

## GARDENING NOTES

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

### WORK IN THE GARDEN FOR FEBRUARY.

The Kitchen Garden.—This is the month that supplies of various seeds and vegetable plants should be planted out in quantities, so as to give a supply for winter and early spring. But unfortunately the weather is quite unfit for that purpose at present, as the soil seems to be quite parched and unable to receive either plants or seed. But as soon as opportunity occurs a good square of cauliflowers and broccoli should be planted out. It would be wise before pulling the plants out of the seed bed to give it a good soaking with water; then the plants will not suffer so much from the breaking of the tender fibrous roots at the time of pulling. It is a wise plan to heel in the plants in a row, placing them pretty thickly in the row and giving a thoroughly good watering at the time and making them quite firm with your foot before watering. Also see that the water penetrates to the roots, and if left there for about a fortnight, or until opportunity offers for planting out in their permanent quarters, they will transplant more readily, as they will have made a nice fibrous growth at the roots. If the work has to be done whilst the soil is dry the plants ought to get an occasional watering after being planted out. A good plot of savoy and cabbages should also be planted and treated in the same way as the cauliflower and broccoli. A sowing of turnips for autumn and winter use should also be sown. The White Stone or Golden Ball varieties are best for late sowing. They should be sown thinly, and not left to overcrowd one another in the bed. Also winter spinach should be sown for winter use. Silver beet makes a good substitute for spinach. It is very useful to have as it gives a constant supply. When sowing these garden seeds the lines should be well watered before sowing the seed, and then covered over with the dry soil. The seed will have a better chance to germinate when it has a bed of nice moist soil to work on. A good sowing of lettuce for winter use should also be made. The variety named Iceberg is a nice crisp lettuce. It ought to be planted out when fit so that it forms good heads which it cannot do if left to grow too thick in the seed bed. It can be thinned out and the young plants may be used for salad, and the others left to grow on for a later supply. I am afraid there is not much use in sowing peas at this season as it is now pretty late. If sown now, however, the early varieties must be chosen, as they will come to maturity before the later kinds. Kidney beans may be sown, but must get a plentiful supply of water as they will do no good if left hanging on. Keep a good healthy growth. The celery trenches should get a thoroughly good drenching of water to keep up a healthy growth. Vegetable marrows, cucumbers, and pumpkins should have a plentiful supply of water; if not, red spider and green fly will take possession.

The Flower Garden.—The lawn should be constantly mowed—at least once a week,—and it would serve the lawn by leaving the cut grass; it helps to keep the ground cool by forming a mulch, and besides, it is giving back the grass in the form of manure for the lawn. The spray should be constantly attended to by shifting pretty often, for if left playing on the one spot too long it causes the ground to settle in hollows very often, especially if the lawn is a new one and the soil not thoroughly settled. The roller must also be kept going after each mowing, and if there are any poor patches a sprinkling of fertiliser or liquid manure ought to be given. To keep a lawn in good order requires constant attention, such as regular mowing, watering, weeding, and rolling. All weeds should

be carefully removed or destroyed by weed exterminators.

Chrysanthemums, dahlias, and all such plants should have proper supports, and should be given an occasional dose of water. Cuttings of many plants may now be put in, such as pinks, carnations, and picotees, etc. Any shrubs which are done flowering and have to be pruned back should be attended to. Also clip back garden hedges, such as holly, laurel, and privet. Hedges should be well cut back whilst the growth is young; it can then be done quicker and better. They ought to be trimmed at the end of autumn or the beginning of winter. Hedges look better by being clipped up to a point rather than the square top, but I suppose it is matter of taste. All the seed pods should be picked off the flowering plants as soon as the flowers drop off. The flowering season is prolonged by so doing, as the energy of the plant is not directed toward the ripening of seeds. On this account the plant has a chance of forming more flowers. Hardy flower seeds may be sown to bloom next season. Roses and many other trees may be budded if required. It is best done on a damp day or in the cool of the evening. The amateur who would like to bud his own roses should learn from a professional man, as it is rather difficult to understand the process by reading the method of operation.

### Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

General regret was expressed when it was known that Mr. Pat Scully, a well-known member of the Federation committee, had lost one of his little boys, aged eight years. The little chap was spending a holiday in Lyttelton, where he contracted a severe form of diphtheria and died in the Christchurch Hospital after a few days' illness. Rev. Father Cooney administered the last rites of the Church and Rev. Father Woods conducted the funeral service at Invercargill.—R.I.P.

The local Catholic schools opened on Monday last, when there were good attendances.

The Hibernians are arranging an Irish national concert, which will take place in the Municipal Theatre on March 14. The proceeds will be in aid of the schools' building fund.

### PAN-SOUTHLAND GATHERING.

All the arrangements are now well in hand for the 1917 gathering, and a very large number of the Catholics of Southland will assemble in the A. and P. Society's Show Grounds on Wednesday, the 14th inst. The Tuatapere and Dipton people will travel to and from Invercargill by the ordinary trains, but special trains will convey the people from all the other stations both morning and evening. These special trains will run later than the ordinary timetable trains, so this arrangement should be very convenient to the country people. Programmes, including complete railway arrangements, etc., will be forwarded to the various secretaries this week for distribution to the people. It has been found impracticable on this occasion to have the usual procession from the railway station to the grounds, so the opening function will be the High Mass, which will commence at 11.30 o'clock sharp, when it is expected that all the people will be present. The Mass will be celebrated on the dais of the grandstand, which is a most suitable position, overlooking as it does the sloping lawn and extensive grounds. After the Mass the people will have their lunch, and at 1.30 p.m. the speeches by the clergy and laymen will be delivered. The sports programme will then be gone on with. In this connection the children will be well catered for, and the little ones will be supplied with toys and sweets. The Hibernian Band has been engaged to enliven the proceedings. It only remains that the prayers of the people should, on this occasion, defeat any designs of Jupiter Pluvius as far as the weather is concerned.

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