



the family is the earthworm, but one can go on numbering and naming those soil animals until you reach astronomical figures. I learnt with the submersible hardy green turnip that the bi-annual is possibly the best way of rebuilding fertility on land that has been depressed, because you get an enormous leaf fall in the autumn and early winter. Turnips, in fact, were one of the Norfolk rotational systems that was written into a lot of tenancies, and were fed off to sheep in January and February. But by the time you move the sheep in to graze in small paddocks, the leaf is completely gone, and you've got the bulb there for the sheep to feed on. The leaf has gone back into the soil, but only in the top three inches, and it's the soil animals that take it there. But they can't stay there if the soil is bare in the autumn, because they can't stand the light: the Sun literally destroys soil animals and micro-organisms. The Sun and the micro-

self that science might have missed the main point in the evolution of man. Machinery is doing damage, because the soil has now reached a point where it doesn't rise again: it's no longer a sponge that pulses with life. When you really push it down, it stays down. The life of the soil is being put to sleep, or destroyed by modern technological methods—and not just fertilisers. The advice given to farmers to grow single-species crops is totally alien to evolution and to the soil structure which has evolved through evolution. I feel sure that we've got to take a second look at all this, and ask: what are we leaving behind?

If you are on a very poor farm, this means that you're buying in your living through the raw materials you bring to it. If the farm itself is giving you your living, then it's no problem whatsoever to move to an organic system and cut your costs considerably. In other words, farmers are forgetting the latent energy that is available on their land, which they can tap and increase, improving their fertility at the same time. If they forget all this and allow themselves to buy the advertised materials, they will put their own inheritance to sleep—the life within the soil.

A vast increase in yield in Western agriculture could be achieved if we recovered the surpluses from these two main soil sources—human waste, plant and animal residues. But we are not doing so, and a high tide of rising yields has already been reached. If we continue, there can be only one direction—backwards.

When starting to plan organic farming you need to start thinking now about what you are going to do in 1973. You would take probably half an acre, and plan that half-acre in such a way that it was left with a dense cover of whatever crop you choose, next autumn, and not graze it until February or March. It may be sheep that are coming to lamb, it may be young stock, it may be milch cattle that are just coming down to calve, or it may be new milch cattle already calved: whatever animal you choose, there must be a link between animal and crop. But you could also do it

The production of cream cheese

cheeses, numbering in all 75 different items. We're now employing 40 girls, and they're in my old cowshed, which has been converted into a modern dairy. We've now added another modern dairy to it and our varieties include cream salads, made with a base of clotted cream and yoghurt, yoghurt with wines and spirits in, cheeses with fish and vegetables, and sour cream. We never research in a laboratory and say: 'This is something which would sell.' We go to the public and adjust the product until the public say how lovely it is. Our present marketing ideas have developed from direct contact with our customers, and if we maintain that close link, we feel we will always hold onto our small portion of the market, which grows slowly on trust and understanding, and a feeling that what we offer contributes to the health and fitness of the whole family. This creates a longer customer life a link that must not