

Cleanliness in Milking.

Between the cow and the butter maker, however, there is a point which cannot be too carefully guarded—the way in which the milk is drawn from the cow and handled before it reaches the milk room. A very large part of the poor butter made, results from the milk being spoiled before it is even strained. One lot of butter examined at the fair showed this at once; it was not fit for any use as food. Some, on tasting it, would have said, "animal odor." Perhaps so, but not from the cow. If the cow is healthy and has good food and pure water, there can be no odor or taste to the milk in the udder at all objectionable. Nor will there be if the milk is drawn from a well-cleaned udder by a clean milker, in pure air, and kept away from all sources of taint. Others would have said this butter was "cowy." Don't lay such a charge on the poor cow; she did her part faithfully. The butter we complain of is not cowy; it is horsey or piggy, or worse yet, filthy. The cow keeper and milker are the ones to blame. Let every butter maker who has any regard for the reputation of his or her product insist upon every precaution being taken by the milker to keep the milk pure and clean. No really good butter can be expected if the milk is taken from an unclean bag or by a milker with dirty hands or clothing, or if the milking is done in a filthy or ill-ventilated stable, or the milk allowed to stand, even a short time, surrounded by impure air. It is the greatest mistake to suppose that if dirty or foreign matter gets into the milk, careful straining will remedy the evil; the object may be removed, but the taint remains. It must also be remembered that there are invisible things to spoil milk as these we can see. There are now improved implements which greatly protect the milk, guarding against carelessness and accidents, but nothing will take the place of careful, cleanly milking.—*Report of Hampshire Committee on Butter and Cheese.*

LOUISIANA MOSS.

The Louisiana moss business, which has undergone a period of depression, is said to be reviving. The moss is gathered mostly by negroes; and after a tree is stripped it is allowed to rest for seven years, during which time the moss renews itself. Cypress moss is preferred, as it is the longest and most tenacious of all the varieties. After the moss is gathered, it is placed in a sunny spot and left to the action of the wind and weather for a month. At the end of that time the grayish bark peels off, leaving the hair almost clean. It is then sold to the plantation storekeeper or country groceryman, who pays from one to two cents a pound for it, according to quality. The next move is to send the material to New Orleans to manufacture. After the moss reaches the factory it is subject to the action of the washer, which is a large cylindrical arrangement, with a wheel inside, which pulls the moss hither and thither, and lashes it through a vat of boiling water and soap, until the stuff is cleaned. Then it is hung out upon rocks to dry. This done, it is put in the duster—a fan mill which entirely removes all the dust that may have survived the washing process. As a result, the moss comes into the factory yellow in color, and goes out inky black. The article is then made up into bales, and marked according to quality. The highest grade can hardly be distinguished from the finest horse hair.

Success in Practical Life.

If you speak the right word at the right time; if you are careful to leave people with a good impression; if you do not trespass upon the rights of others; if you always think of others as well as yourself; if you do not put yourself unduly forward; if you do not forget the courtesies which belong to your position, you are quite sure to accomplish much in life which others, with equal abilities, fail to do. This is where the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. It is where you make people feel that you are unselfish and honorable and truthful and sincere. This is what society is looking for in men; and it is astonishing how many men are able to win for self-respect and success and usefulness, who possess these qualities of good breeding. It is almost the turning point of success in practical life.

"A weak mind is like a microscope. It magnifies small things, but cannot resolve large ones."—*Chesterfield.*

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