

sudden, must be a severe shock to these most useful, but too often ill-cared for animals. Even in thoroughly warm weather they should receive extra housing on chill nights and during cold storms just after shearing. By the end of this month, it will be time to cut the first crop of clover for seed. Sometimes animals become bloated from eating greedily of fresh clover. The *Annual Register of Rural affairs* prescribes a dose of pulverised charcoal as "the best remedy" in such cases. Quantity to be given, about a tea-cup full to an average sized cow, and in proportion to other creatures, according to their age and weight. It should be mixed with water, and poured down the throat from a junk bottle. Orchards should have the soil cultivated and mellowed, and a liberal supply of well-rotted manure should be harrowed in so that the roots may get a supply of nutriment during the fruiting season. A mulching of straw or old litter is very useful in dry hot weather. Plenty of good fruit is not to be raised without some trouble, any more than other crops. Look out for and exterminate the borer before he gets far into the wood. Destroy tent and other caterpillars, if it be not already done. Watch for the curculio, that pest of the plum orchard. Two ways of getting rid of it are recommended by experienced fruit growers. The first is to gather up the young fruit that falls, and either burn it or feed it to the pigs, that the larvæ may be killed. Pigs and poultry allowed to run among the plum trees will do this work effectually. The second plan is to jar the plum trees, and so shake off the perfected insects. White sheets should be spread for them to fall on, that they may be readily seen, and destroyed. This is a busy month in the garden—weeding, thinning, hoeing, transplanting, watering, and sowing late seeds, will give the gardener enough to do. Cabbages, cauliflowers, early celery, and tomatoes, must be transplanted this month. Cucumber and melon plants will need watching, and defending from

the ravages of the striped bug. Sowing seeds at intervals of a few days is recommended, that they may have a succession of tender leaves to feed upon, and so a supply of the older plants may get out of harm's way. It is in the early stage of the plant that the bug feeds on it. Scattering a hen, plaster, and lime, also destruction by hand, are practised to get rid of these marauders. Cooping a hen with a brood of young chicks near the vines is a good plan. The chicks will devour the bugs, and do the plants no harm. Lettuce, beans, peas, and radishes, may be sown at intervals, to keep up a supply as wanted. Gooseberry and currant trees must be watched, and on any sign of the worm or slug appearing fresh lime should be sifted among the branches. The heads of fruit trees may be shaped, and a too rampant growth prevented by judicious pinching of the young shoots. This is an important month with bees, as it is the time for the new swarms to issue from the hives. Every bee-keeper should supply himself with a good modern text book on apiculture. He will find many suggestions in such work, of especial value about swarming time.

PLANT-FOOD IN THE AIR.

Chemical experiments prove what observation and reflection might almost suggest, viz, that the atmosphere is a vast storehouse of food for plants. The influence of the air on soils has often been remarkably evinced. Clay soil exposed to its action under a process of decomposition. The mineral substances which it contains become so soluble, and are rendered assimilable by plants. The surface of the soil is made porous and powdery, and what was a stiff clay is changed to fine friable earth. But beside thus acting on the soil, and producing this two-fold effect of liberating the stores of food already in the ground, and improving the mechanical-condition of the soil, the atmosphere directly supplies plant nutriment. Carbonic acid is the chief source whence growing plants get their carbon. There is only a small proportion of this in the air—four parts in every 10,000,—and at the first blush, this would seem but very meagre source of supply. But when we consider the enormous volume of the atmosphere, and the perfection of the apparatus