A FEW PERTINENT HINTS TO FARMERS.

Fences and farm-buildings.

SEASON fence-posts one year before using. Cut oak and cedar in February, chestnut and most other woods in August. To insure durability, soak the lower ends of posts in brine before setting. In the east the cost of fencing is equal to the value of the live-stock. To tear down a fence without splitting the boards, strike the side of the post near the top a sharp blow, in line with the fence, with a heavy sledge-hammer. To drive nails into very hard wood, dip their points in oil. Use steel nails for fencing. Paint in cool, cloudy weather. Use little lead and much oil for first coat. It does not pay to paint barns which are boarded vertically. Lime will remove moss from roofs.

Care of cattle.

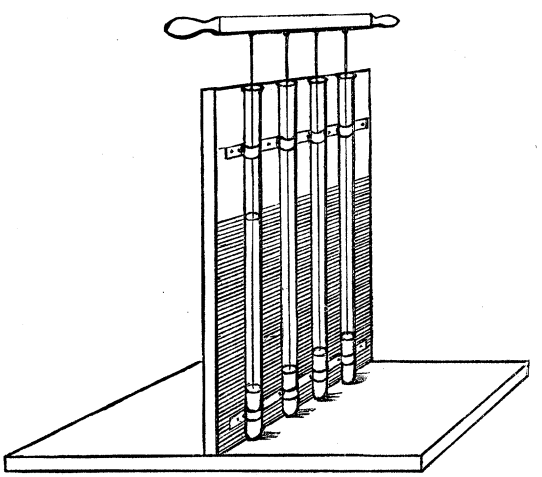
Try standing and lying on a hard plank floor twenty-three consecutive hours, and you will use the stanchions for kindlings, and build a covered barnyard. Feed cattle but twice daily, always before milking: give water as often, at a temperature of 55°; it is safer to scrimp food than water. Meal, if fed alone, especially to young calves, should be spread thinly on the bottom of troughs, so that it will be eaten slowly, and be insalivated. Allow one cubic foot of air-space for each pound of live weight. Temperature of cow-stables should range from 45° to 55°.

Hints on breeding.

Keep a mature thoroughbred bull at the head of the herd. Use selected common cows. Raise all female calves, and as many males as circumstances will admit, except badly marked or weak ones and those from two-year-old heifers. Uniformity in color, shape, and general characteristics, adds much to beauty and value. Heifers tried two years, if not satisfactory, should be fattened and sent to the shambles. Weigh the milk of each cow at least one day in each week. Stop guessing, and get facts. Selection, food, and care are the three great elements of success and improvement. Boys and cattle should be raised on the farm, not in the city.

Suggestions about dairying.

Procure a number of glass tubes, sixteen inches long, one inch in diameter, and closed at one end. With two strips of leather and tacks, fasten them upon a board two feet long and sixteen inches wide. Place under them a paper ten inches wide, ruled with lines a tenth of an inch apart. Fill each tube to the depth of ten inches with one cow's milk. The lines will designate the per cent of cream. Provide a metal dasher for each tube, and attach the handles of them to a common horizontal handle. Churn all the milk in the tubes at one operation, and note the per cent of butter in each tube. By this method it was proved, that, while one cow produced a hundred and eighty dollars' worth of milk in a year, another produced only forty dollars' worth. Nitrogenous foods,



A CREAM-TESTER.

such as cottonseed-meal and clover-hay, tend to produce large quantities of milk, the butter from which is inclined to be oily. Heat-producing foods, such as corn-meal, do not tend to largely increase the flow of milk, but to improve the quality and quantity of the butter. Animals part with the fat of the body more easily than they extract fat from their food: hence it is economy to moderately fatten the cow when dry. Sweet skimmed milk is worth, to feed in connection with other food to a good breed of pigs, one cent per quart. Two quarts of milk drawn from the cow by the calf is worth three quarts fed to it from a pail. Calves are more cheaply raised in winter than in summer.

A few facts about manures.

The value of the manure of a thousand-pound cow, liberally fed, ranges from five to ten cents per day, exclusive of bedding. Milch-cows take from their food about twenty per cent of its manurial value; fattening stock, about five per cent; young animals and dry cows, ten per cent.