

Milk Yield. From year to year the milk yield varies, increases and decreases, owing to irregularities in the periods of lactation. In 1920—21, one of 10 gave over 300 litres milk, in 1921—22, 0 out of 12; in 1922—23, 8 out of 16; in 1923—24, 10 out of 17; in 1923—24, 10 out of 17; in 1924—25, 14 out of 29 and in 1925—26, 19 out of 29.

Bulls. Feeding. In the course of 8—10 years, 6 bulls were used in the herd. Since 1924, the herd includes a Dutch bull. One Damascus bull especially increased the milk yield in his daughters. About 40% of the total present herd belongs to this progeny. Two tribes of cows excel — "Atzilah" and "Zekufah". Green food is supplied for about six months, in various years lucerne, vetches, maize and beet being used, while in the last few years clover has been used to an increasing extent. Concentrated food was barley, beans, and other legumes.

During the 6 years 14 cows left the herd: 3 were sold for rearing, 4 to the butcher through old age, 3 through sterility and 4 died.

Maize Variety Tests at Ben Shemen 1921—1926

Division of Plant Breeding & Variety Testing.

by **A. Malzeff.**

Assistant Plant Breeder.

Varieties. In 1922 the first experiment was set up with a few varieties from California (from the firms Germain and from Aggeler & Musser, Los Angeles), France (Vilmorin-Andrieux, Paris) in order to determine, in the first place, their general characters, and particularly the period of cultivation. According to these we divided the varieties into late-all and early-short. In 1923 we sowed early ones from Italy, which we received from Prof. Strampelli of the Exper. Station of Rieti.

Results of the Experiments. The results are summarized in the accompanying table (see p. 200). On the basis of the above, the following conclusions may be formed: in years of average rainfall, the short „Horse-dent”-varieties are better than the early-round seeded varieties. In years of low rainfall, and

when Maize is sowed the amount of annual rainfall is already more or less known, or in light soils which cannot retain their moisture the round-seeded early varieties succeed better.

Foreign varieties of „Horse-dented” did not give better results than the local one, even in years of average rainfall. There is thus, according to experiments, up till now, no reason for supplanting the local variety with foreign ones. It is hoped that a further increase of yield will result from systematic improvement of the local variety, already commenced by the Exp. Station and which every farmer should carry out himself according to the instructions issued by us (see Yedeoth I).

The two Ensilage varieties from America excelled particularly as green fodder: Orange County prolific and Eureka Ensilage Corn. They yielded 12% more than the local variety and are distinguished also by fact, that cobs appear about 3 weeks later.

Edible Fungi in Palestine.

(First Report)

by Dr. I. Reichert.

- 1) Hymenomyces grow in all parts of the country.
- 2) They generally grow from December to January.
- 3) The following fungi found are actually eaten:
Psalliota campestris, Psalliota arvensis, and Lepiota sp. found in Judea, Boletus sp. in Pinus halepensis woods in Jerusalem and other places, and Volvaria speciosa along the coastal region, on open humus soils.
- 4) Description of the development of Hymenomyces and methods of their preservation are given.

Activities.

(Work of the Extension Division January — April).

Seed Testing.—Soil Analyses.—Analyses of Arab Manure.—
Extension Field Work: Vegetable Trials. — Condition of Arable Land. — Nematodes in Banana Plantation. — Cheese-making Demonstration. — Chemical Analyses. — Disease Control.—