

RUAKURA FARM SCHOOL FOR YOUTHS.

THE new permanent farm training-school for youths at the Ruakura Farm of Instruction, Hamilton, was opened on 15th August with some twenty students as a commencement.

The school is designed to provide a course of agricultural training for lads of not less than sixteen years of age and of reasonable educational attainments. The period of training will occupy two full years, divided into four terms of twenty-three weeks each, with vacation periods of three weeks between each term.

Approximately one half of each term is to be devoted to the actual carrying-out by the student himself, under direction, of all classes of farm-work incidental to the management of a farm where cropping, grazing, milk-production, meat-production, and stock-breeding are carried out. The other half of each term is to be devoted to direct instruction covering the main features of agricultural knowledge necessary to equip the student to become a successful farmer. The objective of the course is to turn out young men well versed in practical farming and live-stock management, with at the same time a good grounding in the sciences essential in the planning and management of the modern farm.



RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS, CLASS-ROOMS, ETC., OF THE RUAKURA FARM SCHOOL FOR YOUTHS.

[Photo by I. Hopkins.]

In the course the principles of scientific agriculture will be given special prominence, but more from the viewpoint of the requirement of the farmer than that of the agricultural teacher or research worker. Qualified agricultural teachers will direct and superintend this side, which includes agriculture, agricultural botany and zoology, agricultural chemistry, farm veterinary science, farm mathematics and mechanics, mechanical drawing, and farm book-keeping. It is intended that the work in these subjects shall closely follow that laid down in the syllabus of the New Zealand University, but, with the exception of agriculture, be somewhat more elementary in character.

A further twenty lads will be taken at the school in February next, the plan being to maintain a total strength of between forty and fifty. The residential quarters, class-rooms, &c., occupy the buildings previously erected and used for the training of returned soldiers. A fee of £36 per annum is charged to students as a contribution towards the cost of board and maintenance.