

In the concluding paragraph of the preceding chapter, I promised to give my views on the mode of rearing the cow that shall be most effective and reliable in securing a physical structure and form that is absolutely necessary in the best dairy cow.

As with the "tree," if we would fashion it we must begin with the "twig," so with the cow, particularly as regards the development of the store-house and laboratory in which valuable dairy products are to be extracted from the aliment consumed.

We must provide food for the calf, from the time it begins to demand other than milk, which is bulky and in which nutritious matter is not too highly concentrated. There are various ways of sugar-coating coarse and innutritive matter, so as to make it palatable, and yet not inclined to cloy or surfeit the stomach or impair its tone.

When the calf on pasture has eaten all the grass its appetite cares, it may be induced to eat three small meals daily, of a variety of grass unlike the pasture, by chopping it in a green state, and mixing it with finely ground corn meal, moistened with molasses or linseed mucilage, or pulp of sweet apples. In the absence of the grass, feeders corn, the lower leaves of cabbage, beets, etc., may be chopped and used as a substitute.

It is important that all the food fed to ruminants should be in a condition favorable to rumination; slops alone are not as profitable as when the grain, etc., from which they are made, is incorporated with hay, stalks, and the like, with which it may be ruminated. Any food, or system of feeding, that interferes with rumination is injurious, and tends speedily to an abnormal condition of the organs of digestion, and if long continued, will injure the teeth; and neither the flesh, nor the lacteal products from animals so affected are as wholesome for food, as that from animals in a normal condition.

The unwholesomeness and injurious effects are more apparent on children than on adults, and has often greatly swollen the mortality report, and has yet been unheeded by health officers.

This system of feeding the heifer calf should continue until the heifer has become a cow in profit, and if it has been skillfully conducted, I am confident that the yield of the cow may easily be increased one-fifth or one-third what it would have been under a regime disregarding the physical development which I have claimed to be of such great importance.

The nature of the cow may also be greatly improved by carefully avoiding an exceptional development of fat, either before or after she has bred. I am satisfied that when the secretions of the cow have been for any considerable period of time, diverted from the lacteal to the fat and flesh forming development, that it is difficult, if not impossible, to entirely transpire such a tendency; hence its occurrence should be carefully avoided.

The most effective means of preventing this condition in the heifer, is in avoiding the use of a large proportion of fat-forming food, and to have the animal bred at an early age. Having bred, she should be again impregnated, so that she may drop the second calf about one year after the first.

She should be milked quickly and regularly twice a day, and as long as any milk can be drawn, no matter how small the quantity, until within a few days of the approaching parturition. This course pursued with the cow for three or four years will be found enduring in effect, and will cause her to protract her milking season months longer than cows to which no special attention has been given.

Printing, Travellers' Guide, Pianos, Miscellaneous, Miscellaneous, Miscellaneous.

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