

system will be—seed-saving from selected plants, to work up a good strain, and renewal every few years by seedlings rather than by dividing plants. There is a wide field for selection, as plants differ greatly in size of stalk and colour. It is very little use attempting to grow rhubarb of any sort in any but rich ground. It seems impossible to feed it too much. A soil very rich in humus is an absolute necessity to complete success. Stable or farmyard manure is the best of all, because it supplies humus as well as other requirements. Humus provides a good working medium for the roots, and retains moisture in summer. Here, being unable to obtain that form of manure, leaves cut off are returned to the soil as far as possible, and sheep-droppings are collected, soaked in a tub of water, and then poured on between the plants—a tiresome process where water has to be carried some distance, but it must be done or failure will result. Bonemeal is given in winter.

Waste vegetable matter of various kinds, always inseparable from vegetable gardening, such as cabbage-leaves, tops cut from turnips when bunched up—in fact, all such stuff—has a value in the economy of the garden if properly used. It is a good plan to have a plot of ground from which a crop has been cleared dug by degrees and all such stuff dug into it. It returns a certain amount of humus, lacking which soil becomes unworkable and infertile. This waste material if left on the surface withers away in a useless manner. Perishable weeds should be also dug in. Weeds with perennial roots like couch and sorrel, and other garden refuse, such as soft hedge-clippings, should be put in a heap and occasionally sprinkled with lime to destroy fungus spores. This makes in time good vegetable mould valuable for digging in.

SMALL FRUIT.

There are many inquirers about the cultivation of *Cape gooseberries*. This is a fruit that undoubtedly deserves more extensive cultivation. It is an excellent pie fruit, second to none as a preserve, and bottles well. The plant is a biennial—that is to say, it lives two years; but, unlike most biennial plants, it flowers and fruits twice if the plants are raised at the proper time. The time to sow the seed is from mid March to early April. The plant is injured by frost, therefore it requires shelter of some kind. If the seed is sown in a box the seedlings should be pricked off into other boxes, and kept in these till danger of spring frosts is passed. It is important to secure strong plants for putting out, so that considerable-sized bushes are obtained by early autumn after planting; otherwise they are late coming into fruit, and bear but few fruit the first season. For that reason plants raised in spring are of little value. The manner of planting may differ according to circumstances. Some plant against a fence and tie the plants roughly