

occupied by me. One of the specimens (the larger-leaved) produces a small spiral burr, which I feel would be sure to adhere to the sheep's wool, and it would therefore probably be inadvisable to introduce the plant on sheep-country. I shall feel obliged if you will kindly in the *Journal* give me the names of the two plants, and any information at your disposal as to the full value of each variety; also whether you agree with me as to the risk of introducing the burr-producing plant among sheep.

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

The names of the specimen clovers sent by you are—No. 1, Spotted burr clover (*Medicago maculata*). An account of this clover will be found in the May, 1914, number of the *Journal*. No. 2, English clover (*Medicago lupulina*). This is an annual or biennial clover that is often sown on sheep-country. It is decidedly useful on light soils, especially those of a sandy nature. It is common throughout Hawke's Bay, though not regarded as of very much value, but it certainly yields a good deal of highly nutritious fodder.

BRANDING SHEEP.

C. E. B., Nelson, writes,—

Would you oblige by letting me know through your paper (1) if oxide paint is harmful to the wool if used for branding sheep, and (2) if hæmatite used for same is harmful.

The Live-stock and Meat Division replies,—

Although neither oxide paint nor hæmatite is regarded as harmful to the wool, both are very difficult to remove, and are therefore objectionable; consequently one of the several recognized branding-fluids is recommended.

VETERINARY SCIENCE.

MR. G. C. NEVILLE, Opotiki writes,—

I should be very much obliged if you could tell me if there is a course one can take in veterinary surgery so as to qualify as a veterinary surgeon, and where could one take this course, and what length would it be, and how much would it cost.

The Live-stock and Meat Division replies,—

The nearest colleges where such a course could be taken are in Australia—Sydney and Melbourne—where they are in connection with the Universities. We have only the Melbourne prospectus. There are two courses open to students—one, of four years and a half, leading to the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science and ultimately Doctor; the other, of four years, leading to the License in Veterinary Science. The candidate for the degree is required to pass a preliminary examination similar to that required for the medical profession and for all the veterinary schools in the United Kingdom—viz., Latin, English, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and one of the following optional subjects: Greek, French, or German. A candidate for the licentiate is required to pass a preliminary examination of a lower standard in those subjects which are indispensable for an understanding of the work of the course—viz., English, arithmetic, algebra, and geometry, and two other optional subjects. Examinations are held each year, and the student must pass these before he undertakes further work. If he fails he must come up again. We do not know exactly when the examinations are held, probably twice a year, as in the English schools. This means, should a student fail, say, in his first professional examination, he would have to study for another half-year before presenting himself again. The fees payable for the courses are as follows: Bachelor of Veterinary Science—For matriculation, £1 1s.; for first year, £22; for second year, £25; for third year, £25; for fourth year, £25; for fifth year, £20; for license and degree, £7 7s. License in Veterinary Science—For the first year, £18; for the second year, £25; for the third year, £25; for the fourth year, £25; for the license, £5 5s. To these fees must be added cost of books, microscope, instruments, and living-expenses. The Sydney course is practically the same as that of Melbourne.