

were begun to be grown. Mauritius grass grown on very marshy land has a tendency to produce scour in cattle, especially after the rains, while grass manured with refuse maldive-fish manure, though of a very luxuriant growth, is much objected to by milch cows.

#### OCCASIONAL NOTES.

*Errata.*—In the last number of the Magazine the present strength of the school was given as "8 resident students and day Scholars." It should have been given as 27 resident students and 6 day scholars.

On page 73, line 14, for *swell* read *smell*, and line 31, for *deceased* read *diseased*.

On page 79 for *Ellataria* read *Elettaria*.

We have lately been having frequent requisitions for dhal (*Cajanus Indicus*) seed, and also for seeds of the cow-pea. The demand for these leguminous seeds is significant.

We would add in continuation of the article on Gas-lime in our last issue, that this substance, as well as gas-water, is a useful agent as an insecticide. Miss Ormerod in her "Manual of Injurious Insects" has frequent occasion to recommend gas-lime. Both gas-lime and gas-water, as refuse products of our gas works, might thus be used for useful ends in agriculture. We may, perhaps, again refer to these substances in connection with the destruction of insect-pests.

We have to welcome a new contemporary which has just appeared, viz., *The Ceylon Forester*. We are confident that the publication will prove a most useful one, in that it will bring our unknown and little known forest products—many of which that are bound to prove of economic value—to notice, and in this way help to develop the resources of the country.

We acknowledge with thanks a copy of Dr. Trimen's report on the Royal Botanic Gardens for 1894. As regards *Polygonum Sachalinense*, We read that "this much-landed fodder plant has made very poor growth; on three occasions during the year the plants were leafless and dormant." Of Alfalfa (Lucerne) Mr. Clark, who sent the seeds from Peru in 1891, reports from Hakgala: "As many as seven cuttings have been made during the year, and, as in Peru it continues to crop for fifteen years, it may be considered a valuable fodder for the higher regions, especially the drier ones, of Ceylon."

*Calathea Allouia* is reported to grow well at Peradeniya Gardens, but the Director remarks that its tubers cannot be regarded as a good substitute for potatoes, being quite tasteless though pleasant in texture. They are said to be small, and only 1 lb. 5 oz. was afforded by the stool dug up.

#### RAINFALL TAKEN AT THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH.

1 ... Nil	12 ... '02	23 ... Nil
2 ... Nil	13 ... Nil	24 ... Nil
3 ... Nil	14 ... Nil	25 ... '94
4 ... Nil	15 ... Nil	26 ... '01
5 ... Nil	16 ... '60	27 ... Nil
6 ... Nil	17 ... '01	28 ... '35
7 ... Nil	18 ... Nil	29 ... '04
8 ... '06	19 ... '01	30 ... Nil
9 ... '17	20 ... Nil	31 ... '01
10 ... '04	21 ... Nil	1 ... Nil
11 ... '29	22 .. Nil	
		Total ... 2'55
		Mean ... '08

Greatest amount of rainfall in any 24 hours on the 25th inches.

Recorded by P. VAN DE BONA.

#### ABORTION IN CATTLE.

Cattle-breeders have to face many serious disorders and ailments in their stock, both young and old, but the most disappointing losses which they sustain are undoubtedly caused by abortion. Unlike other forms of disease which attack stock and which come under the observation of the herdsmen, abortion runs a very insidious course. It can hardly ever be anticipated, and there is no hope of averting or preventing its occurrence. It need scarcely be mentioned that to the cattle-owner who keeps cows for the purpose of milk or who breeds draught animals, a loss by abortion is equal to the loss of a grown-up animal, and sometimes more. A cow generally aborts either in the third or seventh month of pregnancy, and after it has once had the mishap, apart from the risk to the health of the animal itself, a second conception is not induced till perhaps from four to five months. Besides, there is always the risk of a recurrence of the disorder every time a cow conceives; and, furthermore, there is the very great risk of its infecting other animals of the herd.

Where breeding is not carried on systematically, the cattle-owner often fails to notice the fact that abortion has occurred, or to feel the resulting loss to himself; but where breeding is carried on systematically, and where not only records of the dates of serving, calving, &c., are kept, but a full account of the profit and loss from each animal, its yield and the amount of food consumed, is recorded, the loss is patent, and keenly felt.

The occurrence of abortion is attributed to various causes. Dr. Fleming, in his exhaustive work on Veterinary Obstetrics enumerates three forms, viz., Sporadic, Enzootic and Epizootic, and gives the various causes which may produce these three forms. Sporadic abortion may take place, through exposure to inclemency of the weather, bad and indigestible food, mildewed and poisoned foods, filthy and putrid drinking water, animal and vegetable poisons, (such as cantharides, rue, savin, ergot, digitalis,) excessive exertion, accidents, excitement and fear, access of the bull during the period