

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.

CULTIVATION.

As a rule July is one of the wettest months of the year, and very little in the way of cultivation can be attempted on the arable farm. Up to the time of writing in June, however, the rainfall in most districts has not been so heavy as to really saturate the land. A thorough soaking followed by good hard frosts would, in fact, be an all-round benefit, and should such conditions ensue farmers would be well content to keep the teams off the land during July. If, however, conditions are favourable for work, the ploughing of lea for green or root crops—or, in districts of good rainfall, for spring cereals—may go on. It is too late now to break lea for cereal crops in the drier districts. Towards the end of the month the sowing of spring cereals, particularly oats, may be commenced; but, except from the point of view of having work well forward, there is no advantage to be derived from July sowings. On the contrary, heavier seeding is necessary, and, except on light land, much of the seed may fail to germinate.

FIELD-PEAS.

One of the most suitable crops for sowing from July onward is field-peas. This is a crop which in recent years has become very popular for fattening in parts of Australia where dry weather, aphids, and other troubles make rape altogether too uncertain. A similar state of affairs, unfortunately, is all too common in New Zealand also, and it is a point worth considering whether it would not be worth while to try field-peas on part of the rape break.