

PIG BREEDS FOR LONG FLITCHES.

“SOLANUM,” Wairau Valley :—

The May number of the *Journal* gave a recipe for curing bacon, which I have just followed with splendid results, and I will now be much obliged if you will kindly inform me which is the best breed of pig to give long flitches ?

The Live-stock Division :—

Either the large Yorkshire, the Tamworth, or a first cross from these is recommended to best meet your requirements for long flitches.

PHOSPHATIC “GUANOS.”

JOHN A. LAWSON, Otorohanga :—

Could you inform me if any of the various guanos sold in New Zealand are phosphatic guanos, and, if so, which ones ? Also, what is about the length of time required for the phosphoric acid in rock guano to become available for plant-food with our average rainfall ?

The Fields Division :—

All the so-called “guanous” sold in New Zealand are phosphatic. The length of time for the phosphoric acid of a Pacific island (rock) “guano” to become available in your locality will depend upon the soil. In a drained-swamp soil the phosphoric acid will become available moderately readily—in about six weeks to two months ; while on average soils the time would be in the neighbourhood of two to three months.

PINUS RADIATA TIMBER.

“MONTROY,” Fairlie :—

I would be glad of your opinion as to whether *Pinus radiata* timber would be suitable for use in a concrete house for floor and ceiling joists, studs, &c., and what would be the probable life of such timber so employed ?

The Horticulture Division :—

*Pinus radiata*, under special conditions, is a very durable timber. The main condition is perfect protection against moisture. For all the purposes you mention, with the exception perhaps of floor-joists, it should last quite as long as rimu or many other building-timbers. It would be more risky to use it for floor-joists unless the floor is well raised from the ground, and is otherwise likely to be dry.

TEETH TROUBLE IN HORSE.

GEORGE ROBERTS, Ida Valley :—

I have a draught gelding, five years old, and he always throws his chaff out of his mouth. I had his teeth filed down last year, but it made no difference whatever. Could you give me any advice as to what to do ?

The Live-stock Division :—

We should advise you to leave the horse alone for a time, or else to get a qualified veterinary surgeon to examine the back teeth. A horse at the age stated does *not* require to have his teeth rasped. Probably the trouble is due to a milk-tooth which has not been shed.

BEACH SHELLS FOR LIMING.

P. S., Whangaparaoa :—

My section is for the most part clay gum land, and I suppose it would greatly benefit with a liberal dressing of lime. I had contemplated making a kiln and burning shell from our beach, but later I have been advised to apply the fine shell as it is. As lime comes rather expensive delivered here, I would like to know if I