

## POINTS IN BUTTER-FACTORY MANAGEMENT UNDER HOME SEPARATION.

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THE change that has taken place in many districts in New Zealand from the whole-milk system to home separation has necessarily been accompanied by alteration in the methods of handling. The question arises whether those methods are all they should be. Among factory-managers themselves considerable difference of opinion exists on the various points involved, and it is with a view of helping to elucidate these points that these notes have been written.

While one factory shows a moisture-content of 13.30 per cent. and an overrun of 23 per cent., another has 14.29 per cent. of moisture and an overrun of 16.90 per cent. Obviously both are wrong. As the actual unavoidable losses in a well-equipped home-separation factory are reduced to a minimum, the largest being probably the overweight given in packing the butter, there must be serious defects in methods which bring about such results. The avoidable losses or gains are the result of mistakes in weighing, sampling, and testing of cream, and low moisture-content of butter.

### WEIGHING, SAMPLING, AND TESTING CREAM.

Where milk is received a mistake of 1 lb. in weighing is a comparatively small matter, and the sampling is simple, as every can is tipped. With cream it is much more serious, as cream is relatively ten times more valuable than milk. A mistake of 1 per cent. in weighing will make a difference of approximately 1.2 per cent. in overrun either way.

To ensure correct weighing of home-separated cream it is absolutely necessary to have every can conspicuously marked with the name or number of the supplier and the weight of the can. The plan of substituting a number for the supplier's name is becoming very popular, has many points of advantage, and, if painted on the can in fairly large figures, simplifies handling. Thus, 146/20 will represent the supplier's number and the weight of the can. By having the sample-bottles numbered to correspond a stranger can go on to a receiving-platform and take in a day's cream without