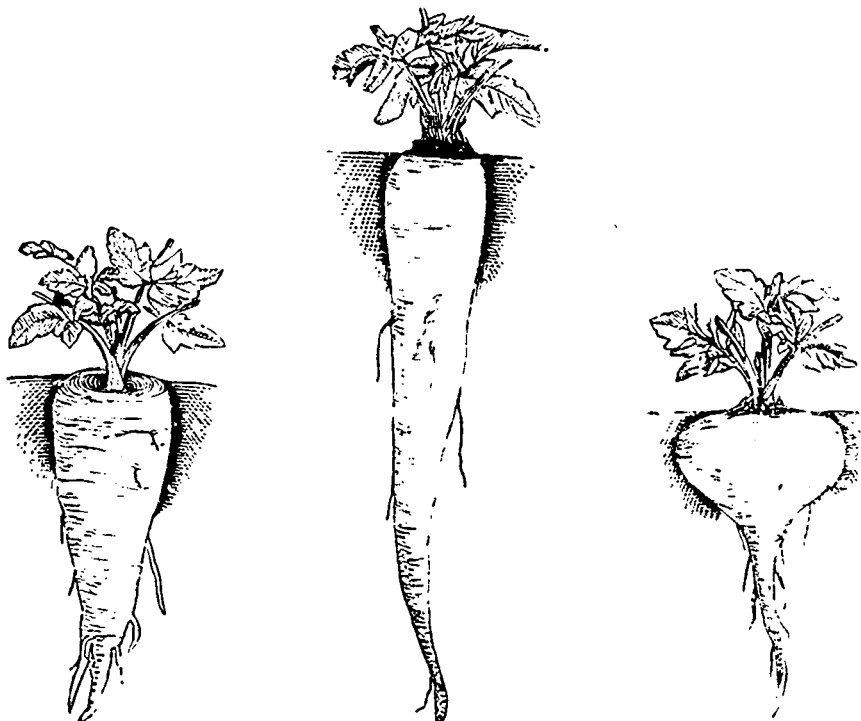


drawing the Orthes. Always test your carrot seed before sowing, thus: take twenty-five seeds and soak them in lukewarm water for twenty hours or so; place them on earth in a tin or earthenware vessel, cover them very lightly with finely pulverised mould, and keep the earth moist by laying a piece of flannel on it, which should be watered three times a day. If from twenty to twenty-two grains come up, the seed may be called good, and four pounds an acre will be sufficient to sow. And this experiment will be a guide to you as to the inferior qualities, as thus: if only sixteen seeds germinate, then, according to the rule of proportion, 16 : 20 : 4 : 5—that is, five pounds an acre will be necessary, and so on. The trial should be made at least a fortnight before seedtime to give yourself a chance of procuring other seed in case the first lot should not turn out well.

The seed being all right, the next process is the steeping

made much more easy by the rapid germination of the rape seed.

*Sowing field carrot seed.*—And, first of all, how shall we sow it, in drills or on the flat? Well, I sow always in drills, except when the land has been very deeply ploughed and the dung interred before winter. White Belgians, the only field carrot I sow, are not, like the red sorts, impatient of dung; that is to say, they do not throw out branches or forks in search of dung. Therefore, I prepare my dung carefully by turning once, or even twice if it is very long, and spread it in drills twenty-four or twenty-six inches wide; the drills I raise as high as possible to give the more earth for the long roots to grow in; I roll them down both before and after sowing; the seed is deposited by hand in a shallow drill, made by the point of a stick, exactly in the centre of the drill, and is covered by a careful use of the iron garden-rake. By



Hollow Crown Parsnip.

Long Smooth Parsnip

Short or Round Parsnip.

of it, and you may proceed thus: place the quantity chosen in a linen bag and keep it under water for forty-eight hours. The steep-tub should stand in a moderately warm place. At the expiration of the time, wring out the bag pretty dry, and hang it up in a moderately cool place—if it is kept too warm the germs will sprout too lengthily and be weak and easily broken off. The seed should be turned and well mixed twice a day to start all the germs into life at, as nearly as possible, the same time. When germination has taken place—you can tell this by a tiny white speck appearing at the side of each seed—sowing may be proceeded with; but before sowing, I prefer mixing a quantity of charcoal powder with the seed, to dry it up, and about a quarter of a pound of rape seed to the quantity of carrot seed necessary for an acre. As carrot and mangel seed can hardly be sown too early in this country, they will, however carefully steeped, seldom come up in less than a fortnight after sowing; and as the weeds get at least an equal chance with them, the hoe should go to work as soon as possible between the drills, a proceeding which will be

this form of treatment, in a few days the rape seed will begin to show itself along the rows, and the horse-hoe can go to work at once, to the destruction of the weeds, and the quickening of the young plant in its struggles to emerge from its seed bed. The early use of the hoe—horse or hand—will save dollars an acre, for the only really expensive part of carrot-growing is the singling, and if the weeds are kept down, and the proper system pursued, even the singling can be done for two dollars an acre.

The carrots having shown themselves along the rows and having arrived at a decent height, the singling may be proceeded with at once, if you please, though I confess my preference for what we call, in England, *edge-hoeing*, which is practised thus: two or three days after the first horse-hoeing, a woman or boy with a four-inch hoe goes up each drill, and with a *chopping* stroke works over each side of the drill at a fair depth. A *chopping* stroke, because a *drawing* stroke covers up the weeds and encourages their growth. Again, the stroke I recommend cuts deeper than the other stroke, and