

all seem quite right. The mare in question has been in feed all along, and is now nice and fat, and is well in other respects. She does not seem to rub on posts, trees, &c., any more than the rest of the young ones.

The Live-stock and Meat Division replies,—

This is evidently a case where a personal examination is required before advice can be given as to what the condition really is, and its cause. From the fact that the rest of her mates are not affected, and no excessive amount of irritation is shown by the filly herself, it would appear that parasites are not the cause. It would have been more satisfactory if you had stated the condition of the skin itself where the hair is coming off—whether it is inflamed or not. If it is not, I think you had better make a scraping of the skin with a blunt knife. Put this scurf into a clean dry bottle and send it to the Officer-in-Charge, Veterinary Laboratory, Wallaceville, where it will be examined microscopically. Although it is not advisable to apply remedies without knowing the cause of the trouble, you can do no harm in this case by washing the parts with a 1-in-80 solution of any non-poisonous coal-tar dip.

#### BASIC SLAG.

MR. THOMAS BROWN, Woodville, writes,—

Will basic slag restore worn-out pasture, and what is the best way to apply it? Will grass take if surface-sown with the slag? The pasture has partly gone back to native grasses, and is overrun with daisies and other weeds. The land is too broken to plough, except in patches.

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

Basic slag will not completely restore worn-out pasture, but will be a material help towards that end. The best way is to broadcast the manure at the rate of 4 cwt. or 5 cwt. per acre. Slag should be applied in late autumn or early winter. If land is of a light sandy nature, sulphate of potash, at the rate of 200 lb. or 300 lb. per acre, can be profitably applied in conjunction with slag. That mixture has been found beneficial. Grass-seed would be greatly benefited if surface-sown with slag. After sowing it will be advisable to keep stock off till the herbage has been washed by rain. There is said to be a possibility of stock being endangered by grazing on pasture so top-dressed.

#### TWITCH.

MR. C. J. HURST, Waimate, writes as follows :—

I shall be obliged if you will give instructions as to the eradication of twitch.

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

Twitch is the name applied here to several grasses, as *Poa pratensis*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, and *Agropyron repens* (the true couch or twitch). There is but one means of eradication—*i.e.*, cultivation during summer and the careful cleaning of crops. The *Poa* and the *Agrostis* can be controlled with less effort than can the true couch. More than one season will be necessary to effect the eradication of this persistent weed.

#### CHOU MOELLIER.

MISS J. MACKAY, Sockburn, writes,—

Is the seed on untransplanted chou moellier fit for sowing? The seed was sown in April, and the plants are now in bloom.

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

The seed of one-year-old plants is not considered desirable. To avoid this early flowering and seeding, transplantation is resorted to—that is, by delaying the flowering a more uniform crop for feeding is secured.