



Fig. 1.—Weak pasture with small white clover plants in the bottom of the sward. Fig. 2.—Clover improving after one application of fertiliser. Fig. 3.—Clover dominant pasture after two applications of fertiliser. Fig. 4.—Poor pasture with no clover.

Other clovers, *Lotus major*, suckling clover, and the smaller lotus species all respond well to topdressing, but unfortunately will not support the better grasses, and should be used only where it is obvious that a good pasture cannot be established.

Quantities to Sow

From these remarks of the different clovers it follows that the quantity of fertiliser to be used will be governed

by the type and quantity of clover in the sward.

In an untodressed pasture (Fig. 1) there is usually a little weak white clover in the bottom of the sward, but this is in such a weak state that it can make little use of topdressing, and usually the result of the first dressing is merely to strengthen the clovers. For this reason, it is wise to topdress a pasture of this type very lightly the first year. As hill country has to be

topdressed by hand and it is practically impossible to get an even cover with less than 1cwt. of fertiliser per acre, this is the quantity that should be sown.

In the second season following this dressing it will be found that the clover has strengthened, and that a pasture similar to Fig. 1 will most likely have improved until it resembles Fig. 2. A pasture with this quantity of clover present can utilise about 1 to 2cwt.

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