

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.

WORMS AND BOTS IN HORSES.

W. H. C., Wellsford :—

What is the best remedy for removing worms and bots from horses? I think my horses are badly troubled with worms, as they will not condition, and are always rubbing themselves about the rump on posts and wires.

The Live-stock Division :—

The probability is that worms alone are the cause of the symptoms you describe. As treatment the horse should receive a generous diet. A powder made up according to the following prescription (for one powder) should be given every morning in feed for seven consecutive mornings, and should be followed on the eighth morning by 2 oz. of turpentine well mixed in 1 pint of linseed-oil: Sulphate of copper 1 drachm; sulphate of iron 2 drachms; potassium antimony tartrate 2 drachms; powdered gentian-root to make up 1 oz. This treatment should be repeated in three or four weeks' time until worms cease to come away with the dung. There is no treatment as yet which is satisfactory for the removal of bots, but these will come away in the spring-time of their own accord. They give no indication of their presence unless present in very large numbers.

TOBACCO DRYING AND CURING.

"NICOTINE," Waihemo :—

Would you kindly give me a few hints on drying and curing tobacco? We have a lot of plants growing in our flower-borders.

The Horticulture Division :—

The process of tobacco-curing varies according to the class of leaf desired, and experience is necessary to secure even moderately good results. The first steps are taken while the plants are growing, these being topped in time to prevent flowering. All suckers and side shoots should have been previously removed, as well as small or damaged leaves at the lower part of the stems. The time to cut is when yellow blotches begin to show on the leaves. The plants have to be hung up to dry. To enable this to be done the stems, before cutting, are split down the centre to within about 6 in. of the ground; the plant is then cut close to the ground. When cut the plant is to be left on the ground till thoroughly wilted; put the butt end towards the sun; wilting will take four or five hours. The plants are then placed astride sticks and taken to a well-ventilated shed. In the shed is a rack built so that each end of the stick rests on a rail; a stick $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long will hold eight plants; a space of 10 in. should be left between the rows of plants. Drying is complete when the stems of the leaves become a brown colour and break when bent. The leaves are then stripped off one by one till the operator gets a "hand," which may be twelve or sixteen leaves; then a leaf is folded to 2 in. or 3 in. in width and bound around the base of the "hand" to keep them together, the end of the binding-leaf being tucked in to fasten it. The "hands" are packed in a pile secure from drying winds or wet, the butts being laid outward, the tips of the leaves overlapping. The "hands" are pressed down by kneeling on them while packing, and afterwards weighted with heavy planks. The pile is then covered with sacking, or some such fabric, to protect the exposed