

BEEKEEPING IN OUTSKIRTS OF WELLINGTON.

W. D. H., Ngaio :—

Would beekeeping be practicable in windy districts, such as the outskirts of Wellington? I have a number of trees the fruit of which does not set well, owing, I think, to non-pollination by bees, which are very rarely seen in my locality. It is said that they get blown away from the hives and perish. Is nectar from gorse detrimental to the flavour of honey?

The Horticulture Division :—

It is quite practicable to keep bees at Ngaio; in fact, several small apiaries are located there, although the honey produced is small in quantity. To keep a hive or two to pollinate your fruit-blossoms would, in our opinion, be highly successful, notwithstanding the fierce winds. Very little nectar is gathered from gorse, this plant supplying a large amount of pollen. The nectar is good quality.

BLOOD-SCOUR IN CALVES.

BEN JACKSON, Te Pahu, Waikato :—

What is the best remedy or prevention for blood-scour in calves?

The Live-stock Division :—

The complaint you mention is probably due to a small worm in the fourth stomach, causing parasitic gastritis. It is similar to a complaint found in hoggets and lambs, dealt with in Bulletin No. 3, which has been forwarded to you. The treatment should be exactly the same for calves as lambs, except that the lysol should be 1 to 1½ tablespoonfuls according to size of calf and in a corresponding increase of milk.

SWAMP FEED.

“SWAMP,” Mangapehi :—

I have drained a peat swamp, but find the depth of peat makes ploughing and other team operations impossible. Is there anything I could surface-sow in, say, the spring which would entice cattle over the swamp and so crush down the peat and make ploughing, &c., a practicable proposition?

The Fields Division :—

If the swamp is poorly consolidated you could confine your sowing to Yorkshire fog and *Lotus major*, at the rate of about 14 lb. fog and 1 lb. *Lotus major* per acre. If, however, the swamp has been somewhat consolidated you could sow on the best portions grasses such as Western Wolths or Italian rye, and cow-grass and alsike by way of clovers. Red-top is a grass that might thrive, as should meadow-foxtail later on when the swamp has settled considerably.

CURRANT-BORER.—MANURE FOR MUSHROOM-BED.

“INQUIRER,” Otaki :—

Please state the best treatment to prevent borer in black currants; also whether cow-manure can be used instead of horse-manure when growing mushroom-beds in a shed.

The Horticulture Division :—

The borer usually enters the currant-bush, as well as other trees, through a dead snag or stub. Once the grub has gained an entrance it is difficult to remove. To prevent the affection keep the bush free of dead twigs and snags. In removing wood, cut clean and avoid stubs. In the case of an affected tree, encourage the tree to stool and make new growth; work out the old and affected wood as quickly as possible.

Cow-manure is too cold to take the place of horse-manure in the preparation of a mushroom-bed, but a proportion of cow-manure is considered an improvement, particularly when well-rotted stable manure or other material calculated to correct the temperature is added.