

the extent of the above, I would hesitate to give up Sunnyside.—*J. C. in an exchange.*

CULTIVATION OF THE PÆONY.

BY HERMANN SIMMERS, TORONTO.

PÆONY CHINENSIS, or Chinese Pæony is another valuable permanent addition to the flower garden, and one might say indispensable, as there is no plant flowering during this month that requires so little attention. The amateur may not notice, under the above heading, that this is the ordinary plant very often termed *Red Piny*, but the above is the correct botanical name. The amateur also may not be aware that the Pæonies have almost as great a variety of colours as the Rose, with a somewhat similar fragrance; I have had many people mistake them for very large Roses, when a bouquet has been made up of partially opened flowers. The Pæonies of late years have been very much improved in variety of colours, and now the colours vary from pure white to light and dark pink, pink and white variegated, etc., all exquisitely fragrant, which is not the case with the ordinary dark red variety. The best season of the year for planting, in my experience, has been from the middle of October until frost comes. Almost any soil will grow them successfully. The great disadvantage in planting in the spring is that the warm weather comes on us so very rapidly that the stems appear above ground before the amateur thinks of planting. By planting in the fall, they flower easily the following summer. Propagation is by division of roots, which may easily be done by cutting the heart of the root, together with an eye or bud and as much of the roots as can be conveniently spared. In my estimation there is no more easily grown, and more satisfactory plant than the Pæony. I would suggest not to always grow the

common dark red variety, but to choose the lighter colours, which are oftener the newer varieties. Another advantage is that, as yet, this plant has not been attacked by insects of any kind, the stems and leaves being of a harder substance, does not suit the palate of the insects.

CHRYSANTHEMUM CULTURE.—“Amateur,” in *Popular Gardening*, gives the following rules for Summer Care of these popular plants, viz. :—

- (1) Never keep them in doors when they can possibly be in the open air.
- (2) Never let them become pot bound until they have budded to bloom.
- (3) Never shift *immediately* after nipping.
- (4) Never let them stay dry.
- (5) Never let them want food.
- (6) Give them plenty of sun and not too much wind.
- (7) Pinch freely.
- (8) For fine flowers, rub off three out of five, and toward fall all that may appear.

Fruits.

FRUIT PACKAGES.

IN GROWING FRUITS for shipping to city markets, it is a great mistake to postpone the purchase of barrels, crates and baskets, until the time approaches when they are positively needed. It is already high time to secure crates and baskets for the strawberry crop, for before the end of the present month, there will be business enough in gathering and marketing the fruit, without any solicitude concerning a sufficient supply of baskets. Indeed, we who live on the south shore of Lake Ontario, usually begin shipping strawberries about the 20th of June.

For many years fruit growers in Canada used the wooden crate holding 54