

WORK FOR THE COMING MONTH.

NEW ZEALAND is a country of wide variation in climatic and soil conditions. In applying suggested procedure it is, therefore, necessary for the farmer to amend it to suit local weather-conditions and the requirements of his soil—information which can best be ascertained by a study of these problems on the part of the farmer himself. Nothing can take the place of local knowledge. Little advice on an agricultural subject is capable of general application in its entirety.

THE FARM.

FIELD-WORK.

DURING the past few weeks, from date of writing, favourable conditions for field-work have been experienced in most parts of the Dominion. Autumn crops should have been sown with everything in their favour for rapid germination and vigorous growth. Continuance of mild growing weather may be a temptation to some to push on cultivation for further sowings. Except in northern districts, however, there is no advantage and, on the other hand, considerable risk in putting in crops after the passing of May. Considerable breadths of both wheat and oats are, of course, sown in June, even in the South. As to whether it is judicious to do so in any particular case local experience must be the guide. But on cold clay soils, at any rate, seed confided to the ground at the onset of winter is apt to rot, and if it does germinate it frequently fails to root properly, and the growth is feeble.

If the land is in fit condition and it is decided to chance sowing, rye-corn is probably the best cereal to use for a crop. It is hardy, and if it gets a fair chance it will shoot away in spring and overtake the other cereals sown some weeks earlier. One bushel per acre of good rye-corn sown earlier on a good seed-bed makes ample cover, but heavy perishing of seeds must be allowed for in late sowings, and in few cases will 2 bushels prove too thick a sowing in the beginning of June.

Farmers intending to put down lucerne next season should start preparations now by selecting the land and preparing it for a catch-crop to be turned under as green manure in the early part of the season.