

way, the stalks are very liable to be much broken by growing against the sides or tops of the pots; to remedy this evil Mr. Judd, of Edmonton, covered his bed with open frame work, around, and on which he placed the dung. On this system it grew very fine, and required much less attention than with pots or glasses. Another method is to take the roots up carefully, and plant them in a fluid mushroom shed, either in a bed of tan, or in pots and boxes filled with light soil, or tan, and allowed a temperature of 45 to 55 or 60 degrees. Tan is preferable to soil, because it receives the water more freely when given to the roots, and Mr. Knight has satisfactorily shown that the roots of all perennial herbaceous plants, contain within themselves, all the organizable matter, necessary for the formation of the leaves, and therefore require little or no soil, but only heat and water for their development. After the forcing season the roots are divided and planted on a north border, and the strongest selected for forcing again the following season. This method we believe is practised at Elford, Kirkley Hall, Pinkie House, Scotland, and many other places. We have found the system of forcing in Mushroom sheds to produce large crops, of an excellent quality; and with some exceptions, it may be reckoned one of the best methods in use. We have observed, however, that where much fermentation is going on, with new beds, the colour of the stalks have been materially injured, and the flavour nothing near so good as when grown under other circumstances. Others again take up old roots of four or five years standing, and plant them in large pots of rich mould, as thick as the roots can be placed in each pot; these pots are taken either to a peach-house, greenhouse, pine-pit or any other place where they can have a good heat, but experience has taught us that old roots when forced, never produce stalks so fine as young roots under similar treatment. Another method practised at Holly-Bush Hall, near Lichfield, is found very successful, particularly with the strong growing sorts; it is true a very large quantity of dung is required to give a sufficient heat in severe weather, but where it can be accomplished it answers extremely well. The young roots are permanently planted two feet apart, in beds three feet wide, with alleys betwixt them two feet wide, and one and a half feet deep. In the autumn, after the leaves are off, fork the beds over, to the depth of four inches, and break the soil small with a rake head, then place a Sea-cale pot over each root, and cover the soil in the inside with dry sand six inches thick; this done fill up the trenches with dung from the stables, well shaken together, and carry it up in one foot three inches above the beds, then cover the beds with dry littery straw, to the height of one foot three inches above the tops of the pots. The sides of the beds should be built up with bricks and pigeon-holed.

The system of culture we would recommend, is one that we have practised ourselves with the greatest success; and first we shall give a detail of our method of

**SOWING THE SEED.**—About the end of February or beginning of March make up a bed of stable dung about three feet high at the back, and two feet six inches at the front; when well beaten down with the fork, and nicely levelled off, set on a frame of the size required, and lay on the bed, about nine inches thickness of good light rich mould, mixed with a third of good rotten dung, beat these ingredients well together; and when the surface is level, scatter the seeds broadcast, and cover them about half an inch thick, with the same soil broke fine; then put on the glasses, and in about three weeks the plants will be up. As soon as they begin to appear, give abundance of air, and continue to increase it, so that in April the glasses may be taken off altogether, they will, however, require protection from frosts at night, until they are ready to plant out in the open ground, which will be in May.

**PLANTING OUT.**—If it is intended to plant out for permanent use, select a quarter of good rich soil, and trench it about three feet deep, adding a good supply of well rotted dung; be careful, however, in trenching, not to bury all the top spit of soil in the bottom of the trench, but reserve it for the roots to be planted in, for they will thrive much better in it, than in that taken up so far from the surface. Then plant the roots in rows six feet apart, and four feet from root to root in the rows, for the smaller growing sorts, as Wilmots, &c., and six feet from root to root for the Gigantic and other strong growing kinds. Or if planted on Dr. Bevan's system, stated vol. 1, page 486, they grow very fine. None of the stalks should be gathered the first or second years, but in the third season they may be used as required. Cut off all the flower stalks as soon as they begin to shew flower, except such as may be left to collect seed from, which should always be the finest. Never gather the stalks to excess late in the summer, for if this be not attended to, they will so far degenerate as to throw up the following season a complete wood of spindling, stringy stalks, scarcely fit for use; whereas, if treated properly, they will continue to produce abundantly for many years.

**GENERAL CULTURE.**—All the culture required after planting out, is to keep them free from weeds during summer, and to fork in a good coat of rotten dung every spring; the crowns should also be covered with a portion of half-rotted dung, to preserve them from being injured by frost in winter.

**PLANTING OUT FOR FORCING.**—Take the plants from the hot-bed where they were sown, and plant them in rows eighteen inches apart every way, on ground previously well-dunged and trenched two feet deep. Stir the soil about them occasionally during summer to encourage