

Trenching.

Trenching is one of the readiest modes in the gardener's power for renovating his soil. The process is thus conducted:—

"From the end of the piece of ground where it is intended to begin, take out a trench two spades deep, and twenty inches wide, and wheel the earth to the opposite end, to fill up and finish the last ridge. Measure off the width of another trench, then stretch the line and mark it out with the spade. Proceed in this way until the whole of the ridges are outlined, after which, begin at one end, and fill up the bottom of the first trench with the surface or 'top spit' of the second, then take the bottom 'spit' of the latter, and throw it in such a way over the other, as to form an elevated, sharp-pointed ridge. By this means, a portion of fresh soil is annually brought on the surface, to the place of that which the crop of the past season may have in some measure exhausted."—*Gard. Chron.*

Bastard trenching is thus performed:—"Open a trench two feet and a half or a yard wide, one fall spit, and the shoveling deep, and wheel the soil from it to where it is intended to finish the piece; then put in the dung, and dig it in with the bottom spit in the trench; then fill up this trench with the top spit, &c., of the second, treating it in like manner, and so on. The advantages of this plan of working the soil are, that the good soil is retained at top—an important consideration where the subsoil is poor or bad,—the bottom soil is enriched and enloosened for the penetration and nourishment of the roots; and, allowing them to descend deeper, they are not so liable to suffer from drouth in summer; strong soil is rendered capable of absorbing more moisture, and yet remains drier at the surface by the water passing down more rapidly to the subsoil, and it insures a thorough shifting of the soil."

In all trenching, whether one, two or more spades deep, always, previous to digging, put the top of each trench two or three inches deep, or more, with all weeds and other litter, at the bottom of the open one, which not only makes clean digging, and increases the depth of loose soil, but all weeds and their seeds are regularly buried at such a depth that the weeds themselves will rot, and their seeds will not vegetate.—*Jour. of Ag.*

Substitute for Paint.—"W. E. W." is informed that the following is taken from the ap-

pendix to Young's "Farmers' Calendar," edition 1815.—Take fresh curds, and bruise the lumps on a grinding stone or in an earthen pan, or mortar, with a spatula. After this operation, put them into a pot, with an equal quantity of well-slaked lime. They will become thick enough to be kneaded; stir this mixture well, without adding water and you will soon obtain a white coloured fluid, which may be applied with as much facility as varnish, and which dries very speedily. But it must be employed the same day as it will become too thick the day following. Ochre, Armenian bole, and all colours which hold with lime, may be mixed with it, according to the colour which you wish to give to the wood, but care must be taken that the addition of colour made to the first mixture of curds and lime may contain very little water, else the painting will be less durable. When two coats of this paint have been laid on, it may be polished with a piece of woollen cloth, or other proper substance, and will become as bright as varnish. It is certain that no kind of paint can be so cheap; and besides other advantages, in the same day two coats may be laid on and polished, as it dries speedily and has no smell. If it be required to give more durability in places exposed to moisture, cover the painting after it has been polished with the white of an egg; this process will render it the best oil painting. Another from "Bath Papers," vol. 2, p. 144.—Melt 12 oz. of rosin in an iron pot, add 3 gallons of train oil and three or four rolls of brimstone; when melted thin, add as much Spanish brown ochre, first ground fine with as much of the oil as will give your colour; lay it on as hot and thin as possible, and for days after the first coat is dry lay on another. It will preserve plank for ages. Dr. Parry recommends the addition of 4 oz. of bees-wax. Another from "Patterson Society Trans.," vol. 72, p. 255: Weather boarding—to pay. Three parts of air-slaked lime, two of wood-ashes, and one of fine sand or sea-coal ashes; sift through a fine sieve, add as much Linseed oil as will bring it to a consistency for working with a painter's brush. Great care must be taken to mix it perfect: it is impervious to water, and the sun hardens it. As far as personal experience goes, I know nothing of the above. I use a mixture of Stockholm tar and rosin, or pitch, whichever is most easily obtained; the price is about the same. Care must be taken, if heated in the same pot, the