

ERADICATING RATSTAIL-GRASS.

O. M. C., North Auckland :—

Would you be so good as to advise what is the best method of treating lime-stone land that has been allowed to run to ratstail ?

The Fields Division :—

If your land is ploughable the method of eradication is first to plough shallow and let this lie for some time, particularly during a dry period of the year, then cross-plough deeper and work away with spring-tooth cultivator and tine harrows until you have brought all the grass to the surface, where it can dry out and die. To put the finishing-touch on this summer fallowing, seed heavily with rape or white mustard, to smother the grass. If the land is not ploughable it is practically impossible to eradicate the ratstail. The only feasible method that might be tried is to burn off the grass at the right time and broadcast a mixture of Kentucky blue-grass, cocksfoot, *Poa trivialis*, white clover, cow-grass, *Lotus angustissimus*, alsike, hard fescue, and a little Chewings fescue and *Danthonia pilosa*. Seed fairly liberally and when rain is imminent. Turning a good flock of sheep on to the sown area immediately afterwards should cause the seed to be trampled in and manured somewhat, thus giving the grass every chance of taking hold.

NOTICES.—The name of "Subscriber," Dannevirke, is required before his query regarding *C. macrocarpa* seed can be answered. The name, of course, will not be published.

A letter without signature of any sort, inquiring as to manurial advice, has been received from Enfield. It cannot be dealt with in its present form.

GRASS-SEED AND SMALL BIRDS.

Mr. J. H. Fleming, of Ongarue, sends particulars of a method for protecting surface-sown grass-seed from small birds, at small cost, as follows: Mix kerosene and turpentine in the proportion of 1 pint of turps. to 1 gallon of kerosene. When sowing tip about half a bushel of seed into the sowing-bag, then pour half a pint or a little more of the mixture over the seed, stirring the latter well at the same time. The seed will not get sticky unless too much of the mixture is used. Mr. Fleming says that he has overcome the nuisance by this means, and adds that in his case the birds now have all the worry.

FORTHCOMING AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

Manawatu and West Coast A. and P. Association: Winter Show at Palmerston North, 20th to 23rd June.

South Taranaki Winter Show Company (Limited): Dominion Dairy Show at Hawera, 4th to 8th July.

A Commonwealth Proclamation last year prohibited the importation of citrus plants from any part of the world into Australia, but the prohibition did not extend to citrus fruits. The latter provision has now been modified, to the effect that citrus fruits may be imported only from countries in which the disease citrus-canker or Japanese canker does not exist.