

## THE JERSEY COW.

PRIMROSE MCCONNELL.

THE Jersey cow has no occasion to enlist the services of an apologist. She is the aristocrat of the cow tribe. She is of "the blood royal," and for generations the greatest care has been taken to guard her against the evil of "morganatic" connection.

In her island home two attempts were made in the early days to improve the breed by crossing with Ayrshire and Shorthorn sires. The results of these crosses were, however, considered so undesirable that the importations and all their descendants were slaughtered—the Jerseymen had no room for crosses. Since that time her purity has been protected by several Acts of Parliament; in fact, the law in this direction is now so strict that cattle-importations to the island are not allowed except for immediate slaughter.

In her native home the Jersey cow is treated more as a member of the human family than as an ordinary chattel, and she is undoubtedly a lovable and attractive animal. No true dairyman can do other than admire her, even if he is convinced in his own mind that she is not the best cow for his purpose.

Weight for weight, and taking the average of whole herds, she will produce more butter-fat than any other known breed. She is also more hardy than she gets credit for; as a matter of fact, I have seen young acclimatized Jerseys wintered out among the snow on the south-west coast of Scotland. I have also taken particular care to note the results of severe weather on the two breeds at this station (Ruakura), and I find that the Jersey is as little affected by the bad weather as the Shorthorn—and the winters here are trying enough. She is naturally of good constitution, and tuberculosis is unknown on the Island of Jersey. In my own opinion, any tendency to delicacy of constitution of individual Jerseys has arisen through too much attention being paid to purely show points, and I think we would do well to encourage a little more of the big-framed roomy cow of undoubted constitution. As showing the great care that is taken by the Jerseymen to keep their herd-book beyond suspicion, I cannot do better than quote from an article by Ernest Matthews, M.A., author of "Economics in Dairy-farming": "Before any animal can be admitted into the herd-book and given a number in either section it must be passed by the herd-book judges. These examinations take