

PIE PLANT.

The *Country Gentleman*, in reply to a correspondent who wished to know the best varieties of the Pie Plant, mode of cultivation &c., gives the following hints on the subject:—

"Many new varieties of the Pie Plant are constantly springing into existence, every plant from seed varying more or less from the parent. The Tobolsk is an early, red variety; the Giant is a large, later, green variety; these are the two leading old sorts.—There are many newer and more approved, among which Downing's Colossal is highly esteemed for its excellence, and Cahoon's for its great size. There are now many others of high merit, under experiment. Our correspondent should however observe, that there is less difference in the inherent tendency to large growth than many suppose, great size depending on the depth, richness, and cultivation of the soil—or as we have heard a skilful gardener remark, "tell me how much manure and deep digging you have given your plants, and I will tell you whether you have the large kind or not."

When Pie Plant is raised from seed, it should be planted very early in the spring, and as the seed is about a month in coming up, a few radish seed should be mixed with them, to mark the row, and show where to hoe. The radishes will be large enough to use before the rhubarb has attained much size. It will require three years for the seedling pie plants to be ready to use. Although seedling plants will vary in character, yet from fine sorts all will be good. To preserve the exact identity of any variety, the roots must be divided in autumn by cutting each eye separately, and planting out about two inches below the surface, protecting them through winter by a few inches of leaves. The second year they will do to use. They may be divided about every three years, the time varying however with the richness of cultivation. The size will depend much on their having plenty of room—which should not be less than two feet in the row, and the rows four feet apart.

REPORT ON THE MURRAIN OF CATTLE.—The report of Dr. E. Headlam Greenhow on the murrain in horned cattle, and the effects of the consumption of their flesh on human health, has been sent in to the General Board of Health, and since printed. It forms a blue book of 60 or 70 pages. The learned doctor gives a lucid account of the disease among cattle as manifested in England and on the continent. The result of his inquiry is, that the cattle disease which he was desired to investigate, is not of recent origin, but has prevailed in the United Kingdom among horned cattle for the last 15 or 16 years; that it is not peculiar to London; that it is probably infectious, but is also developed spontaneously in consequence of some unknown peculiarities of breed, management, season, or locality, and is not supposed to have been imported from abroad; that it is identical with the *lungenseuche*, or pulmonary murrain, now prevalent in Mecklenburg, Holstein, and elsewhere; and that it has no affinity with the *rinderpest*, or steppe-murrain, with which it has been confounded by some English writers. The doctor suggests that the importation of the steppe-murrain (which would be most probably by way of Prussia) should be prevented by the prohibition of the importation of cattle except from countries which give clean bills of health. It appears that meat derived from animals suffering from the pulmonary murrain, and probably other diseases, is commonly and extensively sold in London and elsewhere for human food, but that there is no satisfactory proof that the consequences of consuming it are directly injurious. There are reasons to suppose that the use of meat from animals suffering under diseases unknown among the cattle of the United Kingdom has, abroad, been frequently attended with severe consequences on human health. The consumption of meat undergoing decomposition has frequently been injurious and such meat cannot be eaten with safety even when cooked.

EDUCATION IN SWEDEN.—We learn that a system of Public Schools is about being introduced in Sweden. The government is taking measures to improve teachers and schools, and to make the schools Public or Free. Friends of popular education will rejoice to see such a policy become general in the old world. The Agent of that government has shown his appreciation of one of the essentials of a good school, by ordering some School Desks from Boston. These desks are to be sent to the palace of Stockholm and will show royally what talent and skill, educated in public schools, are furnishing so generally for American children.