

The Garden—April.

With this month we have the opening spring, and we enjoy again the pleasure of our garden work. It is well to have a few words about vegetables; and first, salad.

LETTUCE is easily grown in any garden, but to have it to perfection it should be grown in rich soil and kept rather moist. The seed bed should be well pulverized and smoothed, and the seed when sown, covered not more than one-fourth of an inch. It may be sown either broadcast or in drills, and bears transplanting well. The plants should be shaded when the sun becomes very hot. If not kept cool and moist the plants become hard and bitter.

RADISH may be sown as the ground is in good condition. It is sown and cultivated as lettuce, but the seed is covered a half inch. The plant should be kept cool and moist. The best varieties are Early Scarlet, Turnip-rooted, Olive-shaped Scarlet, and the Long Scarlet; late in the year sow Black Spanish for early winter use.

MUSTARD, another salad plant, is cultivated as lettuce. For it also a rich soil and a cool situation are profitable. The leaves when advanced in growth may be used as greens.

CRESS, also a salad, is also cultivated on the same manner.

DANDELION, though a troublesome weed in the farm, is cultivated in the garden and cut for greens. It has also valuable medical properties, and is much used for purifying the blood. The soil for the growth of the dandelion should be rich and the seed sown in drills half an inch deep and a foot apart.

EARLY PEAS may be sown as soon as the ground can be dug without becoming compact. Bear in mind, no plot should be tilled till dry. Plant the seed in double rows, six inches apart, and three feet between the double rows.

POTATO ONIONS may next be planted. They do best in a light, rich soil, planted in drills 12 inches apart.

ONION SEED is sown in drills 12 inches apart on well prepared soil; sow pretty thick, and afterwards thin out the plants to six inches apart. An ounce of seed will sow a bed 40 feet long by 4 feet wide. The best varieties that we know are the Danvers Yellow, Strasbury Red and Portugal White.

PARSNIPS AND CARROTS may be sown as soon as the soil is in good working order. When sown early they produce better crops. The soil should be rich and well prepared, and for carrots from 12 inches in depth at least.

BEETS require a rich mellow soil. Sow in drills 15 inches apart, drop the seed every one or two inches in the drills, and cover two inches deep. Early Bassano and Blood-red Turnip-rooted beets we prefer for the garden.

POTATOES—it is well to plant a few in the garden for early use. Plant from the 12th to the 24th of April, in a warm, light soil, and as the plants are up cover them in the evenings with straw to save them from the frost.

TOMATOES may be started in a hot-bed or a box in the house, and transplanted two or three times. They require a rapid and early growth, that the fruit may all ripen in due season. Take care that the plants are not too crowded. A few strong, well rooted plants are worth more than double the number of spindly ones.

A hogshead of rain water in which a quarter of a pound of ammonia and the same weight of nitre are mixed constitutes a splendid fertilizing liquid for strawberries. Apply it twice each week in the evening from the blossoming to the maturity of the fruit.

Our Farmers' Clubs.**Marketing Farm Products.**

Dr. A. S. Heath read the following paper before the American Institute Farmers' Club:

"Whatever may be said against oleomargarine, truthfully or otherwise, it is an undeniable fact that since it has been put upon the market butter has presented itself in better garb, sweeter, sounder, cleaner, and in every way more worthy of being recognized as a prime product of the American dairy.

Mr. Starr, of Echo Farm, was one of the first to get a dollar a pound for the delicious butter sent to New York, Boston and other cities. This came to market in neat half-pound packages wrapped in snow-white linen, and was as fragrant and sweet as the June grasses upon which the cows fed. If there is a paradise for cows on earth Echo Farm is one, and a worthy model, creditable to the heart of a humane farmer.

Now, we have many dairies sending sweet, waxy, golden and aromatic butter to the market, perfectly gratifying the most fastidious tastes of our citizens. These dairies and these products honor such names as Havemeyer, Coe, Crozier, Holly, Dinmore, Park, Valentine, and scores of others. The great Western States are worthy competitors in gilt-edged butter.

Cheese, eggs, poultry and fruits, put up in a neat manner, are always acceptable to the purchaser, and bring remunerative prices to the producer.

In Baltimore and Philadelphia, for many years, poultry came to market nicely drawn, fresh, sweet, and ready for the cook; and now, in New York and Boston, the hotel-keepers demand drawn poultry. They are posted in such matters, for they cater to the most extravagant tastes; and a man who knows how to keep a first-class hotel knows what human provender should be.

Compare our first-class retail groceries now with what they were twenty years ago. The demands of consumers require goods neatly put up, the store to be kept clean, and the clerks aproned in immaculate white. In fact, some of the spruce clerks now wax their mustaches, à la Napoleon III., to please the ladies.

The neat and tasty marketing of farm products pays a handsome profit on all the extra taste and labor bestowed upon them.

Our best merchants understand the art of displaying their goods and the profit it brings. A visit to Thurber's will convince the most sceptical. In this house, where twenty millions are annually sold, the goods are put up in the best possible style. Even the canned goods are radiant with colors and rich in gilt.

The packages of coffee, tea and spices are clothed with beautiful pictures of the Oriental shrubs that produced them. Thurber's labels are exquisite specimens of taste and art. "Straws tell which way the wind blows."

Let farmers' wives and daughters tastefully decorate the packages of farm products and they can afford to dress in silk."

Farmers' Clubs.

At the meeting of the Provincial Farmers' Agricultural Association, held at Riverside, Albert Co., N. B., Mr. R. E. McLeod spoke on the general management of the farm. That portion of his paper relating to the cultivation of turnips we give as follows:

In the first place, I take a piece of land that has borne a crop of oats, or sod land ploughed early will answer equally well, turn the stubble under in the fall, and in the spring cross plough and harrow well, then take a double mould board plough and make the drills twenty-eight or thirty inches apart, then put barn manure in the drills similar to what you would for potatoes, but usually not quite so much; but a liberal coat of manure will not injure on most stubble land, which should be spread evenly in the drill, after which a man with a basket scatters some superphosphate on top of the manure in the drill at the rate of about five hundred pounds of bone dust, dissolved with sulphuric acid and dried with black muck, to the acre, then with the double mould board plough, as soon as possible after the manure is in the drill, cover up the manure about the same as you would potatoes, then take a horse with a small roller and flatten two rows at a time, until the plough is overtaken, then take the seed sower and put the seed in at once while the ground is moist, at the rate of

five pounds to the acre, as near as can be, and in a very short time the plants will appear and you need not fear the fly, but in a very short time will be fit for thinning out, which is usually done when they are the size of cabbage plants, at which time it is best to run the cultivator twice in a row, leaving but a very small space where the plants stand, often tearing out some; in this way the earth is torn away from the plants, leaving a very narrow ridge, which assists very materially in thinning, which is done with the hand, getting down on all fours (generally padding the knees) scraping off the top of the rows, leaving the plants about thirteen inches apart, as near as may be removing the earth from the plants, leaving it flat on the side of the row, which will in a surprising short space of time regain its upright position, and from a distance show as green as before thinning out. In this way you have gone over the whole surface of the field, removing all weeds that may have made their appearance. After a short time the cultivator should be run through them once or twice before the leaves meet across the rows, at which time, if kept clear of weeds, they will take care of themselves, yielding in the fall from five hundred to a thousand bushels to the acre. I should have said, I sow as near the 20th of June as possible.

The Oshawa Farmers' Club.

At the meeting of the Oshawa, Ont., Farmers' Club recently held in the Council Room, there was a very good attendance. The President, Mr. A. Annis, opened the discussion on the subject of the day:—"How to reclaim exhausted soil."

The President—There was not the slightest possible use of a farmer trying to run his farm on a paying basis when it would only bring in about \$12 an acre. He was bound to lose, and the sooner he gave up the attempt the better. If you can raise a good crop of clover you need never be afraid of not making your farm pay. He found a good plan to improve the land was to plow under a green crop. This plowing had been followed by him with good success. He would sow wheat the first year, barley the second, and the following year seeding down again. When he first took possession of his farm he could hardly raise straw enough to feed his stock; now he has too much straw, and found the only difficulty was to keep it down. He attributed it all to seeding down, giving his farm a rest and manuring it. He found that where two or three tons of clover were raised from an acre of land, about the same quantity of roots remained in the ground as manure if plowed under.

Mr. Mothersill said his farm at one time had been pretty well run down. Any land that had a good subsoil he found much improved by deep plowing. He had experimented on a field which had been covered with stumps. The stumps were removed, and the spots where they had been had yielded poorly the first season, but the second crop was a good one, and the third crop still better. Clover is one of the best things to improve the land the farmer can possibly use. He found that his fall wheat yielded double the amount of straw his spring wheat had. Very often you come across a field which would not raise any kind of a crop because it was too wet. The only cure for this kind of land was to drain it, and then it will very often be the best yielding piece of land on your farm.

Mr. D. Lick.—His idea of the question was that poor land which was badly exhausted would not pay for the fencing. He would recommend persons having such land to sell out and go to Manitoba or the Great Northwest at once. If your farm is very much run down you should put on forty or fifty loads of manure to the acre to bring it back to its old state. If you put that amount of manure on to a farm with poor subsoil, it would not pay you, for manure could not be put on less than one dollar an acre at the present high price, if you had to draw it far, and that would be as much as the land was worth. So that it always pays to have a good farm. If land was poor it would be impossible to raise a good crop of clover. If there was a good subsoil there was hope, but otherwise he would not advise anyone to try the experiment. He was told buckwheat would kill twitch grass, but it would likely take four or five years. The first time he tried the experiment a fine shower fell just after he had sowed the seed, and the buckwheat quickly sprang up and choked the twitch grass, but three times since he had tried the experiment, but no shower came, and the grass grew as fast as the buckwheat and was not injured