

ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

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.

FOOT-SCALDING IN SHEEP.

A. TOMLINSON, Rongomai, Eketahuna :—

A number of sheepowners in this district have had trouble with ewes going lame. They scald between the claws, and in bad cases the hoof will come right off. Can you suggest a reason for the trouble, and a cure? I am of the opinion that the rank feed and excessive rainfall we have had this year have a good deal to do with it. In several of the affected sheep I found the small ducts above the hoofs completely blocked with wool and wax, the wool apparently growing right into the hole. Would this have an injurious effect? What is the function of this duct?

The Live-stock Division :—

We think you are quite correct in your surmise that the trouble referred to is aggravated by the excessive rainfall and rank growth of feed experienced this year. The duct in question would probably get covered over and blocked up by dirt, &c., with consequent growth of bacteria and pus-formation. This duct secretes an unctuous yellow substance, which is doubtless a valuable protective of the skin of the cleft from the ill effects of friction and irritation by dirt and foreign bodies. From the opening of the duct project a few long hairs, usually matted together. Treatment consists in thoroughly cleansing the affected feet and removing any foreign bodies and accumulated secretion. Where large numbers of sheep are affected the use of a race is advisable, with a 5-per-cent. solution of copper sulphate ($\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to the gallon of water).

SOWING PRAIRIE-GRASS.

B. A., Te Mawhai :—

I am thinking of sowing 4 acres of prairie-grass and clovers about the end of August. The land is light loam of fairly good quality in good heart, and is now in soft turnips, which are being fed off on the ground. Would it be advisable to mix the seed with the manure and sow through the coulter of an ordinary drill? If so, what quantity of seed should I sow?

The Agricultural Instruction Branch :—

For a pure sowing of prairie-grass or prairie-grass and clovers about 75 lb. of seed per acre is required. Where it is wished to make prairie-grass one of the dominant constituents of a mixed rye-grass, cocksfoot, and clover mixture, 20 lb. to 30 lb. of seed per acre should be sown. In either case the seed is best broadcasted just after ploughing, and disked in. This will cover most of the seed, which will be ready to germinate when the grasses and clovers are sown on the rolled surface. When 20 lb. to 30 lb. of seed is sown the seed and manure can be mixed and sown through the manure-box of an ordinary drill. When sowing larger quantities the seed and manure can be sown through a lime-distributor, or the seed broadcasted by hand.

GLASSY CORE IN APPLES.

H. H., Piko :—

Will you kindly inform me of the cause of apples having glassy cores, and also if this trouble can be cured? We have a tree (Delicious variety) which is loaded every year, but the fruit always has this glassy core and will not keep.