

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

IN every instance a question to which an answer is desired in these columns must be accompanied by the full name and the postal address of the inquirer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The question should be written on one side of the paper only.

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### SALTING DOWN BUTTER.

“AVOCA,” Streamlands :—

Would you be good enough to inform me how butter may be salted down to keep, say, four to six months.

The Dairy Division :—

Where no refrigerator is available, the butter should be salted with from  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz. to 1 oz. of salt per pound, and a little butter-preservative added, amounting to, say,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 per cent. A parchment-lined white-pine box, or an earthenware jar with a glazed surface, make very good receptacles for holding the product. The cream should be held for sufficient time to develop a nice mild acid flavour before churning, and care should be taken to extract all the buttermilk by churning the cream at a low temperature and washing the grains of butter with cold water. When packed the butter should be placed in the coolest position possible and kept free from exposure to the air.

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### KILLING WILLOWS WITH SULPHURIC ACID.

“POHARA,” Tahuna :—

I have a number of willows growing in a large creek. Will you kindly inform me of best method of killing the trees? Can poison be used?

The Horticulture Division :—

Willows can be destroyed by the use of sulphuric acid. Bore a few holes with an auger in the base of the tree, fill with sulphuric acid, and plug. The holes should be bored on an angle so as to better retain the liquid.

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### BUDDING OF FRUIT-TREES.

“SUBSCRIBER,” Mount Albert, Auckland :—

I would be glad of a little information regarding budding fruit-trees. I have tried peaches on several occasions, both early and late, but with very little success. I generally find that as soon as the wet autumn rains come the buds which up to then had looked very promising have all been destroyed by “gumming” of the tree. What would be the best time for the Auckland District to bud peaches, apples, pears, and lemons?

The Horticulture Division :—

You should experience no great difficulty in budding peaches successfully, provided that the work is carefully done and the proper bud used. The bud must be a healthy mature leaf-bud, either single or the centre one of a triple set. Care must be taken in removing the wood from the shield of bark when preparing the bud for insertion, otherwise the wood will be torn out of the bud, which will then