

stages a lotion composed of chloride of zinc, 40 grains to the pint of rain-water, applied twice a day, will be sufficient to arrest the condition. The best way to apply it is to sop a piece of cotton-wool in the lotion and apply to the part, securing this by a bandage, which should be applied fairly tight so as to exert a little pressure. If the disease has got to the "grape" stage, these can only be removed by excision or the hot iron. During the treatment the legs should as far as possible be kept clean and dry. Any cracks may be dressed with carbolized vaseline.

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#### LUCERNE.

MR. F. W. CORBAN, Hastings, writes,—

I sowed about three-quarters of an acre of lucerne in the spring. It came away fairly well at the start, but the dry weather and the weeds have been against it. Would it be advisable to harrow it and top-dress it when the ground gets w. t.; and, if so, when should it be done, and what manure should be used? Clover grows well in this locality.

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

The harrowing of your lucerne, giving it one stroke with fairly heavy harrows, would probably have a most beneficial effect. Without a more definite description or knowledge of the land, proper advice cannot well be given of the manure most suitable to use for top-dressing. In your district it would perhaps be advisable to use phosphatic manures with the addition of potash in some form.

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#### CALVES'-FOOT JELLY.

MR. J. PARSONS, "Sarnia," Whenuakura, Patea, writes,—

Where do the manufacturers of "genuine calves'-foot jelly" get their raw material from, assuming that it is made from the feet of young calves? Also, is there a market for same; or could it be made on a dairy farm as a profitable concern? If so, could you tell me where I could get the necessary information, &c., for making it, as we kill something like 100 to 120 newborn calves during the season, and could also get other supplies if it could be made into a business.

The Live-stock and Meat Division replies,—

Genuine calves'-foot jelly is manufactured from gelatine, and not directly from the feet of young calves; therefore it is not likely that the feet of calves slaughtered upon the farms can be utilized for this purpose.

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#### GRASS-GRUB.

MR. J. T. BICKNELL, Kahutara Road, Featherston, writes,—

I have read the article in your March issue on the grass-grub with interest, and per parcel-post herewith send you a tin containing samples of a grub which causes great damage in this locality. This grub, I believe, develops into what is known as the "manuka-beetle," being brown when it first takes wing, and then gradually turning green. In damp seasons the grubs come to the surface in February and March, in dry seasons later, and then they remain in the ground until they take wing. In a cold season the time of flight is generally later than in a warm one. About the end of November and in December the beetle is formed, and they rise then thickest, although a few take wing in January and February. So thick sometimes are these beetles that they resemble a swarm of bees. I have a plantation of mixed trees—gums, pines, wattles, &c.—in which the beetles are very thick, but they have not affected these trees, although I have had the roots of azaleas and other shrubs eaten, and the shrubs so killed. A paddock of grass lately sown down by me and just coming up is now attacked by these grubs, which are in it in hundreds, and quite spoiling it. I shall be very much obliged if you can tell me what to do to get rid of this pest.

The Biologist replies,—

There is really no practical method of dealing with the grass-grub over extended pastures.