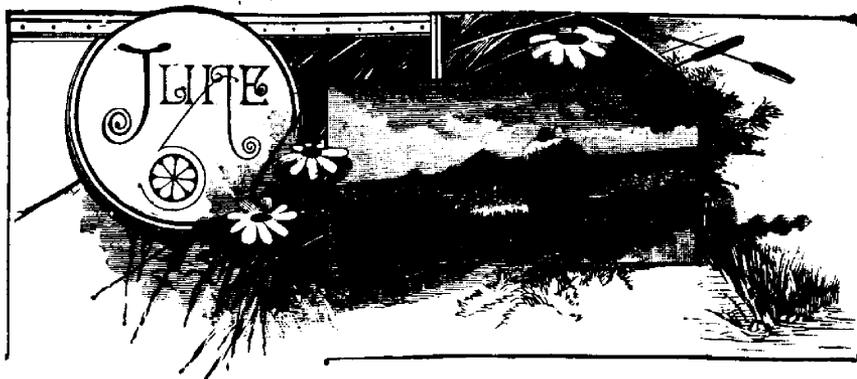


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THE ROSE.



THE most coveted and most highly prized of all the flowers! The rose is as easily cultivated, under the proper conditions, as the most ordinary house plant. What the amateur wishes to know is, what these conditions are. The first to claim our attention is the soil: this should be three parts of heavy clay loam, mixed with one part well-rotted cow manure. Each pot should have in the bottom a layer of bits of broken pot or charcoal, preferably the latter, to ensure perfect drainage, without which success is impossible. Care must be taken to press the earth firmly around the roots of the plant, yet not so solidly as to prevent growth. The next essential conditions are light, air, warmth, and judicious watering. A sunny south-easterly situation insures the full rays of the sun, and with the temperature never below 60 degrees, and above that point most of the time, the amateur should be able to grow roses with the professional.

A shaded and cold situation will always induce mildew, one of the rose's blighting enemies. When this enemy appears on the foliage, a little sulphur sprinkled on some coals in its vicinity will aid in checking it. Another pest is the red spider. This can be driven away by ample spraying with water, both underneath and above the foliage, or the plants may be dipped in water, which insures their being thoroughly wetted. The aphid or green fly also needs constant attention. This is more difficult for an amateur to combat than the others, but with care one may easily fumigate with tobacco, by placing the plants in a small shed and burning near them some *wet* tobacco on red-hot coals. The commonest tobacco is the best, and I emphasize the word *wet*, for if it flames,