

being a chewing of the cud. If she shows uneasiness, it is due either to unnecessary roughness on the part of the milker or to some injury to teats or udder, and if the latter it will demand extreme patience and delicacy of handling on the part of her attendant.

The milker should approach the cow with a kind word and a pat, at the same time putting down the milking-stool as gently as possible. He or she should sit close up to the cow, with head pressed against the flanks. One arm will then be in such a position as will enable the milker to press it firmly against the hollow of the cow's hock in the event of her attempting to lift her leg. Many milkers sit down, and take up such a careless position that they cannot possibly do effective work or have any control over the movements of the cow—and this is, no doubt, the cause of such a free use of the leg-rope. Although the Ayrshire cow is naturally of a nervous temperament, yet in her native country herd after herd may be seen milked without the use of the leg-rope.

The milking should be commenced by grasping the fore teats *gently* with a *dry* hand, full pressure not being used until the cow lets the milk into the teats. The fingers should not be put completely round the teat, as is sometimes done, but only about three-quarters round, pressing the teats with the points of the fingers against the palms of the hands. This enables the operator to milk in a more expeditious and efficient manner than he would do if he put his fingers completely round the teat—because in the latter case pressure is not brought to bear on the milk-duct, which is a comparatively small channel in the centre of the teat. The perpendicular “tug” which causes a movement of the whole body of the cow, and hence an annoyance, is an absolute abomination.

The pressure should be horizontal only, the arms remaining almost motionless except for the action of the muscles, the teats scarcely ever being stretched beyond their natural length. There should be a slight upward pressure similar to the calf sucking; and a first-class milker will never let go until the teats are empty. The fore teats should be milked first, as this tends to increase the yield from and develop the fore quarters, which in a great percentage of cows are much less capacious than the hind ones. A good milker will completely empty the udder by horizontal and slightly upward pressure alone, without any undue stretching of the teats.

The question of milking with a dry or wet hand is a much debated one, but the best milkers, in my experience, milk with a dry hand. As I previously stated, the main essentials to success are expedition and cleanliness. It is a well-known fact that a thoroughly efficient milker will milk a cow giving 30 lb. milk perfectly clean in five minutes, while