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# GARDENING

FOR

# COTTAGERS.

WITH A

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS FOR COTTAGE GARDENS,

TREATMENT OF

BEES, POULTRY, PIGS, &c.

BY GEORGE GLENNY, F.H.S.

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# PREFACE.

THE following pages are intended for the information of the Cottager. I have recommended nothing in them that is inconsistent with very limited means, and strictly economical management. Where I have offered instructions for cultivating the more costly kind of vegetable, I have shown how it can be produced with the least possible trouble; and as I have gone through all the operations, with my own hands, when my garden was not much larger than a respectable allotment, there is nothing speculative in the work. I trust it will prove useful to the class for which it is designed, and I believe that where economy of time, money, and ground is the leading motive, it will be found acceptable to others. Those who want more information on the subject will find it in '*Glenny's Hand-Book*,' and in the '*Horticultural Magazine*,' to which works I refer them with confidence.

GEORGE GLENNY, F.H.S.

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# INTRODUCTION.

THE great secret of getting rich is to make the most of what we have, and whether this applies to money, to time, or to land, it is the same. You may almost tell what a man is by the appearance of his garden. Does he make the most of his ground? then there is some hope he is prudent. Does he make the most of his labour? he will rarely want. We do not mean that such men are never unfortunate, that they have not their troubles and trials like other men; but under every kind of visitation such men are better prepared, and therefore suffer less than careless reckless persons. In a garden no rod of ground should be ever idle. If a man who is naturally lazy has not kept his ground well cropped, he may have his excuses about laying fallow, ridging it in winter to mellow the soil, or leaving it rough that the frost may get into it; but there is no occasion for all this,—the soil need on no occasion to be at rest; change of work is a holiday to man, and change of crop is all that any ground needs; for no two crops require the same kind of feeding, and consequently, by changing from one which requires high feeding of one kind to another that requires no feeding, or feeding of another sort, the ground continues at work without being exhausted. If ground has been used for carrots, parsnips, or beet-root, it may be immediately cropped with lettuces, or some crop which has no tap-roots. Turnips, also, and potatoes, may be followed by peas. Very little attention (if that be properly devoted) will be necessary to prevent ground being wasted, or crops being out of place. When a garden is wanted for a family, and economy rather than variety is to be consulted, we are quite sure that asparagus, sea-kale, and similar expensive things, ought not to be undertaken. The first object is plenty, the second object is the choice of those subjects which last on the ground, or preserve well when taken off. Potatoes are a first consideration; onions, carrots, parsnips, and beet-root, are next; and Jerusalem artichokes are not to be forgotten, because all these are capable of being stored for months after they are taken up: then, of those which last a long time on the ground, and afford a constant supply, scarlet beans, cabbages,

onions, winter spinach, and savoys, are the most worthy of a cottager's attention: and brocoli (except the sprouting, which is a hardy useful vegetable), cauliflowers, peas, and other subjects, which yield less produce on the same ground, by reason of the greater quantity of room they take, or the longer period of remaining on the ground, must be considered as luxuries. Every body with a garden must consider the circumstances under which he has to cultivate it. If he has more ground than his family require for their supply, care must be taken to have the surplus of a useful and marketable nature, such as are always saleable, and if not bought on the ground, capable of being preserved for some time. All the articles mentioned in the first instance are of this nature. Potatoes, carrots, parsnips, beet-root, onions, and such like subjects, when ripened, will keep, and are always in request; whereas to over-grow any perishable crop is unwise, because they will bring nothing, as when one person is overdone, most people are in the same predicament. There are some seasons in which it is better to sow for main crops, but in a general way it is better to have different sowings, and not too large, because all will frequently come in together, and so in a few days all be gone by. How frequently do we see a whole planting of cauliflowers come in and go by in a single week; they are unlike cabbages in this respect, for a cabbage is eatable from the time it has four good leaves until it is hard and solid; hence cabbage is the most useful of the green crops, and should be sown at all seasons, that there may be always some ready to plant out. Savoys are perhaps the most hardy of the good winter greens. Scotch kale may be an exception, for hardly any degree of frost will kill it. Brussels sprouts are an excellent green; but when the object is economy of ground, it is better to limit the crops to those which are most serviceable as food, or most saleable as a surplus. As a general rule, where ground is an object, double culture is desirable, that is, the planting of one crop between the rows of another crop; sowing rows of spinach or peas, or planting rows of French beans, or lettuces or leeks, beet-root or parsnips, between rows of other subjects. The only good object to be attained by this is the saving, perhaps, of a month or something more occasionally by digging between the rows of a crop that may be not cleared off for a month or six weeks, and planting young stuff that will not be in its way till that time arrives, although it will be getting on pretty nearly as fast as if there was nothing there. When the other crop comes off, the digging of the ground on which they stood will let air

into the soil, and greatly refresh the rising crop, whatever it may be. Another mode of economising the ground is to plant out some subjects at half distances. Cabbages, in the fall of the year, are adapted for this. If, for instance, they would cabbage well at two feet apart from row to row, and eighteen inches from plant to plant, put them in rows only one foot apart, and only nine inches from each other in the row: all through the winter, you may be pulling the alternate rows for greens and cabbage plants, and when you have removed the alternate rows you may begin to pull up the alternate plants; meanwhile the plants intended to cabbage have lost nothing, because before they are too thick those that are removed give ample room to the remainder to cabbage. Another mode of economising is to sow radishes, spring onions, lettuces, &c., in the same quarters as the early potatoes, and they are cleared off for consumption or for planting out before the potatoes are inconvenienced, or grow enough to injure the other crops. Experience will always teach us the best mode of economising ground and labour; but some few general hints may be useful to the amateur and the cottager. There are many books in which there are directions for the garden operations every month in the year, but even the best of them are not explicit enough in respect to the quantities or proportions of ground to be sown or planted; but so much depends on the circumstances under which a garden is cultivated, the wants of the cultivator, and his command of labour, that we hardly know how it could be defined, unless we take an ordinary garden required for an ordinary supply. There are not, however, two families alike in this particular: one family may not consume a peck of onions in a year, while another, no larger, may eat several bushels; under these circumstances we recommend frequent sowing rather than large crops, and lay it down as a rule that the wants must regulate the supply. Productive gardening, therefore, may mean large produce, abundance of everything; but the intended application of the term is large produce *without waste*, and the way to secure this is to limit the quantity of perishable articles, and make all the abundance and surplus of some crop which is always saleable and not perishable,—that is, not perishable within the period of several weeks. We propose to direct briefly the cultivation of the various subjects desirable to a family, so as to make the most of the ground.

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POTATOES.—The numerous writers on the cultivation of the potato differ as much in their plans as if they were advising upon as many different subjects. We have grown them upon every plant. The indifference of the root to many different modes of treatment, and its success occasionally under all, has made all men too careless. We set out with preferring whole tubers for sets, in preference to cut sets, when they can be got of the right size, and, when we can get whole sets, we like autumn planting better than spring. Whole sets should, on account of economy, be small, that is, about the size of a walnut in its green husk; those much smaller might prove weak, if much larger there would be waste. Whole tubers are less liable than cut ones to be damaged by wet or frost, but for winter planting, or rather for autumn planting, they should be a clear six inches under the surface, for which purpose the dibble must be thrust down eight inches. In selecting the place for potatoes, plant those intended to be early under a south wall or paling, or on a sloping southern aspect, using the Ash-leaf kidney, Soden's early Oxford, Rilot's flour-ball, Alliway's early seedling, and Looker's Oxonian, or any other of the well-known early kinds. Plant any of these a foot apart, in rows eighteen inches from each other. Plant in October. Between these rows there may be planted rows of cabbage plants, not more than six inches apart, to be pulled as greens as soon as they are large enough to eat, beginning by taking every other one the first time you go over them, and clearing them altogether the second time. When the potato plants are well up, let them be earthed, that is, the earth drawn up round their stems with a hoe; but although we mention October, the open weather from that time till May would be good, if the vegetation could be kept back; for the instant a potato begins to shoot the eyes, it begins to take harm. Common sense dictates that the instant the eyes begin to swell, the tuber ought to be in the ground; for this reason, seed potatoes ought never to be pitted, but when taken up they should be dried on the surface of the ground, or what is called greened. This process thickens the skin, evaporates a portion of the moisture, and adapts them for keeping, though it totally spoils them for eating. They ought then to be kept in a dry, cool place, until the period for planting arrives. Suppose them disinclined to grow, and the eyes not to start even till late in the spring, they would be just as well planted the last day as the first; but we repeat, that the instant they begin to grow (before planting), they begin to lose quality. Presuming large potatoes alone can be had for seed, the necessity of cutting them

into smaller sets must be admitted; but equal care, indeed greater rather than less care, must be taken to cut and plant before they begin to grow. In a general way it may be observed that a potato has the eyes for growing chiefly on one half. Now if the potatoes to be cut are in good order, and not growing, one half may be cut off for eating, the other containing the eyes should be so cut as to have one strong eye on each set; some are more liberal, and have two, and in some kinds of potatoes the eyes sit so close that you are obliged to have more. These sets should be spread out to dry before they are planted; a little lime sifted over them, so as to dust them all, is desirable. The planting may be entirely regulated by the disposition to grow. It may be sufficient to say here, that when a potato is in the ground it is gaining strength as it grows, but while it is out of the ground it is losing. It may also be observed that potato planting is good so long as potato sets that have not begun to grow can be procured. The various modes of planting depend on the quantity of ground, the rate of labour, and the quality of the soil. The following practices are common in different localities:—

1. Trenches one spit deep are dug, and the soil thrown on one side; the trenches are half filled with stable dung, the sets placed on the dung, and the soil placed on the top, forming a complete ridge, under which the potatoes soon vegetate, and often yield heavy crops; but in general the best potatoes for eating are those grown on undunged land, which does not yield so much.

2. Dung is placed on the land and dug in, and the sets are dibbled in from four to six inches below the surface; in this case the soil should always be pressed on the tuber, that it may lie solid on the ground, for if this be carelessly attempted, one half the sets, being dropped into a hole that a lump of soil may stop up half-way, would be left without any soil surrounding them: this cannot but be injurious, therefore we cannot be too particular in seeing that the soil above is bruised and lightly pressed, so as to surround the set.

3. Where there is much land, furrows are ploughed, the potatoes dropped into them, and ploughing the next furrow covers them up. In this case, the second furrow is not used, as it would be too near for the rows, but the third furrow fills the second, and is used for the sets, the fourth covers them in, and so on, the whole ground being thus well stirred. If such land is to be dunged, the dressing is spread over the surface and ploughed in.

4. After digging, and, if necessary, dressing the ground, the sets are laid in rows of the proper distance, and earth is taken from between the rows and thrown on the sets.

A crop of very early potatoes may be had by digging the ground along the foot of a south wall, placing the sets a foot apart, and about six inches from it, and then take earth from the front and throw on them so as to form a sloping bank, and when the plants come up, earth them up on the outside. This may be a small crop, because it is generally dry, but it comes early in proportion, and always of fine flavour. The late potatoes ought not to be planted late, that is, the sets must not have grown out before planting, and the distance for the late ones ought to be two feet, and the very large ones two feet six from row to row. Potatoes are ripe when the haulm decays. Regent's, Forty-fold, York red, Ne-plus-ultra kidney, Champion, Red kidney, are good sorts for main crops.

Carrots, Parsnips, and Beet-root.—Next to potatoes, which are food for months, these three vegetables are the most useful. They are not only good with almost every kind of meat, but they are always saleable in any quantity; all grounds are not suitable, for they require fifteen inches of good rich light soil, free from gravel and stones. The soil should be trenched and well broken; beds of four feet wide, with one-foot alleys between them, are the most handy for all three, and the seed should be very thinly sown over them; when the plants are up they should be hoed to leave them eight or nine inches apart, nor should a single weed be allowed to grow. The first hoeing may not do this effectually, but the second, with the help of the hand occasionally, will accomplish it. These crops are valuable in all families, and, besides using them as soon as they are large enough, they may be stored as soon as they are ripe, and, with care, keep through the winter. The early carrots to be drawn and eaten as soon as they are of sufficient size, should be sown in February and March, the main crop the latter end of April; the best for the former is the Early horn and its varieties; the best for the late is the Altringham. For storing they ought not to be taken up until the foliage turns yellow.

Onions.—This is one of the most useful of vegetables, and deserves especial attention; like the previously mentioned crops, they keep a long while if well ripened, and the principal art in their culture is to well dress the ground: well decomposed night soil, a good two-inch thickness all over the soil, forked into and well mixed with the top six inches of mould, will be found an

excellent dressing; but it must be well decomposed, or it will be too strong. The surface should be well levelled, the lumps well bruised, and the seeds sown thinly and equally over the bed; this should be rolled in or trodden in solid, and raked smooth and even. The beds, like those of all crops sown broad-cast, ought to be four feet wide, with alleys of one foot. The month for sowing for a main crop is March, quite the beginning; when they are up they should be hoed out, so as to leave them six inches apart, and in a week or two a second hoeing will be found necessary; as the onions grow there may be found some close to each other—two in a place instead of one. These should be drawn by hand, so as to leave only one, and they must be kept clear of weeds all through their growth. When the period for taking up approaches, and the bulbs have swelled nearly as much as they will, the market-gardeners make a practice of breaking down the foliage, under an impression that to keep on growing would exhaust the onion, and that stopping the growth of the leaves by breaking the necks throws all the strength into the bulb: we venture to affirm that this is a mistake, the breaking down of the leaves can be of no service; they, like all other plants, receive one kind of nourishment from their foliage, another from the root, and unless all goes on harmoniously, things cannot be at their best. However, when the foliage begins to turn yellow the bulbs are ripe, and may be lifted and left on the surface of the ground to dry out some of their moisture; they should be preserved in a cool, dry, airy place. The sowing of earlier crops and later ones for present use may always be done where something else is growing, such as between lettuces that are planted out, or any warm border or corner, or in frames; they do not come under our definition of productive gardening, but rather among the luxuries than otherwise. The sorts best adapted are the Deptford, white Spanish, Tripoli, and Portugal; all these keep well and grow to a useful size.

Jerusalem Artichokes.—The value of this root was, perhaps, hardly known by a large portion of the public until the scarcity of the potato rendered all vegetables available; as a substitute it is very poor, but as a vegetable capable of being dressed many ways, and requiring very different treatment in cooking from the potato, it is worth a place, because it is preserved as easily as any vegetable in store all the winter, and can be made available. It is chiefly used in stews, alone or with other vegetables. The culture is very easy; the haulm grows six feet high, therefore requires room and support. The best place is along the back of

a border, or next to north or east palings and hedges. One row is found prolific, but as the uncouthness of this crop is against it, most people who cultivate it only have a large patch in the worst part of the garden, so that neither sun nor air can get to the roots. They are mostly left for years, the tubers becoming numerous and small. If there is to be a second row, there ought not to be less than a yard between the rows; plant them like potatoes, dig up the crop annually, and keep it clean; take out every tuber, and, at the proper time—that is to say, about March—plant them again.

TURNIPS.—This is one of those useful vegetables that can be enjoyed with almost everything. In field culture it is precarious, but in garden quantities it is very manageable. They may be sown every month from February to September, and for families using quantities it is better to sow every month. They should be sown broadcast in four-feet wide beds, and as they get four rough leaves they should be hoed out six inches apart, and be cleared of weeds. They may require several hoeings, and a succession of crops for those who consume many will be desirable, but regard should be had to the probable supply of other vegetables when these are likely to come in for eating, and this, with the quantity likely to be wanted, must always guide these comparatively perishable crops; for turnips are not so well stored as carrots, parsnips, or beet-root; but no vegetable can be more wholesome than the turnip, and so that they be not oversown they are really good. The new early stone, the Dutch, and the Maltese yellow, are the best for culinary purposes. The best month for sowing a principal crop is June, but if showery weather come in July, that is a good month, but earlier crops may be sown March, April, or May.

CABBAGES.—Of all the green crops this is the most valuable; it may be sown frequently and be planted out, if the weather be open, any or every month in the year; it stands almost any frost. It is eatable from the time it is large enough to handle until it has acquired a hard close heart. It is a crop to put on every bit of otherwise idle ground; it can be planted between rows of anything and everything, either to be eaten as greens when large enough, or left to cabbage on the coming off of other crops. They should be sown thickish on a seed-bed in January, and every week there should be a lot put out, three inches apart, to strengthen for planting out. The sowings should be repeated two or three times any of the months till August, for a constant succession of plants is everything. There need not, however, be

large quantities sown each time; the quantity must be regulated by the wants. Nor is the use of this excellent vegetable over when the full-grown cabbage is cut, for the sprouts which follow are equally good. Planted out to cabbage, they should be eighteen inches apart in the rows, and the rows two feet asunder. When the best part of the cabbage is cut, other crops may be planted between the rows, the ground being first dug, and the stumps may be all taken up and be planted close together in some otherwise useless spot, and yield a mass of greens when scarcely anything else is to be had. The seed is but little object; sowing, therefore, to provide at all times plants to put out is a necessary precaution. The best sorts are new early nonsuch, Wheeler's imperial, Sprotsborough, nonpareil, and early York—the Battersea is not to be despised, though it grows a large size and wants plenty of room.

Scotch Kale, Brussels Sprouts, Savoys.—These are only so many different members of the same family, and may or may not be used. The savoy is the most useful, the Scotch kale the most hardy, but it is an inferior green to either a good savoy or cabbage. The savoy should be sown in April for a general crop, and the Brussels sprout and kale at the same time. These may, when large enough, be planted, or rather pricked out, three inches apart, to strengthen previous to planting out in their final place. In doing this the strongest plants must be taken, and every few days, as others get large enough, they may be pricked out, so that the store-beds may have a succession of plants constantly coming in, large enough to plant out as they are wanted. They may be always planted out as other crops are cleared, when the ground is not required for a different purpose.

Red Cabbage.—Few people know the worth of this, except for its use as a pickle, but a moment's consideration will convince any thinking person that the immense number brought to market can never be consumed for that alone. It is used raw as a salad, and is excellent. When grown well, too, and cut at the right time, the red cabbage will store the best part of the winter, merely losing two or three of the outer leaves. As a salad, it is economical and capable of being eaten by itself, and only requires to be cut into the thinnest possible shreds. The seed of the red cabbage may be sown in August, so as to get strong enough to stand the winter in the store-beds, where they are to be pricked out six inches apart. They may be planted out in February or March in their final destination, two feet apart one way and eighteen inches the other. Spinach may be sown in drills between the

rows, and will come off before the cabbages get large enough to occupy the room themselves. Seed may also be sown in small quantities in January in a frame or among the radishes, to be protected with litter from frost, and they will succeed from sowings any time during the period from January to August. When they have established themselves after final planting out, and begun to grow, the earth should be drawn up to their stems, and they may remain in the ground until they are hard and solid, for in that state they will keep for months.

Scarlet Bean.—This is the poor man's luxury, for, besides growing up against palings, or in almost any corner of the garden, or as a blind, and the plant from its peculiarity forming a good fence or hedge to separate any two departments of the garden, it is very prolific, and can hardly be said to leave off growing and bearing until the frost cuts it off. Again, the beans are allowed to grow to a size that renders the yield considerable, and the larger they are the better they eat, until they get old and stringy. The seed should be sown in April or May, and the following are the different modes of planting them:—three in a patch, at a distance of three feet from patch to patch, or singly in rows a foot apart. In the first, poles or strong branches are driven into the ground at each patch; in the other, they may be trained up bean-sticks placed along the row, or poles may be placed eight or ten feet apart, and a line fastened along the tops, from which single lines may be led to each individual bean; or, if against a north wall or paling, nails may be driven along the top, from which strings may be fastened in lengths to each plant. When they begin to bear they should be frequently looked over, and all that are large enough be picked for use, because they grow rapidly, and so long as they will break short in two pieces without being stringy they are eatable. If a succession is desirable, sow again in June. Another, and, if the ground be limited, a more advantageous way of growing them, is to sow the seed in a patch, on two or three barrows of dung for the sake of slight bottom-heat, putting about six inches of mould for them to grow in, and when, about the middle of May, the weather looks settled, plant them out carefully without losing any of the fibres, and place the sticks, or poles, or string to them as soon as they are out.

Haricot Bean.—As a winter store, a few rows of the large white kidney or haricot bean may be sown at the end of April, and allowed to go to seed altogether, the entire crop to be used for stewing in winter. They require rich ground—that is to say,

soil which has some heart in it, but after earthing up they require little or no care till they are fit to gather in.

Broad Bean.—A few rows of these may be grown with advantage. Let the beans be planted about six or eight inches apart, in an open situation; when they are well up, the earth must be drawn to their stems, and as soon as they are in bloom their tops must be taken off. They require to be gathered at two or three different gatherings, because the lower ones will fill out before the others, and, when large enough to pick, their removal will strengthen the others. The seasons for sowing are from November to March; but as the economy of the ground on the one hand, and the chances of injury by frost on the other, render spring planting best for the cottager, it is better to insert them in the ground about March: there is less risk of disappointment. There are many sorts or varieties of these beans; Marshall's prolific is a sweet eating and heavy bearing variety, but not large; other good ones are Wonderful Longpod, improved thick Windsor, green Windsor, and Toker.

Celery.—Although not always the most economical way of disposing of ground, if celery be grown in the ordinary way, a piece should always be spared for a supply for soups. Celery for this purpose may be sown in a warm border in February, and as soon as it is large enough to prick out, it should be put two or three inches apart only, in a bit of good rich soil, to grow into strength. When it has advanced so as to stand the removal well, it may be planted on the common surface in rows three feet apart, so that any crop that comes off pretty early may be planted between. As the celery advances in growth, draw the earth up the stems, and continue this as long as it is in the ground. It will be found quite as useful in soup as if it had been grown in the trenches, and with not a tenth part of the trouble, and in time it will be large enough to eat as salad; the only thing it requires is constantly earthing up as it advances; there will be a sufficient quantity blanched to make it eatable, but a few plants for soups are as necessary as onions, and as wholesome.

Leek.—Perhaps, looking at the utility of this esculent, boiled, stewed, or in soup, there are few more useful vegetables, and it has the advantage of taking but little room; it may be planted anywhere; it can be used in an alternate row with almost anything, and not require more than a six-inch extra allowance between the rows; or if they are planted in rows two feet apart, any crop you please may be planted between them, especially any kind of winter-green. Sow the seed in a patch in February;

when it comes up keep it very clear of weeds; as soon as large enough, prick out six inches apart in a piece of well-dressed ground, and when it has acquired good strength, plant nine inches apart in the row, and the rows two feet asunder for a crop between, or one foot asunder if no other crop is to be introduced; but lettuces may be planted in the alternate rows, and the alternation of crops looks well, if nicely managed. It is as well to earth up leeks as you would celery, that is, sufficient to blanch about three inches or so of the plant. Boiled in salt and water till they are tender, and eaten with melted butter, like asparagus or sea-kale, the water being changed when half done, the leek is excellent, and when used in soup they should be boiled, cut into two-inch lengths, and used in plenty by stewing them afterwards with the soup itself. The leek is not sufficiently cultivated among cottagers; and some object to them on account of their very strong flavour, while boiling them and throwing the first water away just before they are quite done renders them as mild as a Spanish onion; whereas there are many advantages in their culture that should induce them to be adopted to a great extent, if not preferred for the purposes to which onions are generally devoted.

Asparagus.—Here we are getting to something rather extravagant; but there is nothing but economy to prevent its culture, and our business is to show how easily it can be done if wanted. Trench a row of soil eighteen inches wide across or along any quarter of the garden that is open, put a good four inches thickness of dung between the lower and upper spits of earth, and tread it in, then throw in the top spit, which should be of itself in good heart. In the centre of this trenched ground draw a line tight, and within a circle of six inches place half-a-dozen seeds every eighteen inches along the row; four feet from this do another, and so occupy as much ground as you like with rows at these distances. The object of placing them at such a distance is to have crops between. This sowing to take place in February, March, or April. When the seed vegetates, the place may be kept clear of weeds, and when it can be seen which of the plants take the lead, leave the strongest, two in a place, and keep them very clear from weeds. In the mean time the ground between these rows may be cropped with anything that may be required, so that there be room left for the young plants of asparagus to grow. When the haulm turns yellow it may be cut down, and in cropping the intermediate ground care must be taken to avoid injuring the roots, which will be found near the surface. A little soil may be hoed towards the stems, so as to have the effect of

covering up the roots a little, as a sort of protection, and forming a slight ridge, that it may be seen where the rows are. The principal object is to keep clear of weeds. Cut down the haulm at the end of the growth, and slightly earth up, to keep the row conspicuous when there are no plants to show it, and avoid damaging it in minding the other crops. After the third year you may calculate on cutting, and the only way to do this with advantage, for your own eating, is to let the buds grow a good four inches above the surface, and then cut it even with the ground. All the trouble of forming beds, and earthing up eight or nine inches, is saved by doing without the long useless stem which market bundles have, and instead of being a troublesome thing, involving considerable labour, to form the beds every autumn, there is no more trouble than there would be with a cabbage crop. For family purposes the asparagus is better, the roots are less exhausted, the ground less interrupted or interfered with, and in fact the luxury is no more trouble than a crop of broad beans or a row of scarlet runners. In cutting this vegetable care must be taken to avoid injuring the root. On cutting down the stems after the first year's cutting for use a good dressing of dung should be laid at top, and a little soil thrown on it: the immediate effect of this is beneficial, and it scarcely more than reinstates the soil, for it washes away from the roots, and in time would expose them altogether; but there is to be no professed earthing up to lengthen the buds, as if they were for market, for that does away with the simplicity and economy of this mode of treating it, which is reducing its culture to the same trouble as almost any other vegetable, and the quantity eatable is nearly treble that which can be found in the marketed asparagus.

CAULIFLOWER.—This highly esteemed vegetable is economically or extravagantly grown, according as it is required, in or out of season. If sown in March, pricked out when large enough into a well-dressed bed to gain strength, and planted out in its final place in June, there is no more trouble required to grow cauliflowers than cabbages. It is only when sowing in frames and protecting under hand-glasses are resorted to, for the purpose of producing early maturity, that the thing becomes extravagant, because of the labour necessarily expended on it. Many vegetables are of the same nature; if we were content to have them in their natural season, they would cost us but little; but to obtain them out of season much labour and expense is frequently incurred. Sow, therefore, on a warm border in March. In April they will be large enough to prick out, three or four inches, or

say six inches, apart; these will have attained such strength in June as to be planted out in their final destination in the garden, and come in well for use in the fall of the season. If you sow on a slight hot-bed in January, and when large enough prick them out in a frame, but without much heat, and bring them well forward by April and May to plant out, you may get them much earlier. If you desire to have plants to grow through the winter, sow in August, prick out where they can be covered with a garden-light, and stand protected all winter; but the strongest may be planted out under hand-glasses, three or four under each glass. In this case great care has to be taken about keeping the glasses down in cold weather and during heavy falls, and taking them off altogether, or tilting them, in any mild weather. As they grow large enough to crowd each other under the glasses, take away the weakest, and plant them out in the open ground, leaving only one, or perhaps two plants, to complete their growth, under each hand-glass; as they show their flower the leaves should be bent down, to keep the sun off, that the colour may not be injured. Cauliflowers should be planted out, as a general crop, two feet apart one way and eighteen inches the other; but under hand-glasses there must be room for the hand-glasses to be taken off and placed in the row when the plants are at their largest size. The best sorts are Walcheren, Asiatic, and Early.

Broccoli.—Here is a varied and an excellent crop, and occasionally a cheap one. It is, however, one which no poor man ought to trust. Of the varieties choose Grange's early white, Chappel's cream, Somers's superb, Chappel's white Roman, Purple cape, White cape, and Early sprouting. The latter is the most useful. From January to June this vegetable might be sown every month, pricked out six inches apart as soon as it is large enough, and planted when strong enough. In this way broccoli is obtained from various sowings and plantings all the latter part of the summer and through the autumn and winter, unless it be very untoward weather. The sprouting sort is a very delicious and economical vegetable; it eats well with anything, gives a good supply for a long period, and requires but little labour. The best season for sowing all the sorts is February, March, April, two sowings, half each time, a month or six weeks apart. As soon as they have four rough leaves, prick them out in an open space, six inches apart, taking the strongest plants from the seed-bed each time; you will thus get several different seasons out of each sowing. As soon as they have attained the necessary strength, begin to

plant some out, either between crops of other things that are coming off, or in quarters devoted to them; but we are always anxious, as a row of anything is off that will admit of being replaced, to get something on the ground. Broccoli thus put out in a moderate garden, as room is made by other things coming off, must come in well at some time or other, and if one season misses all cannot. As soon as the plants which are put out for good, begin to grow, the earth ought to be drawn to the roots, and after this, little or no care is necessary.

ENDIVE.—This is a hardy salad, and may be cultivated in small quantities with advantage, sown in June, and planted out when large enough on a bank sloping to the south: it is a fine wholesome salad with beet-root and lettuce, or with red cabbage. When the plants are large enough they must be blanched by tying them up like lettuces, or by laying tiles or slates, or flat pieces of board, on them: one foot apart all over the bed would do for distance at planting out, and it is very little trouble.

SEA-KALE.—Another luxury; little or no trouble when cultivated for its proper season, and only costly when forced. For instance, many acres are grown that are merely put out in rows and earthed up. When the sprouts come forward they break the earth on the surface, the cultivator then removes the earth low enough to enable him to cut off the shoots down clean to the crown of the plants. Here, as neither fire-heat nor dung is used, it cannot be said to cost much. The proper mode of cultivation is to sow the seed three or four in a spot, these spots being a foot to eighteen inches apart in the rows, and the rows three feet apart. When they have vegetated, keep the strongest and take away the others, which may be transplanted in continuation after the same plan, and, if carefully done, will not be much behind those that have not been disturbed. They may grow on for three seasons with nothing more than the earth drawn up to the roots, and being kept clear of weeds. Now if you have large flower-pots, or kale-pots, they may at Christmas be covered over the individual plants, and be surrounded by dung from the stable or leaves, the plants will shoot much sooner than if they were only earthed up; but the least trouble is to earth up the rows into a flat-topped bank by digging an eighteen-inch trench between the rows and putting the soil that comes out upon the plants, covering them eight inches. In the spring the plants begin to shoot, and when they break the surface it is known that the shoots are long enough for the purpose, and that they may be uncovered and cut, but those under the pots covered with

dung or leaves will have been forward enough to cut weeks before. Sea-kale, however, is not an economical vegetable, because the ground, like an asparagus-bed, is occupied the year round for one crop. This can be in part counteracted by cropping between the rows as soon as the kale is cut, for the bank is then levelled, the plants allowed to grow till the autumn, and all this time lettuces may be planted out and got off the ground; or spinach, or a couple or three drills of turnips, sown directly the kale is done with, will come well into use before the plants need be earthed up again.

Cucumber and Vegetable Marrow.—If you can sow in a hot-bed a few seeds of cucumber and gourds to use as vegetable-marrow, and have a spare place in a south border to plant them, the chances are that you get a good supply of both. Sow them in April; grow them singly in pots till the second week in June, stopping the shoots at the second joint; plant them out in June, and there will be good recompense for your trouble. The vegetable-marrow must not be allowed to grow too large; they ought to be eaten before the seeds are formed: while young they are like marrow, but after a certain age they become a mere jelly, and when they lose their firmness and swell they are watery, faint, and unwholesome.

Lettuce and other Salads.—Lettuce, corn-salad, small salad, and other herbs for the same purposes, may be sown each month, but corn-salad is by far the most economical of all the small salads, because you keep picking from it the leaves, and they grow again continually. Lettuces, both the cos and the cabbage sorts, may be sown on a warm border in February, March, April, May, June, and July, and in frames, or with some protection, all the rest of the months. They may be watered and drawn out for planting according as they get strong enough, and ground is vacant. There is no season to regulate their growth any more than their consumption, but it may be taken as a general rule that the cabbage kinds are the most hardy, and do with least trouble all through winter, and that, as they want protection, even when sown in February, in an open border, the best way is to sow them with onions for pulling young, and with radishes to draw young, and the same litter that covers for one will cover for all. Lettuces ought to be planted out a foot apart in the row and eighteen inches from row to row. Radishes, like other salads, may be sown every month, if the demand warrants its being done, but in the summer time so many things crowd in upon the gardener that he hardly knows what to be at, so that

he ought well to study not only the most useful vegetables, but also those which are longest in perfection when once produced.

PEAS.—Here we have a keeping as well as a perishable stock. It is not the most desirable crop for persons of limited means, but it is to be taken into consideration that what are not eaten green are good dry; there is no reason why a man should not grow his peas for soup as well as his celery, and no dry peas can be better than those he saves and ripens himself. It is a general notion that peas are not split for soup and puddings till they are too old to grow, and it may be readily supposed that what a man grows himself he may depend on. There is no difficulty in bruising peas, and new ones shall swell better, and taste better, than old ones. Peas, therefore, may be looked upon in the light of a double crop, if wanted, or a safe crop if saved all for harvest. Of the hundreds of varieties in cultivation many have very equal claims; novelty may do something for a pea, and, of course, there are some which have both novelty and excellence to recommend them: we have found all the following to be good:—Cormack's Prince Albert, Shilling's early grotto, Flack's victory, Ward's incomparable or British Queen, Knight's improved dwarf green marrow, Groom's dwarf, Waite's Queen of the dwarfs, Girling's Danecroft early, and Imperial. The Early frame, Charlton, and many others, are, however, still favourites. Peas may be sown from November to July every three weeks; but it is for a man to consider whether he ought to devote much or little ground to a crop which, if eaten green, is a luxury of some cost, and if saved dry may cost more than they could be purchased for. However, there is a great fault among pea growers; they sow the seeds much thicker than they ought to be sown, and therefore waste a great deal. Peas ought to be sown in drills, and if there were half the quantity usually sown the crop would be heavier; when up above ground, earth ought to be drawn up to their stems; the soil bruised and closed about their roots, and brought up to a kind of bank on the cold side of them; sticks should be placed to them at the same time, and after this they only require to be kept clear of weeds and in parching weather to have water.

RHUBARB.—This has become so general a favourite from its wholesomeness and flavour, in seasons when fruit cannot be had, and is moreover so strongly recommended to families, that a portion of the garden ought to be devoted to a few good roots—a dozen will be found enough for a moderate family, and they ought to be two feet from each other every way. The ground

should be well dressed, the plants young, the season autumn. They should be planted without bruising their roots, and they will do all the rest themselves. If wanted earlier in the spring than they will come naturally, put a box, or rather a wooden trough, two feet high and one foot diameter, over a plant, cover the open end that is uppermost with a flat tile or a proper cover, and surround the whole with dung or leaves; it will hasten the growth; or pot up a strong root or two and put them in a warm cellar or a kitchen-cupboard, or a greenhouse, or any other place where the temperature is raised; but it is never so good as from the natural ground, grown in the natural way.

SPINACH.—The Winter spinach is the most useful and economical, and is as good in summer time as in winter. The difference between this and the round-leaved is, that the winter kind takes longer to perfect the plant and seed it than the round-leaved does, and, therefore, it is longer eatable. It is not pulled up as one half the spring-spinach is, but the leaves are picked off from time to time as they grow, and a good bed of spinach yields for a long time. The round-leaved spinach will be better for the same treatment, and looks much larger for it, but it is not so long in perfection. Spinach of either kind may be sown in drills eighteen inches apart any season, but it is usual to sow the round-leaf from January to July, and the prickly, or winter, from August to October. If it comes up too thick, pick out some when they are large enough to eat, and thus thin it, when you can use the surplus.

CUCUMBERS, TO FORCE.—Take in April three or four barrows of hot dung, cover it with three inches of mould, put on a hand-glass, and sow your seeds in pots, two in a pot; cover close, that the steam of the dung may not get inside the glass—there will be heat enough here to grow the seeds: meanwhile, make a regular hot-bed; drive four stakes down into the ground, to form a square one foot larger every way than the garden-frame is wide; take out hot stable-dung, and pile it up so as to build up this square three feet high behind, or north-east, and two feet six inches in front, or south-west, patting it close with the dung-fork through the whole progress of the work, the top being left an even slope; then put on the garden-frame on the centre, and the light upon it, the low part of the frame upon the lowest part of the dung; poke a stick into the dung as far as you can, and leave it there; by pulling this out now and then, and returning it, you can always feel the real heat of the centre. When the rank steam is gone, your seeds will be well up under the hand-glass

in the other dung, and the pots may be removed into the bed; but about two inches of mould should be put all over the dung inside the frame, to keep the steam down and the bed sweet; the pot or pots of seedlings may stand in the frame till they get four rough leaves, when the ends must be pinched off, to make them throw out lateral shoots. Now put a barrow-full of good loam and dung mixed in the centre of the bed in a heap like a cone, and if there be more than one light, a heap under each; make a hole in the centre of this heap, like a basin, and plant the ball of earth which contains the plants in it so that the surface of the ball shall be about six inches from the level soil, and refresh them with water. As the plants grow, the roots will protrude through the sides of the cone or heap, and fresh mould must be added round it to cover the roots, and so continue till they fruit.

General Observations on General Subjects.—Many other subjects might be mentioned under separate heads, but we have gone through all that concerns those who wish their gardens to be usefully productive; we have not devoted a chapter to the herb-bed because it is so very simple, and forms a subordinate part of the establishment, though highly useful. It is not very difficult to procure a plant or two of sage, mint, thyme, marjoram, and other herbs; and very little of these will do for a large family. Parsley is a more generally useful herb, and is raised from seed; any of the perennial herbs will tear to pieces and strike like weeds; and parsley should be sown twice or three times a year, and any root whose leaves are not double and curled should be pulled up. There are many subjects in a garden that we have not mentioned: we have not touched on fruit; our sole object has been to treat of those things which are more or less necessaries, or profitable stocks, and, although we have treated of several things that a man may cultivate as luxuries, no person with limited means ought to lose sight of the one great object of appropriating every rod to something that he can sell if he cannot eat it, or that he can keep for a considerable time if he can neither sell nor eat it. These will be found to have been mentioned pretty nearly in the order of their importance, taking into the account their value as stock or their saleable nature as merchandise, for such, in truth, food as well as raiment is; and when a man can choose the stock he will produce, he ought to be doubly considerate how he misapplies a rod of his ground.

A gardener is none the better for wanting extravagant implements, but proper ones he ought to have, for being obliged to make shift with one thing for another is a sad loss of time. Hoe,

rake, fork, spade, garden line, knife, good strong box-barrow, broom, basket, and dibble; all these things are necessary. There is also a proper way of keeping them; they need not be all in morocco cases and mahogany boxes, but at the same time a gardener, like a prudent housewife, should have a place for everything, and everything in its place, when not in use.

Useful Fruits.—The most useful and nutritious of all fruit is the Apple, and it is the first a cottager should seek to grow. Roasted without any accompaniment, it is without exception the best thing to give children for their morning and evening meal, and far more wholesome with bread than butter is, and two or three dozen may be baked on a tin, and some may be always kept ready, for they keep many days without damage. The best sorts, perhaps, are the Hawthornden, which is a heavy bearer; the Ribstone Pippin, which is the best eating apple uncooked, and an excellent keeper; and the French Crab, which will continue good until apples come in season again. According to the size and nature of the garden, they may be grown as standards, dwarfs, or espaliers. Standards will, in the course of time, grow longer and bear more, but they damage the under-crop more or less in proportion to their size, whereas espaliers do but little harm. Dwarfs are the most objectionable, because they spread close to the ground and occupy it a good way round, to the entire exclusion of everything else. Upon the whole, perhaps, standards are the best. If they are planted well, they will soon come into bearing; but it will be very desirable to regulate the form of the heads the first two or three seasons, so far, at least, as to preserve the branches that grow outwards, and remove those which grow inwards and cross one another, for if these be neglected while young, the head fills up with fruitless branches, and this prevents the sun and air from free access to the fruit. Standard trees ought always to undergo pruning, although not so particularly as wall-fruit trees, in which every shoot is regularly placed; they are all the better for having useless branches cut out, and also branches that are growing too vigorously for the rest of the tree. For present use the Hawthornden will be useful directly the fruit is large enough; and by the time they are all used, the Ribstone may be begun, but these will keep for months; after they are gone, the French Crab, which will continue hard and firm halfway through the next summer, may supply the family till they are gone. Pears, though not quite so economical, on account of requiring sugar, are nevertheless a wholesome change of fruit for children, and the proper culinary

varieties will keep many months. These may be stewed with a little coarse sugar and spice, and are a great treat for a family. Like the apple, it is an excellent accompaniment to bread for young people. The common Baking Pear is the best in all respects: first, because it is not eatable without being cooked, and, therefore, children will not injure themselves, as they might by eating too many of the more choice sorts; secondly, because they are great bearers; and, lastly, they keep a long while, therefore, make a good change of fruit a great part of the year with the apples. Gooseberries and Currants are general favourites, and serve for puddings some months. These give very little trouble. If they are planted young, with only two or three branches, cut them completely back to two or three eyes, all of which will make branches if allowed to grow; but when they shoot, look to the direction they are taking: any that grow inwards should be rubbed off, and about half a dozen that grow outwards, and form spreading branches, may be allowed to grow. In pruning all the side branches are to be cut close off, because the fruit comes finest when the main branches are spurred, and the end of each branch is to grow until it is as long as you wish it to be; the inside of the bush is thus kept open, and admits sun and air, which forwards the fruit very much; and this must be continued every year, so that after pruning, all the bushes are mere skeletons, but they will bring finer fruit and ripen it better for this close or spur pruning. The currant and gooseberry bushes are both pruned alike. There are many who only shorten the lateral branches a little, but they ought to be cut on to a quarter of an inch. Both currants and gooseberries may be raised from cuttings, so that a cottager need not buy them ready grown. At the pruning season get the cuttings of any neighbour who can spare them; cut the bottom part up to a joint, and shorten the cuttings to six or eight inches in length, one half of which may be planted in the ground. Autumn is much the same as spring for this operation; indeed, any time from November to the swelling of the buds. At the end of the first year's growth, cut the shoots back to two or three eyes, and the second season may produce the requisite number of branches to form the bush, which will then have to be pruned as directed.

# CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS

## FOR COTTAGE GARDENS.

### January.

*Hedges* should be cut and trimmed, and, if damaged, mended with new plants of the kind, or by laying down some of the branches of the old; in doing this the branch should be cut half through, and bent down to fill the gap.

*Potatoes* may be planted, if not done in the autumn, six inches deep and whole sets.

*Peas.*—Sow early peas in rows a yard apart, the more sheltered the place the better.

*Digging.*—Dig up vacant spaces when crops have come off, and plant out cabbage a foot apart, in rows eighteen inches from row to row.

*Cabbages* sow on a seed-bed in an open quarter.

*Winter Crops.*—Hoeing between the rows, and earthing up round the stems, should be attended to in mild dry weather.

*Celery.*—Earth up, and in hard frosts protect with litter.

*Rhubarb or Sea-kale* may be forced by covering with a pot and surrounding it with hot dung; but the former will grow if potted in a warm cellar or cupboard, and the latter is easiest grown by covering with earth eight inches deep and waiting till it grows through.

### February.

The mending of hedges, planting, &c., may go on as in last month.

*Peas.*—Sow for your first crop, not too thick nor too many, as they may be sown every month till July, if you wish it.

*Beans.*—Sow also early beans in drills a yard apart, and the beans three inches apart in the drill.

*Cabbage.*—Plant out in vacant spaces the strongest from the August seed-bed, twice as thick as required, that half may be pulled for greens, such as are now bunched.

*Red Cabbage* should be planted out this month or next, or both.

Sow *Radishes and Lettuce* in a sheltered situation, where they may be easily protected with litter, such as clean straw and peas haulm, which can be spread over them at night, and remain on them in a frost, but be taken off in the morning in mild weather.

*Onions for Seed.*—Plant out a few fine bulbs to go to seed; plant the bulbs two-thirds in the ground, and a foot from each other.

*Celery.*—Sow on a warm border and under a hand-glass if you have it.

*Leeks.*—Sow this month or next in a patch to be planted out.

*Broccoli.*—Sow all the sorts late and early, say half the seed, and again in April the other half.

*Potatoes.*—Plant a few in the warmest border, in a row, at the foot of a fence or south wall.

*Mushrooms.*—Beds may be made by placing a sloping heap of horse-droppings against a wall, and covering it while warm; then put lumps of spawn (which may be had of the nurseryman) nine inches apart all over it, and two inches of good light loam, well patted with the back of the spade; cover the whole with straw, to keep off wet and cold, but in a shed they will do better than in the open air.

*Carrots, Parsnips, Beet, Onions, and Spinach.*—Sow a few seeds of each, or any.

### March.

Cleaning the ground among all sorts of crops is a necessary duty at this time.

*Broad Beans.*—Sow in rows two feet apart and the seed six inches.

*Turnips.*—Sow a few early in a warm, sheltered situation, after rain or watering the ground, and if there be dry weather, they must be watered freely till up.

*Potatoes.*—Plant a few potatoes, whole sets of moderate size and early kinds. If you have any well-rotted dung, dig trenches eight inches deep, two feet apart; put dung three or four inches thick in the trenches, and the potatoes upon them; draw down earth upon them to cover them well six inches, or plant them six inches deep with a dibble.

*Radishes.*—Sow a few, if they are required.

*Horse - Radish.*—Cut horse-radish into pieces an inch long; trench the ground fifteen inches deep; place these cuttings in the trenches as you make them, six inches apart, and cover up with the soil which you take out of the next trench. You need not plant crowns.

*Carrots.*—Sow some early ones in a sheltered situation, first breaking the ground well to a spit and a half deep; rub the woolly seeds apart in some sand, and sow in drills nine inches from each other, covering them very lightly, or sow broadcast and rake well in.

*Cauliflowers.*—Sow some seed in a warm situation and in rich ground.

*Cabbage.*— You may sow some of the early sorts in a warm border or quarter according to your wants.

*Leeks.*—Sow, if not done last month, in a warm situation; a moderate patch will be sufficient for a tolerable crop when planted out.

*Mint.*—The roots may be dug up and parted, and fresh plantations made; some potted and put into a frame, or even into a warm room, will be found useful perhaps, especially as it is in such great request early in April for mint-sauce.

*Onions.*—Sow for a principal crop. The ground should have been lying in ridges through the winter; strong, well-decomposed manure should be plentifully dug in and mixed with the soil, which should be levelled, and the seeds sown thinly and evenly all over the bed, unless the appearance of drills be preferred. The seed must be well, but not deeply covered, and well trodden or rolled in.

*Peas.*—Sow more peas for a succession; the earlier sown ones already up must be cleaned, and earth drawn to their stems in a ridge on the shady side of the row, and pretty high up, to protect them from the cold winds; also stick those that require it as soon as possible, as it protects them from wind and frost.

*Savoy.*—Sow in open ground.

*Lettuce* of all kinds, and salads generally, sow for succession. Plant out lettuces in warm situations.

*Spinach.*—Sow every three weeks if you use much, and sow in proper quantities.

*Jerusalem Artichokes.*—Plant a few like potatoes in any out-of-the-way place, or for a blind. They are a tall crop.

### April.

*Sea-kale.*—Sow the seeds in a small bed, and cover an inch; refresh with water when it gets too dry. These are for planting out, but it is less trouble to sow in May when it is to remain.

*Rhubarb.*—If you raise this from seed, now is the time to sow it in rich good soil.

*Radishes.*—Continue to sow, if you require them for use.

*Potatoes.*—Plant more potatoes for a fuller crop than the last; middling potatoes whole, are far better for the cottager than cut sets of larger ones; if they do not go quite so far as cut sets, you have only to plant them wider apart, and get a heavier crop of each. We have seen a better crop of potatoes in a cottage garden, from chats thrown by for pigs, than from many of the most highly cultivated grounds when cut sets were used. If you are obliged to use large potatoes, cut each piece with one or two good eyes to it. Cut sets may be planted nine inches apart; whole potatoes, though smaller, should have a foot distance between them.

*Savoys*, *Broccoli* (the second season), *Scotch Kale*, and *Brussels Sprouts*, should be sown this month, about the middle, if the weather suit; make up a bed, and sow a good patch of each, according to your wants; let the bed be well dug and dressed. Prick out broccoli from the seed-bed.

*Herbs* of all descriptions should be slipped or parted, and planted to make fresh beds where necessary.

*Peas* should still be sown, if required, as often as once a month, according to the consumption.

*Onions.*—Sow the main crop. Let the ground be well dunged and dug, and sow as before; plant out a few large ones for seed, either large Portugal, Spanish, or Tripoli.

*Lettuce.*—Sow more lettuce; indeed these, as well as peas, should be sown in smaller quantities, and continued every month, so long as the supply is required.

*French Beans.*—Sow in rows to bloom where they come up; let the rows be two feet apart, and the beans six inches.

*Turnips.*—Sow a few, and then thin out as soon as they have two rough leaves, leaving them six inches apart.

*Celery.*—Sow a piece the size of a large handglass, or of two glasses, for the main crop, and use the glass to protect them.

*Carrots.*—Sow out for a full crop, as last month.

*Small Salad* and *Corn Salad* may be sown as required.

*Cucumbers*, if you mean to grow them with dung-heat, should be set about now.

*Kidney Beans.*—Sow in rows two feet apart, and the seeds four inches from each other.

*Spinach*, sow as before: hoe that already up, leaving it four inches apart.

*Beet-Root*, if not sown before, should be sown now; sow broadcast, and rake in well.

*Parsley* and other herbs: sow the seed. Part or slip herbs to make new beds.

*Cabbages.*—Plant out any that are strong enough. Thin those on the seed-beds. Prick out from them all that are taken out to thin them.

*Cauliflowers.*—Prick out, in good ground, the plants from the seed-bed, six inches apart, to grow into strength.

*Parsnips.*—Sow in a patch for planting out, as it saves room.

*Vegetable Marrow.*—Sow in a warm border—a few plants will suffice.

Hoeing and thinning crops, weeding, planting out greens that are large enough, &c., go on as usual.

## MAY.

*Broad Beans.*—Sow more of any kind, if it be desirable to have successive crops, though few care to have a continuance. Draw the earth round the stems of those up and growing.

*Savoy Seed.*—Sow for a late crop; plant out some of the earliest sowing.

*Peas.*— Sow; peas should be sown right through the season, every fortnight or three weeks, and not in large quantities; earth up those which are up and advancing; stick those which are forward enough.

*Pot Herbs* may be sown, and slips may be still put into the ground.

*Radish Seed.*—Sow more, and choose some of the handsomest of the crop gone by, to plant for seed; choose those which are most smooth-skinned and bright-coloured; plant them in a row, two feet apart.

*Celery.*—The March-sown will be large enough to prick out; take the largest, and contrive to thin the seed bed all over, rather than clear it in any part; prick them out three to four inches apart, on a piece of rich ground; water them in to settle their roots.

*Onions* must be hoed and cleared; the plants for bulbing must not be closer than four or five inches; if, however, any be left, they may be drawn for salads; but it is better not to have the bed trampled upon oftener than is necessary, therefore it should be cleared of all weeds, and properly thinned at once: support the stems of those going to seed.

*Cabbages.*—Transplant a quantity in rows, eighteen inches apart every way. Tie up some of those that are forward enough, so that the hearts may be whitened; earth up those that are advancing, loosening the soil, drawing it up the stems.

*Broccoli Seed* must be sown this month; and it is better to sow two or three kinds, and at two separate seasons, a fortnight apart.

*Kale* or *Brown Cole*, or *Borecole.*—Sow this month, if it be intended to grow any, for it is a coarse vegetable at the best, though hardy, and good eating in a hard winter.

*Beet-Root.*— Sow some in the same way as you would carrots, but more thinly spread.

*Kidney Beans* may be planted for a principal crop, and scarlet runners. The former in drills, three inches to four apart in the drills, and the drills eighteen inches; the latter six inches apart in the drills, and the drills three feet apart.

*Lettuce.*— Transplant some of the strongest lettuce plants, thinning the place they were sown in, that the rest may perfect their growth on the seed-bed. Sow some of the different varieties.

*Cucumbers.*—Level the soil in the bed, and lay the branches out of each other's way; pinch off the ends of vigorous shoots.

*Small Salad.*— Sow mustard, rape, cress, radish, and other small salad herbs.

*Spinach.*—The sowing of this must depend entirely on the supply required; if it be required in any quantity, it must be sown once a fortnight, as it should be pulled and eaten before it runs up to seed. It may be either sown evenly all over a piece of ground allotted to it, or in drills a foot apart from drill to drill, and be thinned out to a foot apart, as soon as they have any green about them to eat: for this, six leaves are wanted, and those which are left may be plucked of their leaves twice a week.

*Turnips.*—Sow turnips, and hoe and thin out to six and eight inches apart those which are forward enough.

*Carrots and Parsnips* must be also thinned out as soon as they are large enough, and must not be left nearer than eight inches apart; and carrot seed may still be sown.

*Scarlet Runners.*—Sow the first week, six inches apart, in rows three feet from each other; but generally they are sown against palings, or anywhere, for a blind.

*Sea-Kale.*—Sow the seeds in rows, dropping three or four on a spot a foot or eighteen inches apart, in rows three feet from each other. As soon as the established plants are cut, level the soil to the crowns of the stools, and let them grow.

*Asparagus.*—Let this, for your own eating, grow three or four inches above the ground before you cut it.

### JUNE.

*Turnips.*—Sow for a principal crop, roll them in, and if there has been no rain for a considerable time, water the ground the day before and the day after.

*Scarlet Beans.*—Sow, if not done already, and earth those already up and advancing.

*Salads, Radish, Lettuce, &c.*, may be sown again. These things must be regulated according to your wants; many will hardly trouble themselves about them.

*Peas.*—Sow the early kinds, as they grow faster than late ones, and are sooner in flower.

*Beans* will bear another crop, to be sown for those who like them; but this is a matter of taste.

*Transplant* after a shower, or after well saturating the ground with watering, borecole, Brussels sprouts, leeks, sprouting broccoli, and cabbage, in rows eighteen inches apart, and fifteen inches apart in the row; but the cabbage may be planted half the distance apart, and every other one pulled out while small, for greens.

*Celery.*—Plant out a few of the strongest plants for early use, in rich manured ground well dug, and in a trench not more than six inches deep, or on level ground.

*Sprouting Broccoli, Cabbage,* and *Kidney Beans,* may be sown.

*Onions.*—Hoe and weed to thin and clean them.

*Cucumbers.*—Give air, stop leading shoots, and regulate them so as to spread equally over the beds.

*Potatoes.*—Plant out the latest crop, except Chapman's, which is planted in July.

Thin turnips, spinach, carrots, and other crops requiring room; hoe and weed; earth up the various peas, beans, &c.; stick beans, peas, &c., and generally look to routine business.

*Endive* sow in rich ground for after planting out.

### JULY.

*Scarlet Beans.*—Put sticks to them, or give them some other means of support.

*Potatoes.*—Earth up well to cover the tubers, and give them room to swell.

*Lettuce, Radish* (the turnip kind), and *Salads.*—Continue to sow enough to meet the consumption.

*Cucumbers.*—Train the shoots along the surface, so as to be out of each other's way; give the fruit room, and water must be administered; give proper air; plant out some on ridges under hand-glasses.

*Celery.*—Plant a main crop of; use the strongest plants, dig trenches a foot to a foot and a half wide and a foot deep, four feet apart from centre to centre: put a good three inches thick of rotten dung in the bottom, and fork it six inches deep into the soil, well mixing it as you proceed; level, and plant nine inches apart down the centre of the trench; these to be earthed up as the plants advance.

Winter greens, broccoli, savoys, borecole, Brussels sprouts, red cabbage, Scotch kale, &c., should be planted after dripping weather; a rainy season saves enormous labour.

*Winter Spinach.*—Sow according to your wants.

*Beans.*—Top those in flower, and earth up others.

*Turnips* may be sown after showery weather. Hoe those already up.

*Leeks.*—Transplant nine inches apart.

AUGUST.

*Spinach.*—Sow the main crop of the winter sort.

*Parsley* should be rogued, as it is called—that is, every root, that has not a well-curled foliage, taken out.

*Onions* that have nearly come to their growth should be bent down, to throw the greater share of nourishment into the bulb; so say the market gardeners. It *may* hasten ripening, but does not improve them.

*Salading.*—Sow as before, if the supply be required, and particularly lettuces, to stand through the winter.

*Leeks* should be earthed up three or four inches, to whiten them

*Cucumbers* should have all the weak and useless shoots pulled off, dead leaves removed, and be shut down in cold winds, and always towards evening. Those out of doors require the same, all but shutting down. The hand-glass should be kept down in heavy rains.

*Celery* requires earthing up as it grows; the soil should be broken small and drawn to the stems, but not to fall in the heart of the plant, which should be closed while earthed.

*Cabbage Seed* should be sown for a good crop to come in the spring and summer; sow after a good wet day.

*Red Cabbage* should also be sown this month.

*Broccoli.*—Plant out the last of any or all kinds from the seed-bed, and choose wet weather for the job.

Hoe between all kinds of crops, clear away the weeds, and stir the ground.

In many other respects operations should assimilate to the business of last month.

*Winter Greens.*—Plant out every description wherever you have room.

*Lettuces.*—Plant out all the kinds in open spaces.

*Turnips.*—Sow after rain, for no good season ought to be lost.

*Endive* plant out, after rain if possible, in a warm quarter.

SEPTEMBER.

*Potatoes* that are ripe may be taken up and stored; they are always ripe when the haulm is decayed. They may be stored in a dry cellar covered over with straw, or in pits covered over with straw and mould.

*Onions,* as they ripen, must be drawn and dried in the sun on the ground for a day or two; they should be stored very dry and cool.

*Celery.*—Earth up as usual, choosing dry days for this work.

*Coleworts.*—Plant out in any spare ground cabbage plants, six inches apart, and in rows fifteen inches apart, to be drawn as coleworts, or, as market-people call them, collards.

*Spinach.*—Hoe winter spinach, removing them where too thick, and leaving them six or eight inches apart; the more room they have the faster they grow, and the better they taste.

*Horse-Radish.*—Form new beds as directed for March; this is the better month of the two, though when it has been allowed to stand over, March is the last chance of success.

*Seeds* should be gathered as they ripen; they will otherwise be in danger from birds, or the pods splitting and dropping them about.

*Salads.*—As usual every month; if there be a demand for another supply, they should be treated nearly alike.

### October.

*Cabbages.*—The August-sown should be planted out for spring use twice as thickly as they are wanted, that when every other one, or two out of every three, are drawn for greens during the winter, the others may be left to form cabbages. The weakest may be left in the seed-bed, to be pricked out three inches apart for future planting.

*Lettuces.*—Plant out in warm situations.

*Carrots and Parsnips* full grown may be taken up for storing.

*Celery.*—Earth up as usual, as fast as it grows.

### November.

Now, be it remembered, removals of plants and alterations of beds, clumps, and improvements of all kinds should be carried into effect. Making gravel walks and planting box or other edgings are certain duties at this period. Cleanliness at all periods is a paramount consideration. The leaves which fall should be swept up and preserved as valuable manure. All the waste of the garden should be thrown together and allowed to rot for the same purpose; and whatever you have of the kind already decayed should be esteemed as the finest dressing you can apply.

*Sea-Kale.*—Dig alleys between the rows, and put the earth on the stools so as to form a flat bank eighteen inches wide along the rows, first removing all the stems and leaves of the old growth.

*Hoeing* between crops, weeding, clearing paths, digging vacant spaces, and leaving them in ridges or rough dug, are self-evident duties; so also is the destruction of all kinds of vermin.

Dressing and trenching, or digging all vacant spaces to be left rough, or in ridges to be mellowed by frost, prepares it for spring sowings. Hoeing between crops, and clearing them from their lower leaves that are decaying, must be attended to.

### December.

In bad weather, in-door work should be attended to, and should be done when nothing can be done out of doors. Continue as directed last month.

It is also in the winter season that manures and soils should be collected, and the heaps turned over to mix well by the time they are wanted. No weeds should be allowed to grow among the compost. The principal soils, &c., to collect, are road-scrapings, loam, cow-dung, horse-droppings, sand, turves, leaves of trees, pig and poultry dung, &c.

If the weather be mild, the garden should have the management of last and previous months continued.

The foregoing memoranda of operations to be performed in the several months will, after the general remarks on each vegetable, be sufficient for any amateur, however little he may be acquainted with gardening. But the whole is written with a view of carrying out the recommendation preceding the work; we have confined the subject to those calculated to be useful and profitable to those in humble life. We have said but little of draining, because the holder of an allotment or cottage-garden ought not to be obliged to drain, nor could he one time in a hundred accomplish the task by himself. A man might do all that could be done, but without a water-way to carry off the drainage his work would be useless; draining is, therefore, a labour that ought not to be required of the allotment-holder, nor of the cottager. The entire land should be drained by

those who grant the allotments or own the ground. It also presumes that poor men are not set to work on hungry unprofitable land; such allotments would entail upon the holders a loss instead of gain. We have seen a little of this in our time; and in dry seasons the poor men, with all they could do and get done, never took off as much crop as paid them for the material they put on. Did we contemplate such an evil we should endeavour to find a remedy—or rather a palliative, for there is no remedy; hungry land will have good dressing, or yield no crop; and it is a mockery of misfortune to let such ground to the poor—an affectation of benevolence even to give it them for cropping. It may be objected that we have said nothing about flowers; but after objecting altogether to the encouragement of this branch of gardening in allotment-holders and cottagers, such directions would be inconsistent and out of place. It is enough that we teach the useful, and leave them to find out the ornamental. We do not go so far as to object to their growing flowers, but we abstain altogether from holding out the temptation. The fruits also are limited to those of easy culture, and of some service. Apples, pears, gooseberries, and currants are of good produce and great service, and strawberries take but little room if made edgings for the beds on the south side of the garden, and therefore are admissible. This work is especially directed to the carrying out of the main object of allotments, and consequently comprises no subject that is not in all respects adapted for the use and comfort of the family whose wants may be fairly compassed by the means we have pointed out. It is all very well for those who say "teach everything," and let men choose for themselves, but it is impossible to prescribe a limit to gardening. All that the true philanthropist should do is to tempt a man to do all that will be profitable and useful to himself and family; and so far from encouraging anything further, he ought to afford no facilities, but rather to oppose it. Whenever the cultivation of flowers is undertaken for amusement, and within proper restrictions, it is by no means a costly or a difficult pursuit. Those who can grow a cauliflower can grow any other flower; but where it is desirable to let this be the last thing to be thought of, it would be unwise to take any notice of it in those monthly directions which are much better confined to the things that are wanted.

As bee-keeping, poultry-keeping, and pig-keeping, seem to be almost consequent on the supply that the garden affords, we add a few words on these subjects, to complete our work.

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# BEE-KEEPING.

This is one of the legitimate uses of a garden to the working classes. Honey is a good substitute for butter in the food of young children—it is a substitute for sugar with adults. A hive or two should always be kept, if it can be done without inconvenience. The following compilation, taken chiefly from the excellent little book called the 'Apiarian's Guide,' is sufficient to teach a beginner.

Situation of an Apiary.—A south aspect is decidedly preferable

to any other situation for an apiary. I have tried various aspects, but the bees in the south I have always found to be the healthiest, and to collect the largest quantity of honey. It is very important that the hives be sheltered from the wind by trees or houses, and that they are not placed in the vicinity of ponds or large rivers, for high winds will dash them into the water, where numbers will perish.

Though large ponds are very injurious, a small stream is beneficial to them, which if they are not supplied with, water must be given them, for it is absolutely necessary, and enters, as much as honey and farina, into the composition with which they nourish the brood. The plan that I have for many years adopted, is to fill an unglazed earthen pan, eighteen inches by eight, four inches deep, and square at the sides, with water, upon the surface of which floats a very thin deal board perforated with holes; in spring and summer the bees may be seen coming in great numbers to drink, or rather to carry water into their hives to mix with the farina they collect so abundantly at this season of the year for food for their young. In my opinion, Dr. Bevan says very justly, "the apiary should be near the residence of the proprietor, as well for the purpose of rendering the bees tractable, and well acquainted with the family, as for affording a good view of their general proceedings."

Bee-houses of all kinds are the means of causing the ruin of a great number of hives, by affording a home to their worst enemies, viz. mice, moths, spiders, earwigs, and various other insects; thousands die from imprisonment, and many hives are destroyed by humidity. The method of placing several hives upon the same bench is also very injurious; it very much facilitates pilfering, and renders it impossible to operate upon one hive without disturbing the others.

The hives should be placed upon separate boards, supported by single pedestals four or five inches in diameter, firmly placed in the ground, and standing about fifteen inches from the surface; upon the top of this post should be nailed firmly a board nine inches square, upon which should be placed the board the hive stands upon, but not nailed; the double boards will be found very convenient for weighing or removing the hives, without disturbing the bees.

On no account use clay or mortar, as is usually done, to secure the hive to the board; the bees of themselves will do it more effectually; clay or mortar tends very much to decay the hives, and to harbour moths and other insects. Each hive should be covered with a large milk-pan, and be well painted every year, for hives managed upon the depriving system are expected to stand from fifteen to twenty years.

The hives should be placed about three feet apart from each other, and in a right line; but should the number be too great to allow of this arrangement, and render two rows necessary, they must not be less than fifteen feet asunder, and those in the front row intersecting the line formed by the hinder one.

The boards on which the hives are placed should be cleaned about four times in the year—January, March, April, and November—much time and trouble will be saved the bees thereby.

Plants which rise in height equal to or exceeding the entrance of the hives, should not be suffered to grow in their immediate vicinity, and every facility should be removed by which the enemies of the bees can ascend into the hives.

Still, however, a few shrubs or

standard roses of four or five feet may with advantage be placed eight or ten paces in front of the hives, for the bees to alight upon in their return home when heavily laded with honey and pollen—it saves their falling to the ground from the weight of their load, which they frequently do, and in unfavourable weather to rise no more.

The author of the Guide has found the advantage of planting, in the vicinity of the hives, a large quantity of the common kind of crocus, single blue hepatica, Helleborus niger, and Tussilago petasites, all of which flower very early and are rich in honey and farina. Salvia nemorosa (of Dr. Smith), which flowers very early in June, and lasts all the summer, is in an extraordinary manner sought after by the bees, and when room is not an object, twenty or thirty square yards of it may be grown with advantage: Origanum humile, Origanum rubescens (of Haworth), and mignonette may also be grown; cultivation beyond this, exclusively for bees, I believe answers very little purpose.

Dr. Bevan says:—"Those residing in towns may consider it indispensable to the success of an apiary, that it should be in the immediate vicinity of good pasturage, and be deterred from benefiting and amusing themselves by keeping bees because they have no such convenience, are informed that the apiary of the celebrated Bonner was situated in a garret, in the centre of Glasgow, where it flourished for several years, and furnished him with the means of making many interesting and valuable observations, which he gave to the world about thirty years ago."

The author of the little work we are noticing kept two stocks of bees in his study, in glass, and four or five others in the improved cottage hive upon the roof of his house, and was not aware that they have ever done better, or afforded a larger quantity of honey in any other situation.

The following are wholesome and useful hints:—

The best time to establish an apiary is from the middle of February to the middle of March.

The young apiarian should, in buying his stock, take the opinion of an experienced person, weight being no criterion of value, because old hives are frequently loaded with pollen or farina, which has been accumulating perhaps for years.

Never buy old hives if you can buy swarms of the preceding year.

When young swarms are purchased, they should be placed where they are to remain, the very evening after they have swarmed.

It matters not whether hives are straw or wood, except as to price.

Straw hives are recommended to be made the shape of a half-bushel measure; nine inches deep, twelve inches across, and flat on the top, with a hole four inches round; this to be covered with a piece of straw, an inch larger all round than the aperture. This, in favourable seasons, can be removed, and a small hive placed on the top.

Small hives, for the top, may be glass, or wood, or straw. If glass, it is to be covered to exclude the light, and in severe weather there should be warmth in the covering.

The very best covering to protect a hive from wet is a milk-pan reversed.

When this small hive is filled, it can be removed and replaced with another. It is first lifted, and the empty hive which has a hole on the top is put between the full hive and the stock-hive, and ultimately remove the full hive altogether.

Wear thick worsted gloves in preference to leather ones in all operations among bees. If they attempt to sting they cannot withdraw it from leather, and many thus perish. Quietness, coolness, and confidence, are the best protection. To breathe on them is highly irritating and offensive.

When the small hive is lifted, and an empty one placed between that and the stock, it should remain some days, until it is presumed the bees have left the top one. It should then be lifted off very gently, and placed within four or six inches of the table or ground, propped up by bricks, or a similar contrivance. A loud humming noise is first heard, and the bees are seen to leave it in a few minutes; but should the queen be in the box, all will be quiet, and the principal hive will appear in confusion. In this case it should be returned to its place a day or two, and then attempted again.

Autumn and spring are the most proper seasons for supplying weak stocks with food. Bees should never be fed in winter.

Let a dish or soup-plate into a piece of flat wood, so that the rim is flush with the board. Fill this with honey, and put pieces of paper on the surface to prevent the bees sinking into it. It may be placed under the hive at sunset, and removed at sunrise.

Moths are the greatest enemies to bees, except their possessors, who often do as much mischief by tormenting and mismanaging them as vermin do. In the caterpillar state the moth will sometimes attack and destroy a whole hive. The best preventive is the frequent cleansing of the hive floors, for the female generally deposits her eggs between the hive and the board on which it stands, or in the dust that accumulates at the bottom.

The blue titmouse destroys a great many. One will kill and afterwards eat the bags of a dozen at a time: destroy their nests in breeding-time.

Bees should be hived directly they are swarmed, and not be left till the evening, as is too much the practice.

Never put sticks across the inside of a hive; it has been found troublesome, useless, and is discontinued by all good managers.

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# POULTRY.

Although poultry-keeping may not be advisable in an allotment, unless the fowls are prevented from wandering, yet the cottager will find his account in it at home. The following hints may be useful. The system is pursued in America with great success.

Never allow more than twelve hens to one rooster; a smaller number, say eight, would perhaps be better.

Never allow the roosters to go together; they are very jealous, and always pugnaciously interfering with each other's rights. The strongest lead away the hens; the consequence is the eggs are fewer, and do not hatch so well. A large number of hens is not so profitable, in proportion, as a smaller number.

Chickens require a great deal of water to soften their food, and gravel to grind it. They also require animal food. In winter they often cannot get water nor gravel, nor insects, nor worms. They are all

fed, it may be, with grain, yet do not lay. Give them water, gravel, and animal food, such as fat meat, liver, or indeed any kind of fresh meat. Keep them warm, not permitting them to become chilled, and they will lay as well during the winter as in any season.

Do not permit your hens to sit at different times, or rather, only a few at a time. This causes broods of different ages, and the younger are usually injured or deprived of a fair quota of food by the older. When your hens manifest a disposition to sit, let them remain on chalk eggs until as many as you intend to sit are ready. Then place fifteen fresh eggs under each hen.

When the young are hatching, do not interrupt the hen. When hatched, feed them with Indian meal, with a large portion of pounded egg-shells. Hens that "sit out," as it is called, generally have healthy chickens. I often have examined their nests, and seldom found any remains of the shell in them. The little ones eat them up. I have found that egg-shells greatly advance their growth and health.

If all the little chickens could be taken from the hen, and kept in a room warmed by a stove, I am satisfied from experiments that they would be much better than to be with the hen.

Never allow the young chickens to get wet, nor to become cold. See that they are supplied with ground worms (fishing-worms). They will repay you for this trouble.

The following outline from Glenny's 'Garden Almanac' for the year 1848, is worth quoting, because, like the rest of that work, it is very comprehensive and very short, and besides which, it comprises all the sorts that can be profitably kept.

*Fowls.*—The common fowl is perhaps nearly as valuable as any The grey Dorking, and the black Spanish sorts, are, however, to be preferred to all others, when they can be gotten pure. Both these kinds are good layers, give large eggs, readily fatten, do not stray far, and command a high price in the market. All fowls having white legs are to be preferred; long-legged fowls are not worth keeping. Fowls fatten best when confined, and they also then require less food; but they must be kept warm. The nests should be placed in the hen-house, and as far removed from the roosting-place as possible. Baskets are better than boxes. A little straw only is necessary, and let it always be kept fresh and clean. Nothing contributes more than warmth to the hen's laying plentifully; and a good short-legged hen, if well fed and kept warm and undisturbed, will produce 150 eggs, besides bringing up a brood of chickens, every year. If six hens be kept to one cock, they will be more prolific than when the proportion of females is greater.

*Ducks.*—If there is a pool or stream in the vicinity, ducks should certainly be kept. The ducklings must not be allowed to go much into the water till they are about a week old, as they are apt to die from cold. Except attention for the first few days, they require little feeding or care afterwards; and if a common be near, they will shift for themselves, worms and insects being their favourite food.

*Turkeys* are great feeders. If you set the eggs under a common hen, and keep her confined, allowing the young birds to run about, and vary their food by feeding them upon chopped nettles, buttermilk, curd, and oatmeal, they will thrive well.

*Geese* require little care. Where

there is water, or a common for them to feed on, they may be profitably reared, and with very little trouble, and the feathers are always valuable. When first hatched, do not let them wander far, but the old goose must not be shut up. A yard or empty barn is the best place for the goslings the first week, letting them out two or three hours each day to feed on grass. When fattening for the market at home, feed them on raw turnips chopped, and water, with very little corn.

The advantage of keeping poultry is greater to those who have a garden than to those who have not, for although they may not be introduced to the growing crops, there is a great quantity of waste that is well applied to the feeding of poultry.

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# PIGS.

To those who have a garden this seems almost a natural consequence, and under judicious management costs but little, because all the while the pig is growing to his size he can live on the garden waste, or very little more; and he tramples and dungs among that which he does not eat, and so increases the manure for the garden. When the time for fattening comes, he still takes a great deal of nourishment from the garden produce, independently of the food which is given to bring him to his weight. Pollard, wash, boiled vegetables, and peas, cost but little, compared with the value of the meat they make, if they are not given too early, and the animal is kept up close while fattening. From Glenny's 'Almanac' we take—

## A FEW GOOD SORTS OF PIG TO CHOOSE FROM.

*The China pig* is of Chinese origin. It is short in the head, with pricked-up ears, full wide cheeks, high in the chine, and very short legs. This breed is very prolific. The pigs easily fatten, although they do not grow to a great size, and may be killed for bacon when twelve months old.

*The Neapolitan pig* is black without any hair, and very plump, with pricked ears. It fattens as readily as the China breed, but is not so prolific, and is more tender.

*The Suffolk breed* is generally white, with pointed ears, broad chest and loins, and short compact form, much resembling the China sort. They make fine bacon pigs, weighing from twelve to fifteen score at twelve or fifteen months old.

*The Essex pig* is for the most part black, or black and white, with little hair, and in form and character bears a strong resemblance to the Neapolitan breed. It fattens very readily, and at an early age.

*The Berkshire pig* is a well-shaped animal, having small pricked ears, broad chine and loins, good hams, and short legs. This is a very valuable breed, and second to none.

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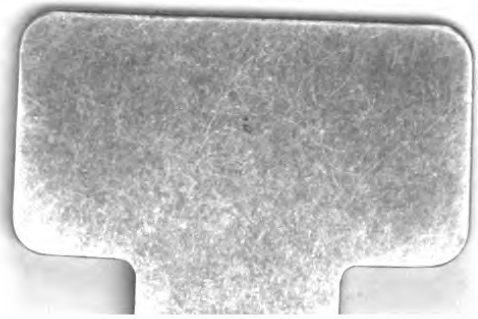
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