THE FARMER.

Calves.

Herdsmen and those interested in rearing cattle, have expressed various opinions as to the most judicious method of rearing calves; some contending strenuously for the 'natural way,' as they are pleased to term it:—that is, allowing them to run with the dams till they are four or five months old; while others assert that the better way is to separate them from the cows when a week or so old, and 'raise them by hand.' The economical farmer will of course examine and consider the cost in both cases, for this is in fact an item of great importance, especially where large numbers are raised. Which of the modes above named is most expensive, must in a great measure, depend upon the locality, as, in some places, the value of the milk, butter and cheese, would be worth much more than the calf; while in others, it would scarcely, if marketed, defray the cost of manufacturing, and other incidental expenses. A person who has attended critically to this business for many years, and who has, withal, made many and various experiments, has presented me with the following synoptical summary of his views upon the subject, and for which, as they are from an eminently intelligent and practical man, we bespeak a candid perusal:

'I find that the calf, when allowed to run with the dam four or five months before weaning, generally exceeds in size the one raised by hand. But when taken from the dam and compelled to procure its own food by grazing, the change of diet causes a sudden cessation of growth, and it almost immediately becomes stunted and this, too, at the identical period when it ought to be most vigorous and thriving. On the other hand, the one early weaned becomes progressively more robust and hearty, and by getting early accustomed to coarser and less nutricious food, advances rapidly in its developement and without experiencing any check, so that upon the advent of winter, it is ordinarily in much better condition than the other.

The plan which I generally pursue, and which has been certified by many years' experience, to be the most judicious and economical, where animals are reared by hand, is to permit the milk to stand twelve hours at first; then skim and heat it to the temperature of milk just drawn from the udder; after which a handful of shorts or wheat flour is added to each mess. From four to five quarts is the proper quantity for an ordinary-sized calf, at first. When a greater age has been attained, whey, with a small quantity of shorts added, may be advantageouslay given. This method of rearing has an ameliorating influence upon the disposition of the animal; it is more docile and gentle, and can be more easily managed through the season, and afterwards. There is never any trouble with them in consequence of their not going to the natural fount for a supply of food, which is apt to be the case with young animals that have been weaned after having attained the age of four or five months. The best working animals I have ever possessed, have been reared by hand, and they were the best developed and most valuable I have ever owned, in every way.'—[Correspondent of Germantown Telegraph.

Treatment of a Contrary Horse.

When a horse gets in a way of being contrary, and will not go forward at all, it is common to apply the whip freely.—Solomon says, 'a whip for a horse,' but he may not refer to any cases of this kind. At any rate, it is often where thus used of no benefit, only the gratification of the enraged driver. A method which we have known more successful is to treat the animal very kindly. His contrary disposition is usually the result of having been fretted in some way, and kindness may overcome it. Make much of him at all times, Speak gentle to him, and so often that he will become accustomed to your voice. When he stops when attached to the carriage or load, and will not move, approach him in the same gentle manner. Stroke the mane, and pat the hand frequently on his head. Means of this kind will have a powerful tendency to overcome his stubborness, as brutes feel the power of kindness. We believe, from what we have seen, that young horses especially, in nine cases out of ten, may be successfully cured of contrary habits in this way while the application of the whip would only increase the difficulty.

Animals becomes Parents too Early.

Victor Gilbert never allowed ewes to have lambs until they had passed their third year; and the bucks were not used until they had arrived at full maturity.—He, as well as many other sagacious stock raisers that we might name, are probably conversant with the fact that during the period of growth and development, up to maturity, the re-productive organs are dormant, while at the same time the nutritive function was wholly engaged in elaborating *chyle* and blood for the development of bone, mustle and nerve, and that by calling into requisition the re-productive or generative organs, before the animal had attained full growth, must necessarily divert the elements of matter, intended for nutrition, from their legitimate channel, and direct them to the re-productive organs. This is precisely what takes place. A too early use of the purely animal function induces weakness and stunted growth.—[Am. Vet. Jour.

Poultry needs warm and comfortable quarters these cold nights, and you will find that there will be a saving of corn or a proportionate increase of fat, if they, chickens, turkeys and all, are made to come off the apple trees, and roost in the poultry house.

Making Butter.

A correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph, in a late number of that paper, makes the following remarks on that subject: 'Purchasers and consumers of butter generally complain that butter does not keep well—that it soon becomes strong and rancid, if not wholly worthless. This may arise from a variety of causes. In the first place, butter ought never to be churned in an apartment where the temperature is above sixty degrees Fah.—At this point is obtained the greatest quantity, and at fifty-two degrees the best quality. These facts are of high practical importance to those engaged in domestic economy. Another very important matter to be attended to in the manipulation of butter, is the complete expulsion of the buttermilk. This should be accomplished by means of a wooden ladle, and not by the hands, for no hand of man or woman should ever come in contact with butter, especially if the weather be hot.

Dr. Anderson's celebrated receipt for the preservation of butter in a perfectly sweet and edible condition, has been long before the public; yet as there are many, perhaps, even among the readers of this paper, who are unfamiliar with the process, I now quote it as presenting the best practical directions on the subject, ever published. It is this:

"Best common salt, two parts; saltpetre, one part; sugar, one part; beat them up together so that they may be completely blended. To every pound, or sixteen ounces of butter, add one ounce of the composition. Mix it well with the mass, and close it up for use."

A friend who has long used this mixture assures me that he has kept butter prepared with it for years, perfectly sweet, although there is at first a disagreeable taste which continues for a fortnight, after which it disappears, and the butter assumes a most excellent flavor, and never after becomes stale or rancid.

A writer in the New-England Farmer, suggests the following as a better method than the one proposed by Dr. Anderson. Instead of common sugar, he recommends loaf or crushed sugar, and would have the salt dissolved and evaporated, in order to purify it, and thoroughly dried, before weighing it. Most of the salt sold in the markets of this country, is filled with impurities more or less noxious, which are calculated to operate a bad effect upon the butter. The article known in some sections by the taking appellation of "butter salt," is by no means free from this imperfection, and should be invariably subjected to a rigid inspection and a thorough cleansing, before it is used. Dr. Anderson remarks that wooden vessels are the most eligible for preserving butter, when salted. "Oak is said to be better than any other kind of wood. Iron hoops should not be used, as the rust of them will penetrate the wood, and injure the contents. It is difficult to season new wood, and therefore old vessels should be used as long as they will last. Unslacked lime, salt and water, well boiled, and hot-water and common house ashes, are recommended for scouring them. The vessels having been repeatedly scrubbed with some or all of these, should afterwards be thrown into some cold water, to remain till wanted." Oak wood, especially the red oak, is possessed of a sour taste, which it retains for years, and which often gives rise to a very unpleasant flavor in the butter, unless its effects are counteracted by some alkalescent matter, and I therefore prefer firkins of maple, which is a sweet and fragrant wood, and in point of durability but little inferior to oak.'

Skin Diseases in Animals.

Scabies is a pestiferous disease, whether it affects the horse, the ox, the sheep, swine, or poultry, inflicting a loss not easily estimated; hence the maxim of every intelligent farmer is to avoid it. With him, 'prevention is better than cure,' and therefore his grand desideratum is to guard against contagion. Sheep are perhaps, more subject to it than any other animals, arising as much from the nature of their skins and coats as from the fecundity of the *acarus oris*, and the greater vicissitudes of the weather to which they (sheep) are exposed. Certain parts of the body are more liable to be affected than others; and so is an unhealthy skin than a healthy one. Indeed, it has been said that an unhealthy skin will itself produce scabies (!), but this conclusion does not appear to be well founded, for a disease dependent upon the presence of living parasites can never arise spontaneously, but must be effected by contagion, either by means of their eggs, or the insect in some other stage of its existence. Now, from what has just been said, it will appear obvious that cleanliness, a healthy skin and state of the body, and a separation from foul animals and ground, are the means necessary to avoid contagion.

Sink Washings.

These should always be applied to the land. Wherever the ground about the buildings is such that it can be done without offending against neatness and health, they should be directed to a tank, or what is quite as well, an excavation, for the purpose, to be filled half or two-thirds full of some rich vegetable matter in the spring more of the same to be thrown on from time to time through the season, and the whole to be carried off the next spring and applied to the soil. From ten to twenty loads of as good manure as the farm affords may be thus manufactured at little expense; and it is worth considering, that the carbonaceous character of the peat or mould used renders it a good retainer of the foul gasses that would otherwise infest the premises.—[Plow, Loom and Anvil.

Vice is sufficient of itself to make a man thoroughly unhappy.

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