

is a recipe also used by the Railway Department—this also is a season killer: 80 lb. arsenic dissolved in 200 gallons of boiling water. Add 200 gallons cold water. This makes a 2-per-cent. solution. Weeds are first cut down by hand and the solution is sprayed on in two applications. 400 gallons of the solution is sufficient to spray twice a quarter-mile of railway-track 12 ft. wide.

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#### INOCULATED SOIL.

MR. K. W. DALRYMPLE, Parewanui, Bulls, writes as follows:—

Would soil that has had lucerne growing in it for the last five years be inoculated? Although the lucerne has been growing well, it is being smothered out with rank grass, and is now rather thin. Can it be found by testing whether the soil is inoculated?

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

It is accepted that soil from a lucerne-field planted five years ago would contain sufficient organisms to ensure inoculation. The presence of considerable numbers of tubercles or nodules on the roots would be a sufficient indication.

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#### FAT-HEN.

MR. T. E. MAUNSELL, Carterton, writes as follows:—

Would you kindly advise me through your columns of the most effective method of eradicating fat-hen. I have some area of rich alluvial soil infested with the weed, and find it gives no end of trouble. I have some lucerne planted in part of it, which is growing strongly, but honours are about equal at present between it and fat-hen. The latter I am endeavouring to keep from seeding by periodical mowing. The rest is in maize and mangels.

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

The control of the weed fat-hen can be obtained by repeated cultivation, or possibly by the use of covering-crops, such as rape, swedes, or peas in drills, that are kept free from weeds until the crop is so well advanced that the foliage will thickly cover the ground. Periodical mowing is the usual control.

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#### GOAT'S MILK.

DR. LEWIS, Medical Superintendent, Te Waikato Sanatorium, writes,—

I should be glad to learn from you the composition of goat's milk, and the proportion of the various constituents. I should also be glad if you could let me have your opinion as to its assimilability and nutritive value.

The Dairy-produce Division replies,—

The composition of goat's milk is very similar to that of cow's milk, with the exception that the fat-content is frequently a little higher, and the same may be said for the casein and albumen. Henry Droop Richmond, F.I.C., gives a comparative analysis of average goat's and cow's milk as follows:—Goat's milk: Water, 86.04; fat, 4.63; sugar, 4.22; casein, 3.49; albumen, 0.86; ash, 0.76. Cow's milk: Water, 87.10; fat, 3.90; sugar, 4.75; casein, 3.0; albumen, 0.4; ash, 0.75. Usually the milk from goats is of a somewhat strong flavour, and is not liked by users at the commencement. The nutritive value is considered equal to that of cow's milk, and some authorities even contend that it has superior qualities in this respect. A feature of this milk is that the butter-fat is very white in colour.