

EWES WITH CONTAGIOUS STOMATITIS.

S. H. F., Masterton :—

I have some stud Southdown ewes that have broken out with sores around the upper and bottom lips. The sores start like warts, and gradually get worse until quite raw and sensitive, and the sheep fall away in condition. The sheep were previously in first-rate condition; they have a good paddock but with a lot of thistles in it. Could you tell me a cure, and if it is a common complaint?

The Live-stock Division :—

The trouble affecting your ewes is evidently contagious stomatitis. Treatment consists in cleaning the parts and applying sulphur ointment (1 in 8 of vaseline). The ointment should be applied liberally. Probably the thistles are the cause of the abrasions through which the microbes gain entrance, and thus set up the symptoms you describe. A change of feed should have a beneficial effect.

RAISING CHESTNUTS.

M. K. FORSYTH, Stanley Brook :—

Would you kindly give me information as to how chestnuts are propagated? Can they be raised from the nut; and, if so, does the nut require any special treatment before planting? I sent some nuts out from England while I was there. They were planted here over a year ago, and there is no sign of any of them growing.

The Horticulture Division :—

Chestnuts are raised from the nuts, which are best sown as soon as they are ripe in any ordinarily good soil that is friable and not too wet. Varieties are increased by budding on to stocks raised from nuts. The nuts you sent from England no doubt lost vitality during the voyage. They would require special packing and to be kept in a cool place.

TREATMENT FOR NORTHERN CLAY SOIL.

“SUBSCRIBER,” Otorohanga :—

The soil surrounding Waikumete, North Auckland, is a brown-and-white cohesive clay. Please advise me how to bring this soil into a state of fertility. It grows *paludum* and *lotus angustissimus* very well.

The Agriculturist :—

The soil you refer to can be improved in fertility by judicious liming, green-manuring, and thorough cultivation—using burnt lime at the rate of 15 cwt. to 20 cwt. per acre, worked into the soil during cultural operations, and ploughing under a *lotus angustissimus* crop occasionally to provide humus. This improvement will be augmented by the moderate manuring of the oats and forage crops (turnips, ryecorn, vetches, peas, &c.) that can be grown on such land. The cultivation required for these crops, and the growing of the leguminous plants mentioned, will be of marked benefit.

TREATMENT FOR SIDE-BONE IN HORSE.

“NUGGET,” Matakoho :—

I have a draught mare which has developed a lump on her front legs, just above the hoofs; it is partly round from the back to the front on the inside of both feet. She goes a bit lame when she starts off, but it wears off. Would you kindly tell me what to do for it?

The Live-stock Division :—

The lumps you describe will no doubt be “side-bones.” There is no cure for this, though many cases are to a certain extent relieved by the application of a blister, followed by rest. After clipping the hair off and around the lumps, apply about $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of cantharides ointment (1 in 8 of vaseline). Afterwards turn the animal out for a spell.