

OUR AFFILIATED SOCIETIES.

graceful—a row of them look like exclamation points against the sky line.

The cut-leaf birch is a better tree—it is not long-lived, and is past its meridian at 30 years—but is handsome and a fast grower. The Sweedler's maple is a magnificent foliage tree, bearing rich blood-red leaves, and grows to a fair size.—JOHN CRAIG, before Port Hope Society.

FERTILIZERS FOR HOUSE PLANTS.—

The judicious use of fertilizers should be referred to. He had told them that plants needed additional food when about to flower. He might say that certain fertilizers sold for the purpose were not immediately available for the supply of plant food ; growers should remember

that fact. One of the most valuable fertilizers is nitrate of soda, or guano, found in Chili, used in the proportion of one ounce to three gallons of water ; it should be used freely twice a week. Bone meal is also good, but must be well soaked first and used in the proportion of a teaspoonful to a gallon of water. When plants fail to thrive under good conditions take them out of the pots and look at the soil—often the earth worm is the cause of the trouble. To keep them out take a lump of lime about the size of a tea cup, slacken in five gallons of water, and use freely at times. The latter remedy is also excellent for lawns that are troubled with worms. — MR. CRAIG, before Lindsay Horticultural Society.

DAHLIAS.

If large tubers, divide, leaving one or two eyes. Plant in boxes last week in March, in not very rich earth. Water well and keep warm until started, then give plenty of fresh air, but not too much heat, or plants will become rank instead of strong and sturdy. Aim rather at producing strong roots. After danger of frost is over dig a hole, at least 18 inches deep, mix in old, well-rotted, cow manure. Half is not too much. Put a little earth in centre, set plant in it lightly and carefully, cover sprouts and all to a depth of 5 inches. Put in a stake at once, in case of frost, so that the exact place may be known to cover. They will require no watering until above ground, but afterwards must be given at least a full pail of water each evening during the summer, watering leaves and all ; soap suds are good, mulch during very warm weather. Dahlias must have very rich earth and plenty of water to bring them to perfection. They like

the early morning sun, but not during the heat of the day. Stake well and tie with wide cotton strings. In autumn cut off stalks within one foot of ground, then dig round root, lift carefully without breaking, and raise them whole, leave for a short time to dry, then place them whole in a box in the cellar and keep dry until following spring.

T. A. W.

Napanees.

CANNAS.—Unless very old roots do not divide, plant in boxes about 1st of April. 1st of June plant out of doors in very rich soil. They do best in a sunny place, but should not be exposed to strong winds. Before the stalks are badly frozen in October cut within 4 inches of the ground and store in the clumps in boxes of sand in a rather warm place, not below 40 degrees. Water slightly at intervals during winter. They can be grown as pot plant also.

T. A. W.

Napanees.