

ROSES.



HAVE just read S. P. Morse's excellent and timely article in the April issue of the *HORTICULTURIST*, and have noted one point in it which will bear a little extension. He says that "there are nearly a thousand varieties of roses alone." The "*Grand Dictionnaire des Roses*," published by Max Singer at Tournai, Belgium, in 1888, contains detailed descriptions of over 6000 varieties of roses. Extensive European dealers offer as many as 2000 sorts in their commercial lists, and it is quite common for leading continental growers to exhibit 600 varieties in a single class, at the great rose shows. I remember that at a grand horticultural exhibition held in the Champs Elysees, Paris, a few years ago, the celebrated rosarians, Leveque et fils, of Ivry-sur-Seine, displayed a collection of roses in pots, comprising 1800 varieties. The plants, models of health and vigor, were in full bloom and filled the vast enclosure with their delicious odor. The section of Tea roses was represented by a collection of 600 distinct sorts, and one plant of the hybrid Tea, *La France*, bore 200 buds and open flowers. The general rose list of the world is constantly increasing, and new classes are from time to time produced by crossing the different sections; recent examples of which we have had in the hybrid *Ayreshire* and hybrid *Rugosa*. The French, English and German growers, now annually bring out about one hundred new sorts, principally seedlings, though many fine varieties are the result of dimorphisms or sports. To the latter freak of nature we are indebted for many choice flowers, such as *Mabel Morrison*, *White Baroness*, *Pride of Waltham*, *Madame Louis Donadine*, *Duchess of Albany*, *Sunset*, *The Bride*, and many others. As to the seedling novelties annually produced, only a restricted number ultimately achieve permanent fame; while the majority, from inherent defects, or lack of distinctive individuality, sink back into oblivion.

Raising roses from seed by the elaborate procedure of cross-fertilization, is now more common than in former times, and is usually more productive of satisfactory results than the old-time method of employing chance-bred seeds.

Not all the varieties produce seeds naturally; the number of such is limited; others bear seeds if artificially fertilized; while many are barren. Of the Hybrid Remontants, a few good seed-bearing sorts may be mentioned: *Gen. Jacqueminot*, *John Hopper*, *Prince Camille de Rohan*, *Jules Margottin*, *Lady Suffield*, *Madame Victor Verdier*, *Marie Baumann*, *Victor Verdier*, *Fisher Holmes*, *Dr. Andry*, *Alfred Colomb*, *Jean Cherpin*, *Mlle. Annie Wood*, *Baron Bourtellin*, *Antoine Ducher*, *Beauty of Waltham*, *Baronne de Rothschild*, and *Duke of Edinburgh*. In France, as a general rule, the seed is sown immediately when ripe, and germinates in from one to three months. The young plants often produce tiny flowers, in keeping with the lilliputian size of the plants, the first month, and indicate to a certain extent the color and future form of the flower, but it is not