

GARDENING NOTES

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

HINTS ON PLANTING.

Now is the season for planting, and those who intend to do so should set to work as soon as possible. Early planting has great advantages over late. Trees and shrubs quickly start to grow and make root if planted now, and become well advanced before the dry winds which invariably accompany the early months of spring. Another advantage is that in procuring your trees from the nursery in good time you have a better choice of selection. "First come, first served," is an old saying, thus the early buyer has the pick of the nursery. If your ground is not ready for planting, procure the trees you want now, and temporarily plant them in a well-prepared trench, stamping them firm in the soil. If the ground is dry, water the roots at the same time. They can remain in this position until you are ready to place them out permanently. Heeling in trees in this manner has many advantages; among others, they have a good chance to recover the check received at lifting in the nursery. They also start to make fibrous roots, and when being re-lifted for planting those roots must not be exposed to the sun or dry winds, but must be planted as quick as possible. If left thus heeled in for a few weeks, greater and quicker growth is assured when finally planted out, and fewer failures result.

It is always wise to dig the holes some time previous to planting and leaving them exposed to sun and air to nourish the soil, and if the planting is to be done out in the open paddock for shelter belts or other plantations, a greater number of trees should not be taken out than can be planted in a day, but they should be kept covered and damped meanwhile. Two men can do planting more expeditiously than one, and with better results in a day than one would in two days. Whilst one man holds the tree in position the other fills in the soil, the work thereby being more satisfactory. If an orchard is to be planted, the soil should be in good order before proceeding. It would be better if a crop of potatoes were cultivated in it the season before. Young trees will do much better if the ground is kept in cultivation after they are planted. Good, healthy, one or two-year-old trees are preferable to older ones. They grow more rapidly, and it is better not to cut them back at the time of planting, but leave them until the spring, then prune them well back so as to form a head for the future trees. If the ground is not fairly rich it would be wise to give a little manure at the time of planting, taking care to incorporate it well with the soil; good farmyard manure for preference. If this cannot be had a sprinkling of one or other of the many fertilisers will answer the purpose. Weeds should not be allowed to grow around the young trees. They must be kept thoroughly clean by grubbing around them when required. If young trees are neglected for the first year or two they will offer a poor return for the labor and expense incurred. A good watch must be kept for the appearance of any of the many blights. The scab and American blight must not be allowed to make their appearance.

MARIST MISSIONS IN WAIMATE PARISH

A remarkably successful mission was concluded in the Waimate parish on April 22. The Rev. Father McCarthy, S.M., began a week's mission at Morven and had the satisfaction of being able to state on the following Sunday that only two failed to approach the Sacraments during the great season of grace. Father McCarthy, during the mission, was the guest of Mr. P. Hanly, who, together with the missionary, spent a number of years at St. Patrick's College. Simultaneously with the above mission, the Rev. Father Kimbell, S.M., was conducting a mission at Makikihi, being

the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Geaney. Though compelled to retire from missionary labors for the last few years owing to indifferent health, he gladly consented to take up this strenuous work again so that the people of this parish might not be disappointed by postponement of their missions. The whole congregation, with a few exceptions, responded to the appeal of Divine grace. The mission conducted on Saturday, April 28, an appropriate day for rejoicing, as it was the feast of the first martyr of the Marist Order, Blessed Peter Chanel.

Rev. Father Kimbell motored to Hakataramea to open a four days' mission for the inhabitants of this district, the most southerly of the diocese. Here Fathers Kimbell and Aubry were the guests of Mrs. De Lary. Not only was the mission attended by the congregation of Hakataramea, but the Catholic people across the Waitaki, in the Otago diocese, came to hear the missionary, whose finished powers of oratory and burning zeal thrilling through his impassioned appeals, won the hearts of all.

The children's mission was held in Waimate from Sunday, April 29, to Wednesday, May 2, on the evening of that date the adult mission opened, Rev. Father McCarthy preaching the opening sermon on "The Call of God." The congregation from the first increased, till early in the second week extra seating had to be requisitioned. Non-Catholics were especially invited to attend by notification in the daily papers, and the doctrines of the Church were clearly explained—the Sacrament of Penance, the Blessed Eucharist, the true Church, reasonableness of devotion to the Mother of God, indulgences, and faith, being treated in successive discourses. The explanation of such doctrines cannot fail to correct the distorted ideas non-Catholics have of Catholic teaching. Five hundred and thirty received Holy Communion on the last day of the mission in St. Patrick's Church, and in the evening the largest congregation ever seen within the building gathered for the closing ceremonies of the season of grace. The final exhortation was given by Father McCarthy, who, in a masterly manner, explained the meaning of "Final Perseverance," and the most effective means of securing this crowning grace. On Monday there was again a general Communion for the holy souls, after which the missionaries departed—Father Kimbell to his work in Wellington, Father McCarthy to Australia. Both take with them the love and gratitude of every Catholic heart in Waimate for whom they labored so zealously and so successfully.

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