

application of lime in your case should have neutralized such an acid condition. Freshly decayed vegetable-matter also fosters this fungus. If the affected patches are small enough they could advisedly be well watered with a solution of sulphate of iron, using 1½ lb. to 3 gallons of water. This is destructive to the fungus threads in the soil, where they may otherwise persist for many years. Several applications of this wash may be found necessary. Where the affected patches are small they should have a trench dug round them a foot or two beyond where any diseased plants show, and the soil should be thrown on the inside of the trench. In addition to spraying with iron sulphate a dressing of burnt lime at as high a rate as from 1 to 2 tons per acre may be applied. Where this disease appears in lucerne great care has to be exercised in cultivation, and in no case should the cultivating-instrument be allowed to pass over the affected patches. If this is allowed to occur wholesale infection of the field is likely to result. Plants that are quite dead should be dug out and burnt on the affected areas themselves. When the disease is general over a lucerne-field there is no practical method of control.

MOLASSES AND STOCK-FEEDING.

W. F. PANNETT, Scargill :—

Will you kindly afford me some information as to the nutritive value of molasses? Last winter I used five or six casks, and I find it very useful as an adjunct to chaff. I save the husk or chaff of wheat and mix molasses with it, and find the stock eat it well. I have never been able to obtain the results of an analysis showing its food-value, or any statements as to how much should be fed in a given time.

The Live-stock Division :—

The constituents of molasses are as follows (per cent.): Water, 92.0; albuminoids, 2.0; carbohydrates, 4.4; ash, 1.6. Molasses, when diluted with warm water and sprinkled on hay or mixed with chaff, stimulates the appetite, but is of itself of no great food-value. It should be used with discretion, as cases are on record of serious digestive troubles through encouraging animals to eat indigestible food by adding molasses.

ERADICATING WILD BUTTERCUPS.

"SUBSCRIBER," Makuri :—

I have a 5-acre paddock of newly cleared land on a river-flat. I had a good crop of rape on it last season, and there is still a lot of feed on the land. The wild buttercup has had possession of the land for years. Can you advise me the best way to get rid of it? I thought of laying the paddock down in Western Wolths grass in the spring for fattening bullocks.

The Fields Division :—

The most feasible way to deal with the wild buttercup would be to plough up the land between now and early spring, and cultivate with spring-tooth cultivator and tine harrows from, say, the end of August up to near the end of November. Cultivate fairly frequently during that period, then seed at the rate of at least 30 lb. Western Wolths and 4 lb. cow-grass per acre, using about 1 cwt. basic superphosphate and 1 cwt. blood-and-bone manure per acre. The systematic cultivation, together with the liberal grass-seeding, should beat the weeds.

TREATMENT OF ROOTS FOR PIG-FEED.

T. C., Ngaruawahia :—

Does it pay to boil swedes and mangels for pigs? I pulp them before boiling. Would the results be as good if I mixed the pollard dry with the raw pulp—same amount in each case?