

Should you find an animal blown up through being choked, get the trochar as quickly as possible and puncture her on the spot. If you attempted to move her she probably would not move more than a few yards before she collapsed.

We do not know exactly what would enable you at first sight to distinguish between the distension due to choking and gaseous indigestion. The conditions under which the animal had been would help you. If she had been grazing on wet succulent food, such as green clover, &c., you would conclude the latter was the cause. In either case you would puncture. In a case of choking the accumulated gas generally escapes quickly, and the flank falls in. In gaseous indigestion the gas is generally mixed with the fermenting contents of the stomach, the latter often blocking up the canula and preventing the gas from escaping. In this case a piece of wire should be pushed down the canula to free it. Treatment of gaseous indigestion would depend a good deal on what has been eaten to cause the condition. Stimulants and chemical antidotes to fermentation should be given. Ammonia is usually found on a farm, and half an ounce of the strong liquid diluted with at least a quart of water may be given. Two ounces of turpentine mixed with the half-ounce of strong ammonia in a pint and a half of raw linseed-oil is about as good a thing as you can give.

RAPE.

G. H. G., Gordonton :—

I purpose putting in some rape for pigs next spring.

1. What is the earliest time I can sow under ordinary conditions ?
2. Would you advise me to sow anything else with the rape ?
3. What is the best manure to use ? The land I intend using is drained swamp of good quality.
4. Can you suggest anything better than rape for the purpose ?

The Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

1. Sow in July.
2. Sow peas or oats with rape.
3. As the land is drained swamp, basic slag will be the best manure. Use 3 cwt. to 4 cwt. per acre.
4. Peas, oats, maize, or mangels. The last should not be fed in a very fresh state ; they should be pitted or allowed to lie for a time to mature.

TOTARA POSTS.

MR. ERNEST PHILLIPS, "The Briars," Streamlands, Auckland :—

Could you kindly inform me which is the better way to put in totara posts—right way up, or upside down ? There has been a lot of argument on the matter here of late : some say one way, and some the other. It is contended that if they are put in upside down they last so much longer.

The Director of Fields and Experimental Farms Division replies,—

Totara posts are of such durability that it is immaterial whether or not they be placed in the ground in the same position as they grew.

POPLAR TIMBER.

"SUBSCRIBER," Waipukurau :—

1. Is the poplar suitable for timber for general woodwork purposes, such as butter-boxes, fruit-cases, and cabinetmaking ?
2. Is there any certain species that makes the best timber ?
3. What age would a tree require to be before it would be ready for use ?
4. Will it grow and thrive on either good or poor land ; or what nature of soil suits it best ?

The Director of Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division replies,—

The poplar cannot be recommended for planting for timber. A much more suitable tree is *Pinus radiata* (*P. insignis*), the timber of which has been proved to be specially suitable for fruit-cases. It is also a good shelter-tree, and will grow in almost any soil or situation. For timber purposes the trees should be planted about 4 ft. apart each way, and should be ready for use in from twenty to thirty years' time.