

GARDENING NOTES

(By Mr. J. Joyce, Landscape Gardener, Christchurch.)

THE VALUE OF MANURES (Continued).

Poultry Manure.—This is the richest, most concentrated, and most active of all farm manures. The food of fowls is principally seeds and insects, all of which are rich with fertilising matter. When dry, hen manure is worth about as much as Peruvian guano, which costs from 70 to 100 dollars per ton. Unless kept dry it is rapidly wasted; probably the best way of preserving it is to keep loose, dry soil on the floor of the hen house, upon which the droppings will fall. It should be forked over occasionally, as it soon becomes as rich a fertiliser as the clear manure.

Application of Poultry Manure.—Care must be taken in applying this manure, since there is danger of using too much. It is a very strong article and comparatively little goes a long way. It may be scattered quite sparingly if applied dry. A better method is to take, say half a bushel of manure, as it comes from the coop, put into a tight barrel, and then fill the barrel with water. Stir it occasionally, and by the next evening it will be ready for use for the garden. This is the best farmyard manure which can be found.

Ashes as Manure.—Wood ashes are beneficial to all crops of grain, roots, grass, and fruit, and cannot be applied amiss. From ten to forty bushels per acre can be applied without danger of excess. Scatter them over the ploughed land and harrow them in. Coal ashes are only used for stirring up the soil so as to keep it loose. All prunings of orchards and the clippings of hedges, etc., should be piled up and burned; the ashes are valuable as manure. Everyone knows how much better vegetation grows on ground where a brush heap has been burned.

Slops as a Fertiliser.—Instead of throwing kitchen slops into the backyard to contaminate well and cistern and breed diarrhoea, typhoid, and other fevers, prepare a proper receptacle. A cemented cistern should be built a good distance from the house, away from the well, and to this all the kitchen slops, vegetable waste, etc., should be conducted through a suitable pipe or trough to be cleaned out as occasion requires. An immense amount of the best fertilisers could be made in this way.

A Good Garden Fertiliser.—A valuable fertiliser, and one within the reach of everyone for garden culture, as well as for top dressing grass, is hen manure, ashes, plaster, and salt mixed in equal quantities, except the salt, of which a fourth will be sufficient. Mix and apply broadcast. It gives good results on all soils and crops.

Rain Water as a Fertiliser.—Rain water is rich with plant-growing elements gathered from the air in its formation and passage through it to the earth. It is therefore too valuable to be lost, and it should never be allowed to run off the land.

Road Sweepings.—Those who keep poultry should procure a few loads of road dust. It is a valuable fertiliser, nearly as strong as guano, with none of its disagreeable odor. Place an inch or two in the bottom of the barrel, then, as the poultry house is regularly cleaned, deposit a layer an inch or two thick on the cleanings, and so on alternately, layers of each, until the barrel is filled. The thinner the layer is the more perfect will be the intermixture of the ingredients. The contents may be pounded on the floor into a fine powder and may be sown from a drill.

Salt as a Fertiliser.—It keeps the land cool, being more of an absorbent than a fertiliser proper. It neutralises drought; exterminates all soil vermin, and is said to prevent potato rot. It glazes and stiffens straw, and prevents rust. It keeps the soil in such condition that the berry of grain fills plumply regardless of hot, dry weather. From one to six bushels per

acre should be applied when the grain is a few inches high. On grass and all the grains there is no shadow of doubt but that a liberal top-dressing of salt is highly valuable.

WEDDING BELLS

SCANLON—HEALY.

On Wednesday, January 17, a quiet but pretty wedding was celebrated at St. Mary's Church, Ahaura, a Nuptial Mass being celebrated by the Rev. Father Seward. The contracting parties were Hugh, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Scanlon, County Armagh, Ireland, and Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Healy, Limerick, Ireland, and latterly of Wellington. The bride was given away by her uncle, Mr. J. J. Halpin, Totara Flat, Miss M. Halpin and Mr. F. Griffen acting as bridesmaid and best man respectively. After the ceremony, the wedding party motored to Mrs. J. J. Halpin's residence, where the wedding breakfast was partaken of, Mr. and Mrs. Scanlon afterwards leaving by train for the south, where the honeymoon was spent.

BARRY—SELLARS.

The marriage was celebrated on Wednesday, January 10, at the Basilica, Hill street, Wellington, by the Rev. Father O'Leary, S.M. (cousin of the bridegroom), of John Francis Barry, only son of Mrs. John Barry, formerly of Blenheim, now residing in Wellington, and Miss Philomena Mary Sellars, twin daughter of Mr. G. J. Sellars, P.D.P., H.A.C.B. Society (late Anthony, Sellars and Co., printers, Christchurch), now of Wellington. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a navy taffeta costume with rose blossoms. The bride's twin sister (Miss Annie Josephine) acted as bridesmaid, and wore a pretty cream costume. Accompanying the bridesmaid were her two sisters (Misses Amy Gabriel and Veronica Sellars), who wore neat costumes of grey interlaced with pink, and grey crepe-de-chine respectively. Mr. W. Page (a returned soldier) officiated as best man. The bride's present to the bridegroom was a gold watch, and the bridegroom's present to the bride was a handsome gold cable bangle, and to the bridesmaid a handsome Nellie Stewart gold bangle. After the ceremony a large gathering sat down to breakfast at Godber's, Courtenay place. The usual toasts were proposed and suitably responded to. Rev. Father O'Leary, in a humorous speech, proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom. The health of the bride's father and the bridegroom's mother was proposed by Mr. McMillan, and responded to by the father of the bride on behalf of Mrs. Barry and himself. Many presents were received, including one from the Telephone Exchange, where the bride had been engaged for the past ten years, and also one to the bridegroom from the various staffs of the *Dominion* newspaper, where he is at present employed, which showed the esteem in which the recipients were held. Mr. and Mrs. Barry left by the Auckland express amidst a shower of confetti and good wishes from a large assemblage of friends for Palmerston North and Wanganui, where the honeymoon was spent. The bride's travelling costume was a fawn gaberdine.

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