

The great output of engineers, doctors, and lawyers from the university colleges is a direct result of the great facilities afforded for these courses. Why not, therefore, give bright young fellows in country schools the opportunity to become leaders in scientific agriculture and other great rural activities?

Agricultural education should be the concern of each type of school in the national scheme, and a great step forward will be taken when an efficient training for rural teachers has been developed, a training which will fit them to teach efficiently a course of study adapted to rural needs and to the interests of rural life. No better position could be found for such a training course than in association with an agricultural college of the kind above described.

As to a department of home economics and farm economics for women, we consider that provision should be made for such study from the first. The part played by the woman in rural industry is no less important than that of the man, and the State should recognize this by the provision of suitable education for her. There need be no duplication of graduate courses now provided at Otago; but good diploma courses suited for farm wives and daughters would be appreciated and would be most helpful.

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### RANGE OF KIKUYU-GRASS IN NEW ZEALAND.

AN Ashburton correspondent writes to the Editor:—

“A small quantity of kikuyu-roots was obtained from Sydney last spring, and about thirty plants were established in October on cultivated soil. They struck well, grew at an extraordinary rate, and the grass looked really beautiful; in fact, I thought that a grass was discovered that would be of enormous benefit to farmers on the dry plains of Canterbury. The stolons grew over 1 in. a day, and the cuttings, which were planted 6 ft. apart, were soon united in one tangled mass. My first disappointment was when, to test the palatability, a sheep was tethered on the fodder and it was found that it would not be eaten unless the sheep was really hungry. It is possible that this new feed may be distasteful at first, but would be eaten fairly readily when stock were accustomed to it. Some of the plants were fed close in this way in order to remove all the top growth before winter so that the effect of the frost would be apparent. However, the frost completely killed every plant, although the roots of many of them were well protected by the unfed dead leaves.”

The Fields Division comments as follows:—

“In reference to the climatic conditions suitable for kikuyu, we have never recommended its establishment outside the Auckland Province. Our experience has been that it does not recover from severe frosts, and in general a line passing through Hamilton is about its southern limit. Farther south there have been cases where the grass has become established in sheltered situations and has been able to withstand frosts, but in general the grass is killed out during the first winter. North of Hamilton, however, reports are still favourable, and we have sent out approximately one hundred lots of roots in the last two seasons to farmers for trial. Sheep do well on kikuyu provided the usual stocking system is followed. At Puwera the area in this grass was closed up for two weeks after being grazed by cattle, and sheep were turned in on the young growth. This was eaten well down by them. Again, after the kikuyu had been cut for hay, sheep relished the aftermath, which they closely grazed.”

Further information regarding kikuyu, to be gathered during the current season, will be published in due course.