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*Mother-young Interactions in Dairy Cattle.* By D. M. Broom, Department of Zoology, University of Reading and J. D. Leaver, National Institute for Research in Dairying, Shinfield, Reading.

The behaviour of calves and their mothers was studied in detail during the first two days after parturition. During the two to three hours after birth most cows spent 90% of their time within 2 m of their calves and sniffed and licked the calf frequently. Feeding was infrequent although the afterbirth was usually eaten after it appeared. After this period, the calf's activity level increased and suckling was more likely to occur. The mother responded to the calf's activity by turning or walking towards it, licking it occasionally and mooing. On the second day the median distance between cow and calf was greater and the cow fed more than in the first few hours. Heifers which had been reared in spatial isolation for the first eight months of their lives sniffed and licked their first calves in the same way as group-reared heifers but were less responsive to changes in the activity of the calf and, after the first three

hours, were as likely to turn away from their calves as to turn towards them. These inadequacies in the maternal behaviour of the heifers reared in isolation were not unexpected since observations had shown peculiarities in their social behaviour when in a herd with group-reared animals of the same age.