

ground where it is sown should be raked level, and the soil pulverized fine. Parsley seed is very slow in germinating, taking three or four weeks before it shows any sign of growth, unless the weather is very favorable.

A row or two of lettuce seed should be sown as soon as the ground can be worked nicely. The early Ohio and the Hanson are two good varieties.

A packet of leek seed sown early will give quite a number of plants for planting out later on. Leek seed should be sown in shallow drills about three-quarters of an inch deep. Later on, when the plants are four or five inches high, they can be planted in shallow trenches in a few inches of soil,

underneath which has been placed some well rotted manure.

It is hardly safe to plant dwarf or pole beans until the first or second week in May.

A few sets of early potatoes can be planted early in May, or earlier if the weather is suitable. The Van Ornam and the early Ohio are two of the best first early kinds.

A good sized bed of spinach should be sown early, as the first sowing is usually the most productive and nicest eating. Late sown spring spinach is an uncertain and oftentimes useless crop, as it is generally tough and flavorless in the hot weather. The Viroflay is about the best variety for spring sowing.

Hamilton.

W. HUNT.

## HOW TO MAKE CUTTINGS.



**A** BIT of a plant stuck in the ground stands a chance of growing and this bit is a cutting. Of most flowering plants cuttings or slips are taken from the green or growing wood. To tell whether the wood is in the right stage for taking cuttings give it a quick snap between the fingers and if it snaps and hangs by the bark it is all right; but if it bends without breaking, it is too young or old; or if it splinters, it is too old and woody. Sand or gravel is the best soil to start the cuttings in. It should be kept wet all the way through and be protected from the sun and too

rapid evaporation. A newspaper thrown over a box of cuttings is a good protection.

The tips of strong, upright shoots usually make the best cuttings. Each slip should have a joint near the base. Allow two or three leaves to remain near the top and if the leaves are too large, cut them in two. As soon as new leaves start well and the cutting is rooted, it may be potted into good soil in pots or boxes, but it may take several weeks or even months for the cutting to take root. As long as they remain green they are all right.

**THE WAY TO FORCE PLANTS TO BRANCH.**—There is only one way in which a plant can be forced to branch, and that is by cutting off the stalk. The plant thus interfered with will make an effort to grow, and either a new shoot will be sent up to take the place of the lost top, or several

shoots will be sent out along the stalk. If but one starts cut it back. Keep up this cutting-back process until you have obliged as many branches as you think are needed. Persistency and patience will oblige the plant to do as you would like to have it do.  
—*April Ladies' Home Journal.*