

EVERY GARDEN SHOULD HAVE ROSES.



I HAVE often asked the question "Why have, you no roses?" "Oh, my soil is far too light and all rose growers, when writing, say the soil must be a strong clay loam." True, roses do best in such soil if well drained. A few years ago some friends from London happened to call on me at Delaware one fine morning when I had about seventy rose bushes in full bloom, the first word spoken was, "We did not know it was possible to grow such roses on soil so sandy and poor as we know yours was; how do you manage to get such roses?" By applying every fall a good coating of cow manure leaving it on the surface till the spring, then dig it in with a fork, and before raking the ground apply bone-dust till the ground is fairly white all around the bushes, prune the bushes as soon as the buds begin to open, by doing this every year I find my bushes growing stronger and giving me plenty of fine roses, but no one can have good roses without manure, and a rigid system of

pruning; also care must be taken to allow no insect pests to get the upper hand, for if the foliage is destroyed the whole plant receives a very severe shock. A few words about small roses or "bantlings," as your friend Mr. O. G. Johnstone calls them, he also states "One honest two-year old pot-grown rose is worth fifty of the baby roses sent out by mail." He must not forget roses are like men, in that both must be babies at the starting point. Now, I know that many persons, when reading a catalogue they see a lovely picture of roses, and they see two year old plants quoted at \$4.50 per dozen, "Oh, I would like a dozen, but I cannot afford it," and so on year after year, and no roses.

During the last twenty-five years I have grown many roses, and as a rule always buy small plants. My plan is to buy say one dozen plants for which I pay \$1.00. I get them in May, and plant them in a bed in the kitchen garden where I know the ground is rich, about twenty-inches apart each way, keep the ground free from weeds and loose till November. As soon as you see any buds forming, take your knife and cut the branch off about three inches below the bud, by so doing you will find you have by November a fine lot of stocky bushes.

In the spring as soon as the ground is fit to work, dig your holes in your flower border and take up each bush with a shovel with as much earth as will remain on the roots, and see that the earth is made solid round the roots, then with a sharp knife cut back all growth to within six or eight inches, and if your soil is good, you may be sure of good roses. Last May I planted out four dozen. Baby roses, and every one grew, and I feel confident that they will out grow