



The New Zealand Journal of Agriculture.

VOL. XVIII.—No. 4.

WELLINGTON, 21ST APRIL, 1919.

CURATIVE TREATMENT OF BUSH SICKNESS BY IRON SALTS.

By C. J. REAKES, D.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., Director-General of Agriculture;
and B. C. ASTON, F.I.C., Chemist to the Department.

ONE branch of experimental work at the Mamaku Farm has been the administration to stock of medicinal compounds—supplied in the form of brick-licks, which the animals voluntarily consume, and drenches, given by hand or in the drinking-water—all of which contain elements known or suspected to be deficient in the soil of the area under investigation. It is, of course, not intended to suggest that drenching of stock with any remedy, however cheap or efficient, would be a practical remedy for bush sickness. The aim of drenching experiments is merely to obtain quick confirmation, on a few typical animals, of ideas formed from laboratory experience dealing with a subject of which so little is known that it may be regarded as situated on the borderland of knowledge.

Previous articles in this *Journal* and records in the Annual Report of the Department* have shown that while phosphate top-dressings as

* For articles and reports on bush sickness see *Journal* for November, 1911, August, 1912, April, 1913, June, 1913, February, 1914, November, 1915, October, 1916; and the Annual Report for 1915-16 (pages 3 and 36), 1916-17 (pages 12 and 39), and 1917-18 (pages 7 and 35). Articles on "Pumice Soils" are to be found in the *Journal* for May, 1912, August, 1913, October, 1917, and November, 1918.