

placed, the consequence being that later, as the whole bulk settles down, the heart sinks most, leaving the sheaves slanting downwards towards the centre, and ready to convey moisture to the heart, whereas the opposite should be the aim. The skilful builder will slightly spring the stack from the foundation to the eave. This allows the rain to drip clear, and with a well-built heart kept high, causing a slant from the centre to the outside, water will not penetrate. The novice should endeavour to see his first stack opened up, so that he may profit from any mistakes.

ROOT CROPS AND GREEN FORAGES.

The end of the year will see most of the root crops sown, the exceptions being swedes on the higher country. These may be sown any time up to the middle of January. After this it is safer to sow turnips—Hardy or Imperial Green Globe for preference—and after the end of January stubble sowing will be best. When seeding at this time of the year care should be taken to work the land down fine and roll firm so as to ensure moisture for the young seedlings.

The thinning of mangold and carrot crops should be pushed along. If mangolds are holding and looking at all yellow a top-dressing with 1 cwt. of nitrate of soda per acre will often put new life into the crop, provided that there is sufficient rain to melt the nitrate.

In districts with suitable climatic conditions misses among the mangold and turnip crops may be filled up with cattle-marrows (kumi-kumis). The best method is to plant groups of two seeds each about 3 ft. apart, using a hoe and working in a little super and blood-and-bone at the same time.

Soft turnips for dairy cows should be fed sparingly, both to avoid taint and to make the crop last as long as possible. The larger roots should be pulled first. Purple-tops are the first of all varieties to lose their succulence and to decay; they should therefore be used early, but in strict moderation, as they are most liable to injure the quality of the milk or cream. Red Paragon, Green Globe, and Devonshire Greystone are all better keepers and safer feed. No progressive dairy-farmer should allow his cows to have access to the turnip-paddock even for short periods. It is best to pull the turnips a couple of days ahead and allow them to wilt before feeding.

Millet should be grazed when not more than 10 in. high, and spelled at intervals. The best plan is to let the cows graze it for an hour or two after milking.

FIELD PEAS AND BEANS.

On rich land in a damp season it is somewhat difficult to judge just when to cut the pea crop, as in some cases the bottom pods may be overripe and shelling while the tips of the haulms are still flowering, with pods in various stages in between. In such cases mowing should be done when the greatest number of pods commence to shrivel and before they open. The cut material should be cocked in small heaps like hay, and handled as gently as possible. If the crop is badly laid the hay-rake may be used instead of a mower. Threshing can be done direct from the paddock if the weather permits.

As a rule the bean crop is not ready until after the cereals are cut. The pods should be black and the stems turning dark before reaping.