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EDITORIAL.

CLEAN MILK—

CERTIFIED MILK ON THE FILM.

Everyone interested in the great national health question of Clean Milk should inspect the film prepared by the National Clean Milk Society, for the use of local authorities, showing the production of Grade A (certified) milk on an English farm, as required by the Government. The problem, as our readers know, is to prevent, as far as possible, micro-organisms from getting into the milk, and to prevent those that do enter from increasing. The film shows how this problem can be solved in every part of the process.

First there is the washing and sterilising of the bottles and pails, and then the procession of a magnificent herd, free from tuberculosis, from the fields to the dairy. The cows are washed and groomed and fed before milking. The milkers, in their white caps and milking suits, look as spick and span as their animals. Within a few minutes of leaving the cow we see the milk, which has been taken in covered pails, strained, cooled and sealed in the sterile bottles, and the bottles packed in ice for transit.

Where care is taken on these lines on the farm, milk will reach the consumer in a condition as near as possible to that in which it leaves a healthy cow, free from germs. Every farmer who sees this film will want, we imagine, to follow the methods it shows; the public who see it will certainly want to know if the milk they are drinking is produced on these improved lines. Local authorities, therefore, will render a valuable service by arranging to show it in their halls with all the prominence that is possible. It is a film that ought to be shown constantly all over the country until there is not a drop of dirty milk left.

CERTIFIED MILK FROM THE FARM.

Anyone who wants to see how Grade A (certified) milk is produced in reality can do so at

Moundsmere Farm, near Basingstoke. Here the cowsheds are models, and a separate milking barn is provided. To obtain a licence to produce either Grade A or Grade A (certified) milk, the cows must be tested regularly with tuberculin, and any beasts affected with tuberculosis rejected; the milk supplied must not contain more than 30,000 germs per centimetre, and *Bacillus Coli*, a germ present in manure, must be absent, thus proving that the milk has not been contaminated with manure. In grooming, the hair on the udder of the cows is kept short with clippers, and the brush of their tails cut to knee length. The milkers are careful not to press their capped heads against the cow's side; in this they avoid disturbing any dust or loose hair. The first two squirts from each teat contain a large number of germs; this fore-milk is discarded. Every utensil used is sterilised. The bottles are washed by a machine, first with caustic alkali, which is rinsed out with water in a bath, revolving brushes clean the inside and outside; after this the bottles are inverted over a jet of cold water for a final rinsing before sterilisation. To prevent dust and dirt being carried into the bottling room by the milkers, the milk is poured into a small sterilised receiving tank fixed to the outside of the wall; from this it passes by a tube through the wall to a filter placed over a tank, out of which the milk flows over the cooler, a framework of tubes through which cold water circulates. The milk falls from the cooler into a bottle; the dairymaid places a sterilised disc in the neck by means of a small automatic hand-machine; then she places a paper cap over the top of the bottle and, with another hand-machine fitted with wire, fastens the cap round the neck with wire.

The average sample of London milk contains 3,500,000 germs in a cubic centimetre; Moundsmere milk a number varying from 5,200 to none at all, the average of twenty-three samples being 1,100. This clean milk costs 1s. 1d. a quart in London. Little wonder, when we consider the costly precautions necessary to produce it.

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