

the same amount of milk is sampled from each milking, and the weight of milk differs, the test received will usually be higher than it should be, owing to a proportionately greater amount being taken from the higher-testing evening milk.

Variations from normal in the milk: Allowance must, of course, be made for these variations, especially when the tests are rising. They are usually in favour of the association returns.

Retrospective records: Providing the cow has been in milk less than one hundred days of the end of the period in which she was first tested, the association record is made retrospective to calving-date. This means that a cow calving in the late winter and being tested for the first time in the spring, when there was a good flush of milk, would get more fat to her credit for that period than she had actually produced. This can be overcome by commencing the test of each cow as soon as possible after she calves, and it is important that this should be done.

THE SOUND BASIS FOR CULLING.

When judging the merits of individual cows for factory dairying, it is necessary to do so on their butterfat production for the season, not on the quantity of milk produced, and not on the test. The latter is only the percentage of fat in a given quantity of milk, and is likely to fluctuate considerably. Farmers very often make the mistake of judging cows on their tests, and as this is usually misleading good cows have sometimes been culled while poor ones were retained in the herd. A sound basis and an accurate conclusion on which to cull can only be obtained by taking the amount of butterfat produced by the cow for the season, in conjunction with her age and the number of days she has been in milk. When this is done, and the causes of discrepancy just enumerated are appreciated, farmers will realize that if they do their part of the work conscientiously the association will do its part towards providing a safe and reliable basis for culling.

THE FIELDS DIVISION.

THE Fields Division of the Department has been reconstituted as from 1st May, with Mr. A. H. Cockayne as Director. The Division incorporates the following branches: The Biological Laboratory (including the seed-testing station); the Agricultural Instruction Service; experimental and demonstrational areas (not including at present the Ruakura, Weraroa, and Moumahaki Farms); the Hemp-grading Service; and the Grain-grading Service. Under the Director, Mr. R. Waters has been appointed Officer in Charge of the Biological Laboratory.

Importation of Game Birds.—An application by the Auckland Acclimatization Society for permission to import Virginian quail was further considered by the Board of Agriculture last month. The Board decided that it could not support the request in view of the many complaints which had reached it as to the damage now being done by quail in the Auckland District. A further application by the same society to import from England a small number of Mongolian pheasants and black-necked pheasants was recommended for favourable consideration, as was also the request of the Southland Acclimatization Society for permission to capture quail in the Lakes Acclimatization District for liberation in the Southland District.