all the possible precautions. In-