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PRICE,
SIXPENCE.

PLANT SELECTION AND BREEDING.

THE RUAKURA OAT.

PRIMROSE McCONNELL.

THE Ruakura oat—the rust-resistant variety bred from a selected head of the Argentina oat in the year 1908 by the Horticulturist of the Farm, Mr. A. W. Green—is now being produced on a scale sufficiently large to enable it to be tested for disease-resistance on a practical scale under varying soil and climatic conditions throughout the Dominion. Five acres have been cropped this season, which have given a return of 90 bushels of first-grade seed and 9 bushels of second-grade to the acre, the progeny in four years of half the result of a single head selected from the growing crop of Argentina oats for its disease-resistant power. Besseler's Prolific oat (note the name), growing under similar conditions to the New Zealand resistant oat, has only yielded 25 bushels per acre.

That the Ruakura oat is rust-resistant, as far as Ruakura experience of it has gone, is undoubted. More than this, during the four years of its existence no sign of smut or root-fungus has made its appear-