

BARLEY AND VETCHES.

MR. JOHN P. LINEHAN, Rongokokako, writes,—

In the December issue of the *Journal* an article on barley and vetches states that $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to the acre were sown. Kindly inform me (1) the proportion of vetches to barley, and (2) the cost of vetches-seed, say, in Wellington or other centre, as they are not stocked here.

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

(1.) The proportion of vetches to barley: $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels vetches to 1 bushel barley. (2.) Vetches cost 11s. 6d. per bushel in large quantities, 12s. 6d. per bushel in small quantities.

DODDER.

MR. E. L. PURDIE, Frankton Junction, writes,—

Will you kindly inform me through your *Journal* the best means of eradicating clover dodder? I have a small paddock of cow-grass in which dodder is killing the clover in several patches of two or three yards in diameter. The dodder is now flowering. Do stock spread the pest?

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

When dodder is present in small patches each patch should be cut close to the ground before the clover flowers and the cuttings spread over the patch and allowed to dry. When they are dry they should be burnt. This treatment should be done at least twice during the year. If the whole paddock is dodder-infested it is necessary to plough up before the dodder seeds and resow the following spring. Stock are often the means of spreading the pest.

FERTILIZERS.

MR. L. HEDGES, Pahiatua, writes as follows:—

Would you kindly inform me if there is any loss of chemical action with these manures mixed: (1) Lime and basic slag; (2) bonedust and basic slag; and (3) lime and bonedust?

The Agricultural Chemist replies,—

Ammonia is lost when mixtures 2 and 3 are mixed; No. 1 mixture may be made up without any loss.

FERTILIZERS.

“SUBSCRIBER,” Cambridge, writes as follows:—

Could you inform me through the *Journal* (1) whether slaked ground lime, or burnt lime, should be used in making basic superphosphate; (2) is basic superphosphate a good top-dressing for medium to light lands when used alone; (3) is the autumn a good time to apply basic superphosphate as a top-dressing?

The Agricultural Chemist replies,—

(1.) Slaked lime. (2.) Yes. (3.) Yes.

NEW ZEALAND FLAX (PHORMIUM TENAX).

MR. F. BULL, Waddington, Canterbury, writes,—

Could you tell me the correct distance from the ground at which native New Zealand flax should be cut? I have about 100 acres of land in flax, and have always allowed the flax-cutters to cut it as they pleased, but have recently been informed that if cut down into the butt of the leaf which contains the gum the growth is thrown back about fifteen months.

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

The correct distance to cut New Zealand flax is from 6 in. to 8 in. above the bulb; if cut too close into the bulb the plants “bleed,” and the growth is thereby considerably retarded.