

being 222.02 lb. butter-fat per cow. For the past season (1915-16) sixty herds were tested, representing 2,343 cows, and these had an average of 283.36 lb. of butter-fat per cow, thus showing the association increase to be 61.34 lb. fat per cow in six years.

Kaupokonui has 229 suppliers, who have milked during the past season 10,212 cows, the average production from these being 224.47 lb. butter-fat. In the 1910-11 season 10,085 cows were milked and averaged 193.14 lb. butter-fat per cow. Thus after six years the company has an increased yield of 31.33 lb. fat per cow, obtained very largely by assistance from its cow-testing association.

NOTES ON PARTURITION.

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WELL-RAISED, properly fed farm animals pass through the ordeal of parturition with very little risk to themselves or loss to their owners if during the operation they are not too hastily interfered with. It is the instinct of a pregnant animal as parturition approaches to seek a quiet corner where she may be alone. Bustle, excitement, and interference at this time may all mean loss.

Dairy cows at calving-time should be kept by themselves in a small paddock near the homestead, where they may be watched; and when the important event begins it should be allowed to proceed without even an attendant being seen or heard. On no account should he break the membranes that first appear, as they and their contained fluid act as a natural distender which makes the free and uninterrupted passage of the offspring easy. Attendants may imagine by breaking the membranes they are making an outlet for the calf, &c., but this is an utterly mistaken notion. When the membranes rupture early of their own accord, or are deliberately torn, then the offspring has to be forced through a contracted avenue, and more than likely some of the members will stick and give rise to considerable trouble, which may end in the loss of a valuable animal and its offspring. What has been said in regard to the cow is applicable to all animals. If it is thought that an animal requires some assistance, it can be given without rupturing the membranes. A little thought is all that is needed to discover how this may be accomplished.

If after calving, lambing, or foaling the afterbirth does not come away immediately there is no cause for anxiety. If it is still retained after a few hours it will be necessary to decide what is