authoritatively as to the amount of manure to be applied; 3 cwt. to 5 cwt. is the usual quantity availed of. An excessive quantity of manure would undoubtedly result in increasing the foliage of the crop as against the tubers of the potato or the roots of the mangel. This the correspondent has no doubt observed during his farming experience. There can be no specified time during the spring at which to apply manure. In field practice, for the purpose of economy, it is applied at the time of sowing the seed. On garden plots it is desirable to well work in and incorporate the fertilizer some time before planting. The time must depend on the season and conditions. Without a close acquaintance with the soil, the previous crops grown, and the season, it is undesirable to venture an opinion as to why some sets of potatoes were satisfactory and others were not. There may have been a variation of the soil that affected this. This you yourself would be in the best position to judge.

Sorrel.

Mr. Hector M. J. Nicolson, Otaki, writes,—

Will you please tell me the best way to eradicate sorrel?

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

Sorrel can be controlled, and ultimately brought to a condition in which it is no longer injurious, by repeated cultivation, particularly during summer. Lime is claimed to assist in destroying this weed. Probably the action of lime is that it renders the soil more alkaline, and provides a condition in which other plants flourish. At the same time, the withdrawal of acid reduces the vigour of the sorrel, as it is a plant which is accepted as thriving where the soil is acid.

Buda Kale.

"Waiau" writes as follows:—

I note a report of an experiment at Moumahaki Experimental Farm with Buda kale in your *Journal* of the 15th March. Will you tell me if the kale was a transplanted crop, or just ordinary drilled-in seed?

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

The Buda kale seed was obtained from an ordinary crop drilled in December, 1911. The produce was cut and carted to cattle during March, 1912, after which the plants were allowed to grow during winter. In early spring the cultivator was used between the rows, and the plants allowed to grow and produce seed.

Paspalum Dilatatum.

Mr. Chris. M. Hansen, Opotiki, Bay of Plenty, writes,—

Would you kindly, through the issue of your valuable *Journal*, verify whether I am correct in condemning the use of paspalum. This grass was introduced only a few years ago on account of its readiness to strike on poor fern lands where other grasses had failed, and I think in that respect it has proved itself a success with a vengeance. It is also said that it is credited with power to wipe out Canadian thistle; if that is true, it is the only virtue that I know of in its favour for infested localities. But odds are greatly against it, and yet people are sowing it in the Bay of Plenty district on flats and swamps regardless of consequences. Surely it is bad enough as it is. The stock is rapidly carrying it from the hills to low-lying parts, or, for that matter, to any vicinity. The greatest objection against it is that it is not adapted for haymaking, as the blades only grow short and lie close to the ground; it grows outwards and spreads. It does not provide winter feed as well as cocksfoot. All haymaking plants will have short lives in paspalum areas; and if it makes cultivation difficult I should like to know if it has any other virtues above other grasses than to kill.