

BOOKS FOR THE FLOWER GARDENER . . .

Library Service holds no fewer than 20 books on roses, 12 of which have been published during the past 10 years.

All the specialist books at present in print have been written overseas, and that must be borne in mind when reading them. Allowance must be made not only for the six-month difference of seasons but also for the difference in climate between Britain, America, and New Zealand. The fact that New Zealand lies several hundreds of miles nearer the Equator than Britain has a marked effect on its climate, especially on the daily amount of daylight in summer and winter, and New Zealand's wide separation from any considerable land mass also tempers its climate compared with that of Britain, America, or Australia.

Several good specialist books have been written and published in Australia, and it will be a pleasing event when one is written in New Zealand. Meanwhile overseas specialist books must be relied on.

Books on Garden Science

In general, home gardeners are not particularly interested in so-called "scientific subjects," but the chemistry and botany of the garden can be a very fascinating subject.

The outstanding book on the botany of the garden is "The Living Garden," by E. J. Salisbury, published by G. Bell and Son, London, price about 11s.—a book which should be on every home gardener's bookshelf and frequently dipped into after first being read right through. Professor Salisbury, who is now Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, set a new standard for books on garden science when he wrote this delightful and interesting book.

Another book which can be recommended to the home gardener is "The Young Gardener," by W. J. C. Lawrence, published in 1943 by George Allen and Unwin, London, price about 10s. Though written primarily for the young entrant to a horticultural career, this book has most readable and informative chapters on such subjects as garden chemistry, physics, plant growth, health, and disease. Among other books on various aspects of garden science which the serious gardener might enjoy, "Practical Plant Breeding," also by W. J. C. Lawrence (published by George Allen and Unwin, London, at about 9s.) has been mentioned already in these columns.

"Garden Pests in New Zealand," by D. Miller, published in 1944 in an enlarged second edition by Whitcombe and Tombs, Ltd., Wellington, price 8s. 6d., is another book worth a place on every gardener's shelf. It is readable,

well illustrated, and informative. A similar book on garden diseases is overdue and would be welcomed.

Books on Garden Design

Practically all books on garden design published so far have been based on the design of large gardens. "The English Flower Garden," by William Robinson, who fought and finally broke the stiff, Victorian cult of ribbon bedding, is still regarded as a standard text book on the subject, and R. Sudell's "Landscape Gardening" contains much very valuable information.

There is a crying need for an authoritative work on the design, layout, and maintenance of the eighth or quarter-acre sections which comprise a great proportion of modern gardens. The traditional methods followed in larger gardens cannot be applied to these smaller sections. The whole question needs very careful study by an expert, and a new "philosophy of the small garden" should be worked out in the same way that Robinson worked out and fought for his "philosophy of the informal garden."

Books on Garden Experiences

Many eminent (and some not-so-eminent) horticulturists have written

about their gardening experiences. These range from Beverley Nichols's light and entertaining books to the biographies of plant collectors, stories of whose adventures in distant lands add interest to the plants which were introduced through their efforts.

No attempt can be made to list or recommend books of this class, as the reader's enjoyment of such books will depend much on his or her particular taste.

Library Facilities

Books are expensive, and home gardeners should perhaps concentrate on buying those to which they are likely to refer often rather than those which will be read only once. Fortunately, it is possible for most home gardeners to borrow almost any book in which they are likely to be interested through one or other of the library services. Some cities and larger towns have a surprisingly-good selection of gardening books, though others have few books of that kind.

The smaller country libraries do not usually carry many gardening books but can draw on a wide range held by the central libraries, so the country reader is not handicapped apart from the fact that he cannot select his book from the shelf but has to wait for it to be procured for him.

The New Zealand Government National Library Service holds

REMEMBER ARBOR DAY



[Government Film Studios photo.]

Trees form part of the unconscious background to our lives, and we owe a great debt of gratitude to the early settlers and those who came later for planting trees in many bleak, windswept districts. We, in turn, should make our own gift to posterity by planting suitable trees on Arbor Day—the first Wednesday in August.