

high percentage of butter-fat in their milk, but it does not follow that these cows give a higher aggregate quantity of fat in a given period than other well-known breeds, and, after all, it is a total quantity given that counts. There are first-class cows among all breeds, including Jerseys, Guernseys, Holsteins, Ayrshires, &c., and the only true test of value is to produce a record of the quantity of both milk and butter-fat given by a cow for her whole period of lactation, by weighing and testing the milk. In choosing a special breed of dairy cattle the class of land to be used has to be taken into consideration. For instance, it would be unwise to select one of the heavier breeds, such as the Holstein, for lightish land or that which is too hilly. On such country one of the lighter breeds would be more serviceable. Then again, a farmer when making his selection is wise in being guided to some extent by the class of cattle in which he may have a special interest. Heavy animals, of course, usually require more food to maintain their bodies than do those of lighter breed, but just what that amount may be is not definitely known, so far as we are aware. A Jersey cow giving 6,000 lb. of milk testing 5 per cent. in a season would produce 300 lb. of fat, while a Holstein giving 8,600 lb. of milk testing 3.5 per cent. would do equally well and produce 301 lb. in a season. When considering the extra food required by the larger cow, however, allowance should be made for the value of the extra quantity of by-product that would be available from her milk.

---

#### CLOVER-HAY.

MR. J. W. BOWE, Marotiri, Wellington, writes,—

I have a crop of cow grass and alsike clover which I cut for hay about two months ago and which is almost ready to cut again. Please let me know whether you think it would be advisable to cut it again, or do you think it would impoverish the land too much? The soil is a good, deep, clayey loam, which has only been broken up about eighteen months.

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

On fertile lands it is not unusual to take two crops of clover hay in the same season. It must, of course, be accepted that with each crop removed the soil is impoverished to a certain extent. A top-dressing with some phosphatic fertilizer, such as basic slag, will, however, have a good effect.

---

#### FARM BOOK-KEEPING.

“LEARNER,” Woodville, writes as follows:—

Will you kindly inform me through the columns of the *Agricultural Journal* of a simple method of book-keeping for everything in connection with mixed farming; also necessary books required; if convenient, kindly give me a few examples.

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

Leaflets on farm book-keeping can be procured from almost any stationer. These provide forms for the different items of the farm, as stock, crops, milking, &c.

---

#### GREASY HEELS IN HORSES.

“GREENWOOD,” Maungatua, West Taieri, writes,—

Could you advise me of a cure for “grease” (greasy heels) in horses?

The Live-stock and Meat Division replies,—

“Grease” is an eczematous condition of the skin about the heels of heavy hairy-legged horses, and in some strains of blood there is undoubtedly a hereditary tendency to it. It is also seen, although less frequently, in lighter-legged horses. The general cause in these cases is irritation of the skin by dirt and wet. The hair-follicles and sebaceous glands of the skin are first irritated and then inflamed. This condition causes an excessive discharge from the glands, and often an enlargement of the parts; in some cases this is so excessive as to form grape-like bunches. Treatment will depend on the stage the disease has reached. Usually in the early