

How to Double the Butter Product.

Only a few days ago a good lady butter maker sent for me to come and test her cows. There were seven in the herd, three of which went below 3 per cent. of butter fats, the others straggling up as high as 4, and the average of the whole herd was 3½ per cent. About 24 pounds of their milk would be required to make 1 pound of butter. She said they were getting about 110 pounds of milk per day, but she made only 18 pounds of butter per week, so that my test must be wrong. As we sat at the supper table, she, her husband and the hired man had a good laugh at the man who followed the farmers' institutes and wrote agricultural articles for the farm papers. The good woman lost her temper when told that she lost nearly half her butter between her cows and the butter bowl, and would not believe the test that showed over 1 per cent. of butter fat in her skim milk.

To satisfy her that the test was all right, I promised the next day to go through with it all again, also testing the buttermilk. The result was startling. The second test showed 3.3 per cent. of butter fats in the whole milk, 1.2 per cent. in the skim milk, and at least one-tenth of 1 per cent. in the buttermilk. From 224 pounds of milk, which should have given her at least 8½ pounds of butter, she got only 4 pounds 7 ounces, or a trifle less than one-half the butter in the milk, the rest being wasted or lost in the skim milk and buttermilk. She is not convinced yet, and I am going over with a separator some day, just to show her. And the truth is that fully one-third of the butter makers in New York State are using the same appliances, under about the same conditions, that this one is. The most exasperating thing about it all is they won't believe you when you show them wherein they are losing money. Such people will pay \$5 to some travelling fraud for the "secret" of doubling the amount of butter obtained from milk (add rennet and churn the whole milk, thus getting the cheese with the butter in one mess, that tastes fairly when fresh, but soon spoils and has no market value), but won't believe a competent instructor who demonstrates by actual test that they are getting only half the actual butter fats by their present processes.—*American Paper.*

Continuous Stabling of Cows.

In a lengthy article in the London *Live Stock Journal* on dairying and feeding herds at Birmingham sewage farm we find the following:

"The cattle upon the various farms come up to something like 600 head, the majority of them being housed the greater part of the year, the milking herds, numbering 200, never leaving their stalls. The largest of the home-steads is the one at Tyburn, where the buildings are all new, most efficient, and fitted with every convenience for attending to the cattle to the best advantage. The first shed we entered contained seventy-two milking cows, thirty-six on a side; these stand with their heads to the outer walls, with an 18-foot wide road up the centre for the purpose of bringing down the carts to take away the manure at once. There are racks and mangers in front, and a water trough between each two cows, to which they have access at all times. Their feed consists of pulped roots and chopped hay in winter, and Italian ryegrass during the summer, to which is added a mixture of ground corn to the extent of 8 pounds per head per day. The whole of the feed being of such a succulent character has the effect of producing enormous yields of milk; records are periodically taken, and as much as 1,400 gallons have been obtained from a single cow during the year, and some of the cows, commencing at seven gallons of milk per day after calving, were at the end of ten months still yielding about five gallons daily. These cows are almost entirely of the Shorthorn type, several of them having registered pedigrees, and are purchased when about four years old and near calving, and are usually bought in very good condition."

We have quoted this article mainly because of the stabling system pursued, out of fairness to those who claim that continuous stabling of cows is not inimical to their health and productivity. The other remarks are included for the incidental information that they give.

Analyses of root crops recently made by the Ontario experiment station enforce anew the old belief that roots carry too much water for economy in handling, the turnips showing from 90 to 93 per cent. water and mangels from 85 to 90 per cent. water. And while the yield of turnips per acre ran as high as 20 tons, only 1½ tons of dry matter resulted, or about the amount found in 3,400 lbs. of hay. The mangels showed slightly over three tons of dry matter, or about what a first and second crop of clover should give. Who says that they are as cheaply raised as the clover crop?

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Waltzing Mice.

The following description of some very curious and interesting Japanese animals is communicated to *Natural Science*, London, by Edgar R. Waite, of the Museum at Sydney Australia, and cannot fail to be interesting:

"Whatever the late war may have done toward increasing our knowledge of Japan and things Japanese, it was the means of introducing to me an interesting domestic animal, the subject of this article.

"The mice were obtained from Mr. Haley, of Sydney, who received them from Japan. The original pair and nearly all the offspring for several generations are white, variegated with black, disposed about the head, nape, and root of the tail. The exceptions are reversions to the color of the wild brown mouse, and two instances in which the black is replaced by faint buff; the irides of these are pink, whereas those of the other mice are dark.

"At first, a visitor probably regards the mice as mere colored varieties of the common white race. A moment's observation reveals the peculiarities of the breed, and attention is riveted by their strange performances. Early in life they exhibit the tendency which has earned for them the name above applied. When a mousing leaves the nest its gait consists of an evident attempt to proceed in a straight line; this is frustrated by a tremulous movement of the head, which is nervously shaken from side to side. Shortly, a tendency is exhibited to turn; this develops into a rotatory motion, performed with extraordinary rapidity, which constitutes the peculiarity of the waltzing mouse.

"The ordinary routine of daily life is constantly interrupted by this mad disposition to whirl, frequently indulged in for several minutes, and, with an occasional stoppage of a few seconds, continued for hours. The floor of one of Mr. Haley's cages being somewhat rough, the mice actually reduced their feet to stumps before it was noticed. Like ordinary mice, they sleep during the day, but apparently waltz the whole night long. If, however, they are disturbed during daylight, they leave their bed and work off some surplus energy.

"The rotation is so rapid that all individuality of head and tail is lost to the eye, only a confused ball of black and white being recognizable. Very often they spin in couples, revolving head to tail at such a speed that an unbroken ring only is perceived. It is remarkable that they keep perfectly together; this may be attributed to their similarity in size and not to any special faculty they may possess. An upright peg forms a favorite pivot, but even without this guide they would not, in several minutes, cover an area larger than a dinner plate, and they easily spin under a tumbler. Sometimes three or four mice run together; the extra ones then form an outer circle, but as the evident desire is to rotate rather than revolve, more than two seldom work well. An individual generally spins in one direction only, and the majority turn to the left, only a small proportion going 'with the clock.'

"A waltzing mouse may be placed on the ground without fear of its escaping. Should it attempt to do so, it will not proceed far before being seized with a paroxysm, which it will be necessary to work off before further progress can be attempted. These mice may also be kept in a paper box, which would not detain a wild mouse an hour; the process of gnawing the walls of their prison will be so frequently interrupted by the necessity of practising their infirmity that little damage can be done. As with all truly domestic mice, however, no determined effort to escape, such as characterizes the wild mouse, is ever attempted, and at most such efforts are to be regarded as an inherited habit rather than a real desire for liberty, for domestic mice do not readily leave when their cages are left open.

"The feature of the breed may be due to cerebral derangement, but that the trait is, at the present day, purely hereditary and not acquired by the individual, is shown by the fact that as soon as they arrive at an age when other mice begin to run, these begin to waltz.

"They may be compared with tumbler pigeons, and the analogy is close, allowing for differences between an aerial and a terrestrial performance. The plane of motion is, however, quite different, as exemplified by Indian ground tumblers, which, when placed on the ground, turn head over heels.

In both cases the affection is the result of degeneration by heredity of an affliction which would have insured the destruction of a wild race.

Bread eaten before it is twenty-four hours old is responsible—on account of the fermentation it keeps up—for anemia, consumption, pneumonia, influenza, gastric ulcer, tumor and cancer. A fine-grained complexion may be kept by avoiding fresh yeast bread and white bread.