

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.

CALF-MANAGEMENT.

F. S. RUTHE, Leigh :—

Could you give me a preventive to stop the scouring of calves? I would also like to know what quantity of milk should be given to each calf for each feeding?

The Live-stock Division :—

Scouring in young calves is most commonly produced through some dietetic influence. Feeding skim-milk in a too sour condition, allowing calves to gorge themselves with cold milk in very hot weather, or using milk-pails and vessels which are not kept scrupulously clean and scalded before use, are all prolific causes of diarrhoea, through digestive disturbance. Also, the pen or place where the young calves are kept requires to be clean, and when mortality occurs it is advisable to change their location. As regards medicinal treatment, it is best to commence with a moderate dose of castor-oil—say, 2 oz. to 3 oz. After this has operated, and if scouring continues, a teaspoonful of chlorodyne, shaken up in a little milk, is useful. In the early stages the addition of lime-water to the milk is often all that is required. Regarding the milk requisite for a calf at each feeding, owing to individual requirements it is impossible to lay down any definite quantity, as some calves will consume much more milk than others of the same age. Again, the quantity will, of course, vary with the age of the calf. Speaking generally, a calf one month old will consume 4 pints of milk three times daily; at three months old, 5 quarts of separated milk morning and evening, with the addition of the usual supplementary feed—linseed, oatmeal, &c.

DERMATITIS IN LAMBS.

“INQUIRER,” Waipu :—

This year with several of my lambs I have noticed a breaking-out round the top of the hoofs. There is no discharge, but the affected part is simply raw and slightly swollen, and not accompanied by lameness. Would you please enlighten me as to this ailment and the necessary treatment? Is it contagious?

The Live-stock Division :—

The condition you describe is termed dermatitis or inflammation of the skin around the coronets. It is questionable whether the trouble is contagious; it is more likely due to a common cause operating. The spell of wet weather experienced earlier in the season, by influencing the nature of the feed, probably has brought about constitutional disturbance leading to the inflammatory condition of the skin. The lesions are also occasionally seen about the mouth, and this is attributed to the sheep rubbing the mouth on the affected feet. For treatment, in the first place a change of pasture is desirable. If many lambs are affected, the quickest method is to put them through a foot-bath of lysol in water (2 per cent. solution), the bath to be filled sufficiently to cover the affected parts as the lambs go through; or this can be carried out by immersing the feet in a bucket containing the solution. Usually two dressings at intervals of a few days are sufficient. Afterwards apply zinc-ointment to the coronets, removing any crusts or scabs which may have formed.

PRAIRIE-GRASS UNDER TARANAKI CONDITIONS.

“NEW CHUM,” Oaonui :—

Prairie-grass seems to be a great winter grass, but I am told that it will not do here. The farm is on a by-road about half-way between Rahotu and the mountain. I should be glad of particulars regarding this grass when sown pure.