

solution into the womb—the idea being to replace the water which has most likely escaped some days previously, leaving the calf dry. The injection acts as a disinfectant and greatly facilitates the expulsion of the calf. Before proceeding to remove a dead foetus heavily smear the hands and arms with soap, butter, or other material as a protection against poisoning and an aid to eliminate the very persistent and disagreeable smell from these after the operation is complete. Should the abdomen of the calf be much swollen, open it with a hook-pointed knife, thus relieving the accumulated gases. In some cases, especially those of monstrosities, the limbs may have to be broken or the bones of the head crushed, but in no case should the skin be broken, else there is a likelihood of the cow being scratched internally, which under the circumstances would most likely lead to blood-poisoning.

THE CLEANSING.

All cleansing or afterbirth should be looked for and destroyed, whether healthy or not. However repulsive it may appear, it is a fact that a cow with an abnormal appetite will eat her own or another cow's cleansing and thereby endanger her own health. Cleansings, although they may be previously healthy, are rapidly attacked by disease-producing germs when exposed to the air. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the stockowner that cleansings left undestroyed not only encourage stray dogs to come about the place, but are a grave danger to the general health of stock. It is not recommended that afterbirth should be removed immediately the calf is born, as it is beneficial to give the cow a chance to do this without much help, but it is strongly recommended that every cow should be washed out immediately after calving, whether she has cleansed or not. The reason for this is that the lower part of the womb is below the external opening even when the cow is lying down, the result being that although all the solid parts of the cleansings may have come away there is always left a small quantity of fluid material. This may rapidly decompose, especially during hot weather, and blood-poisoning result. No disinfectant need be used at this stage, only a bucketful of water which has been boiled and allowed to cool to blood-heat and into which has been dissolved about 2 oz. of soap.

When the cleansing is retained longer than, say, twelve hours it should be removed. Proceed to do this with the same precautions as those advised before calving. First wash the womb out, but now using a little disinfectant in the water. Then with the left hand pull gently upon the exposed portion of the membrane—a good hold can be secured by rolling it around a piece of stick—and with the right hand assist in freeing the membrane from the walls of the womb, without, however, using much force. Should one come across a small patch and be undecided as to what it is, the best course is to leave it alone, but washing-out should be continued every day until all discharge has ceased. If the smell is offensive use more disinfectant.

GENERAL AFTER-CALVING PRECAUTIONS.

The most successful period for the prevention of disease or for combating disease already established in the womb is within the first twenty-four hours after calving. After this contraction rapidly takes place, and the womb cannot again be effectively washed out until