

heavy in flesh the body is able to counteract the strain of freshening, and not only is the milk-yield and test improved, but the maximum milk-flow is maintained for a longer period and the length of the lactation increased.

Cows require even and kindly treatment. The ideal dairy-farmer does more than treat his cows sympathetically. Cruelty has been proved to affect both milk and test to the detriment of the factory return. Continued cruelty will shorten the lactation period---the owner is fined in pounds, shillings, and pence for every unkind act. The dairy cow is highly strung and sensitive, and these characteristics are more pronounced in the more refined and better-class animal. Speaking broadly, the cow gives what she receives. In return for proper feeding and kindly treatment she will give the best that is in her. Cruelty and lack of feed and care will kill those qualities which make her worth while as a dairy cow.

CONCLUSION.

Systematic herd-testing is a path which tends towards monetary success, but there is more in it than that. There is an educational value. The true dairy-farmer is a student and a breeder. The continual study of records and the increasing application and result of breeding-principle and experiment tend to broaden his intellect and make him methodical, painstaking, and quicker to recognize efficiency. It is gratifying to note from the steadily increasing number of herd-testing associations in this country that the great value of herd-testing, and all the term means, is making its importance realized.

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Grading up of Sheep Flocks.—In the course of his recent report on the conditions and practice of sheep-farming in the Falkland Islands Mr. Hugh Munro, of the New Zealand Department of Agriculture, remarks: "When grading up from nondescript flocks it is a mistake to purchase high-priced rams to start with. In this country (Falkland Islands) I have seen rams which cost in England from £40 to £70 mated with very ordinary ewes of very mixed breeding, and I am informed that others costing up to £150 each have been imported and used in the same manner. Infinitely better value would be obtained by purchasing purebred flock rams at about £10 each (New Zealand price), for the reason that, when mated with this class of ewe, they will give equally good results and more can be imported for the money. There is no short-cut to the improvement of a nondescript flock. They must be graded up by each successive generation becoming better than the preceding one, by careful selection of the breeding-ewes, and the use of purebred rams of a higher standard of quality than the ewes."

Haystacking Precaution.—A farmer was killed recently in Taranaki during haymaking operations by the fall of the heavy centre pole of a stacker, through one of the guy-rope pegs pulling out of the ground. Evidence showed that the peg had been driven in about 1 ft. Although this followed the usual practice in the district, the occurrence indicates the necessity for great care in staying stacker poles, and that a greater depth than 1 ft. is requisite for pegs or stakes, according to conditions of soil, &c. The Coroner's jury recorded their opinion, in fact, that posts should be used instead of pegs.