

GARDENING NOTES

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

ON SEEDS AND SOWING.

To amateur gardeners the following few practical instructions for their guidance may be useful:—Don't sow seeds when the ground is stiff and cloggy; always wait until the soil is dry and can be raked fine and even. Always be careful to sow seeds thinly, and in rows, following a line laid along where the row is to be planted. This refers more particularly to the kitchen garden; the practise to be adopted in the flower garden is to sow in patches, except in the margins of beds, and borders, when it is advisable to sow in line to form edgings. Each patch should be marked with a short wooden tablet, or label, with the name of the variety sown and the date of sowing. The tablets should not be permitted to appear more than two inches above the surface or they give the plot an unsightly appearance. As stated, seeds should be sown thinly, and if the plants come up too thickly be sure to thin them out before they overcrowd one another. Better to sow too thin than too thick, and many people err in the latter direction. When plants have plenty of room to develop the results are much better. Never go in for the growing of cheap varieties of plants; the trouble is the same, but the results are disappointing. Cheap seeds are an abomination to the professional grower, and he never wastes valuable time on their cultivation. Experience has taught him the worthlessness of spending time and energy on an inferior product. Far better to pay a reasonable price for good seed and have satisfaction than to encourage seedsmen to stock inferior kinds by creating a demand for such. It is well to keep a diary and to mark down the date of sowing, the variety sown, and where purchased. It is not desirable to sow old seeds, although some seeds are good for the second season. It is not wise however to depend on seeds over the second year. If you do not intend to save seed from your plants always remove the seed pods and they will bloom much longer. Whilst the energy of the plant is directed to the maturing of seeds further flowering is relaxed. For good results, do not grow the same crop in the same ground the second season. The first crop usually benefits from the different composition of the soil, and therefore absorbs the nutriment which the second crop would require. In the absence of this nutriment an inferior production would be the consequence. Always grow an intervening crop of a different nature, and the soil is given a chance to recuperate its spent energy.

INDOOR PLANTS.

Always keep house plants scrupulously clean and give them all the sunlight and air possible. Always place them out of doors on wet days; the rain will benefit them exceedingly by washing off the dust from the leaves and giving them a free breathing action. A good plan when watering plants is to place them in a tub of water, sinking the pots up to the brim and when bubbles cease to appear it is a sure sign that the plant is thoroughly watered when pot plants are dry the air gets access to the soil, and hence it is that when the pots are steeped in water the air getting away form bubbles in its escape.

THE MOST OBSTINATE

Corn must quickly yield to BAXTER'S RUBY CORN CURE. Once this remedy is applied there is no escape for the corn—it must give in. Price, 1/-, post free, from Baxter's Pharmacy, Theatre Buildings, Timaru.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

August 20

On Friday evening last the members of the Sacred Heart Choir met in the presbytery after the evening devotions for the purpose of saying farewell and making a presentation to Miss E. Dennehy, who is leaving Timaru to enter upon duties as an organist in Wellington. Very Rev. Dean Tubman, S.M., in presenting Miss Dennehy with a gold wristlet watch, spoke in high terms of her qualification as an organist and the loss the choir would sustain in her departure. Miss Dennehy suitably replied, and thanked the members of the choir for their handsome present and for the kindness shown her during the many years she had been with them as organist. After supper had been dispensed a short musical programme was rendered by members of the choir.

The social committee achieved another notable success on the evening of Thursday, 16th inst., when the promoters had the gratification of seeing in the assembly rooms a highly representative gathering of parishioners and visitors. The appointments were, if possible, on a scale surpassing any previous effort. The thanks of the committee are due to Mr. N. Quirk for a generous donation of refreshments, and to several others for small donations; also to the parishioners in general for their liberal response. The school funds will be considerably augmented as a result of the function, and the parishioners will have a pleasurable recollection of a most enjoyable social evening. The directing of the evening's entertainment was in the capable hands of Mr. P. Stapleton, who executed his onerous duties in his usual pleasing manner. Maras' Orchestra supplied most suitable music, and the supper, so capably dispensed by the ladies' committee, was supplied by Patemans.

General regret was experienced throughout the district when it became known on Wednesday last that Rev. Father Murphy, S.M., was to sever his connection with the parish of Timaru to enter upon duty as a military chaplain. Since his ordination eight years ago, Rev. Father Murphy has labored here, and by his kindly and genial manner, his whole-hearted sympathy with the people in their joys and sorrows, and by his priestly zeal, he has earned the affections and esteem of all. Although sorry to part with him, the people have the consolation of knowing that he is going to join that noble band of Catholic chaplains who have labored with such heroism and devotedness since the outbreak of the war, and knowing his unbounded zeal for the spiritual welfare of others, they can easily imagine the comfort and consolation he will bring to those to whom he will lovingly minister on board the hospital ship to which he is appointed. To give some tangible proof of the esteem and regard in which he is held a social and presentation is to be tendered him in the girls' school hall on Wednesday evening, and at St. Andrews on Thursday evening next. Rev. Father Murphy may rest assured that the best wishes and prayers of the people amongst whom he has so zealously and lovingly ministered during the last eight years will follow him in the new and enlarged sphere of duties for which he has been chosen, that God's choicest blessings may rest upon him, that his work may be crowned with success, and that he may have a speedy and safe return. (This report was unavoidably held over from last week.)

Those who love the poor during life shall not be without consolation at the hour of death.—St. Vincent de Paul.

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