

THE FLOWER-GARDEN.

Planting of all descriptions of trees and shrubs, also the division and planting of herbaceous plants, may now be done. All the primrose family may be planted; old clumps are the better for being broken up and planted as separate crowns. Violas may be divided in a similar manner. Seedlings of every description of hardy plants that have been raised under glass may, after the necessary hardening-off, be planted out. Seedling pansies should be put out in rich ground; planted at this time they usually give the best flowers of the season.

Perhaps the most important work in the flower-garden at this season is rose-pruning. This subject was fully dealt with in the *Journal* for the same period last year. Briefly put, whatever class the rose belongs to, all worn wood should be cut out, also thin twiggy wood and immature growth. Hybrid perpetuals and hybrid teas should be pruned to form a bush with an open centre, and the branches should not be crowded. Leading branches should be shortened according to strength, usually to about 6 in., leaving a few inches more in the case of strong growers. Shorten side shoots to two or three buds.

Climbing-roses of most classes are best treated by a frequent renewal of the main rods. The long, gross rods that they are accustomed to make should be laid in almost entire, merely removing the immature tips. These rods will throw out sprays of flowers from every joint. The following season the resulting shoots, or laterals as they are termed, should be spurred back to two buds, and every shoot should flower. The next winter these rods should be cut out.

Wicheriana roses, of which Dorothy Perkins is one, should be thinned out, and the laterals shortened back somewhat. This work is best done at the end of summer, but it may be carried out now.

EGYPTIAN PHOSPHATE-DEPOSITS.

THE Department has received a communication from Mr. W. E. Kingsford, a business man of Cairo, and president of the British Chamber of Commerce in that city, regarding phosphate-deposits in Egypt. Mr. Kingsford submits the following propositions to the Department: (1) To act as its buying and shipping agent for whatever phosphates are obtainable from companies now working mines; (2) to take up on its behalf a prospecting license, with eventual lease of mine approved; (3) to negotiate on its behalf with existing licensees a working arrangement for taking over their rights in a mine not yet worked owing to lack of capital. Mr. Kingsford has been informed that the Government does not at present propose to take any steps in the matter, as it is considered more a question for private than for Government enterprise; but that publicity will be given to his proposals for the information of any person or association in New Zealand who might be interested in the matter of phosphate-supplies from abroad.