

weather affecting cows, too much flushing of the bowl, and the machine running rough, &c.

A separator which is in good order should run with a smooth musical hum, and without vibration, and should deliver the cream and skim-milk in a steady stream. Vibration and noise are signs of something wrong, and should be seen to at once. The more common troubles are—frame not being level, bowl-spindle bent, a broken spring in the top bearing throwing the bowl out of plumb, bearings worn and having too much play. A frequent cause of trouble in disc machines is through the discs getting worn with use, and fitting loosely on the centre pillar, thus causing vibration. This can be overcome by putting an extra disc in the bowl.

A separator set to deliver a 40-per-cent. cream in spring with fresh cows will give a much richer cream in the autumn, all other conditions being equal, and will require to be altered a little. A sample of skim-milk should be tested frequently. This can best be done by punching a small hole in the shoot, if one is used, and catching the drip. If there is no shoot, a large jug, or billy, can be held under the skim-milk spout at frequent intervals during the whole run, and a sample taken from it after it has been thoroughly mixed. The fact that no cream rises on a sample of skim-milk is no proof that it contains no butter-fat. The argument that "the calves and pigs get it anyhow" is, after all, only an excuse for bad work. The old saying that "if a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well" still holds good. If you are going to separate your own milk, do it as it should be done. You will be surprised how interesting it will become. By all means rear good calves and pigs, but make a business proposition of that also, and remember that butter-fat at 1s. per pound is rather expensive pig-feed.

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GREEN MAIZE.—The dairy-farmers of the South Island are coming to appreciate the value of green maize for their milking-cattle. In the North maize is the chief means of maintaining milk-production when grass dies off. The climate of the North is naturally more suitable for the cultivation of maize, but even in the South maize for green fodder succeeds in average seasons. The experimental farms and the co-operative field plots have effected useful work in popularizing the cultivation of this plant. Quite recently a party of farmers inspected a heavy crop of maize near Christchurch—grown in a series of field-plot demonstrations. The party was highly gratified at the result. The South Island Fields Instructor, Mr. A. Macpherson, expresses his great appreciation of the help he receives from the cordial concurrence of the farmers who undertake these trials.