

the fertilizers wanted, while it provides humus, without which plants will not thrive. By darkening the soil it increases its warmth, for anything of a dark nature absorbs heat, and light colours reflect heat. It increases moisture in dry weather, and generally effects improvement in working and makes for the congeniality of the soil as a rooting-medium. When large quantities of this kind of manure are not available it would be unwise to bury it deep down; it would be better, too, when trenching to work in any garden or farm rubbish (such as the bottom of hay or grain stacks, or cleanings of roadsides and ditches) into the lower strata of soil, and keep the good manure for the top; but be very careful not to work in anything in the way of wood (such as gooseberry-prunings, or hedge-clippings containing firm wood), for they fill the soil with fungoid growths that are inimical to plant-life. All such rubbish should be burned.

*Cauliflower-plants* for spring planting are in some places somewhat difficult to raise. This is particularly the case in low-lying places subject to frost. Usually all goes well for the first few weeks; then they begin to damp off, or cease to grow. To a large extent raised beds remedy this evil, sometimes entirely so; but some protection is at times imperative to ensure good plants. There are several ways of raising plants. Some sow the seed in boxes under glass. I think this plan a bad one, because at this dull part of the year such treatment is more than likely to result in soft plants. I prefer to sow in the open. Let the plants remain there till they show signs of stagnation; then lift and prick off into boxes. Put these under glass, but keep the glass off on all fine days. When the plants have become large enough for planting out, the boxes should be placed outside in a dry situation to harden off before finally planting them out.

*Cabbage-plants* should be pricked off into new beds as soon as they are large enough to handle. The site of the beds should be in a well-drained position and be raised above the ordinary level. Prick out the plants about 4 in. or 5 in. apart. Dealing with the plants in this manner provides a stocky plant, and also accelerates their growth, and that to such a marked degree that when these are finally planted and in good growth those in the original bed will have been so much retarded by crowding each other as to provide plants for a successional bed.

Sowing *cabbage*, *cauliflower*, *lettuce*, and *onion* was previously advised as work to be done at the beginning of this month. If such has not been done, neglect it no longer. In some places turnips may be sown up till May. This will be in fairly dry and sunny situations. I have sown *carrot-seed* during the latter part of April, but it is seldom worth while to do so. The only valid reason is that it continues the supply till the latest possible date in spring. Thus any one having an imperative call for carrots for flavouring all through the year will find that these