

## THE GOAT AS A PET FOR GIRLS.

## PART II.

IN my first paper upon this subject I gave my views as to the advantages of the pet goat, and directions how to set about obtaining a kid to act in this capacity, and finally how to bring it up "with the bottle."

Supposing now that it has passed through the interesting period of early kidhood and begins to evince an interest in vegetable food. The period when this stage is reached varies very much in different individuals and at different seasons, for in spring, "when green buds are a-swelling," the tender shoots of early vegetation form a much more tempting diet than is afforded in winter by the more ascetic fare available at that season. In the spring therefore a young kid will probably commence to supplement its milk diet at the age of ten days or a fortnight, and in the course of a few days afterwards will be found to be willing to partake of whatever may be set before its elders.

The most important point to observe in feeding goats, young or old, is to provide the food in sufficient variety. Goats will not eat a large quantity of any one sort of food, be it ever so much to their liking, but they love to go from plant to plant nibbling off a few leaves here and a few more there. In winter, when perforce the pasturage must be more restricted in variety, they are apt to turn to a habit that has perhaps more than any other of their delinquencies led to the disfavour in which they stand with gardeners; this habit consists in the neat and rapid removal of the bark from the skin of any tree that may be within reach, and in this manner it is astonishing what an amount of damage may be done in a short time, but as I have before suggested, the temptation to this vice is very much less in summer when the variety of food available is so much greater than in winter.

If the kid is being reared for show, it will be necessary to adopt a more generous scale of feeding than if use is the object in view. A goat's most useful attribute is its power of converting into wholesome milk a quantity of

fodder that would otherwise not be turned to profitable account, and therefore to feed largely with corn and other costly foods is a mistake except under special circumstances. The more liberty a goat can enjoy the more profitably it may be kept, but its ignorance of the etiquette of good behaviour in the garden renders entire liberty usually undesirable. My own goats (from twenty to thirty in number) are never allowed to feed unattended, and an account of their treatment may form a guide to those who wish to know something of the feeding of goats.

The meals are somewhat numerous, as digestion is rapid, and the amount of food that must be dealt with to produce an abundant flow of milk is considerable.

Their breakfast consists of corn and bran in winter or dried acorns in summer, and is given at milking time—about 7 A.M.; at 9.30 they go out upon pasture, attended by a boy with a whip to enforce obedience to discipline. At 12 they return to ruminate on what they have gathered, and go for a second time upon pasture from 3 till 5. At that hour they come in to a second meal of corn or acorns, and are racked up for the night with some cut grass or hay. Kept in this way goats are long-lived and healthy animals. For the last two years I have taken a couple of goats away when I have gone with my children for our holiday in Devonshire, and in this case, as I wish to obtain the largest possible quantity of milk, I have adopted a higher scale of feeding. The cost and results I have published in *Milch Goats and their Management* (Vinton & Co.), and may be excused for quoting them here.

"The two goats were allowed the run of a little yard with shelter from the wet. Their breakfast, given while they were milked, consisted of a good half pint of oats or scalded maize, with a double handful of coarse bran, to which was added any available kitchen refuse. At midday they received each an armful of weeds cut from a disused piece of garden-ground—sow-thistle, comfrey, dandelions, cleavers, and coarse grass.

"At about six o'clock they were allowed to follow some of our party to the beach and range the neighbouring waste land for grass, thistles, bramble, horned poppy, and other sea-side fodder, following us home at dusk. Their supper consisted, like their breakfast, of corn and bran.

"One of these goats was yielding, after six weeks of this life, exactly six pounds fourteen ounces of milk, or nearly five and three-quarter pints daily. Thus it will be seen that this one animal yielded produce to the value of £2 7s. (cow's milk price) during our stay of seven weeks, the total expense for food, hay, corn and bran being 5s. 4d."

The range of choice of fodder will be found very varied. Ivy-leaves, sow-thistle, dandelion, cow-parsnip, cleavers, being especial favourites, with the leaves and twigs of oak, birch, hawthorn, hazel, privet, and other hedgerow trees, in fact very few plants come amiss, and those the goat knows well how to abjure, with the exception, as I have before noted, of the rhododendron. In winter, a daily meal of carrots, parsnips, or mangold, will assist much in the production of milk, together with refuse from the garden and kitchen, and rotten apples and other waste fruit.

An article of diet that must not be omitted is salt. A lump of common rock salt should lie where the goat can lick it from time to time.

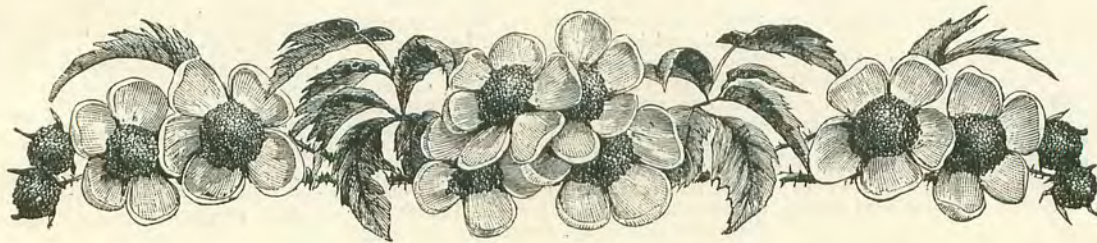
In winter, goats will browse freely from gorse bushes, and this food is said to be extremely nutritious to animals, who, like our useful friend, are enabled to defy the protecting prickles.

Water, sweet and good, should be always at hand, and in hot dry weather the goat will take considerable quantities.

Finally it must be remembered that the food and water must be given with due regard to cleanliness, for the goat is most exacting in this respect, and unless half starved, will assuredly refuse food whereon its delicate nose detects any trace of impurity.

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(To be concluded.)



## ADVICE TO GIRL-CYCLISTS.

CYCLING, however delightful it may be to ourselves, is perhaps not so enchanting to the large number of the general public who do not cycle. The introduction of thousands of cycles among the traffic, and along the country roads, has a tendency to create discomfort, unless riders are careful. It is just as well to avoid adding to it by every means in one's power. For this reason the lady cyclist should avoid riding on the wrong side of the road, ringing innocent people violently out of the way, when she might just as well get out of their way herself, and a variety of other transgressions;

she should not complicate traffic by riding through it for mere bravado, instead of because it is absolutely necessary; and should never ride in it with both hands off, or sitting on one side of her machine. It is not only her own neck she endangers, but the lives of other people, and she is guilty of criminal carelessness when she forgets this.

She should not dress in a style to excite undue notice, or make her pastime unattractive in the eyes of outsiders. Every cycling woman who appears in public, looking neat, trim, and charming, presents to the public an attractive advertisement; she makes other

women want to follow her example, and recommends it in the eyes of all beholders. If, on the contrary, she looks loud, fast, and simply a fright, she is doing it infinite harm, and prejudicing all sensible people against it. To look a fright on a bicycle is one of the simplest of matters, and can be readily achieved by anybody. One has only to wear garments badly cut and badly made, and thoroughly unsuited to their purpose, and, lo! the end is accomplished.—From *Handbook for Lady Cyclists*. By LILLIAS CAMPBELL DAVIDSON, President, *Lady Cyclists' Association*. (Hay Nisbet & Co.)