

The Live-stock Division :

It does not pay to boil swedes or mangels for pigs. Raw swede or mangel pulp mixed with pollard is excellent pig-feed, quite equal to boiled feed. This does not apply to potatoes, which must be cooked for pigs.

LUCERNE IN ORCHARDS.—POISONOUS HONEY.

G. S. CLARKE, Kihikihi :—

Be good enough to inform me (1) whether lucerne would be injurious grown in between young fruit-trees, about 6 ft. from line of trees; (2) how honey should be treated to prevent (possible) poisoning.

The Horticulture Division :—

(1.) Lucerne could be grown for a time between young trees on the lines suggested without injury to the trees, provided the 6 ft. strip of soil between the lucerne and the trees were kept well worked.

(2.) Poisonous honey is gathered from two sources in New Zealand—viz., ranunculus (*rivularis*), a swamp-weed, and rangiora (*Brachyglottis repanda* and *B. rangiora*) shrubs. Honey gathered from these sources contains a volatile poison, which, in the process of ripening by the bees, is evaporated. Honey is ripe after having been capped by the bees, so that if no honey is extracted until capped there is no danger of injurious results.

CONTROLLING THE KEA PEST.

“ SUFFERER,” Oamaru :—

Will you kindly inform the writer the most efficacious manner of treating the kea pest? Our station in Central Otago suffers very much from these birds. So far we have tried shooting them. Some stations, I believe, go in for poisoning, but the latter method is objectionable because the dogs run the risk of being poisoned by the carcasses left for the keas.

The Live-stock Division :—

Shooting and poisoning are both recommended by those who have had experience with the kea pest. In this connection we may quote the remarks of two reliable sheep-farmers with many years' experience on kea-infested country. One says, “ I consider that paying a fair price per head is the best way of getting quit of them.” The other, who also does a great deal of shooting, states, “ The best means I find of getting rid of keas is by poisoning with strychnine a sheep they have just killed. I have got as many as forty dead round one sheep.”

CONTROL OF GRASS-GRUB.

J. A. RAYNE, Carterton :—

I have a paddock which I have just sown down in grass and Cape barley. I notice that the grubs have started in it. Could you recommend anything to eradicate them?

The Fields Division :—

There is, unfortunately, nothing that could be applied to the land that would be feasible on a large scale. In general, we would advise breaking up your field often and growing temporary pastures until you rid the land of this troublesome pest. As clovers do not appear to be so readily attacked, make use of these as much as possible. Practise a short rotation. If you keep pigs or turkeys, turn them into the ploughed field, as they are good destroyers of the white grub. You should make a practice to grow temporary crops, making free use of clovers in them. The object is to keep the soil stirred up as much as possible. Do the ploughing in the autumn or early winter as far as possible, so as to expose to the frost.