

qualities of endurance and fragrance, rich vivid or delicate coloring, is almost an equal. The greenhouse rose and the rose of the American garden are almost two different flower-garden, however. Of course, in England, with its humidity that always veils even though it does not obscure the sun's intensity, the outdoor conditions are more even and like those of a greenhouse. There the roses, even of cottage gardens, are perfect, thick fleshed, and sturdy, while the climate allows Gloire de Dijon and Marechal Neil to festoon second-story windows unchecked, in company with white jasmine; and Marie Van Houtte, a tea rose, grows to the size of a great lilac bush.

Those who plant their rose garden with the memory of English roses blending with their dreams must be disappointed, as well as those who read the English garden papers telling of gathering La France buds outdoors in January, and then start out to do likewise by buying the latest offerings of the "Yellow Journal" catalogues.

Of course, the new bushes that we set out last fall will only show their colors and yield a few tardy buds this June, and it takes at least a two-years' trial of a bush to prove its hardiness, color, fragrance, and vigor of growth. But my present hope is in the old bushes that are proven, and, as they bloom, I shall make a list of them to give to my friends who have small gardens and are always asking for the names of roses that are "not cranky."

Some of these bushes are old settlers, like the white moss, Harrison's yellow, the nameless wine-colored rose of many petals, and Madame Plantier, the bush that Dan'l gave me so long ago, now grown a huge shrub, while its children, trained as vines, are mingling on the rose arbor with Baltimore Belle, climbing Victor Verdier, and the shell-pink, thornless blush rose, also an old-time favorite in English gardens. Some of the others are of later fame, though all have borne the test of at least a score of years—the original growth renewing itself from the root—and one and all are faithful, satisfactory bloomers, asking only deep, rich soil, a shelter of cedar boughs in winter, a light April pruning, and two sprayings with weak whale-oil soapsuds before the buds show color; while, in return, they will yield armful, apronsful, yes, clothesbasketsful, of roses.

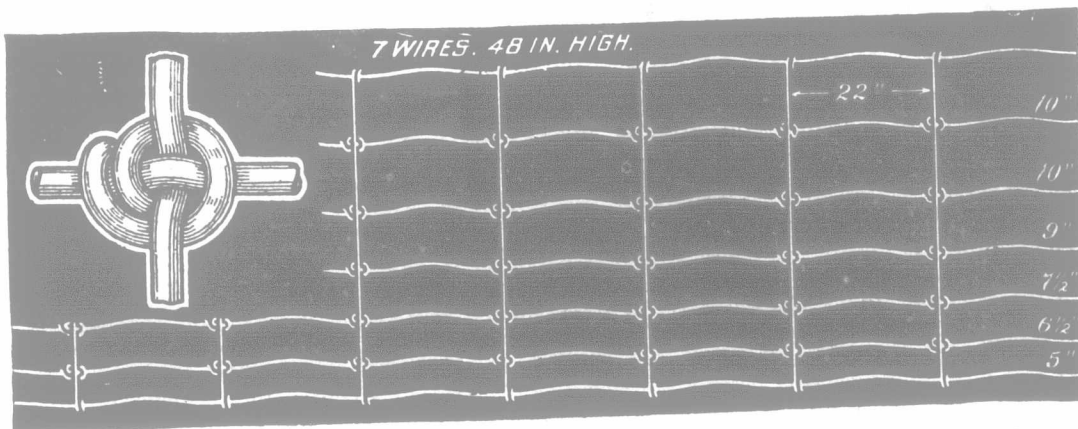
June 14. Saturday. This morning, as I was pottering among the roses, making ready for the June festival now beginning, by tying up a branch here and there, and seeing that the bushes were well supported in case heavy showers should come when the bloom was at its height, I heard a babel of voices that seemed to come from the wood-lot in the direction of the wild walk.

I hastened down there because we have already transplanted many ferns and wild plants to the edge of the path, and the trees and bushes are full of nesting birds that I knew of old used to attract unregenerate school children on egg hunts bent, so that either father or Tim had been frequently obliged to patrol the place on Saturdays in May and June.

Guided by the voices, I soon came upon a group of perhaps a dozen females standing about a stunted maple, gesticulating wildly. At the moment I appeared, as if obeying a signal, they sank to the ground in unison like a band of conspirators on the stage, and there remained squatting uncomfortably, the grass being deep and soaking wet, while they gazed at the maple.

For a moment I was nonplussed. The women ranged from youngish to middle-aged, the chief conspirator (I judged her to be the chief because she stood up and pointed, though not with a dagger) was perhaps fifty; tall, lean, thin in the legs and hair, but bearing an untrimmed sailor hat, and a very short divided bicycle skirt. She carried a book and an egg class, while a luncheon box was slung over one shoulder. Then I saw that all the others were equipped in similar manner. As I went for-

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ward to warn them away, I heard the voice of the chief say:

"Ladies, in that tree is the clay-lined nest of a wood thrush. The mother-bird is now brooding. In a few moments, when you have observed her patient immobility, I will see whether the nest contains eggs or young birds; if the latter, we may hope to observe the method of feeding and home sanitation practiced by our feathered little sister in the bush."

"Not while Barbara and six dogs are on the premises," I thought. Then the whole thing flashed across my intelligence. The conspirators were doing a Cook's Tour in Bird-land! For a moment I expected to see the group arise solemnly, take hands and dance around the chief, singing: "Follow the man from Cook's," then I took action, steadying my voice, and using father's pacific formula for such cases.

"You are probably not aware that you are trespassing, but this is private ground," my voice becoming more emphatic as I saw that the thrush had left the nest, and was summoning assistance by means of her cluck of alarm, which was instantly answered by the near-by robins' "quick, quick," the vee's "whew" from the woods, the catbird's "miou" from the garden, as well as a chorus of others.

"Oh, not at all, not at all," said the chief, beaming upon me patronizingly. "That is, I mean we are not in any way trespassing. We are studying birds—a Bird Class, you know. Of course, I was aware that this land belongs to the doctor, and that is the very reason why I have chosen it as a meeting-place for my class for the next two weeks, as I hear that he has protected birds for a long period, so that more species can be found nesting in a small radius than in any place conveniently near town. This fact guided my choice, for we've quite exhausted the city park; and later on we are going into the deep woods to observe the moulting, and to differentiate the plumage of young and adult birds. Ladies, look quickly! the female wood thrush is just above your heads, giving a tender maternal call to attract the attention of her young. Observe her smaller size, and the difference in the breast marks."

(To be continued.)

Youngwood—I always crack up my wife's biscuits.

Mr. Bachelor—Heavens! Are they as hard as that?

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