

of the heads are somewhat immature, hence a certain amount of curing in the stack is essential. Once the stack goes into the sweat it should be left for at least a month before threshing is attempted. After threshing is completed the straw-stack should be built with a steep pitch to turn the rain.

LUCERNE.

Young spring-sown crops should be ready for a second cutting during March, and as the weather is then usually dry it is a good time to give them a light cultivation. The tine harrows are, as a rule, heavy enough for this operation. The object is to destroy any grass or permanent weeds that are getting established, and leave the surface of the land in free condition for the winter. Young stands of lucerne should not be grazed in the first season.

Old stands that are getting thin can have their usefulness considerably extended by sowing Italian rye-grass on them after the autumn cultivation. The rye-grass fills up bare ground and provides a heavy crop in the spring. In some districts the practice of sowing 2 bushels of Algerian oats on lucerne stands in March and April has become fairly common, the object being to fill up all bare ground, crowd out weeds during the winter months, and provide a heavy spring crop for green feed or ensilage. So far observations indicate that where the oat crop is cut fairly early no harm is done, but where the oats are allowed to get well out in ear there are indications that the subsequent growth of lucerne is slightly stunted. However, there is not yet sufficient evidence to warrant definite conclusions regarding the relative benefit or otherwise of this practice to the lucerne stand.

PASTURE-MANAGEMENT AND SURPLUS FEED.

Owing to the favourable season there is now on many farms a surplus of feed that can be usefully disposed of. Pastures that have "got away" should, if possible, be mown, more especially in northern districts where the dominant grass is paspalum. This allows the young undergrowth to make a start, and freshens up the feed. If the paddocks are taken in rotation at intervals there will be no shortage, even for a few days, and the benefit derived from the clearing-away of the rank unpalatable top growth is soon noticeable. On some farms this surplus grass can be raked together and made into hay or ensilage, so that a double benefit is obtained. In any case the mown grass, if there is any quantity and it is not eaten on the ground by stock, should be removed from the surface of the paddock, and the tripod harrows set to work. This harrowing spreads the stock-droppings and breaks the hard surface of the ground, thus permitting the entrance of any rain that falls.

Surplus crops of maize and Japanese millet should be converted into ensilage. The stack method is quite suitable for this purpose, more especially if there is over, say, 25 tons of material. With less material than this the proportion of waste is apt to be high, but even this is better than allowing crops to become frosted and a total loss.

—*Fields Division.*