

## SEASONAL NOTES.

### THE FARM.

#### The Pastures.

EXTENSIVE experience has taught that pasture top-dressing may be carried out with good results during July where it has not been done earlier. If from such top-dressing it is desirable, as it usually is, to secure growth as quickly as possible, then ordinarily superphosphate should be used. Even on relatively cold soils super applied in July has been found to produce substantial increases in the amount of feed available in August. It is not to be inferred from this that July is the month which should be selected for the application of super; previously in these notes the application of super and of other phosphates to grassland much earlier in the season has been recommended. Now the matter is mentioned again because if the top-dressing for some reason or other has not yet been done it may still be carried out with profitable results.

Under normal conditions the application of sulphate of ammonia about mid-July to suitable grass-paddocks may be counted upon to result in a material increase in the feed available from the dressed paddocks during August and September. For a few weeks prior to the middle of July it is probably well not to apply sulphate of ammonia; it appears not to act at this period when plants tend to be most dormant in their growth, and its fertilizing influence is apt to be more or less wasted. Fields to which sulphate of ammonia is to be applied should be grazed down evenly and closely, and thoroughly harrowed prior to the application. As a general rule super should be used in conjunction with sulphate of ammonia. As an emergency means of increasing the early-season grass-growth when there is a prospect of scant supplies of feed the use of sulphate of ammonia on grassland promises to be successful, especially if the pasture to which it is applied contains a considerable proportion of rye-grass. Sulphate of ammonia may suitably be mixed with superphosphate prior to application, but the mixing of it thus with basic slag should be avoided because of the undesirable chemical action which would result.

Harrowing of pastures during July is work which calls for attention if it has not already been carried out. It is particularly necessary on fields which have been stocked heavily during May and June. Harrowing is of great value as a means of breaking up and distributing animal-droppings, and when this latter work calls for attention a section of chain harrow should be attached behind the portion used for its cultivating effect. Harrowing should be valued as a means of carrying out cultivation—cultivation which will aerate the soil, foster the development of feeding-roots in the better pasture plants, and tear out rubbishy matted growth. Such work done by harrows is analogous in its influence to the hoof cultivation that results from the trampling of stock, and that is of proven great value provided it is not overdone.

Suitable paddocks, preferably well-drained ones, provided with shelter and with herbage in which rye-grass is prominent, should often be closed up during July for the use later on of early-calving cows or early-lambing ewes. On such paddocks the rye-grass is of particular value because of its early growth under conditions of reasonably good drainage.

To avoid damage by poaching of the soil, paddocks which have become wet and soft should be used as little as possible. On such paddocks injury the influence of which persists permanently may be done if care is not taken to minimize poaching. Greatest damage is liable to occur by