

Rose, Frau Karl Druschki.

AN APPRECIATION.

By Mr T. S. ALLISON,
in "Rose Annual."

Amongst the few roses which have forced themselves into universal favour by sheer merit is to be placed the hybrid perpetual rose, Frau Karl Druschki.

Although raised from seed in 1896, it is only quite recently that it has taken such a hold on the rose world fancy as to have become indispensable alike on the exhibition stand and in the garden.

One writer says: "It came to us from the Continent with no great blowing of trumpets," such as often heralds the advent of much inferior roses, but which might have been justly expected in such a case as this.

Indeed, it seems to have had to struggle for existence and recognition from the very first. The only one seed of all those which the pod produced that had vitality enough to launch itself into life, it still had no power to win attention or proclaim its inherent merits; but had to linger on in youthful immaturity for two long summers. In 1897 it grew but did not bloom. In the summer of 1898 it only managed to produce three small, thin flowers; but before the winter once more closed in it had begun to reveal something of its latent perfection and beauty. This must have encouraged its owner to devote more attention to it, for with the summer of 1899 we find it multiplied one hundredfold; and from the wider choice of numerous plants flowers are gathered and staged at the Stuttgart Exhibition of that year, which created quite a sensation. Here, in sheer admiration, it is named the Snow Queen, a pretty and appropriate title, but which did not stick. No, the struggle for recognition is not to be successful yet.

In the following year, 1900, the large flower show of the German Rose Society was held at Trier, the Snow Queen's natal place, and a special jury was asked to award a prize of £30 for the best new Rose of German origin, to be called Otto von Bismarck. The jury was much attracted by the Snow Queen, but because it was white their favour passed over to some unworthy rival, which has not since developed merit enough to get a footing in an English catalogue. After the award is given, the jury visit the Snow Queen at her home in the

nurseries of Mr. Peter Lambert, and here, as the full charm of her beauty dawns upon them, they regret their unfortunate decision. Yet, what a providential escape—"blood and iron," what an association for the Snow White Queen! Recognition is gathering; but oh! so slowly for such a stately flower!

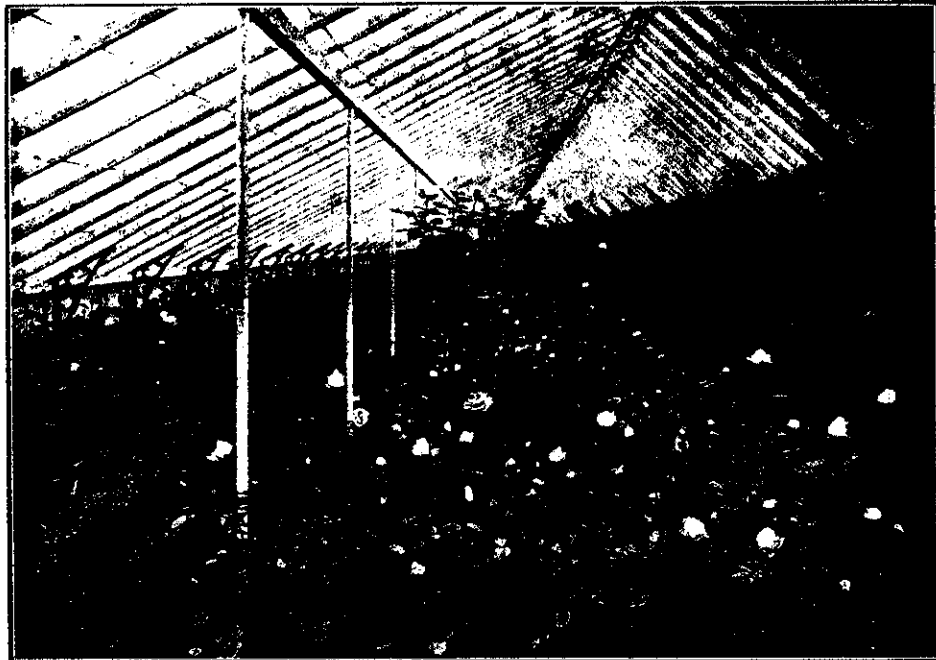
Mr. Lambert now begins to receive calls for his nursing; and in the autumn of that year specimens are sent out to the United States for the opinion of the American growers. The verdict is: "No good, not worth anything to us!" but, like the unfortunate jury at Trier, they live to learn their lack of judgment.

It was the summer of 1901 before any French Rosarians had discovered it. Then a few plants are borne to the Riviera—the first to enter France. When it exactly entered England, Mr. Herbert E. Molyneux, in the "National Rose Society's Annual" for 1908—to whom we owe many thanks for these most interesting particulars—does not say. But here again its usual reception dogs its introduction. "Not wanted; would be of very little use," says one of our largest growers!! No, because they put the Queen under unsuitable treatment in their haste to multiply her existence, and she resents it and withholds her beauty from them. Now, in the year 1907, when a mark of honour is to be

given to the best Hybrid Perpetual Rose of recent introduction, Mr. Nickerson's Silver Cup is placed at her feet by general acclamation; and our florists are glad to advertise her as "that wonderful rose, that perfect flower!"

To our power to realise that exquisite emotion which the sight of a lovely object gives us, it is "when taken in the most perfect phase of its possible beauty," a stately flower, a perfect rose. But the pleasing sensation which is associated with a beautiful rose does not stop short with sight alone; we expect to have our love of fragrance gratified. Here it utterly fails to meet our wants

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ROSES IN POTS FLOWERING UNDER GLASS IN ONE OF BENJAMIN R. CANT AND SONS' ROSE HOUSES.



W. J. Vasey, photo.

ROSE, FRAU KARL DRUSCHKI.