

## REARING MOTHERLESS LAMBS.

J. SANDFORD, Ouruhia :—

Kindly let me have directions for rearing motherless lambs.

The Live-stock Division :—

One-third water and two-thirds cows' milk should be given to the lamb to start with. Afterwards the percentage of milk can be increased. It is also beneficial to add a little barley-water occasionally. The liquid should be given at about the temperature of the body. The secret in rearing young lambs is to keep them warm, and give them small quantities of food at a time (about half a teacupful) and often—every two hours to start with. All utensils, before using, should be thoroughly washed, then scalded.

## COAL-ASHES FOR THE GARDEN.

“ASH,” Methven :—

Kindly advise me whether the ashes of a lignite, such as Homebush or Mount Somers coal, are of any value as a garden manure, either by themselves or mixed with fowl-manure. If the ashes are of no value, are they harmful ?

The Horticulture Division :—

Coal-ashes have no manurial value, but they are not injurious except in certain circumstances. Coal-ashes have been largely employed to ameliorate clay soils, and have had beneficial effect in vegetable-gardens where the soil was largely composed of tenacious clay. On light soil the ashes would have an opposite effect. Coal-ashes should not be applied to soil in which potatoes are grown, as they cause scab. Fowl-manure would not be improved by an admixture of coal-ashes ; it would be better to dry the manure separately.

## FORAGE CROPS FOR COWS.

“INQUIRER,” Tuakau :—

Please advise as to the best crops to grow for feeding cows during the summer, commencing about Christmas-time.

The Fields Division :—

For end of December and beginning of January feeding sow from the middle to the end of October 2 bushels Algerian oats and 1 bushel Scotch or Golden tares per acre. The yield of green forage from tares is greatly reduced by grazing. The crop should not be grazed off more than once, and it should be cut and fed out when required. To follow on, maize should be most suitable in your district. If your soil is good grow one of the tall heavy-yielding varieties, such as Hickory King. For less favourable conditions ordinary Horse-tooth or Ninety-day would be more suitable. Use  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 bushel per acre, and sow at, say, three intervals of three weeks, commencing in the middle of October. From 2 cwt. to 3 cwt. of basic superphosphate per acre should be given to each crop. Under conditions adapted to its growth lucerne is without doubt the best single summer forage, and you should set about establishing an area for future requirements.

## WOODLICE.

“ORCHARDIST,” Lower Hutt :—

Recently while weeding round some apple-trees I found woodlice at the roots. Do these insects do the trees any harm ; and, if so, what is the remedy ?

The Horticulture Division :—

Woodlice only become a menace to vegetation when in considerable numbers. They eat green leaves and the tender bark of both stems and roots of plants. The remedy for woodlice is good and frequent cultivation ; they do not like being disturbed. Vaporite will kill them in places cultivation does not reach. Fowls eat them with avidity, and speedily clear ground of them.