

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

IN order to ensure reply to questions, correspondents must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. Letters should be addressed to the Editor.

CONTROL OF PIRIPIRI.

A. C. WOOD, Lottin Point, East Coast :—

I have two paddocks (about 500 acres) which during the late wet seasons have become infested with biddy-biddy. This country is steep, faces due west, is warm, and usually very dry. The country was originally bush and has been felled five years. It was sown to cocksfoot, rye-grass, clover, &c. The grass took well, but only the cocksfoot has held. I propose this year, if dry enough, to get a second fire through the logs and then resow cocksfoot and *Danthonia pilosa*. Do you consider that by doing this the *danthonia* would smother biddy-biddy? I should like to know anything there is to be learnt of control of biddy-biddy, as it promises to become a regular curse.

The Fields Division :—

To control piripiri it is essential that cattle-stocking be practised. No matter what grasses are sown, if sheep alone are used the weed is sure to spread. We are, however, confident that on coastal lands such as you describe there is no better grass-mixture than *danthonia* mixed with cocksfoot and crested dogstail for sowing second burns. About 6 lb. *danthonia*, 2 lb. dogstail, and from 4 lb. to 8 lb. cocksfoot (depending on the amount of the latter grass that is already established) is recommended. So far as cattle are concerned, we should use at least one cattle beast to four or five sheep. Heavy stocking with cattle both in the autumn and early spring will be found to gradually reduce the amount of piripiri.

LIME-SULPHUR FOR SPRAYING POTATOES.

P. V. LONGFORD, Kotinga, Takaka :—

Can you give me any information as to whether lime-sulphur spray has been tried with success for potatoes, and what strength would be necessary?

The Horticulture Division :—

Lime-sulphur has been used to a limited extent in this country as a spray for potatoes, the strength being 1 in 125. Bordeaux mixture has, however, proved so effective that it seems wisest to continue its use, and particularly so as American authorities who have experimented with lime-sulphur warn potato-growers not to use it. There are practically no reliable data as to the effect of lime-sulphur on potato crops in New Zealand.

CALF WITH LABOURED BREATHING.

"SUBSCRIBER," Clyde :—

I have a calf, age about twelve months, which is running in good pasture and doing fairly well, but when feeding it breathes very heavily, almost like a broken-winded horse. Can you suggest what the trouble may be and a remedy?

The Live-stock Division :—

There may be nothing seriously wrong with the calf, and we would advise you, so long as the only evidence of abnormal conditions is laboured breathing whilst eating, not to treat with medicines. It would be beneficial, however, to place a lump of rock salt where the calf can lick it freely.