

Apart from the question of earlier maturity and general superiority of the progeny of young bulls, it is held by many that, as a bull has not reached maturity at three years old and therefore should only be coming to his best at that age, he should be fit for at least two more seasons. Granted that in exceptional cases, when it is expedient to procure as many of the progeny as possible of a particular bull, he may be kept for a longer period, provided he has a good constitution, has been kept in hand and well cared for, and is a keen server. In this case he should be kept away from the herd and only brought forward for service to a limited number of young cows; but if he be a heavy animal, and inclined to be a slow server, he should not be put to heifers. If it be found that the cows are returning he should be promptly discarded. Notwithstanding this, there is abundant proof that the progeny of younger bulls are better animals, and any one desirous of improving his herd will do well to adhere strictly to the use of young bulls.

In past years the main point with many dairy-farmers has been to get their cows in calf no matter what age, breed, or combination of breeds the bull might be. Consequently the inevitable happened, the progeny was often scant, and each generation was more unprofitable than the preceding. Breeding on these lines could have only one end—viz., ruination.

Experience has to a large degree ended this, but if our herds are to be improved, much has yet to be accomplished by the general adoption of a more intelligent system of mating. It is within the reach of any dairy-farmer owning even a very ordinary herd of crossbred cows, by proper selection of his bulls, in a very few years to improve his herd to an extent almost inconceivable to any but those who have actually seen and experienced the transformation. It is within the writer's personal experience that, by careful selection and the use of young purebred bulls of the very best blood in Great Britain, a herd of crossbred cows was improved to such an extent that over £40 per head was obtained for some of their progeny as fat bullocks at two years and nine months old, averaging over £35, as against about £25 at three years and over, and this was attained in less than ten years. In support of this, take the Argentine buyers, who, regardless of price, are buying up the best-bred young bulls in Great Britain every year. Why do they do so? Simply because it pays. This being so in the case of beef-cattle, it may safely be accepted that equal, if not better, results can be obtained with dairy cattle. Further, it ought to be the aim of every dairy-farmer to improve his herd and ultimately to transform it to a higher standard of