

so. Bush plants will be ready for lifting about the end of May. Select the plants carefully and place your order early.

SHELTER AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTATIONS.

During the short period from June to August inclusive trees and shrubs may be shifted in fine weather with safety, so that the time for action is now very close at hand for those who have this class of work to do. Not only does the land usually require thorough preparation, but the most careful consideration needs to be given to the scheme of planting, after which the plants should be selected and ordered without delay.

Many acres are wasted for years by hasty ill-considered planting which has afterwards to be removed. The taste and purpose of the planter and the climate and soil are the factors governing the situation. The two latter are frequently misjudged, and commonly full advantage is not taken of a soil and climate offering unique possibilities. Besides getting professional advice and keeping in touch with modern literature, the planter should carefully consider the condition and appearance of trees and shrubs growing in his locality on similar soil, and remember that outside of that experience he is entering on the experimental.

Among settlers in the back country it is common to speak of "white-pine land" or "birch country," &c., meaning that on the land in question in a primeval state such trees were outstandingly conspicuous. Further, experienced men know just the class of land that will be found associated with these types. This association is not confined to the larger timber-trees; it extends also to a large extent to the shrubs, climbers, and herbaceous plants and ferns. This habit of our indigenous vegetation is not peculiar, but applies also to the plants of other countries. The many exotics grown by nurserymen have to be studied from this point of view, and the planter working on these lines allies his efforts to a wonderful natural power that achieves its objects with maximum results. The planter is undoubtedly wise to keep his choice well within the list of plants adapted to the class of land and climate to be dealt with, whether the object be ornament or utility.

—*W. C. Hyde, Horticulturist.*

FORTHCOMING WINTER SHOWS.

Otago A. and P. Society: Dunedin, 2nd to 6th June.

Waikato Winter Show Association: Hamilton, 2nd to 6th June.

Manawatu A. and P. Association: Palmerston North, 16th to 20th June.

Wanganui A. and P. Association: Wanganui, 24th to 27th June.

Poverty Bay A. and P. Association: Gisborne, 25th to 27th June.

Wellington Winter Show Association: Wellington, 30th July to 15th August.

Auckland Winter Exhibition: Auckland, 27th July to 1st August.

Mole Drainage.—Where it is too expensive to tile-drain, and the subsoil is suitable, mole drainage will be found to have all the advantages of ordinary tiles with the exception of permanence, and is far less costly. Only land which is heavy in texture, free from stones, and with a good fall is satisfactory. Given these conditions the mole drains will usually last indefinitely.