

different. To test this point I have the same variety sown later now coming on, and hope to report on the experiment later. At present it appears that for utility purposes this and similar varieties are of the greatest value. First-early varieties, by which is meant varieties that take the shortest time to come into use, have not been tried in proper sequence this season. The reason for this it is not necessary to relate, and I will not go back to other years. A comparison, however, is afforded by the pea Richard Seddon, sown on the 14th August and gathered on the 14th December, lasting till the 30th December. Note that this took as long as Springtide to mature, and lasted half the time, or less. A promising first-early—Impudence—is being grown for seed. Four seeds were sent me last year, and seed from these is now maturing. A further crop, sown on the 10th October, was ready for use on the 23rd December. Further observations will be reported on in future issues.

When these notes appear all provision for winter should be made or arranged for except in a few cases.

*Turnip-seed* may still be sown in small quantity. It is too early yet to sow for winter use.

*Leeks* may be planted up to the middle of March, but it should be understood that only those planted before this time will attain a large size. Good size is very essential in leeks. Few plants make so many roots or take so much out of the soil as these do. The method of planting has been described before, but will bear repeating, as there are still many who adhere to the old wasteful way of planting in trenches. The plot should be first marked out in lines 15 in. apart. Then hoe a deep drill along each mark, as though intended for beans or peas. Now take a dibber and make a hole its full depth. Put in a plant as far as it will reach; now lift it a few inches to bring the roots, which will be doubled up by insertion in the hole, into a proper position; thrust the dibber into the soil about 3 in. from the hole, and lever the handle over toward the plant. This will fill the hole full of soil and at the same time make it firm about the plant. The plants require to be large, so that at least 8 in. will be below the surface. Needless to say, the soil should be deep and well worked, otherwise the leeks could not be planted, nor would it be fit to grow them.

*Endive* may be sown now for winter use in the same way as lettuce.

*Silver-beet* should be sown at once. Sow in drills 15 in. apart, and thin to 12 in. in the rows. The best varieties I have grown are Lucullus and Sutton's seakale beet. The soil should be deep and rich.