variety of black oats, which yielded so abundantly the past season with a farmer in this county (page 256). The name of the oats is not Plymouth Cluster, but Mammoth Cluster. I may say that the farmer spoken of, who grew 650 bushels last season from 32 bushels sown, has not, I understand, any for sale, having sold every bushel for seed purposes at 50c. a bushel soon after threshing it. As far as I know the seed was originally obtained from the Leclair Seed Co., Brighton (near Rochester), N.Y. I had myself received a small packet of these oats from the above party two years ago. As the packet contained but about 100 seeds I never sowed them (I wish now I had). The quality of the sample was, of course, not as good as that grown in this province, the conditions being more favorable here for the growth of black oats than at Rochester. If the party in this county who grew the big crop of Mammoth Cluster oats has any yet to spare, and possibly some of his neighbors have a few, too, he or they should place a small ad. in FARMING stating the fact; as I have no particular desire to make sales for them. Farmers fail to grasp the idea that the ad. columns of an agricultural paper are primarily intended to be used for the sale of the farmer's products.

J. A. MACDONALD.

ABORTION.

Toronto, Ont.

DEAR SIR,-Would you please let me know through the columns of your valuable paper the cause of abortion in cattle? I have a herd of seventeen cows and five of them have already lost their calves from one to two months before their time. I had one do the same last winter, and several neighbors are having the same trouble both last winter and this. I think it must be some contagious disease. If so, can you tell me the causes of the disease, and also if there is any prevention or remedy for it? It seems to be followed quite often by inflammation of the womb. Awaiting your reply, I am,

Yours truly,
Jos. W. HUTCHINSON.

There are several causes for abortion in cattle. It may be caused by excitement of any kind, such as the









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### Extract from Annual Report for 1897

of the Consulting Chemist of the ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND, published in their Journal, 31st December, 1897, page 732:

"It has been necessary to call attention to the fact that under the name of "slag," and sometimes even under that of "basic slag," have been sold refuse materials of a very different character, and having little or no manural value. These have not been the product of the now well known 'Basic' or THOMAS process of iron or steel-making, and have contained little or no phosphoric acid such as basic phosphate has. In several instances the purchasers believed that they were buying the true basic slag. It behoves one, therefore, to be careful to stipulate for THOMAS-PHOSPHATE, and to have a guarantee of phosphoric acid contained, and of fineness of division."

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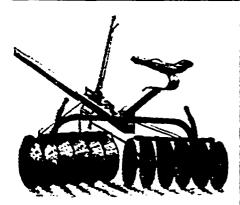
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