

A FEW WORDS ABOUT ROSES.*

By the Hon. Mrs. Lambart, Ottawa.



SOME years ago when I was invited to write a paper on Roses, I readily consented. I was then enjoying my first success in cultivating my favorite flower, and felt possessed of such an unlimited fund of information on the subject that I was ready to instruct anyone who stood in need of such knowledge. But since then years have put to the test some of my pet theories, and, I must confess, put many of them to flight, and now I only feel capable of saying just a few words in the matter. The wisdom of my reserve is all the more evident from the fact that my friend Mr. MacGrady's experience is almost directly contradictory to my own, especially in the matter of pruning.

It must be understood that whatever I now say is intended for the novice only. I no longer aspire to teach the experienced floriculturist.

The first necessity for rose growing is morning sun. I do not believe that any satisfaction can possibly be obtained without it, even though the sun should beat on one's roses from midday to midnight. It is the early morning sun which is the source of life and strength to them, and if, after midday, they are in shade, so much the better. Rich soil, a shelter from north and east winds by shrubs, or by a fence not too near, and plenty of room, of ventilation between the bushes—under these conditions any rose, except standards, may be grown with perfect success in Ottawa.

Of course nearly all of them must be covered in winter—and the tea-roses much more heavily than the others. *Rosa Rugosa*, all the briars (including the two yellow roses) and all moss roses are better for being left quite unprotected. All should be heavily mulched before the 1st of July.

The most important division, to the gardener, is that of remountant and non-remountant of summer varieties. The former bloom on shoots of the same year's growth, while the latter must have two-year-old wood before they will show us a flower. As to pruning: if one's roses are all remountant, the experience of Canon Hole, the well-known rosarian, will serve as a guide. He said that his roses had never been so glorious as they were the year they had been pruned by a donkey, when a donkey had broken into his garden and cropped his remountants to the ground. According to this one should cut out, as one does with its cousin the

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