

## 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.

### PIGS INFECTED WITH SOIL ORGANISM.

J. D., Te Poi :—

I have some twenty pigs, varying in size from slips to young porkers, running on pasture and getting all the skim-milk they can drink, the milk being always fed sour and from twelve to twenty-four hours old; condition of huts, &c., clean. Occasionally one or more of the pigs will break out into what appears to be ordinary boils, generally on the face but sometimes on a leg. These come up to a head, burst, and then quickly heal, just as a boil does on a human being. Should the affected pigs be isolated, and would medicine or a change of diet be beneficial? All the pigs are fat and apparently full of health and vigour.

The Live-stock Division :—

The trouble is apparently due to infection with a soil organism — *Bacillus necrosis*. This arises in the first instance through inoculation of some scratch or sore on the skin; the discharge from the swelling which forms later may be infectious. In the circumstances, as the ground is infected, it is advisable to remove non-affected pigs from this place to clean sties, keeping the affected animals there until they are disposed of. Cleanliness and frequent disinfection of the sties must be observed in dealing with the trouble. The sores on affected pigs can be painted once or twice with tincture of iodine as an antiseptic measure.

### FOOT-TROUBLE IN SHEEP.

J. C., Eiffelton :—

My land is of a swampy nature and the pasture grows very rank. I always run crossbred sheep, but find difficulty in keeping their feet sound. After a line of sheep has been grazed at this time of the year and on through the winter, in about six to eight weeks a little fester or gathering starts at the top of the hoof between the toes. Could you recommend any preventive or cure for this trouble?

The Live-stock Division :—

Swampy land frequently gives rise to either foot-rot or scalding between the toes of sheep. Long rank grasses irritate the softer structures between the toes, including the small duct (opening), which becomes covered over with dirt, &c., with consequent growth of bacteria and pus formation. Prevention would necessitate draining the swamp, which in your case may be impracticable. Treatment consists of cleansing the part and removing any foreign bodies. If only a few sheep are affected the parts may be painted with tincture of iodine; using a stiff brush for the purpose. Where large numbers of sheep are affected the use of a race is advisable. In this race should be placed a trough containing a 5-per-cent. solution of bluestone (copper sulphate),  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. to gallon of water, and through this the sheep should be slowly driven. Arsenic may also be used, but owing to its poisonous nature its use is not recommended. A paste made of one part bluestone, one part lard, and two parts of tar, carefully mixed over a slow fire, is also useful where only a few sheep are to be treated.

### DESTROYING WILLOWS IN A STREAM.

K. L. BEDLINGTON, Otorohanga :—

Could you inform me as to the best method for destroying willows in a stream?

The Horticulture Division :—

The best method of destroying willows in a stream depends on circumstances, concerning which you say nothing in this case. One method is to impregnate the trees at this season with commercial sulphuric acid or any good weed-killer. The acid is introduced by means of auger-holes made low down in the butts.