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N. B.-Contributors are requested to send in their contributions written legibly in ink on one side of the paper only.—Editor.

Editorial Notes.

In a recent issue of the Journal of Dairying there is an article in which an English student records his opinions on the dairy farming of the country. To him who comes from a country where dairy operations are brought almost to perfection, where high class breeding is practised to a nicety, and where the methods adopted in housing cattle are admirable, the conditions as they exist at present in India appear to him careless if not reckless. To bring India on par with other dairying countries of the world he opines that the breed should be kept pure so that breeds suitable for draft purposes should strictly be bred for that purpose alone rather than have an indifferent so called 'dual purpose' animal. Where practised, selective breeding takes a long time to give results and to obviate this difficulty

Indian farming through western spectacles.

he suggests the importation of foreign breeds with a view to grade the country animals. We however doubt if the importation of foreign cattle will be a success all over, as in many parts of the country, climate is against them. With regard to the proper housing and care of cattle we heartily join him in his criticism of the deplorable state of affairs as at present exist. He quotes Karachi where cattle roam about and eat the rubbish thrown in dust bins. In our own Presidency, to take examples at random, at Taliparamba in North Malabar cows roam about throughout the night and the highways are their habitation. They truly depict a picture of the homeless wanderers of the land. At Kurnool the owners drive their buffaloes at dusk to open spaces, possibly to lessen the heavy municipal scavenging bills, but nobody seems to object to drinking their milk when they return home after their night's exploits. This is sanitation with vengeance indeed!

Even in an advanced country like England the prejudice against the employment of women labour on land is great. There are certain parts which have never employed women at all and the prejudice in such places is still greater. Owing to the War, however, we have been hearing of women being employed in many walks of life where prior to war mere man claimed the monopoly and this has been the case even in farm operations like hoeing, weeding, sheep clipping, milking, harrowing and even ploughing in which women are said to do good work. There seems to be no reason why women should not be more largely

Women as
Farm
labourers.

employed on land in our own country. At present they sow and they reap; why not they plough and mhoote? We would look forward to the day when the *akkals and ammals* of the countryside replace the chetties and goundans in all dairy operations in which women seem to be peculiarly suitable. Anyway they seem to deserve a trial at the Dairy in the College!

We heartily extend our congratulations to Mr. J. Chelva Ranga Raju one of our Vice-Presidents on his promotion as acting Deputy Director of Agriculture of the Central Division. We wish him all success.

We have before us an article summarising the different opinions of many workers in many parts of the world on the poisonous character of young cholam plants. All are agreed that cholam is one of the best fodders for all sorts of cattle in the tropical countries but its disadvantage lies in the opinion that in its young stages it contains in its leaves and stalks prussic acid which is highly poisonous. The author cites cases where cattle have died a few hours after eating young plants in Allahabad, Nebraska etc. It is the opinion therefore of those who analysed the plant that cholam fodder should not be used whether first or second crop till after flowering and that regular growth should be maintained as sudden growth after being stunted, or stunting after good growth seems to increase the poison. It is also considered doubtful whether the poison gets minimised after drying the plants. So far for the scientific opinion.

Poison in
Cholam
plants.

We understand that in the Central Farm at Coimbatore young plants pulled out from thickly sown fields dried for a couple of days and ratoon cholam in young stages have been on several occasions fed to cattle of all kinds with impunity. It is the mamool, here for cattle to eat such plants and it is their mamool not to die! Shall we be favoured with the experience of our readers on this interesting subject?

***The relations between a farmer and his
servants and their Improvements.**

Servants are indispensable to a farmer unless his holding is so small that it can be cultivated by himself and his family. The larger the farm, the greater the number of servants required, and the more does the success of the farmer's business depend upon their willing co-operation. In this country unfortunately, owing to the backward condition of both farmers as well as servants, their mutual relations are not generally as healthy as they ought to be for a hearty co-operation in furtherance of their mutual interests. In this essay it is proposed to describe the various aspects of the relations between a farmer and his servants as they exist at present in the Madras Presidency and to suggest as far as possible means of improving them to the best advantage of both.

Servants employed by farmers are of two classes, permanent and casual. In the census reports of the Government, the terms 'farm servants' and 'field labourers' are used for the two classes respectively. Farm servants are regular employees receiving monthly salaries and sometimes other emoluments also. On every farm, a certain number of these usually about the same as the number of pairs of draught cattle owned by the farmer, are employed and whenever these cannot cope with the work, field labourers receiving daily wages are casually engaged.

*Munagala Prize Essay by Mr. G. Jogi Razu.