

Cleaning the house: The rafters of most houses are of wood, and can be scrubbed with warm water and soap, and the glass syringed clean with water. The walls, if of rough weatherboards and painted, can be whitewashed. Walls of concrete, brick, &c., are normally whitewashed. The soil of the inside borders should be well dug over. If artificial manure, such as bonedust, &c., is to be added, it can be spread over first at the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. to the square yard, and the digging will turn this well under. On completion of this work, if a wire is stretched along about 1 ft. outside the centre path of the house and pegged down, the vine-rods slightly bowed can be tied down to it till growth starts in spring. The object of this is to make the vine start its growth more evenly. It checks the strong flow of sap to the end of the rod, making the growth at that place much stronger than in the lower parts of the rod, which latter condition occurs if the rod is tied up to the wires before it makes a start.

#### THE VINEYARD.

The vines may be pruned when the wood is ripe—that is, when it has lost its green herbaceous appearance and assumed its brown winter state. If cut at this stage no bleeding follows. Till the pruning is done no attempt should be made to remove from espalier fences the branches that are to come away, however confused a mass the growth may appear. Dragging at these branches may lead to breaking or injury to the rods that are to be retained, or to the base of those that are to be cut back to spurs.

Use great care in selection of rods that are to be retained. Whenever available these should be lower on the stem of the plant than those cut back to form spurs that are to provide new growth for the following year. If this method were not observed the stem would get higher every year. Start slowly at this work; speed will come as the eye gets accustomed to the apparent confusion of branches, and then the cuts can be quickly made. All dead spurs and useless wood should be cut away at this time.

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## THE GARDEN.

By W. H. TAYLOR, Horticulturist.

#### VEGETABLE-CULTURE.

CAULIFLOWER and cabbage plants for early supplies should now be ready for planting. It is important that the plants be of the right age—namely, from seed sown towards the end of March or the first week in April, according to the climate of the district in which they were sown. Older plants are not suitable; they are almost certain to bolt prematurely—the cauliflowers to form heads too small to be of use, the cabbages to send up flower-stems. Early cabbages of Flower of Spring type do not require wide spacing; in really good ground 20 in. by 15 in. is ample; if the soil is not of the best the distances may be increased to 20 in. by 18 in.; if larger-growing varieties are planted space them 24 in. by 20 in. Cauliflowers of early kinds may