

with light sandy soil and lay the pieces of root flat upon the surface, keeping the pieces just clear of each other. Just cover the pieces of root with fine compost and place in mild bottom heat—a hotbed answers well. The young plants will break through in about a fortnight, the time they take depending on the amount of heat. When they are strong enough, which will be before many days have passed, prick them off into boxes and return to heat. The plants so raised usually have several stems, and soon make fine plants, the after-treatment being to pot them up and gradually harden them off.

Carnation-cuttings—"pipings" they are termed—can be rooted at any time of the year provided the means are adapted to the weather. In spring-time they can be rooted on a hotbed or in a propagating-case in a heated house. During summer the process is carried out under hand-lights or bell glasses in the open ground, selecting a spot sheltered from the midday sun; the soil should have a covering of sand. In autumn, when sun-heat is not strong and the soil is moist, they will root anywhere in the garden (or better in boxes) in a semi-shaded position, but plants so raised are slow in growth and do very little the first year. Pippings are made from flowerless shoots taken off where the substance is firm. Remove a few of the lower leaves and cut square across just below a joint; cut off the tops of the grass, but be careful not to injure the young grass breaking up in the centre. Layering is the best way to propagate carnations, layers providing strong plants straightaway. For layering clear away a few leaves from the base of a shoot, then with a sharp knife make an incision on the under-side, starting just below a joint. Taper the knife in till it reaches near the centre of the shoot, carrying it upward for a little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Peg the layer firmly into the soil, making the grass stand nearly perpendicular, which will keep the cut open. Pegs may be made of wire in the form of a lady's hairpin, but thicker, or, which is much better, from the ripe fronds of bracken-fern. Layers root in four or five weeks. They should be then lifted and planted in nurse-beds where the soil is of a free nature. When speaking of pippings it was said that the tops of the grass must be cut off. This is done to stop their demand for sap, which there are no roots to supply; the young leaves in the centre are sufficient to promote the formation of roots. But on no account cut the grass on layers; the half-divided stem is able to support it, and it effects a rapid formation of abundance of roots. If the grass were cut, nearly all the advantage of layering would be lost.

Pinks—near relatives of the carnation—are easily propagated in autumn by tearing off the shoots with a heel of old wood, bedding them closely in boxes of garden soil with a good surfacing of sand, well watering, and standing in a semi-shaded position sheltered from strong wind. Practically every piece will root.

Milk-products Investigation.—The officer of the Dairy Division selected to visit the United States and Canada for the purpose of acquiring first-hand information regarding the preparation of milk-products, such as milk-powder and sugar of milk, is Mr. W. Dempster, Dairy Instructor, Hamilton. Arrangements have been made for Mr. Dempster to leave for America in April.