will keep the roots growing beneath the surface, so that when the spring comes, not only are the shoots early, but when ready to cut, they are of a good size, tender, and of a deli-Salt is of great use to asparagus, and the plants will bear an extaaordinary cious flavor. In its wild state, the natural habitat of the asparagus is near the sea or salt lakes The top dressing, even where the bed has not been thoroughly enriched before the plants were set out, will answer every purpose, and during the next season the old plants will throw out new roots near the surface, from which strong shoots will come up the next year.

CULTURE OF THE RASPBERRY.

The Raspherry has much to recommend its culture. Immediately succeeding the Strawberry, and coming in before the larger fruits, it occupies a time when little else is to be had; it is more conveniently gathered than the strawberry; and the plants not being large enough to shade other crops in the kitchen garden, they may be set on the line of any subdivisions of the grounds. It is eminently a wholesome fruit, and sometimes valuable medicine from its expectorant qualities, which the writer proved to advantage in his own case, for whom it was recommended by high medical authority, and it was found not at all repulsive to take, even in quite large doses.

Propagation.—Most varieties increase rapidly by suckers—a few, as the American Black and White, root readily from layers, the tips of the recurved shoots being buried; and nearly all sorts may be propagated rapidly by cutting the roots into small pieces, and starting them with bottom heat. New varieties, raised from seed by crossing, often

bear the second year.

Soil.—The soil should be rich and inclining to moist. A strong deep loam, is the only soil from which a full crop may be expected every season. But the most important requisit is depth, attained by a deep trenching, which will go far towards affording a remedy for the natural defects of a stiff clay on the one hand, and a dry gravelly or sandy soil on the other. Irrigation has doubled the size of the berries in a few days, and more than doubled the growth of the stems in a season,—showing the great importance of securing moisture for the roots, by a deep, mellow soil, and by mulching. The latter has been found of great importance and has greatly increased the crop. The tender sorts will ripen wood more perfectly, and endure cold with less injury if planted on the drier and

firmer spots of ground.

Pruning.—This consists simply in cutting away, early in spring, all the last year's bearing canes, now two years old, and leaving only the one year's shoots, which will bear the coming summer. Half a dozen of the strongest in each bunch will be enough, and the rest may be cut away at the surface by the use of a sharp trowel. The tops are then

cut off three or four feet from the ground.

Training.—The most common and simple mode is to tie the canes together, loosely, so that they may spread at the top in the form of a wine-glass, and employing a stake to stiffen them. An improvement on the same principle, is made by stretching a wire along the row, spreading out the canes in contact with the wire, and securing them by cord Another mode is the two-year bearing-canes, being bent over in the form of an arch and tied to stakes, while the present year's shoots grow upright, to be bent down in the same way the following spring, after the old bearing canes are cut away. mode the bearing canes are separated from the others, and have more light and air.

Tender varieties may be protected by prostrating them and covering thinly with earth. Even when not so tender as to be killed, this protection assists their productiveness. A small earth mound should be placed against each stem to bend upon and prevent break-

For extensive marketing, plantations of raspberries prove quite profitable on the best soils, producing about five hundred dollars per acre in each year, when accessible to good

city markets.

The best varieties of the Raspberry are the Red Antwerp, large, dark red, rich and juicy berry, admirably fitted for marketing; the Fustalff, resembling the Red Antwerp, but richer and softer in texture; the Franconia, quite similar, but later, of firm flesh, and is rather hardier than either the others; Knevett's Giant, very large, and of fine quality; Yellow Antwerp, large, comical, excellent, but tender, and a moderate bearer; Col. Wilder resembling the latter, but with smaller berries, and much hardier stems; Large Fruited ?