

third bull, which was 14 years old, served only 12 cows, and it is highly probable that his performances would not have been so good had he been asked to serve a full quota. Eight bulls in the table had records of under 50 per cent. Incomplete data are available for three other bulls. It was reported that cows were returning to one; a second was destroyed; the third was said to be giving fair results, and was retained for further trial. No data are available concerning the other six bulls classed as "unsatisfactory."

### "Bad" Bulls

Six bulls were classified as "bad." One bull shown in the table obtained 65 per cent. conceptions from 17 services. The sample submitted was a very few drops of dirty material, and should have been rejected; the second bull in the table was successful in 27 per cent. of services, and the third left no calves. Incomplete data are available for two others, neither of which appears to have got many cows in calf. No data are available for the other bull classified as "bad."

### "Sterile" Bulls

Seven bulls were classified as "sterile." One of these obtained two conceptions from 27 services. Two others left no calves. Incomplete data are available for three others, none of which was known to have got any cows in calf. No data are available from the seventh bull.

If the diagnosis of "bad" or "sterile" is accepted in the cases for which no data are available, it will be found that at least 19 bulls have been detected with less than 30 per cent. fertility, and four others with less than 50 per cent. fertility.

### Collection of Semen

Many very good samples were received from the veterinarians and stock inspectors, but some were too poor for any useful diagnosis. This was expected, because it is known that the quality of semen is not always constant, especially when dealing with bulls of moderate or poor fertility. Moreover, the very fact that trouble is being experienced in a herd would suggest the probability of a poor sample being obtained. If the semen is watery, the collector has a difficulty in obtaining a representative sample from the cow, and the examiner also is placed in a difficult position because he does not know whether the sample is a fair one or not. This unfortunate position may be overcome in many instances by the use of the artificial vagina, which is used to collect the whole semen sample uncontaminated by the secretions from the cow, thus enabling the collector and the examiner to know the quality and quantity of the service without any doubt.

For this purpose, artificial vaginas are to be placed at the disposal of the officers of the Department of Agriculture in the main dairying centres, and true samples can be obtained where conditions are suitable. These suitable conditions include a bull which is not very nervous or wild, and the use of a quiet cow in season. In many cases it may be necessary to halter or otherwise put restraint on the cows being used, but this can usually be done without great trouble. A de-horning bail with a large gate opening at the side is excellent for taking samples, but the gate must open on the right-hand side of the cow if the collector is right-handed. This method of obtaining semen is usually quick, and enables the collector to obtain clean and representative samples without interference to the cow except

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