



THE RUAKURA OAT, AND ITS ORIGINATOR.

ance on it, this while two other varieties growing in the same field and alongside it were affected with rust, smut, and root-fungus, the last-named disease being particularly bad. It stood the test of six days of exceptionally wet, muggy weather without any perceptible change in the bright colour of the straw and seed-head, while the other varieties in the paddock were turned almost black. The test was an undoubtedly severe one, and speaks volumes for the constitutional power of the new oat. It is particularly gratifying that this farm has produced a definite rust-resistant oat, as the several oats from abroad claiming to be resistant proved under test at Ruakura to have here none of the resistance claimed for them.

Slightly grey in colour, the oat is thin-skinned and is of fine quality, the bushel weight—the true test of value—being 46 lb. The heavy-weighting oat has naturally a good kernel. Though the quality of the oat is satisfactory, it can be improved from this viewpoint; indeed, selection to this end is now claiming the attention of the originator, Mr. Green. The quality of this season's product exhibits a decided improvement on that of last season, by reason of only carefully selected grain being used for last year's seed.

The history of the Ruakura oat is best told by Mr. Green himself, as it is he alone who has been responsible for this important evidence of the value to the agricultural world of the work of the plant-breeder. Mr. Green reports,—