

MILKING BY HAND.

PRIMROSE McCONNELL.

IN these days of milking-machines, many types of which do very effectual work, it would at first sight seem almost superfluous to discuss the subject of "Milking by hand"; but, unfortunately, even the best machinery is liable at times to get out of repair, and, as milking is work that cannot be put off even for a short time, a failure of the machinery will always necessitate a recourse to the hands; hence it is necessary for the machine attendants to have a knowledge of the above art. This is further emphasized by the fact that there is a small percentage of cows which refuse to be milked by machinery; and with a small herd hand milking is more profitable than milking by mechanical means.

Milking by hand is an art that requires very great knack, patience, and energy if it is to be successfully accomplished. To obtain complete success with any system of milking, the cows should first of all be slowly and quietly driven in from the paddock, for the less they are excited the more freely do they yield their milk when they reach the byre. No unnecessary talking or banging of pails should be allowed, and the presence of strangers—particularly children—should be in no way encouraged during milking-time, as anything of this kind tends to excite cows of a highly nervous temperament.

Previous to commencing milking all the udders and flanks should be wiped with a damp cloth wrung out of a mild solution of lysol, and the milker's hands should be washed in a similar solution previous to and after milking each cow. This will not only ensure cleaner milk, but will also prevent the spread of such a disease as mammitis, which is not readily distinguished in the initial stage.

Kindly treatment—which gives the cow confidence in the attendant—expedition, and thoroughness are necessary to bring about the best results. If there is no desire on the part of the operator to learn the art thoroughly it is not likely that proficiency will ever be reached; and a milker of this sort should never be allowed inside a cow-byre except to clean it out. On the other hand, an indifferent milker (if willing to learn) may become proficient through getting a few lessons from an expert. If a cow is being skilfully milked her whole appearance will denote contentment, the most pronounced indication