

## Some Impressions of a St. Catharines Garden

**S**T. CATHARINES is a city that can boast of many fine gardens and lawns. Situated as it is in the heart of the best tender fruit district of Canada, one might expect to find, and does find, gardening brought to a high state of perfection.

Probably the most extensive and in many respects the finest garden in the city, is that of Dr. Merritt of Rodman Hall. Last summer a representative of The Canadian Horticulturist had an opportunity to visit and admire the Rodman Hall gardens. The training that Mr. S. Clark, the gardener, has received in the Old Land is evidenced in the careful cultivation and attention which the grounds receive at his hands. At the 1913 St. Catharines Fruit and Flower Show fourteen firsts were awarded to the products of the Rodman Hall gardens. These included a collection of ten foliage plants, six foreign ferns (among which was a fine bird's nest fern and also a stag's horn), adiantums, dracenas, begonias, and collections of annuals.

### NATURAL ADVANTAGES

The grounds are admirably adapted for a residence and when originally laid out full opportunity was taken of the natural advantages. Extending to one side and back of the house are four acres of lawn and garden. From the flower garden one obtains a magnificent view overlooking the Twelve Mile Creek.

The lawn proper is about two acres in extent. Among the trees are some fine specimens of tulip tree, catalpa and paulonia. Directly behind the house is a smaller expanse of lawn. Extending beyond and to one side of the latter is the flower garden. From the house a walk winds among the beds which contain some of the finest examples of bedding to be found in the city—sub-tropical bedding, carpet bedding and the more general run of carpet schemes.

### THE KITCHEN GARDEN

From the flower garden we passed through an archway in the neatly trimmed privet hedge, which surrounds the vegetable garden at the rear. This kitchen garden of one and a half acres, is laid out in English style. It is a splendid example of intensive cultivation as the ground is cropped twice each season. Extending through the centre of the garden is the main walk which is edged on either side by an herbaceous border. The other walks are edged with the old fashioned box hedge.

All the herbaceous plants are in the two borders mentioned which are one hundred and twenty-five yards long. A plant being tested out is the Montbretia. Its hardiness is being ascertained, and should it prove resistant the Montbretia

will be a valuable acquisition. At the corners of some of the beds pyramid trained pear trees effect a relief.

### TOMATOES A SPECIALTY

A specialty is made of tomatoes, which are trained on trellises. About one hundred and fifty plants, giving half a ton of fruit, are grown each year. Onions are another specialty. This season an exceptionally good crop of peas was raised. Sutton's Excelsior proved the most satisfactory variety. Some fine English gooseberries also figure in the selection.

An interesting novelty was a tomato-potato combination. A tomato stem was grafted on a potato plant. The former bore several trusses of fine tomatoes, while the roots of the latter produced a number of fine tubers. We believe the practice is fairly common among French gardeners. The fact that both plants belong to the nightshade family accounts

for the readiness with which they may be grafted.

### THE GREENHOUSES

In the kitchen garden are three greenhouses, each one hundred by twenty feet, which are devoted to the culture of ferns, foliage and flowering plants. Recently more attention has been paid to the growing of roses. Two smaller houses are utilized during early spring for the growing of bedding stock and in the summer for the production of English cucumbers. These houses produced the cucumbers that won first prize at Ottawa last year.

Grapes are grown under glass in two graperies, each thirty feet long. From these houses come the grapes which were so well commented upon at the Canadian National Exhibition last year, and which were judged by some to be the finest ever shown at Toronto. At the St. Catharines show fruit from these graperies was first in its class.—B.H.C.B.

## Preparations for the Perennial Border

H. Gibson, Tuxedo Park

**T**HE latter half of July is a suitable time to sow seeds of any plants that are required for planting to permanent quarters, the latter part of September. A shady corner containing good earth or a cold frame is the best place in which to sow the seed. The soil should be of a friable nature and worked up finely. Sowing in drills is preferable to broadcasting the seed, as the different varieties are less likely to get mixed.

Draw the drills an inch deep, and sow as evenly and thinly as possible. Thick sowing tends to overcrowding at an early stage. Cover the seed with fine earth, and then water with a fine rose on the watering can. Care should be taken to label each variety correctly so as to avoid future disappointment and delay.

During the hot, dry days some shade from the direct rays of the sun will be necessary to prevent too rapid evaporation.



The Residence and Lawn, Rodman Hall, St. Catharines, Ont.