

Daybreak. These two will, as a rule, require about ten days longer than Richard Seddon and other true dwarfs, but the crop will be quite threefold in quantity, and will last three times as long. It is obvious, therefore, that it is far more profitable. This is why I advise cottagers who have little room and farmers who have little time to spare, and who will not value the few days earlier, to let the true dwarfs severely alone. In domestic gardens of more pretention, however, whether it be on a station or suburban-villa grounds, the earliest varieties should be regarded as indispensable. The main-crop varieties should be the mainstay of the season's supply, because it is they that give the quality and size of pea.

Broad beans may now be put in at any time. Sown within the next four weeks, the first gathering should be ready early in November.

Lettuces and *endive* may be planted in well-drained ground.

Beyond this there is no seed-sowing or planting that comes within ordinary practice for the next few weeks. Efforts should be directed towards keeping the place clean; weedy ground should be dug over, as well as all plots as they become cleared of crops. The soil will be more benefited by exposure to air and what sun there is than by growing weeds, which tend to make the soil cold and sour, and afford shelter for the slugs, &c., that will be a plague in the spring. The cleaning-up should extend to advancing crops of spinach and silver-beet, which will prove of considerable value in early spring—that is, if properly thinned to enable the plants to attain good size and otherwise encouraged to grow. Ground intended for early planting, and which is to have stable manure dug in, should be prepared as soon as possible. In general practice it is better to let the ground settle a few weeks than to dig in manure and plant or sow at once. This applies particularly to onions. The seed should go into firm soil. A loose bed is prejudicial to success. Where green crops have been grown for turning in, whether it be peas, tares, mustard, or oats, they should be turned in soon, so that the ground may settle, and the green matter changed by decay to render it available as plant-food before the crop is put in.

FLOWER-GARDEN.

Dahlias have long since been cut down in many places; in others they have gone sere by the natural process. What to do with them is the question asked by many. The nurseryman has his way, a way that complies to his demands from the tubers. A quite different way is better in the average garden. A very large number of dahlias are lost every year, partly from lack of understanding the physiology of the tubers and partly through want of appreciation of the dangers that beset them. When dahlias are lifted from the ground they are