

MANAGEMENT OF THE YOUNG.

The little rabbits are born blind and helpless, covered only with a short velvety down. On the fifth day they open their eyes; on the sixth, the liveliest fellows amongst them begin to peep outside the nest. At a month old they eat alone, and partake of food together with their mother. At six weeks old they no longer require the doe, and ought to be weaned. This short period is quite sufficient to allow in the first term of rearing them. If they were left longer, they would be apt to exhaust the dam, which ought to be avoided. After weaning, two modes of feeding have been adopted with equal success; the first is, to introduce all the weanlings, from time to time, into a large hutch or common apartment, in which they are tended carefully, kept warm and clean, and fed several times in the course of the day. At each feeding time, every particle of victuals which has been trampled upon, is scrupulously withdrawn: and it is found by observing these regulations, the losses are very few, or none. When two months and a half old, they are placed with those destined for the table. In this case, the precaution is taken to cut the males before they are thus set at liberty in mixed society. They will fatten on carrots, oats, hay, and bran, with a few peas now and then.

The second plan is to keep together all the young rabbits of the same month that is to say they are distributed in six large hutches or apartments, care being taken to separate the males from the females (or to cut them) by the end of the third month. From the fifth to the sixth month, all those intended for sale are disposed of, after selecting the han-

Breeding of Rabbits.

Continued From page 166.

If the doe has had a previous litter, they must all be removed before she brings forth a second time; her hutch, too, ought to have been well cleaned out. Take care not to touch the young unless, at least, they are deposited in a wet place, or any of them die. All unnecessary disturbance or handling, is apt to make the mother kill the whole of her family. When you find that a doe overlays or eats her young, mark her well, and remember the circumstance; for if the same misfortune happen again the best thing to be done is to fatten and kill her. If, however, she be a favourite animal, and an attempt at reformation be resolved upon, she must be abundantly fed with good substantial food, and disturbed no more than is absolutely necessary.