

has only been one good crop within the last ten years. Could you let me know what I could do to stop the fruit falling off?

The Horticulture Division :—

A very old quince-tree that blossoms every year but casts its fruit when about the size of walnuts is either in a weak condition or affected with disease. The fact that one good crop has been borne within the last ten years indicates that pollination is not the difficulty—that is, unless quince-trees in the vicinity have been removed since the crop was borne. A weak condition may be due to the quality or condition of the land or its management. Or, again, as often happens, the branches are too crowded for the blossom to develop and set well. As there are so many possible causes, the problem is best dealt with by a visit from the district Orchard Instructor, who has been asked to call when he is in your vicinity.

COW CHEWING HALF-BURNT STICKS.

S. KING, Landsboro', Timaru :—

While we were burning gorse one of our milking-cows in fair condition persisted in chewing half-burnt sticks. The cows have been running on old run-out pasture and fed on swedes only. There is a heavy clay subsoil, which shows no visible response to lime. Could you suggest what the cow was in search of? What could be given to replace the minerals lacking?

The Live-stock Division :—

The mineral chiefly lacking in these cases are lime and phosphates, and we would advise you to use a lick composed of salt, 28 lb.; bone-flour (sterilized), 50 lb.; air-slaked lime, 20 lb.; sulphate of iron, 2 lb. The apparent lack of response to lime in your soil may be caused through your using an insufficient quantity. At least 1 ton per acre of carbonate of lime is needed on land of your type, followed by an application of superphosphate.

CONTROL OF GRANARY WEEVIL.

"INQUIRER," Otane :—

Would you oblige me with information regarding a small black weevil that gets into chaff and seeds, &c., and advise how to get it out of a building? Last winter it turned my chaff quite hot and destroyed the embryo of some barley-seed. I have sprayed everything I could with dip, and although I have not seen any since, a neighbour, who has kept his stable empty for two years and sprayed it, says the weevil has returned since he put chaff in.

The Entomologist, Plant Research Station :—

The weevil responsible for the damage is most likely the "granary weevil," *Calandra granaria*. Fumigation with carbon bisulphide will kill all stages of the insect without injury to the chaff or grain. A convenient method of treating small quantities of infested material is to fumigate it in an ordinary barrel or airtight bin by pouring in bisulphide at the rate of 3 lb. per 100 cubic ft. of space. Care must be taken to close the receptacle tightly so that little or none of the bisulphide vapour will escape. Allow the fumigation to proceed for forty-eight hours. Carbon bisulphide is extremely inflammable and with air it forms an explosive mixture, so that no naked light or even pipe-smoking should be allowed near it. It is poisonous to inhale in any quantity, and people with heart trouble should not handle this material. If proper precautions are taken, however, there is nothing to fear from its use.

Commercial Fruitgrowing Districts and Fireblight Control.—In the article on fireblight published in the *Journal* issue for August the Gisborne Commercial Fruitgrowing District was inadvertently omitted from the list of such areas given on page 117.