

At Moumahaki Experimental Farm, in February :—

- (1.) Weeding and thinning root crops, turnips, carrots, and mangels.
- (2.) Lucerne-growing, also saving of crop as hay or ensilage.
- (3.) The potato : Seed-selection, storing, and sprouting.
- (4.) Study of grass and other trial plots.
- (5.) Selection as applied to cereals—wheat, oat, and rye-corn varieties and strains.
- (6.) Stacking.
- (7.) Veterinary work : Study of cow, horse, and sheep, with special reference to the dairy cow, and diseases of these.
- (8.) Orchard work in season.

The lads were thoroughly interested in their work at the farm, and are anxious to return, especially to carry out winter spraying and pruning operations in the orchard, and later on to shear all the sheep available. For this course only senior boys will be taken—*i.e.*, those between fifteen and seventeen years of age.

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The Austrian Government has set aside a fund which provides an annual sum of £250,000 for the development of the animal-breeding industry.

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In spite of a plentiful supply of forage at Ruakura Farm of Instruction the dry spell reduced the milk-yield considerably, and the probability is that records will not be so high as those of last season.

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The fourth crop of lucerne hay has just been cut at Ruakura Farm of Instruction, and, as it may be reckoned that four crops of hay are equal to six of green feed, the result is very encouraging.

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Experiments are being conducted in England to test the value of marram-grass for papermaking. The grass was boiled under pressure when passing through crushing-rollers, and was then bleached. It was found to produce a soft pulp with a short tear, which more nearly resembles the general feel and external appearance of the pulp produced from esparto, or chemical aspen-wood pulp. The primary function of marram-grass is, of course, as a sand-binder; but it is possible that, should it be deemed of sufficient importance as papermaking material, its cultivation will be extended over considerable areas of sandy country. The commercial value of the grass for papermaking has not yet been ascertained.—*Journal of British Board of Agriculture.*