

SEASONAL NOTES.

THE FARM.

PASTURES.

PASTURES will now be making good growth, and every care should be taken to feed them as evenly as possible so as to prevent their getting away. There is nothing like a well-grazed clean pasture to produce butterfat or fatten stock. If droppings have been allowed to accumulate the tripod or chain harrows should be used to scatter them. On farms devoted partly to dairying and partly to the pasturage of sheep, paddocks on which ewes are to be turned with their lambs should be heavily stocked with cattle during October, in order to prevent too rank a growth of grass in November and December, as, if this occurs, scouring will result in the ewes, and the number of lambs fattened off their mothers will consequently be reduced.

Paddocks intended for hay should be shut up about the middle of October. Where possible the haying of permanent pastures should be avoided. It is preferable to hay short-rotation pastures consisting of perennial rye- and cow-grass where such pastures exist. Owing to the saturated state of the subsoil this year such grass-sowings may be confidently made in October.

When sowing down pastures in general at this season of the year it is good practice to drill either 1 lb. of rape or Buda kale, then roll the land again and sow the grass-seed, covering the latter with light tine or brush harrows. The rape or kale supplies some quick feed and shelters the young grass.

SUMMER FORAGE CROPS.

Land intended for mangolds, carrots, soft turnips, kale, cereals and vetches, &c., should be well worked in preparation for sowing towards the end of October or early in November. Generally speaking, the first week in November is early enough, but in the warmer situations these crops may be sown any time after the middle of October. On farms where club-root and dry-rot have been bad during the preceding season an endeavour should be made to arrange for sowing brassicas on land which has not been under that class of crop for a number of years.

Good varieties of soft turnips are Red Paragon, Lincolnshire Red Globe, Hardy Green Globe, and Imperial Green Globe. Where they are required for feeding to cows it is best to sow a small area first, and more in about two or three weeks. On a properly prepared seed-bed 8 oz. to 10 oz. of seed per acre is ample. Suitable manures are basic super, or mixtures of two parts of super and one of Ephos phosphate, basic slag, or Nauru rock phosphate, at from 2 cwt. to 3 cwt. per acre. Sow through every second coulter of the drill or on ridges. For early crops of turnips it is worth while to steep the seed in turpentine before sowing, with a view to preventing the attack of the fly or beetle.

If rape is cropped after grass on good land 3 cwt. of super and Nauru rock (half-and-half) gives good results. On poorer land, or where the rape follows a cereal crop, one of the freezing-works mixtures containing 2 to 3 per cent. of insoluble nitrogen is probably preferable. Rape has a heating effect on lambs, and the headland and a few strips across the paddock should be sown in mustard just after the rape is up in two rough leaves, so that the two crops mature at the same time.

MANGOLDS AND THEIR CULTIVATION.

Provided they have a chance to become well rooted before dry summer weather arrives, mangolds often do quite well in dry seasons when the swede crop is a failure. Prizewinner, Jersey Queen, White Sugar, and Red Intermediate