

The Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division replies,—

2. There is some diversity of opinion *re* the durability of tanekaha. Personally I have seen it stand excellently. The following authentic particulars show the durability of heart-wood to be excellent: Piles driven in the Waikato coal-mines showed perfectly sound heart-wood after being down nine years. Railway-sleepers were stacked on the ground in 1865 and left there until 1873. The bottom layer was composed of tanekaha sleepers placed directly on the earth. On the stacks being removed after eight years these sleepers came through the severe trial excellently, being, with the exception of some small patches of sap-wood, perfectly sound.

DEPRAVED APPETITE IN CATTLE.—ANGORA GOATS.

MR. T. SMITH, Ihuraua, Mauriceville, writes,—

Could you kindly inform me through your *Journal* what is required for cows (three) that are very fond of licking old bones? They have access to plenty of rock-salt. The three cows are in splendid condition, and are milking well; they calved early last August. The bones are on the track to the bail, and as soon as the cows see them they (one especially) regularly run to the bones.

Angora goats: Would you also kindly inform me what country is adapted for Angora goats? Do they require any special herb? Will the nannies breed if they have not had a kid up to six-tooth, owing to a billy not being procurable? Is there any demand for Angora goats? What weight of wool do they clip? When should they be shorn? Are they affected with lice or ticks, and, if so, should they be dipped the same as sheep?

The above queries are practically answered in the August (1911) and September (1912) *Journals*, pages 165 and 333 respectively; but in regard to cows licking old bones the Live-stock and Meat Division would add the following:—

You might try in these cases daily half-ounce doses of compound syrup of iron and phosphates (Parrish's chemical food) or phosphate of lime. This last agent should be obtained from a chemist, and may be given mixed with bran and dry food. The dose is about half an ounce, given twice a day for about a fortnight. Then miss a similar period, and if the animal is no better, repeat.

BLINDNESS IN COLT.

MR. ANDREW WILSON, Hangatiki, writes,—

I have a colt fifteen months old, which was castrated three months ago, and was found to have gone blind in both eyes about three months after the operation. His eyes were bulged out as if there was a great pressure behind them. The tension does not seem to be so great now, but the animal is still stone blind. Perhaps some of your many readers, or some of your able officers, may know of a similar case, and will know what chance there may be of a recovery. I may say the colt was dealt with along with several other two-year-olds, because he was the only yearling on the place and we wanted to make one job of it. He was turned out along with the others in a sheltered paddock, but he had not been running with these colts previously, and whether they knocked him about or not I cannot say, but he showed no external wounds. The colt is in splendid health and good condition otherwise.

The Live-stock and Meat Division replies,

It is impossible to say what really is the cause of the trouble without a careful examination. The condition you describe may be due to some disease of the thyroid glands—exophthalmic goitre. These glands are two oval-shaped