

ground? Does this not prove that there is a great difference between fresh straw, and that which has been long thrashed—between the straw produced by cereals completely ripe, and that of cereals cut before maturity—between the produce mixed with bad herbs, and that which has been kept in a proper state of cleanliness? It must be remarked, that each kind of food exercises a different action, according to the nature of the animals which consume it. One likes straw, another prefers hay, one agrees better with meadow hay than clover, while another thrives better in pasture than in the stall. The nutritive power of the food, moreover, is influenced by the state of the temperature. The nourishment acts differently, according as the weather is dry, dull, or rainy—according as the animals are left at rest or used for hard work; and according as they are well or ill treated. It is equally unquestionable that the milk is much more abundant in one season than in another, which must necessarily be attributed to the direct influences of the atmosphere.

This is not all—the disposition materially affects the milk. Give any horned animals new or particular food, and you will immediately perceive a change in the flavour and the color of the milk. This fact has been again recently established, by an experiment made at an institution for instruction in agriculture. Food, consisting exclusively of spergula, had been given to the cattle at this establishment; and this food, to which are attributed such precious properties for milk in nearly all the other districts of Belgium, had been almost forsaken by the animals; it is needless to add, that after that the milk suffered a considerable diminution, both in quantity and quality.

This example shows once more that the natural disposition of each animal acts for good or for evil upon the organs of digestion, and has consequently a direct influence upon the animal economy, and upon the amelioration or the deterioration of the milk. It only remains for us to add to the preceding observations, that any sudden excitement of sensations, as fear, alarm, &c., produces unpleasant results upon the quantity of milk obtained from the animal. The proof is, that the state of the food and of parturition remain the same, the secretion is much more

abundant when care is taken to leave the animal quiet, and when their food is given to them at regular hours, as is the case on every well directed farm. Let us observe, in short, that the same food may produce opposite effects according as it is very cold, very hot, or at ordinary temperature; and that it is much better for the animal to favour perspiration and digestion, either by baths or other means.

It is thus seen how inexact are the equivalents which are understood to be established between the different food used for the maintenance of the animal. It is equally plain, when we reflect on the different methods pursued for the preservation of the animals, that we are still far from having attained that perfection towards which our efforts tend. Visit one hundred farms taken by chance, in different parts of the country and you will find, in each, methods directly opposite—a totally peculiar manner of managing the stalls; you will see in short, that the conditions of food, of treatment, and of hygiene remain not understood in seven-eighths of rural farms.

Veterinary Practice and Instruction.

We have much pleasure in announcing that Mr. A. Smith has arrived in this city, from Scotland, and that he intends commencing the practice of his profession as a Veterinary Surgeon under the patronage of the Board of Agriculture. For some time, as several of our readers know the Board has been making arrangements of this nature, and we are now happy to find that their important object is about being realized. Mr. Smith comes among us with the highest testimonials as to personal character and professional ability. He is a graduate of the Edinburgh Veterinary College, founded and presided over for nearly half a century by the celebrated Professor Dick. We observe from an elaborate report, published in the *Scotsman*, the late terminal examination of the college, that Mr. Smith won a very distinguished position. The number of students was large, and the competition consequently great. The standard examination in this college, as well as that of London, is high, and much more difficult than formerly; and among the examiners were several of the distinguished Professors in the University