

No specimens from Otago or Southland have as yet been received by me.

Host Plants in New Zealand.

Broom-rape has been recorded on the following plants in New Zealand: Red clover, alsyke, white clover, birdsfoot trefoil, trefoil, burr clover, sweet-peas, parsnips, hawkweed, dandelion, and cats-ear.

Seed-dispersal.

In many agricultural books it is suggested that broom-rape is regularly distributed in clover-seeds. This is very unlikely, as the seed is so small that it is almost impossible for any to remain in clover-seed even if this seed is very imperfectly dressed. Perceval records finding broom-rape in clover-seed, but the seed-station at Zurich during thirty years never noted it in any commercial samples. In our own seed-testing no broom-rape has ever been found in any samples that have been submitted for examination. The seed is exceedingly minute, being amongst the smallest of any seeds belonging to the flowering-plants. In consequence, it can be easily transported great distances by the wind. I hold that animals must play a very important part in the disposal of broom-rape, as the seeds can easily be carried about in the wool and hair of animals that graze on areas where this plant is at all abundant.

THE SOYA BEAN.

A MEDICAL point of view is given in the *Lancet* of the 21st January, 1911: "On account of the great nutritive value of the Soya bean it is well worth medical attention, more particularly for diabetic cases, because of its low proportion of starch. For making biscuits, soup-powder, infant and other foods, it will be widely used in future when its dietetic value becomes better known." In the United States it has been found that the yield of crops of all kinds is increased where they follow Soya beans, wheat in large fields showing an increase of 5 bushels per acre over that grown on land alongside that had not been under beans. Wheat generally follows a nitrogenous crop in the usual rotation schemes on the Continent. As a fodder crop, as a soil-renewer, and as a green manure, the Soya bean has been successfully grown in countries other than its native habitat, and under varying climatic conditions. There are over three hundred known varieties and hybrids of the Soya bean.—*Journal of Agriculture, Victoria.*

<p>The successful farmer knows his soil, his seed, and his manure. He does nothing by guesswork.</p>
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