

## THE FARM GARDEN.

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### VEGETABLE-CULTURE.

JULY is practically the first month of spring in many parts, so far as garden-work is concerned. Local conditions vary so much in various places that it is impossible to state a date that will be suitable for all. Local knowledge must be the guide. It may be taken as an axiom that spring sowing and planting should commence as soon as the soil and other circumstances are suitable. An early start is an advantage, but not unless all conditions are right, for crops that hang fire, so to speak, seldom do well. With the proviso mentioned spring operations may commence, including the planting of cabbages, cauliflowers, lettuces, and onions from the autumn sowing; also the sowing of carrot, lettuce, onion, cabbage, cauliflower, radish, mustard and cress, and cucumbers for growing in frames or houses. Peas are now to be sown in any place, and continued fortnightly sowings should be made. Parsnips may be sown if required early, but on the whole it is better to leave these till later. Plant garlic, shallots, and chives. Turnips must not be sown till August. Rhubarb may now be planted. Fuller seasonal directions respecting the above-mentioned vegetables may be found in the *Journal* for June of last year.

### ASPARAGUS-CULTURE.

The preparatory steps which are necessary for the successful cultivation of asparagus must depend on the local conditions. It is a very strong-growing plant, and very deep-rooting. Only those who have had the unpleasant task of destroying a good bed of asparagus can form any idea of what a strong plant it is. It follows that unless the soil is in a condition to permit of deep rooting the plant cannot do really well; but, considering what a long-lived plant it is, and comparing the results to be attained, the labour involved in the preparation of the soil is, after all, not a great matter.

There may, however, be practically no preparation required. If the soil is a deep alluvial deposit, and, as is usual in such cases, the subsoil is sand and gravel, no trenching will be needed. It is neither necessary nor is it advisable in such cases to trench manure in deeply; it will wash down with rain. The soil being free, the roots can get down to find moisture and other food. If the subsoil is of any other character trenching is necessary, and