

After two or three years of a succession of temporary crops the land may be sown down with a permanent grass mixture, but not until the grubs have practically disappeared is it advisable for such mixture to be sown. Where the grub is bad only in patches a good heavy application of kainit to these spots has been recommended. Rolling the land heavily is also said to have some effect. Apterite or Vaporite has been used also as a spray for crops attacked by the white grub. These remedies may be of service to you where the grub is confined to small areas later on, but meantime the short rotation, embodying the use of temporary pastures of clover crops ("catch" or otherwise) with grain and root crops, is your best method of combating this difficult pest.

WOODLICE IN HIVES.—CROSS-MATING OF BEES.

"INQUIRER," Dannevirke :—

1. Can you tell me how to prevent "slaters" (woodlice) from entering and destroying comb in hives? The hives are about 9 in. off the ground.

2. I have the two races of Italian bees—Leather and Golden. Will the cross-mating of these two be in any way detrimental to the breeding of pure Italian stock? Are they looked upon as hybrids, and will it affect their ability to gather nectar?

The Horticulture Division :—

1. "Slaters," or woodlice, become prevalent in hives situated in damp places. Keep surrounding grass cut away and dry mats over the frames. A good un-leakable cover should be on all hives. These insects do not usually cause material damage apart from being a nuisance and undesirable.

2. A cross between the Golden and Leather coloured Italians would not affect the honey-gathering qualities of either race, and they are not termed hybrids. Hybrids are a cross between the Black and Italian races.

METHOD OF APPLYING LIME.

CHARLES MCKENZIE, Ngaere :—

Would you kindly tell me through your *Journal* if it would kill seed to plant it with ground or burnt lime—I mean to run them both through the drill at the same time. Might not the lime when it gets on to the damp soil cause too much heat and so kill the germination?

¶ The Fields Division :—

The sowing of seed and burnt lime together is not a desirable practice, because of the caustic action of the lime and so much of it coming in close contact with the germinating seed. You had better sow the lime separately, working it thoroughly through the soil when working up your land for the seed-bed. You could apply the lime on top of the ploughed ground and work it in with the disk and tine harrows.

WATTLE AND OTHER HEDGES.

"HEDGE," Makikihi :—

Could you inform me what kind of a fence wattle makes for a vegetable-garden, also for a road boundary-fence that has to be trimmed?

The Horticulture Division :—

Wattle will stand cutting, and can be made to serve either purposes mentioned by you, but for purely hedge purposes there are other plants preferable, such as Lombardy poplar for a boundary-fence, and *Pittosporum crassifolium*, broadleaf privet, or elaeagnus for the vegetable-garden. To provide a hedge quickly for the latter purpose tagasaste is very suitable.