

deteriorate in quality. Cuttings may be rooted in several ways and at various times. The best plan for the amateur is to strike them in the open ground in a well-sheltered and semi-shady place. Cuttings must be of unflowered shoots, 4 in. or 5 in. long, the lower two or three pairs of leaves removed, and the shoot cut squarely across just below, not through, a joint. Wait till the weather cools a bit before putting them in. The old-fashioned blue *Ageratum* can be rooted in the same way.

Shrubby *calceolarias*, meaning those that grow in the garden, can be struck from cuttings with the greatest ease if they are put in at the right time. Cuttings about 3 in. long, prepared as described for pentstemons, may be inserted in May in a cool part of the garden. Surface the soil with sand first. Every cutting will grow.

*Hardy annuals* of all kinds may be sown in the open ground during March and early April.

*Preparations for Planting.*—When the next number of the *Journal* is issued it will be time to begin general planting, therefore a few words in regard to preparation may not be out of place. It is always a mistake to begin before you are ready. When a thing is not done in its proper sequence it most frequently is never done at all. Before beginning to plant a garden it should be determined what ought to be done by way of preparation, and then do it. Maybe it wants draining. If you do not put drains in before planting, it is very unlikely you will ever do so. Draining is the first thing to attend to. If a proper fall can be secured there is no difficulty; put the drains in deep enough to be out of the reach of tree-roots. It is seldom safe to make them less than 3 ft. deep. If the subsoil is hard or of a clayey nature it is generally necessary to trench, and it is always best to do so. When trenching, keep the layers of soil in the same relative positions they now occupy—that is, keep the top on top. I have heard men argue that the top should be underneath, giving as a reason that when shrubs are planted they are not planted in the top soil. This has always proved good logic but very bad practice.

Presuming a plot of ground is to be laid out in grass, beds, and paths, then the whole patch should be trenched, thus securing uniformity of texture for rain to sink through. Beds laid out on untrenched land, unless they are specially drained, become mere water-holes. Paths left solid dam the water instead of helping it off. In countries where this kind of work is always properly done the paths are so constructed as to drain the land contiguous to them. The whole block is trenched, loose soil is thrown out of the path, pipes laid along the side, then 12 in. of rough metal and a covering of gravel. These paths are finished at a lower level than the lawn or garden; they are always dry, and are seldom weedy.