


the ridges with the plough, the seed is sown on their crests. This enables the young plants to obtain a ready supply of manure, which promotes a rapid growth. It is advisable to sow turnips thick, as thin sowing is liable to many accidents, which are far from being counterbalanced by the expense that is saved in thinning. Thick sowing can bear the ravages of the fly, and leave a sufficient crop behind. It is a protection against drought, gives the plants an impetus, and establishes them in the ground before it is necessary to thin them. Thinning should be done by the hand, as the use of the hoe is apt to disturb the roots of the plants that are to stand, and to leave them open to drought by removing the earth from them.


The harvesting of this root may be put off until all other crops have been gathered, as they are not liable to be injured by the early frosts, and as they are liable to fermentation if kept too long stored. As a cheap and nutritious winter food for cattle, turnips stand unrivalled; and although they may be inferior to other roots in the amount of nutriment they contain, still, as they are easily raised, and their yield is always large, they may be safely recommended as the best root crop that can be cultivated.

HILLING INDIAN CORN.

 correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph, speaking of the practice of hilling corn, says: "Constructing large, conical hills, on land which is light and dry, must inevitably tend to increase the effects of drought, inasmuch as it exposes more surface of the atmosphere and consequently increases aërication at times when all the moisture contained in the soil is required for the support and sustenance of the plants. When rain falls, the conical hills conduct the water from the roots to the centre of space between the rows and hills, very little of the fluid being retained about the plants, or within range of the small roots, by which the *pabulum* is taken up by the growing plants, and without which they would immediately languish and decay. On light soils hilling is always disadvantageous to the crop. Every fresh stratum of earth placed over the roots causes a protrusion of a new set of laterals, to the detriment of those previously formed. This exhausts the energy of the plant, without increasing, in any great degree, its powers of appropriating food from the surrounding soil, as the first formed roots

cease to grow as soon as those caused by the deposition of new soil are developed, and in a short time will be found to have lost their vitality and become mere worthless appendages."

THISTLES.

VARIOUS methods have been suggested, and different plans adopted to get rid of this most troublesome plant, yet still they continue to grow and propagate their species, despite all the efforts made to destroy them. Here and there is a farm which was once infested, entirely free of them, but this has only been effected by waging unceasing war against them at an immense expense of time and labor. They are, as all know, a very prolific plant, (as, indeed, all evil weeds are) and increase quite as rapidly as any other *nuisance* in the vocabulary of weeds. There seems to be a possibility of eradicating thistles by the ordinary means mentioned below, but to keep fields from being continually subject to their growth, requires united action on the part of those whose farms adjoin each other. If A. and B., whose farms lie side by side, should both be troubled with this pest, it is evident that so long as A. refuses to take means to exterminate them, B. cannot, however industriously he may labor, keep them out of his land, for no sooner does seeding time arrive than B's field is again filled with seed wafted by the winds from his neighbor's thistle plantation.

When thistles first make their appearance on a farm, they can be rooted up with a little trouble. They should be removed with garden trowel or small spade immediately, care being taken to extract the whole of the root, for unless this is done, it is but lost labor, as every particle left behind, however small, is sure to have vitality sufficient to produce another plant. When lands are overrun, or have become foul with thistles, it is recommended to let them alone until the seed is about to take wing. The stalks of the larger plants are then hollow, and if cut just before rain, the water will descend to the roots and effectually destroy them. One writer says, that having a field much infested with thistles, he adopted the novel plan of *pulling* them some little time before they bloomed, and just after two or three days' rain, when the ground was soft. For this purpose he hired several women and boys, and having armed each of them with a good pair of