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DEVONS - THEIR SPECIAL MERITS.

DEVONS are the prevailing cattle in several districts in the southern counties of England (says an English paper), and there are a considerable number of dairy herds of the breed. While there are several large milk and butter records of Devon cows they have as a breed never been famous for giving large quantities of milk, but their milk is rich in quality, and Devonshire cream has a world-wide reputation.

It is said that a gallon of Devon milk will yield, more butter than a gallon of milk of any other breed except the Jersey. It is only in comparatively recent times that much attention has been paid to the development of milking qualities, in the Devon; for in times past the Devon, like the Hereford, was raised chiefly with a view to the development of the male for working purposes. Hence the greatly smaller size of the cow, a point which should decidedly be considered in speaking of her yield of milk. In view of her hardiness, her ability to pick up a livelihood where a Shorthorn, Holstein-Friesian or any other breed would starve, her docility of temper under good treatment, and the comparatively small amount of food she requires, the Devon often gives a good profit in the dairy.

For work, Devon oxen are among cattle what thoroughbreds are among horses. In view of their size, they combine more fineness and strength of bone, more muscular power, more intelligence, spirit, and bottom than oxen of any other breed. Their slanting shoulders fit them better for the yoke than beasts of any other breed, except perhaps the Hereford. The nearer any other breed approaches Devon in shape and action the more valuable are they, according to weight, for the plough, the cart, the waggon. Their uniformity in style, shape, and colour renders them easily matched, and their docility, intelligence, and activity make them excellent working animals, especially on light soils or a hilly or rough country.