

ADELAIDE DOCTOR'S HOBBY

Book 400 Years Old

Bibles in many tongues, in many styles, and of many centuries are possessed by Dr. E. Angas Johnson (City Health Officer). They have queer variations of the text, strange and wonderful illustrations, and have been collected from many parts of the world.

These Bibles have a particular interest at the moment, particularly the English ones, because this week is being celebrated throughout the English-speaking world and in many other parts, as the fourth centenary of William Tyndale's first English translation from the original of the New Testament.

A wonderful old relic in Dr. Johnson's possession is the Bugge Bible, which was printed in 1549. Except for a few missing leaves of introductory matter it is in an excellent state of preservation, with the binding sound after nearly 400 years of handling. The Bugge Bible takes its name from a passage in Psalms 31 verse 5, which reads:

"So that thou shalt not neede to be afrayed for any bugges by night nor for the arrow that flyeth by daye," where the Authorised Version refers to "terrors." This is also known as the Wife-Beating Bible, because of Tyndale's curious note to 1 Peter 3, which contains the passage:—

"He that dwelleth wyth his wyfe accordinge to knowlege, that taketh her as a necessary helpe. . . and of she be not obedient to and heaful unto hym endeavoureth to beate the feare of God into her heade that thereby she may be compelled to learn to do her dutie and do it." This Bible weighs 11 lb., and contains woodcut illustrations throughout.

WAR TROPHIES

A heavier Bible which has an interesting history bears the inscription on the flyleaf: "From Major J. R. Paul, R.A.G.A., to Capt. E. A. Johnson, A.A.M.C., in remembrance of many happy days spent at Fort Largs." This book was taken from Gen. Cronjey's laager after the battle of Paardeberg on February 27, 1900. It is printed in Dutch and illustrated in colors. Bibles were popular trophies in the Boer War and the Boers were enraged at the British troops for taking them, as they were their most treasured belongings.

Another Boer War Bible which Dr. Johnson has was in the possession of the Herfst family before the British entered Bloemfontein in April, 1900. The Herfst family was connected by marriage with M. T. Steyn (President of the Orange Free State). The head of the family which had handed this book down was Jacob Johann Herfst, who was born in Haarlem, Holland, in 1849, so an inscription says.

A relic of the Great War belonging to Dr. Johnson is a copy of the Douay (Roman Catholic version) Bible, on which all the Roman Catholics who enlisted in the Great War from the Adelaide recruiting bureau were sworn in.

Dr. Johnson rescued it when it was about to be consigned to the rubbish destructor after the conclusion of hostilities. This copy was presented for use at the recruiting depot by the late Archbishop O'Reilly.

MANY LANGUAGES

A large copy of the Authorised Version dated 1829 is also present. Dr. Johnson treasures a copy of the Bible bound in blue leather, which was presented to him on July 14, 1911, when he was Master of the St. Peter's Collegiate Lodge of Freemasons. Family Bibles and others are in the doctor's private library. He has Bibles in Latin, French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Dutch. Books belonging to him which deal with the various aspects of the Bible include one volume of a Polychrome Bible, which shows the origins of various passages.

Figures collected by the doctor show that the Bible contains 3,566,480 letters, 810,637 words, 31,175 verses, 3,169 chapters, and 66 books. The name of God occurs 46,837 times. The longest verse is Esther viii. 9, and the shortest John xi. 35. Extra vii. 21 contains all the letters of the alphabet.

Dr. Johnson possesses a Book of Common Prayer with Psalter printed in 1663, containing three Stuart forms of prayer. It bears the arms of John Carteret, Earl of Granville. An interesting feature of the book is "A form of prayer with thanksgiving to be used yearly upon the fifth day of November for the happy deliverance of the King and the three estates of the realm from the most traitorous and bloody intended massacre by gunpowder."

Another elaborately illustrated Book of Common Prayer belonging to Dr. Johnson must have proved expensive to print, as every side panel is different.

One of the oldest printed books in Australia is in Dr. Johnson's collection. It is bound in wood with calf backing, and has brass clasps. It is written in Latin and entitled "Botanicon." The plates are hand-painted. This was printed in Florence by Philippus Gualterus in 1515.

"I will send many of these books to the Museum later," said Dr. Johnson.

THE MAN ON THE LAND.

HIGH-GRADE SIRES.

Influence Upon Dairy Herds.

By W. J. Colebatch, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S. (Principal) and R. Baker (Lecturer on Dairying, Roseworthy Agricultural College).

It is the ambition of all progressive breeders of dairy stock to possess a high-class bull that will stamp the best characteristics of his ancestors on his progeny. The search for this exceptional animal, however, is more often fruitless than successful, as the breeder has usually to rely almost entirely on the breeding record of the sire and the yield records of the dam and her close relatives. Even when the performances of the progeny of the sire and of the dam are also available the task of the selector is by no means a simple one. He is still liable to blunder through choosing a bull which, though pleasing in general appearance and of excellent lineage so far as production is concerned, is lacking in prepotency and therefore deficient in the very quality that should be the outstanding feature of the head of the herd. Although but a small number of breeders succeed in discovering a highly prepotent bull of the right type and pedigree, it cannot be inferred that such animals occur infrequently. It is, however, highly probable that many such animals are overlooked. In some cases they fail to attract notice because of some physical defect or the inheritance of features that are unfashionable with local breeders. In others, again, they are used as stud animals for a season or two, but are not retained long enough to permit of the standard of their progeny being gauged. Most breeders have at some time or other had the mortifying experience of discovering the stud value of an exceptional sire after the said animal had gone beyond recall, and I am afraid that many another valuable stud bull is destined in the future to go to the shambles instead of being allowed to hand on to future generations the wonderful combination of characters with which he has been endowed.

Judicious Inbreeding.

The reasons for this is twofold:— 1. Breeders generally have not yet lost confidence in the arguments relied upon by those who aim to discourage close breeding. Even many who would hesitate to admit it are hampered in their operations by a lingering fear that some calamity in the form of sterility, loss of vigour, or diminution in size may overtake them if they venture to intensify the best strains by judicious inbreeding. Evidence of this is seen in the general practice of discarding sires as soon as their daughters are eligible for admittance to the breeding herd, notwithstanding the fact that the stud value of the sires has not been determined. That inbreeding, if persisted in when the indications are strongly opposed to continuation of the practice, will be followed by disastrous consequences is not denied, but in the hands of skilful and observant men it offers the surest and shortest road to success in stock improvement. No capable stockman should be deterred from using it by overdrawn accounts of the pernicious effects that are liable to result. In fact it is not overstating the position to say that no enterprising breeder of dairy stock, the economic value of which can be measured in precise terms, can afford to ignore the advantages which this potent instrument affords. Were it not for this widespread adherence to the policy of restricting operations to line-breeding, or some small wider system, many a young bull would be retained another season or two until its breeding worth had been revealed. In some cases stud breeders, being unable to test all their own bulls, hire or loan them out and so keep control of them until such time as their heifers have completed a lactation period. No doubt much more might be done in this way to prevent the loss of bulls eminently fitted to improve our dairy herds. 2. The second reason is the length of time taken to secure the evidence on which the stud value of a bull may be accurately assessed. Normally, a bull will be, approximately, five years of age when his daughters are completing their first lactation period, and as a rule their records may be accepted as a fair criterion of his value as a dairy sire. In doubtful cases it may take another year to decide the matter, but in the great majority of instances if a yearling bull be mated with cows of known capacity the dairy qualities of his first season's progeny will furnish a reliable and trustworthy guide as to his capacity for throwing high-grade calves. The importance of definite information from a practical demonstration of the animal's breeding value is sufficiently obvious, and a "tested" bull would naturally command a higher figure than one whose prospective value rests solely on the performances of near relatives and the concentration of reputable strains as disclosed in the pedigree. The time occupied in the investigation, however, is a lengthy one, and in view of the possibility of discouraging results being obtained very few owners

of dairy cattle undertake it. It is against the interests of the community, however, to allow these exceptional animals to be slaughtered, and sooner or later steps will be taken to see that pedigreed bull calves by a proved bull out of high recording dams are put through a breeding test before their fate is decided.

Checking Wastage.

That there are difficulties to overcome in designing a scheme to check the present wastage is quite clear, but we do not consider them insuperable, and having regard to the low average yield of dairy produce per cow in this State the problem is one that demands attention. Those who have been fortunate enough to breed or acquire a bull of outstanding merit as a stud breeder are not likely to part with him, but it does not follow that they know how to make the best use of the opportunities which such an animal offers. Many will be content to rear as many half-bred calves as possible, disposing of the bulls and retaining the heifers. By so doing the good influence of the sire is certainly distributed through one or two generations, but in the course of a relatively short space of time the process of dilution will have reduced the percentage contribution of such a bull to an insignificant figure, and the influence of exceptional animal will thus be lost again. Is not intensification of the blood of equal, if not greater, importance than its rapid dissemination through all branches of the herd? In other words, is not the duty of the fortunate possessor of such a bull to preserve the type and seek to improve it by rational inbreeding and selection on a breeding test basis? It seems to us that bulls of proved breeding capacity should be mated with their dams, daughters, and granddaughters with the object of simplifying the blood and establishing a reservoir of concentrated plasma capable of giving rise to a uniform strain of heavy yielding cattle. By this means a supply of prepotent bull calves of superior grade would also be assured, and instead of the good qualities of the original sire being scattered and eventually lost they would be retained and utilised in the best interests of the owners herd as well as those of whom tested sires are transferred. Purchasers of non tested bulls from such a source would be less likely to experience disappointment, and the owner would be much more likely to produce animals of still greater merit.

STANDARD OF PRODUCTION.

Many instances are quoted by writers on this subject of the influence of a good sire in raising the standard of production in a dairy herd, but in our own State few records have been cited. It may be of interest, therefore, to quote the results obtained in the college herd, which consists of pure and grade Jerseys. Situated in a district with a 17½-in. rainfall, about two-thirds of which falls in the winter, this herd is deprived of the pleasure of grazing on succulent pasture in the summer. The deficiency is made good to some extent by feeding silage liberally in the byres, but trough feeding will never produce the same contentment of mind and deep milk flow as a field of rich herbage. The yields therefore are apt to suffer by comparison with herds located in the dairying centres. They serve, however, to illustrate the influence of the sire under Roseworthy conditions, and it may fairly be assumed that the figures would be not less striking had the data been gathered in more favourable circumstances. For the purpose of this enquiry we have compared in every instance the yield of a cow on her first calf with that of her daughter at the same stage, namely, at the conclusion of the first lactation period. All cows in the college herd are tested under more stringent conditions than are prescribed for the official testing of pure-bred cattle. Every cow's milk is weighed at each milking throughout the

273-day period, and butter fat readings are taken at fortnightly intervals. Only two heifers by the bull Blyth have been retained in the herd, and both have failed to reach the 200 lb. butter fat standard. Moreover, they show up very poorly when compared with their respective dams. Combining their records it will be seen that the milk yield was 234.6 gallons, and the fat yield 154 lb. less than was obtained from their dams.

Not a Reliable Dairy Sire.

The record of Dark Antimony, of Turretfield, which was a grandson of the noted bull Black Antimony, imported by Mr. A. J. Murray, is vastly different. Ten of his heifers are available for inclusion in this investigation, and seven of them show evidence of having inherited better milking qualities than their mothers. The other three—all of which were out of deep milking dams—show a distinct falling off, although they all succeeded in reaching the official standard. It would seem, therefore, that the good qualities of this bull were not always impressed on his progeny. He undoubtedly improved some strains, and the net effect of his matings was to increase the milk flow by 13.5 gallons, and the fat yield by 63.7 lb. per heifer. However, he was apparently not sufficiently prepotent to be classed as a reliable dairy sire, and in this respect he is easily surpassed by the third bull—King Solomon, of Dalebank. King Solomon was purchased from Mr. L. T. Cowan, of Blakiston, as a calf, his sire being Makarini (Imp.), a very impressive bull, and his dam the well-known Queen of Sheila. There are 10 of his heifers

on the farm, and all but one have completed their first lactation. Reviewing the milk yields, although in one instance there is a decrease of 28 gallons, the average increase is nearly 153 gallons. Attention is also directed to the fact that milk from her dam, showed a much higher test—1.07 higher—and that this more than compensated for the small reduction in quantity of milk. The butter fat records of this bull's heifers are very striking. In every instance there has been an appreciable increase, the lowest being 28.52 lb. (Belle II.) and the highest 156.21 lb. (Dinah II.). The average increase for this group works out at 80.41 lb., and allowing for a 16 per cent. "overrun" this represents slightly more than 100 lb. commercial butter extra per head. Valuing at 1/6 lb. the additional revenue is £7 10/ a head, or £67 10/ in one lactation period from the line of nine heifers. It is this type of animal that should be bred to his own progeny for the purpose of raising bulls and heifers with 75 per cent., 87½ per cent., or even 93½ per cent. of the sire's blood in their veins.

Pure Bull Subsidy.

It is hoped that this series of data will lead to others to measure the influence of their bulls in a similar manner and to publish the figures so that breeders generally may become impressed with the importance of using sires of proven capacity. The facts disclosed should also be the means of directing attention to the Government scheme for subsidising the purchasers of pure bred bulls. The scheme is growing in favour and is destined to become a very potent factor in the improvement of our dairy herds. It enables even small dairymen to secure a bull from a pronounced milking strain, and in due course it will bring within their reach stud animals that have passed the breeding test and qualified as sires of exceptional merit.

Adv. 16/3/25

ST. MARK'S COLLEGE

OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR.

IDEALS OF CORPORATE ACADEMIC LIFE.

Speakers at the opening ceremony of St. Mark's College, which was performed on Sunday by his Excellency the Governor (Sir Tom Bridges), in the presence of a large gathering of subscribers and supporters, laid stress on the value of the combination of corporate life and the tutorial system, by means of the residential college plan.

In asking the Governor to perform the ceremony, Mr. Justice Poole (chairman of the executive committee) extended his Excellency a welcome to St. Mark's. They welcomed him, he said, as the representative of his Majesty, as Governor of South Australia, as Visitor to the University, and, apart from all those things, as a man whom they were proud to have among them. (Applause.) Those who had worked on the committees for the formation of the college, experienced that day a feeling of relief, for the college council had been elected, and to that body the control of the institution would pass. That sense of relief, moreover, was accompanied by a feeling of satisfaction that the plans had been elaborated and the work had been done, plans which would have been useless, had it not been for the generosity of those who had recognised the importance of such an institution to the Church, to the University, and to the State. St. Mark's was the first college of its kind in South Australia, but he ventured to hope that it would not long remain so. Owing to its being the first, however, there was misapprehension regarding its objects. It was not a theological college; it was not a superior kind of public school; it was not a mere boarding-house or hostel for University students. Its existence would be of advantage to both the Church and the University in many ways. Though it was not a theological college, he hoped that those who contemplated becoming candidates for the ministry would avail themselves of the advantages offered by St. Mark's. The freedom of thought gained by coming in contact with other students would prepare such candidates for the diverse opinions they would encounter in the discharge of the duties of the office when ordained. Twenty-five years hence that day's ceremony would doubtless be regarded by Churchmen as one of the outstanding features of the Bishop's last episcopate. Now that the college had been established, it would be no longer necessary for students to go and establish the feet of the "wise men of the East" and avail themselves of the facilities