

MIXING OF FERTILIZERS.

“FARMER,” “The Pa,” Cambridge, writes as follows:—

Would you kindly inform me through the *Journal* whether there would be any chemical loss through mixing superphosphate and carbonate of lime in equal parts? Would this be a slow- or quick-acting mixture?

The Agricultural Chemist replies,—

When mixed with carbonate of lime superphosphate will be reverted to a form insoluble in water (dicalcic phosphate). The resultant mixture is slower-acting than superphosphate, but quicker-acting than guano or rock phosphate (tricalcic phosphate) on most soils.

FERTILIZERS.

MR. FRED. H. WHITE, Tahuna, writes,—

In a recent issue of the *Journal* (September number, page 339) you compared Christmas Island guano and basic slag, in answer to a question from one of your readers, and it was most interesting. Would you state the relative solvency of bonedust, Christmas Island guano, Surprise Island guano, Malden Island guano, Ocean Island guano, and Seychelles guano? Are any of these guanos more easily dissolved than others, and, if so, which? I have used these guanos with good results on newly-broken-up scrub land.

The Agricultural Chemist replies,—

Bonedust cannot be compared with guano, as it contains a quantity of intimately mixed organic matter, which affects the subsequent fate of the phosphates in the soil. The guanos can all be compared from a knowledge of the total phosphoric acid in each, the solubility in solvents being similar.

SEEDSMEN.

“DARWINIAN,” Karamea, writes,—

Will you kindly give me the addresses of Messrs. Sutton and Sons and Messrs. Webb and Sons, English seed-merchants, in the next issue of your *Journal*.

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

The following are the addresses asked for: Messrs. Sutton and Sons, Reading, England; Messrs. Webb and Sons, Wordsley, England.

BLACKBERRY-SPRAY.

MR. WILLIAM T. BELL, “Woodlands,” Clevedon, writes,—

What material is used for spraying blackberry on the railway-line sides near Auckland? Is it poisonous to stock, how is it applied, and in what quantities? Could it be sprayed on with the ordinary knapsack spray-pump?

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

The material used by the New Zealand railways for spraying blackberries on the railway-line near Auckland is known as “Pintch’s gas-tar.” It should not be dangerous to stock, as they usually avoid tar. The mixture is applied with a watering-can, being too thick for distribution through a spray-pump. It is applied as received from the vendors, undiluted. This specific kills for only one season. Some gorse was sprayed this season with this mixture, and the Inspector who witnessed the spraying reports that a new growth has already commenced. The following