

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CORRESPONDENTS are requested, when desiring information through the Journal, in regard to disease in animals and plants, to forward, where possible, affected specimens, in order to facilitate a correct diagnosis of the trouble, and to ensure the best advice. In stating a question the most complete descriptive details should be furnished.

COW TROUBLE.

MR. ARTHUR BUSH, Henderson, writes,—

Could you let me know through the *Journal of Agriculture* what is wrong with my cow, and the best treatment to follow? She calved on the 29th August, 1912. Before calving she was rolling fat, and apparently in the best of health. She calved some time during the night, and in the morning when I went to see how she was I found her on her back unable to rise, seemingly unable to pass the afterbirth. I gave her a Sykes drench, and she passed the afterbirth with pieces of flesh adhering to it. For two days she was unable to stand up, and when at last she got up she was only able to stand for a few minutes. From this on she improved considerably, although she bled from the womb for a week. Her improvement continued so that she could graze as well as the other cows, but instead of thriving she has steadily got thinner. Although I have drenched her with salts on several occasions they seem to have done no good, or very little good, until now she is a walking skeleton, and is getting stiff in the joints as though she had rheumatism. I may mention that she has always had more than she can eat, and that the other animals are all fat.

The Live-stock and Meat Division replies,—

It would be impossible to say what is the matter with the cow without examining her. As she seems to have had a bad time calving, it may be that there is some womb trouble causing her present condition. She might, however, be suffering from tuberculosis. Cases are of frequent occurrence where tuberculous animals are apparently healthy and fat prior to parturition, and waste away rapidly afterwards. I am asking the Inspector of Stock for your district to visit your place and examine her.

DISC PLOUGH.—TANEKAHA TIMBER.

MR. TIEKE RATARIKI, Oreti, Raukokore, *via* Opitiki, writes,—

I would be glad if you would answer the following questions through the pages of your *Journal* :—

1. What disc (single) plough do you consider most suitable for turning over manuka-stumps up to 3 in. in diameter, using bullocks? The soil is of a light friable nature, easily brought to a fine tilth. The country is flat, but rather rough with pig-rootings.
2. Can you give me any definite information as to the lasting-qualities of tanekaha timber in the ground, used as posts?

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

1. Disc ploughs, from the original Spalding-Robbins to those now in use, have been carefully observed at the experimental stations and on other farms, and on almost every description of land, but none has been seen suitable for turning over manuka-stumps up to 3 in. in diameter. The discs are thin; they naturally cannot withstand the strain and shock of ploughing over stumps of that size. The usual practice where timber of that size is met with is to stump it. It is probable that on the land in question the greater number of the stumps will be of smaller dimensions. These can be dealt with by a strong single-furrow mouldboard plough, provided the heavier stumps are removed.