

Teesdale Mercury

SOUTH DURHAM, NORTH YORK AND WESTMORLAND ADVERTISER.
Established 1854.

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Barnard Castle, Wednesday, December 6th, 1916.

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1st, 2nd, & 3rd.

Besting London and Provincial Loaders.
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LARGE RANGE OF PATTERNS TO SELECT FROM.

SOLE AGENT FOR LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S AERTEX CELLULAR CLOTHING.

7, HORSE MARKET, BARNARD CASTLE.

Thistles.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THEIR TREATMENT.

We have received the following from Professor Gilchrist, Armstrong College:—From all parts of the country accounts are being received of the prevalence of common thistles, especially in pasture, during the past season. These seem to have developed most on improved pastures, the season has evidently been favourable to their growth, and the shortage of labour, especially in the past two summers, has allowed this pest to get out of hand on many farms, because the cutting of them has not been as fully carried out as is customary.

The thistle that gives most trouble to farmers is the common or creeping thistle (*Cnicus arvensis*). An excellent account of this plant is given in leaflet No. 186 of the Board of Agriculture. It is perennial, and gives much trouble on both arable and pasture land. It is probably produced very sparingly from seed. It spreads chiefly by means of its creeping underground roots (sometimes called underground stems), which give it this common name. These roots spread from a central plant to a considerable distance under the soil, and they throw up numerous stems. The flowers have an odour which resembles that of honey. There are two types of flower heads, in one of which are anthers which produce no pollen, while in the other pollen-bearing anthers are present. These two kinds of flower heads appear on separate plants, and distinct colonies may be found of each type, each occupying quite large areas. At Cooke Park this thistle spreads more extensively and grows more vigorously on the pastures improved by heavy slugs, and otherwise than on the untreated and poor pasture plots. The destruction of these thistles has been the object of experiment for several seasons at the Harper-Adams Agricultural College, Shropshire, where it has been found that by checking the growth of the thistle above ground in the early summer, the development of the underground parts is hindered, and the plants cannot spread so freely. When the thistles were cut on June 10th, again on July 9th and again on July 17th, so as to get them early and later developed stems, the plants were very much weakened, and in the following season they were very much reduced. By again cutting in the next and in the third seasons they were practically eradicated. Cutting was best done when the plants were from four to six inches above the ground. When the stems are allowed to grow they manufacture food material in their leaves, much of which is transferred to the root buds underneath. These thistles should therefore, be cut before they are six inches high, usually about the middle of June, and again about a fortnight or three weeks later if more plants appear. The cutting of thistles when their stems are more mature has little effect in reducing the weed. Thistles are not a weed of old land or meadow hay, and there is little doubt if a badly infested pasture field is mown as hay for two seasons, and the mowing is done early, that the pest will be practically eradicated. The best means of eradicating these thistles is to cut all the stems before the flowers have opened, so as to ensure that no seed is produced. The young rosette shaped plants can also be spaded out in the first season of their growth, this being done well under the surface.

The creeping thistle may be cut with a geoball as close to the ground as possible, or a sharp hoe or a scythe may be used. In badly infested fields they may be cut with a mowing machine, set to cut about two-and-a-half inches above the ground. As a rule little grass is cut at this height, and much of the grass so cut, as well as the thistles themselves, will be eaten by the grazing stock soon after they are cut, when they have been partly made into hay by the sun. Thistle cutters, drawn by one or two horses, are made, the knives of which revolve fairly quickly and cut the stems of the thistles without the need of a cutting bar, and because of the want of the latter, do not cut the grassy herbage.

The Smith Soldier Family of Barnard Castle.

Mr and Mrs J. Smith, 33, Bridgegate, Barnard Castle, have received the following letter, dated 11th November, 1916, from E. Young, bombing sergeant, notifying them of their son's death in action, and also that another son has been wounded and a third is suffering from shell-shock:—It is with very much regret that I write to inform you that George Henry was killed in action on the 5th of November. I was with him in the front line trench, and while carrying out a duty, he was killed instantly by a sniper. All the bombers wish to add their sympathy, with me, in your sad bereavement, and, knowing George so well, we feel his death very keenly. Fred was slightly wounded, and Alf was shell-shocked, both being at present in hospital, and I hope, doing well. I know that you have suffered much in the loss of Bob, your third son, who was killed only a short time ago, and this new loss will give you more pain, but you have the consolation that they have died for their King and country. I, with other Barney boys, mourn with you, as we feel their deaths very acutely. Both George and Bob were thought a lot of by all, and they were all very cheerful and good pals. I am sorry that I cannot write to you such bad news, and I wish it could have been more pleasant. However, we must face facts, and this sad news is only too true. More I cannot say, except to add again my deep sympathy in your great loss.

LADIES.

BLANCHARD'S PILLS

Are universal for all irregularities, etc. They speedily afford relief, and never fail to alter the action of the bowels. They supersede Purgatives, Pill Cookies, Bitter Ales, etc. BLANCHARD'S are the best of all Pills for Women.

Fold in boxes, 1s. 1ld., by DOUGLAS' Brackets, TAYLOR'S Drug Company, Barnard, and all Chemists, or post free, same price, from

LESLIE MARTYR, Limited, Chemists, 34, DALSTON LANE, LONDON.

Free sample and valuable Booklet, post free, 1d. stamp.

Mrs Frances Mary Richardson, 46, Marr House, Sutherland, wife of Mr Christopher Richardson, died very suddenly in bed on Monday morning. There was no inquest held.

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Fine Old Blended Whisky, 3/9, 4/- and 4/7, per bottle.

Pure Grape Brandy, 5/-, 5/6, and 6/8.

Port & Sherry from 1/4 to 6/-.

Guinness's (Harp label) Stout, in half-pint bottles.

Burton Pale Ale, in pint bottles.

Whiteway's Devonshire Cyder.

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JAMES HARRIS

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Baths, Lavatories, Water-closets, etc. Hand, Force, and Lift Pumps.

Gas Fittings, Incandescent Lights and all Fittings, Household Ironmongery, Lamps, Lamp Chimneys, Stoves, Portable Boilers, Galvanized Wire Netting, Galvanized Roofing, Lamp Oils, etc.

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and other amounts in proportion.

The above terms are for twelve monthly instalments.

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and 8, Arden Street, Darlington.

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BORROW PRIVATELY.

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Headstones, Tombs, Crosses, etc.,

IN MARBLE, GRANITE, and FRESTONE

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