

pans for the purpose of sowing seeds, and use shallow boxes instead. These we prepare by cutting the common-sized soap-box in three pieces, each one of a depth of about two inches. These boxes are filled with the prepared soil to the depth of 1½ inch, which is gently and evenly pressed, so as to give an entirely level surface; the seeds are then sown, and a light covering, from 1-16 to ¼ part of an inch, according to size or strength of seed, is sifted over them, through a sieve having a mesh only 1-10 part of an inch in diameter. The covering is gently pressed, to prevent the air penetrating the loose soil and drying up the seeds; watering, which it is well to avoid as much as possible, is thus rendered less necessary. Be careful, however, not to let them suffer for moisture, as in the weak condition of seedlings, most plants are quickly injured by neglect of this kind, and, even with all possible care, we experience serious losses. Many varieties will "damp off," as we term it, just as the first rough leaves are being formed; this, however, is not the result of excessive moisture, as it occurs just as quickly in a dry temperature as a moist one. It is evidently caused by the same insidious spider-web-like substance that is known among gardeners as the "fungus of the cutting bench," and is evidently one of the minute fungi of which we have so many representatives. The best preventive of this disease, as it is sometimes called, is, just as soon as the seedling plants can be handled, to take them from the seed-boxes, and prick them out in boxes of similar mould, from ½ to 2 inches apart, according to the variety. This is a much better method than potting them off in flower-pots, as it not only saves time and room, but they always do better. In the flower-pots they are liable to be dried up, and the tender roots of the seedling plant thereby quickly destroyed.

**BUTTER IN SACKS.**

The dairymen of Washington Territory, for want of tubs and jars, have adopted a method of putting up and keeping butter which, though novel, presents some features that are worthy the attention of those having butter packed for family use or the retail trade. The packing is thus described:—

All butter is packed in muslin sacks, made in such form that the package, when complete, is a cylinder three or four inches in diameter and from half a foot to a foot in length. The butter goes from the churn, as soon as worked over, into the cylindrical bags, made of fine bleached muslin. The packages are then put into large casks containing strong brine with a slight admixture of saltpetre, and by means of weights kept always below the surface. The cloth

intogument always protects the butter from any impurities that chance to come in contact with the package, and being always buried in brine that protects it from the action of the air, and it has been ascertained by trial that butter put up this way will keep sweet longer than in any other way.

Besides, it is found easier and cheaper for the manufacturer than to pack either in jars or firkins. And for the retailer, there is no telling the advantage on the score of safety and convenience. These rolls of butter can lie upon his counter as safe from injury, from dust or other contact, as bars of lead; can be rolled up for his customer in a sheet of paper with as much propriety as a bundle of matches. If the consumer, when he gets home, discovers specks of dust upon the outside of the sack, he can throw it into a pail of pure cold water and take it out clean and white. As he uses the butter from day to day, with a sharp knife he cuts it off from the end of the roll in slices of thickness suited to his want, and peels off the cloth from the end of the slice, leaving it in tidy form to place upon the table.—*Rural New-Yorker.*

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