

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.

HYDATID CYSTS IN CATTLE.

"SUBSCRIBER," Gisborne:—

Could you give me any information on hydatids in cattle, more especially as to what effect they would have on the milk of a cow?

The Live-stock Division:—

Hydatid cysts are the cystic stage of a tape-worm (*Taenia echinococcus*) of the dog, and are commonly found in the lungs, liver, and abdominal cavity of cattle, but may occur in almost any organ or tissue. The cyst takes six months to develop, and ranges in size from a pea to a duck-egg, or even larger. A liver or lung thus affected is more or less enlarged according to the size or number of cysts present. Symptoms vary in proportion to the seriousness of the infection. Where the lungs are badly infected there is marked alteration in the breathing; and in the case of the liver, digestion is disturbed and emaciation becomes marked. Diarrhoea is not uncommon. It is only in these cases that any marked alteration is noted in the quantity and quality of the milk, and though there would be no danger of hydatid infection from drinking it, this would be inadvisable, owing to the general ill health of the animal.

GRASS-MIXTURE FOR HILL-SLIPS.

G. H. WILLIAMS, Rakauroa:—

Will you please advise me as to the best grass to sow on hill-slips? They are of a sand-and-pumice nature, and soon dry up. Also, I notice you recommend the inclusion of danthonia in some of the mixtures given in the *Journal* for May last; as I believe there are various danthonias, which variety would you recommend as the best?

The Fields Division:—

If the land is not likely to be ploughed the following mixture is advised: Perennial rye-grass, 8 lb.; Waipu brown-top, 2 lb.; Chewings fescue, 4 lb.; Danthonia pilosa, 2 lb.; white clover, 1 lb.; suckling clover and Lotus major, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each; Yorkshire fog, 3 lb. Sow at the rate of 25 lb. per acre. There are several varieties of danthonia; the pilosa variety should be used.

ABORTION AMONG EWES.

E. R. B., Swannanoa:—

I should be pleased if you would inform me the cause of a large percentage of my ewes in a flock of sixty slipping their lambs three weeks before due date of lambing. The ewes have had the run of a mixed-grass paddock, with as much oat-sheaf chaff as they could eat, and an occasional load of mangolds (pitted three or four weeks before using). In May last the ewes suffered from the flood, being a day and night in 20 in. of water, but have kept in good condition all through the winter. Would the abortion be caused by the chill of flood-water, or by eating the mangolds too readily? Believing the abortion to be contagious, I removed each ewe as the trouble commenced. Will the ewes breed again the following year?

The Live-stock Division:—

Contagious abortion in ewes is unknown in New Zealand, but ordinary abortion may be brought about by a variety of conditions, including excessive pressure on the pregnant uterus, such as over-distension of the rumen by