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pounds, but at the end of the year Minnie's record was 191 pounds, and Pet's was 320 pounds fat. Minnie's average record for two years was 184 pounds fat, and Pet's was 367 pounds, or nearly twice as much. Minnie had the lowest average yearly record of any cow in the herd, and Pet the highest, yet, had these cows been judged by their best week's records, Minnie would have been classed as the better cow. Like many an overrated milker, she made a good showing in a spurt while fresh, but she was not a stayer. In another herd, Check, a Holstein, gave 12.2 pounds fat in seven consecutive days, a record which entitled her to enter the Holstein-Friesian Advanced Registry. Alfrida, another Holstein of the same herd, at the beginning of her second year, was tested, but failed to qualify, yielding only 11.9 pounds fat in 7 days. Yet, during the year she gave 11,445 pounds milk, containing 389 pounds fat, equivalent to 454 pounds butter. Check gave, during the year she was officially tested, 215 pounds fat, or an equivalent of 251 pounds butter. Alfrida, rejected for registry by the seven-day test, produced 174 pounds more fat in a year than Check, which was admitted; and, furthermore, Alfrida's average record for two years was greater by 118 pounds fat. While the above cases may be regarded as exceptional, the point is that short-period records are very misleading in comparing the producing value of dairy cows. We want long records—the longer the better. But while a weekly is better than a daily, and a monthly better than a weekly, and a yearly better than a monthly test, there is no getting around the fact that even a one-year record is liable to reflect unfairly. This is strikingly illustrated by some further facts, brought out by the Illinois Station. In one herd which they tested a certain cow gave, in her first year's test, 188 pounds, in the second year 97 pounds, and during the third year 283 pounds of butter-fat, though apparently in equally good condition throughout. In the second year she was by far the poorest producer in the herd, and in the third year she was the best. Again, Sweet Briar, a Guernsey cow, owned by the Minnesota Experiment Station, has an average record for ten years of 358 pounds of butter, but in 1898 she made only 206 pounds; in 1899, 306 pounds; and in 1901, 370 pounds of butter. On the basis of her work in 1898 she would have been classed as a very ordinary cow. As all observing dairymen know, cows, for many reasons, vary considerably in their production from year to year, and some-

times with no attributable explanation except that of action and reaction. It therefore behooves us not to be satisfied with any system of advanced registry based on tests of short duration. We make bold to say that, just as yearly tests are supplanting weekly and thirty-day tests in favor of breeders and dairymen, so will the former give way to a system of keeping track of production from year to year, and ultimately we shall find men who are advertising bulls, pointing to the average official tests of their dams and grandams over a number of consecutive years. The yearly record may be all right to commence with, but our breeders may as well make up their minds now not to stop there; the wheel of progress cannot be turned backward, nor will it stand still.

We cannot in this article do more than allude to the immense advantage it would be to the dairy farmer, to the intelligent breeder of pure-bred dairy cattle, and to the useful dairy breeds, if a prospective buyer, particularly of a herd bull, could know just what the individual cows in the herd from which he was about to buy were capable of doing in a year under ordinary herd care. Only authenticated—i.e., officially supervised—records are of any use, and records covering a year or, better still, the lifetime of a cow, are infinitely more valuable than seven- or thirty-day records. It may be objected that such official tests, covering a period of years, would involve prohibitive expense, but why should it? As the A. G. C. C. works it, the owner of the cow weighs the milk daily, and the experiment station expert visits him only for a day or so once a month, and while visiting a herd it would take him no longer to test a dozen cows than one. In a large herd, where many heifers are continually coming on, it is likely that an enterprising breeder would seldom be without one or more individuals undergoing test, even if the test of each covered only a twelvemonth; and it being thus necessary for the inspector to visit the farm, he could, for very little extra expense, continue the tests of previously tested cows into the second, third or fourth years, and the immense economic benefit that would finally result from having official records of cows over several consecutive years, should commend the idea to the careful consideration of every up-to-date dairyman and breeder of pure-bred dairy stock, and we do not know any other way in which a little public money could be spent with more advantage to

dairying and the country generally that in supplying the inspectors to do, at a minimum expense, this work of officially testing pedigreed herds, with a view to improving along utilitarian lines the pure-bred, and through it the common and grade stock of the Dominion.

It "Makes Good."

One year ago I started farming for myself, and found I was in need of a good adviser. I happened to get a sample copy of "The Farmer's Advocate," and it did not take me long to see that that was the paper I was in need of. It has proven itself to be worth many times over the subscription price. I strongly advise every farmer to have it in his home.

Brant Co., Ont. J. HARTLEY SHANNON.

HORSES.

Trimming the Hoofs.

The old saying, "No foot, no horse," is not only true, but should teach the farmer to take the best of care of the feet of his colts. The toe often gets too long, unbalancing the foot, and then come splints, spavins, and other ailments and blemishes, to which the feet and legs of horses are heir. See that the foot is kept rasped off and level. Do not use a knife if it can be helped, as the first blacksmith that shoes the colt will probably cut away enough to last a lifetime. In no part of the horse's anatomy has he suffered so many wrongs or endured so much unnecessary suffering as in his feet. If there is the least excuse, every blacksmith will use a knife. The frog should never be cut away or pared, but left as a cushion to the foot.

Plan to let the colts grow up with such strong feet that there will be no excuse for cutting them. Use the rasp on the underside of the toe, and under no circumstances put the rasp on the outside of the hoof. The entire hoof, from coronet to the sole, is covered by a fine coating of natural varnish, beginning at the upper margin or coronet, and gradually becoming thinner as it descends. Under cover of this varnish the new horn is secreted and protected until it attains maturity. The moisture necessary by the animal economy to the perfection of the horn is retained within it, and the influences of wet and dry are set at defiance. It is easy to see that this most important covering should not be interfered with, and that the foot should be kept level and in good shape from the underside.

Avoid Raising Plugs.—Never in the history of horse-raising has there been a wider difference in price between plugs and good horses. Farmers



Aberdeen-Angus Steers.

Winners of grand championship award in carload competition, International Live-stock Show, Chicago, 1905.