

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.

LARVÆ OF SHEEP NASAL BOT-FLY.

A. W. M., South Norsewood :—

On splitting open the head of a four-year-old ewe, after killing, I found seven maggots, about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, well up the nose and almost into the head. They were similar to the ordinary maggot, only larger and flat on the under-side, with more pronounced rings on the body, and two small black spots on the end of the tail, white and brown in colour. I should be glad to have any information about them, with cause and cure, if any.

The Live-stock Division :—

The maggots were the larvæ of the nasal bot-fly (*Oestrus ovis*). The mature fly deposits its larvæ in the region of the nostrils of sheep during the summer months. The larvæ find their way into the nasal cavities and air-sinuses of the head, and attach themselves to the mucous membrane, where they set up some irritation, depending on the number present. As a result of the irritation there is a chronic nasal discharge and sneezing, but seldom if ever are these parasites the cause of any mortality. The larvæ remain in position during the autumn and winter, and are ejected in the spring, when they develop into the mature fly. Treatment depends on the surgical removal of the larvæ, and where a number of sheep are affected this is therefore out of the question. The application of some dressing to the nostrils to ward off the flies is recommended as a preventive. Stockholm tar is suitable for this purpose, but, as with the flies causing bots in horses, no reliable dressing has so far been found which will permanently prevent their attack.

GRASS MIXTURE FOR SCRUB BURN.

J. D., Okoia :—

Please let me know what would be a good grass-seed mixture for sowing on rather steep country after burning scrub (Wanganui district).

The Fields Division :—

For sunny faces the following is recommended : Italian rye-grass, 3 lb. ; perennial rye-grass, 7 lb. ; crested dogtail, 4 lb. ; *Danthonia pilosa*, 3 lb. ; paspalum, 1 lb. ; colonial white clover, 1 lb. ; *Lotus major*, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. ; subterranean clover, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. ; total, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per acre. For dark faces cut out the danthonia and add 1 lb. of brown-top.

AUTUMN-BEARING STRAWBERRIES.

“ STRAWBERRY,” Whakatane :—

Will you please inform me if there is a genuine autumn-bearing strawberry-plant in existence? I do not mean the varieties that will occasionally bear a second crop of fruit in the fall when probably the spring and summer crops have been rather poor, but a real genuine 100-per-cent. fall-bearing variety that would bear its fruit in March and April. If such a plant is in existence, would the fruit have any value commercially at a period when there are such a lot of other fruits waiting to be eaten?

The Horticulture Division :—

In the long catalogue lists of strawberries there are a number which are stated to be autumn-bearing. In many cases they have their origin with well-known firms of repute, and they are doubtless true to description in the locality of origin. There are also sundry “ ever-bearing ” and “ perpetual ” varieties. But, interesting as these types are, they have not generally the cropping-capacity of the summer-bearing plants, and it is doubtful if the crop has an equal commercial value.