



# The New Zealand Journal of Agriculture.

VOL. XXX.—No. 5.

WELLINGTON, 20TH MAY, 1925.

---

## DAIRY-HERD TESTING FOR YIELD.

FACTORS INFLUENCING PRODUCTION.

W. M. SINGLETON, Director of the Dairy Division.

DAIRY-FARMING to-day is increasingly a scientific business, and as such requires the employment of careful and accurate methods. The present is a period for close application. When land, labour, and farming requisites were cheap, dairy-farming could be carried on without loss with far less skill than is the case to-day. Every factor is now of importance, and only those dairy-farmers who pay attention to detail and adopt scientific and businesslike practice can hope to succeed. The dairy industry has contributed very largely to New Zealand's fine standing as an agricultural country, and there is no larger scope for improving the industry than through the herd of the average dairy-factory supplier.

### HERD-DEVELOPMENT.

Our dairy-farmers are continually confronted with the problem of herd-building. The dairyman acquires a farm and a herd, and plans by his labours to improve both and to work them to the maximum of efficiency. The personnel of the herd is ever changing, and even if a high average production is reached this has to be maintained. In building up the herd every step is important—culling, buying, breeding. Added to these is the general management of the herd. Success under each of these headings calls for experience and skill, and in each and every case the milk-scales and the butterfat tester form the crux of the