

The field-work proper to the month, whenever field-work is possible, is the ploughing of old lea to be green-cropped in spring and summer. Be ready to start right in whenever the land is in good ploughing-order. If there is rough feed in the paddock crowd on the stock for a week, and then get the plough going. But every experienced farmer who is honest with himself knows that any grazing he may secure in June or July is a trifle to what he will lose by not having the land mellowed and conditioned by weathering in the furrow through the winter.

If the soil is light and the rainfall heavy, later ploughing is to be preferred, as the turf prevents a considerable amount of washing-out of soluble plant-food during winter, while it decomposes with sufficient rapidity under these conditions to render late ploughing practicable and yet provide good subsequent tilth. The heavier types of land are always more difficult to handle. They must be worked neither too dry nor so wet that the water spews out of the furrow as it is turned. Ploughing land in the latter condition is simply ruinous to the texture of the soil. Choose, therefore, the best time for ploughing, and to enable this to be done start at the first available opportunity. The kind of ploughing advisable will depend on circumstances. Very old tough lea should be skimmed with a wide flat furrow. Otherwise a narrower and deeper furrow set well up to the action of frost is better.

Before these notes appear the land in many districts will probably be surcharged with water. If the hint given in last month's issue regarding clearing away growths and debris from ditches has been taken the water will get away rapidly, and no harm will result. Careful note should be taken now of places where water collects on ploughed land, and an effort made to drain it off before the soil becomes thoroughly soured. Some lime scattered over the place after the water has been drawn off will react with the soil and enable it the better to work to a tilth in spring.

#### TREATMENT OF PASTURES.

Pastures should have been well harrowed before this, and may be gone over again if the droppings have not been well spread. The best cannot be got out of pastures without this very necessary operation regularly performed. Pastures should also be limed. A very small application of lime now—even as low as 5 cwt. per acre—if followed by an application of superphosphate in early spring will give surprising results. If winter manuring is practised, ground rock phosphate, Ephos phosphate, or any phosphatic guano