

The Aristocrat

of the Garden

(Written for The Canadian Press by J. B. SPENCER, B.S.A., of the Ontario Horticultural Ass'n.)

Even the smallest garden is incomplete without roses, for if it be a specialist garden where is all occupied with the grower's favorite in some other flowers, there is yet room on the fence or a wall for a climbing rose. But if the garden is not a specialist, he is doing his family and friends an injustice if he does not include a few rose bushes in his planting arrangements. There is less reason for leaving out the roses now than before the days of the Hybrid Teas, because a rose out of bloom is not strikingly decorative and one crop of flowers in the summer is not enough to satisfy the discriminating gardener. With the development of the Hybrid Tea rose, with its wide range of wonderful colorings, the lure of the rose has grown and grown until perhaps more than ever it is becoming the one plant common to all well-ordered gardens. There are some flowers that one might tire of. Who would want tulips through the whole season? Nor do we miss the iris and peony greatly with the passing of the glorious feast they have provided in their season. But the rose is different, and will continue to justify its designation "The Queen of Flowers."

The subject of varieties in roses interests not only the beginners, but also those who would add to their plantings. Roses differ, perhaps, even more than many other flowers in the characteristics of varieties. Hardiness is a widely varying factor, to say nothing of the vigor of growth, form, fragrance, color of flower and resistance to disease.

In the Hybrid Perpetuals, which almost anyone can grow, there are about three or four old standbys that might be recommended. Frau Karl Druschki as a white rose has not been surpassed in any class of roses. J. B. Clark, an intense scarlet, is very vigorous and a great bearer. Mrs. John Laing and George Arends are perhaps the two best pinks.

Covering the different colours in Hybrid Teas, the following dozen varieties are hard to surpass: Red, General McArthur, Gruss au Teplitz; pink, Ophelia, Mrs. Henry Morse, Jonkheer J. L. Mock; coppery shades, Los Angeles, Padre, Willomere; yellow, Souvenir de Claudius Pernet, Sabotini, white, Madame Jules Bouche and White Killarney.

In climbing roses many new creations have been brought out in recent years and include some of the hybrid teas. For the rigorous climate of this country these are of doubtful value. Without these there are many wonderfully beautiful sorts which include, in pink, Tausendschoen and Dorothy Perkins; in reds, Paul's Scarlet Climber and Excelsa; in yellow, Goldfinch; and in white, White Dorothy.

For the novice in rose culture there are a number of considerations that should not be overlooked when setting out a rose or bed. Within reasonable limits it is hardly possible to have the soil too rich, provided, of course, that unrotted manure is kept away from the roots. The soil should be deeply prepared and contain, if at

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all available, a 25 to 50 per cent. proportion of heavy clay, well mixed with lighter soil and fertilizer. When the plants are received from the nursery they will, in all probability, have been kept in cold storage over the winter, and although the roots have been kept moist, the branches will have been shrivelled. A well-worn practice of the experienced gardener is to bury the plants, root and branch, in moist soil for three or four days. This will restore them to a plump, natural condition, ready to carry the sap that the roots will stand up with the commencement of growth. They shall be left in this position until the holes in the bed are ready to receive the plants, which should stand 2 1/2 feet apart for Hybrid Teas and 3 feet for Hybrid Perpetuals. The depth of planting is a matter of great importance. The joint where the rose has been grafted on to the briar root should be covered a couple of inches and the holes dug accordingly. It is necessary also to give the hole a good breadth so that the root may be spread out as the fingers of one's hand. Bruised or broken roots are better to be removed with a sharp knife, and during the planting process fine soil should be carefully used and so filled in as to leave the roots and soil in close contact. Tramping is advisable as the hole is being filled.

Pruning is the next operation and must be done almost ruthlessly. The crop of roses that will be cut during the summer must be borne on new wood still invisible except as tiny buds borne along the stems. Weak branches cannot produce good flowers and are better removed at once close to the stem. The largest stems produce the strongest growth from buds near the ground. It is well, therefore, to shorten these to within three to six inches of the ground according to the size and vigor of the new plant. Having accomplished this bit of surgery one can trust to Nature, except to give cultivation once a week at least from that on and to protect the plant against insect and disease attack.

The rose, unfortunately, has its enemies and these require to be combatted. Spraying the Bordeaux mixture early in the season and again at intervals, will well repay the labor it involves in protecting the plants from mildew and black spot. Dusting with dry sulphur is also a preventive and to some degree a cure. If mixed with arsenate of lead and tobacco dust in proportion of 6 1/4 parts, the preparation becomes also an enemy of the insects that are ever ready to disfigure and weaken the plants. Some growers that have waterworks attached to their places, depend alone on the hose for driving off insect enemies, including the green aphid. For this tiny creature, which multiplies at a tremendous rate when once established, it is very good treatment to spray with a nicotine preparation known as Black Leaf 40 and a small amount of soap dissolved in the solution. A teaspoonful of the nicotine to a gallon of water is about the strength to use. Applications are needed two or three days in succession so as to clear out the new hatches as they succeed their short-lived parents.

Even as the rose requires more exacting attention than some of the other flowers and has thorns for the careless, no decorative plant is more closely identified with the progress of civilization. This aristocrat of flowers is the insignia of refinement and its culture is associated with the joys and beauties of life.

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may seem inexplicable to the ordinary grown-up Londoner, but it is easily understood by children. There are to-day certain discontented, ambitious schoolboys preparing for another week's slavery at their books when they would be dashing through the streets in shining helmets, or climbing tall ladders poised against nothing. They say the headquarters brigade at drill on Saturday afternoon.

Once a month London school children are permitted to see firemen under instruction, and permanent members of the brigade do wonderful things in Southwark Bridge-road. There are thrilling "rescues" by a hook-and-ladder crew, working from a roof, first aid and removal of injured persons by the ambulance service; the extinction of a petrol fire; a sensational "turn" by the emergency tender, equipped with smoke helmets, searchlights, and fresh-air blower, in which "unconscious" persons "overcome" by smoke are restored to animation.

Little wonder they go home reluctantly, to dream of a glorious future concerned wholly with the devastation of London by fire, and their own heroic part—waiting, of course, the necessary helmet of glittering metal—in saving the city from destruction.

THE HANDY MAN.
Still, this does not explain why firemen want to become firemen. It can be only recorded as a fact that the majority of the recruits, for the London Brigade are drawn from the sea.

Seafaring candidates make the best firemen, because they are accustomed to turn out in all kinds of weather and to do any job at a moment's notice. Also they are used to stern discipline.

About one candidate in a hundred passes the severe preliminary tests. Even if he satisfies the essential requirements as to height (minimum 5ft. 7in.) and chest measurement (minimum 37in.) he may come disconsolately out of the testing room, defeated by the 440lb. weight which he must pull up by a block and tackle in 40 seconds.

One innovation of which they are rather proud at Southwark Bridge headquarters is the new method of putting out petrol fires—by means of a mobile tank which can throw 8,000 gallons of a soapy froth and cover a good-sized drilling yard to the depth of an inch.

STOCK MARKET NEWS

(From Boston News Bureau, April 2.)

WILLIS-OVERLAND.
Splendid. Financial. Progress. Last Year—First Quarter And Probably A Bigger Second—The Dividend Question.

Boston—Report of Willis-Overland for 1924 proved to be better than anticipated. Net operating profits after charges were above instead of below \$2,000,000, while an unexpected windfall of almost \$1,000,000 turned up from settlements, sales and adjustments during the year.

Willis-Overland operated conservatively last year. While the first quarter was record-breaking, it did not close the eyes of President Willis to the fact that the spring months could

not continue the pace, so that manufacturing curtailment was ordered early, and major energies concentrated upon keeping dealers in healthy shape. Then, in the fall, it was decided to bring out the long-awaited Knight six and a new line of Overlands. In other words, the company decided to keep strong and to plan ahead in preference to bucking rising sales resistance.

The balance-sheet demonstrates in dollars and cents the wisdom of that conservatism. With \$32,264,818 quick assets and liabilities of only \$5,774,974, the company is in better financial condition than at any time since the trials of the 1920 deflation descended upon it. Figuring that the \$27,000,000 plant investment is a sufficient asset for the \$9,000,000 bond issue, then the \$29,490,000 net quick assets are available for the preferred to the extent of \$128 a share. Deducting the bond issue, there is \$92 a share.

Of the individual balance sheet items the inventory figure arouses the most interest. Down below \$23,000,000, it is \$10,600,000 lower than the year before, the lowest since end of 1921, and clearly reflects better operating control. It is this flexibility, lacking some years ago, which is enabling Willis-Overland to keep clear of the banks in the face of a production lately above 1000 cars daily.

The new year gets away to a good start with a production less than a third below the 1924 big first quarter of 68,000 cars. As result of dealers having sold 20,000 more cars than they bought and factory 12,000 more cars than it built, conditions are so strong as to make likely a strong second quarter as well as a first. Present schedules call for 60,000 cars coming quarter.

Earnings are running large and for the first quarter should run over \$2,000,000 or more than in all of last year. Directors at their meeting this month will probably be governed in their dividend attitude by the outlook and by consideration of the problem trend through the fall. The only factors that might lead to postponement of action would be the \$1,000,000 bond maturity July 15 or a sudden sales slump in any quarter.

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