

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CORRESPONDENTS are requested, when desiring information through the *Journal* in regard to disease in animals and plants, to forward, where possible, affected specimens, in order to facilitate a correct diagnosis of the trouble, and to ensure the best advice. In stating a question, the most complete descriptive details should be furnished.

BEEKEEPING.

MR. LEONARD LORD, Napier :—

I have read several of the articles in your *Journal* on beekeeping, and I wish to make a start in a small way. Could you advise me where I could get a colony? I should like leather-coloured Italian. Kindly also advise me if there is a good book to be had on the subject.

The Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division replies,—

Strong healthy colonies of bees are procurable from the Government Experimental Farm at Waerenga, in the Waikato. A price-list containing conditions of sale, &c., has been posted you, also copy of Bee Bulletin No. 18, which contains valuable information, especially for beginners in beekeeping.

ERADICATION OF WEEDS.

MR. D. C. D. THOMAS :—

Could you inform me, through your *Journal*, how to kill dandelions and other weeds in lawns without taking the lawns up? I understand that there is some mixture that can be made which will do this, without hurting the grass or clover at all.

The Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division replies,—

One of the best means of killing weeds in a lawn is by sulphuric acid. As only a few drops are required for each weed, a good way of applying it is by using a large nail, which is dipped in the acid and applied to the centre of each weed. Care should be taken to see that the hands or face do not come in contact with this acid, as it will inflict severe burns. Sheep-dip undiluted applied with an old brush to the crown of each weed is also a good eradicator.

ONIONS.

“GROWER,” Taihape :—

As I am contemplating planting a few acres with onions, I should be grateful to you for the following information :—

1. The best and most profitable seed to sow, and average yield per acre from same.
2. Is this district a good one for growing onions (soil, rich brown)? If so, the time to plant, quantity of seed per acre, and best fertilizer to use.
3. Does frost and snow affect growth? If so, method of protecting plants from same.

The Director of Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

The best onion-seed is Australian. This seed can be obtained from New Zealand seedsmen. The yield of onions per acre might be anything between $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons and 15 tons; 10 tons is a very good average on moderately good soil. I