

top wire (see Fig. 10, C, C, page 203 of same *Journal*). Where the growth of the vine has been such that a new rod could not be obtained, then the old rod has to be retained and spur-pruned (as shown in Fig. 12, page 204, *idem*). This occurs in weaker-growing vines, such as Muscat Hamburg. In this case leave only two of the strongest shoots from the crown; in the former case four should be allowed to grow from the spurs that have been left for that purpose. No disbudding is done on the rods left for fruiting.

Sulphur the vines as soon as 9 in. or a foot of growth has been made.

CELLAR WORK.

As the spring advances the wine in the cellar begins to move, particularly in the case of the young wine. This may force the bungs out, so that watch must be kept and the casks gone over daily for a time. Very drying winds occur at this period of the year, so that a certain amount of filling-up must be done.

THE GARDEN.

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VEGETABLE-CULTURE.

THE next few weeks should be a busy period in vegetable-gardens. Spring-sown crops will demand attention in hoeing, weeding, and thinning, and a good deal of advance work in sowing and planting has to be carried out. Thinning growing crops of onions, turnips, &c., should be done as early as possible. When the plants are crowded they draw up weakly, and delay in thinning is attended by harm in proportion to the delay. The soil should be kept loose between crops, this having very beneficial effects on growth.

Advance work includes sowing all the gourd tribe, which includes pumpkins, marrows, cucumbers, pie-melons, rock-melons, and water-melons. All these may be sown on the flat in groups 10 ft. or 12 ft. apart. A good plan is to make a drill in a circle about 12 in. across, the drill to be about 1½ in. deep. Three plants will be sufficient in each clump, but a few extra seeds should be put in to allow for losses. Gourds do not require very rich soil—moisture is of greater consequence, therefore the soil should be deeply worked.

Winter rhubarb may be sown in drills 2 ft. apart, and the plants thinned to 1 ft. apart, and eventually to 2 ft. apart when they begin to grow together. Rich and deeply worked soil is required for rhubarb. Good artificial manures are superphosphate and blood-and-bone, 2 oz. per square yard of the former and 1½ oz. of the latter, followed by nitrate of soda, 1 oz. per square yard, after the plants have begun to grow freely. Sulphate of potash is useful, but it may be substituted by wood-ashes in liberal quantity. Fowl-manure that has been kept dry till it will powder up is valuable for this and most other strong-