(1.) *Palatability.*—This is most important, as the value of any grass and its capacity for carrying stock depends almost entirely on whether or not the herbage produced is consumed readily. In many cases, again, palatability depends on the age of the herbage; many grasses that are well liked when young may be more or less rejected when the herbage is old, although, so far as nutriment is concerned, they may be superior when in a comparatively unpalatable condition.

(2.) *Ability to grow well under the required conditions.*—This, coupled with a consideration of (1), will in most cases determine what grasses should be used.

(3.) *Ability to produce feed during the winter.*—This is, of course, a very important consideration with all grasses that are used in the formation of pastures that are grazed on throughout the year.

Probably the best of the couch-grasses is *Poa pratensis*, and in permanent pastures that are not too dry in summer it is highly recommended, although it has the bad character of not combining well with other grasses that are of a tufted nature and often suppresses them, a character that is, however, not unusual in underground-stemmed grasses. On dry soils and ones of low fertility the yield of herbage is unsatisfactory, and in many instances under such conditions *Danthonia pilosa* is far preferable. On land that may be used for cropping, *Poa pratensis* is looked upon with great disfavour, as it is very difficult to kill, ploughing under being quite useless unless followed by extensive cultivation during the summer.

The fiorins and bent-grasses (*Agrostis* spp.) are very important grasses in second- and third-class country where the rainfall is fairly high. They are, however, apt to get away in the autumn, and when this occurs cattle should be utilized to feed them down. I, of course, would not advise their use in good rye-grass and cocksfoot country, as they are apt to overrun the ground to the detriment of the better grasses. *Danthonia pilosa* and crested dogstail combine fairly well with the bent-grasses. Twitch (*Agropyron repens*), which on arable land is one of the most pernicious of weeds, is probably of value on certain soils, such as grassed sandhills, depleted dry soils, &c. The herbage is well liked by stock.

Danthonia pilosa is, without doubt, the most valuable of any of our grasses for poor land, but up to the present the seed is not sown in sufficient quantities to at once form a sward. There is a mistaken idea that the individual seeds of *Danthonia pilosa* are very light, and that there are an enormous number per pound. In point of fact, the number is not more than that of cocksfoot, and averages about 550,000. From this it is apparent that it is as necessary to use as much danthonia on land where it is to be the dominant grass as one would use of cocksfoot on land where that grass is intended to provide the main bulk of the feed. *Danthonia pilosa* is well liked by stock, and grows readily during the winter, and certainly in this respect is improved by burning off in the early autumn, but the temporary gain is probably more than counterbalanced by the permanent injury that results from excessive firing of the grass land.

The Live-stock and Meat Division replies,—

5. Yes; but it is not policy to use old rams as flock rams. A ram is sexually at his best from about fifteen months to four years. After this his powers decline, this depending a good deal on how he has been used in previous seasons and his natural constitution. Old rams, too, often have a deposit of lime salts in the worm-like appendage of the penis, rendering them useless for breeding purposes.

MILK-FEVER.

MESSRS. PARSONS BROS., Whenuakura, write,—

Could you advise in your answers to correspondents—(1) The best treatment to be given to a cow with milk-fever; (2) whether it is necessary to give drench, if using sterilized-air pump; (3) symptoms of cow with milk-fever?

The Live-stock and Meat Division replies,—

There is no better treatment than inflation of the udder. Preferably this should be done with oxygen gas. If atmospheric air, however, is forced through sterilized cotton-wool into the udder, in most cases it acts efficiently.