

as screens, and happily any soil seems to satisfy them.

PRUNING THE ROSE.

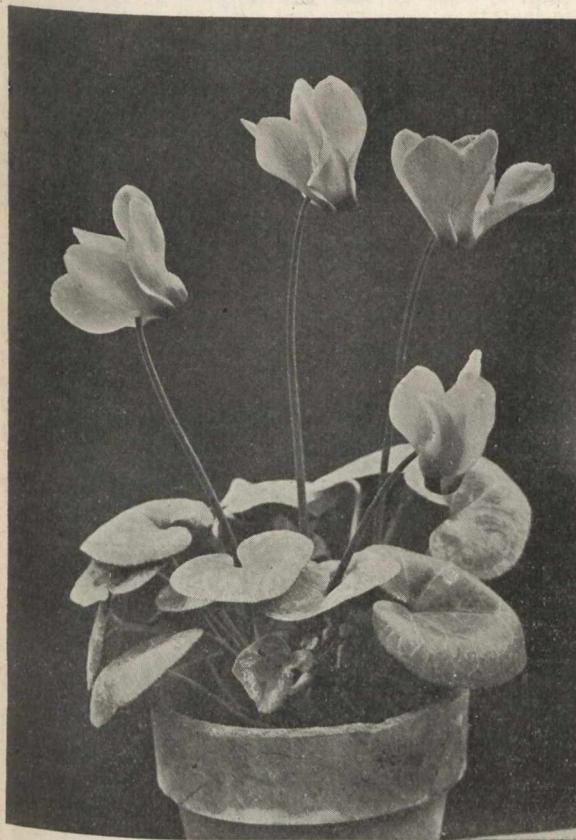
THE Rose should be in our thoughts from now until the winter again sends Nature to sleep. "When to prune" is an April subject. This should be done—and the advice of an enthusiastic rosarian is not forgotten in these remarks—in spring. When planting roses the authority mentions cuts off any injured portions of the roots and cuts back the tops to from three to seven inches above the ground. The second year prune in the spring as soon as the buds begin to show. If roses of fullest development are desired, cut the shoots down to within a few inches of the ground and just above an outside bud,

as inside buds upset the symmetry of the plant into the centre of which sun and air should enter. The weaker the plant the harder it should be pruned. Climbing roses practically need little pruning except to cut off dead wood. After a main shoot of these climbers has borne flowers, say for two seasons, it is advisable to remove it close to the chief root immediately it has bloomed, so that a new shoot or two will develop to take its place with fresh flowering wood for the following season's feast of roses.

LUSCIOUS ASPARAGUS.

VEGETABLES have not been written much of in these notes, simply for the good reason that it is impossible to deal with every phase of garden-

ing in a small compass, but the lordly Asparagus, at one time a dish only for kings, may well enjoy a paragraph to itself. It has golden qualities, wholesome in all ways and in about all forms. April is the month to plant the bed, which should therefore be prepared at once by the use of three parts good loam and one part of cow manure. Put in strong, two-year-old roots as soon as the soil is in suitable condition. Sturdy roots give the quickest results, and once a bed has become established it will last for years with little attention. Conover's Colossal is the kind most sought for, and the Palmetto also is popular. It is only within recent years that this delicious vegetable has taken any place in the economy of the household. It was regarded as troublesome to grow, but nothing is simpler.



A Butterfly Flower (Cyclamen Persicum). Flowers in Late Winter and Spring.



The Lily-of-the-Nile (Arum)—an Easter Flower.



The Cineraria, a Flower of Purple and White, Blooming Now.

Flowers in Exhibition Park, Toronto

NOTHING gives greater pleasure to those who have horticulture at heart than steady progress. It reflects the municipal mind and has direct bearing on the national life of the people. This is no idle, ill-considered opinion. Flowers are an uplifting force, and nowhere is it more plainly shown than in England, in whose thousands of parks, save those set amidst the more luxurious surroundings, are flower exhibitions, principally of the Chrysanthemum in its manifold variations.

Imagine the delight of one accustomed to glorious displays from the beneficent lap of nature to find in a corner of the now dreary exhibition grounds, Toronto, where the silence is broken only by the waves beating on the lake shore and the shrill cry of gulls, an oasis of flower life in a cluster of large plant houses, illustrations of which are given. Our thoughts wandered to the great Kew garden of England, and comparisons were certainly not odious. The plants were as skilfully cultivated and the Azaleas beyond praise.

A hot sun was streaming in, lighting up the colouring and making more gorgeous still the hues of a warm red Azalea which it has never been our pleasure to see before, and a starry Cineraria that seems to have kissed the wild rose of rough places, a thousand petals touched with softest pink. Violets, Daffodils, flaming Gesneras, sweet-smelling Primula verticillata, with the scent and colour of an English meadow cowslip, Cyclamen, Nile Lilies, and a galaxy of rare



In the City Conservatories at Exhibition Park, Toronto.

Photograph by W. James.

and familiar flowers fill the houses, together with hundreds of bedding plants in preparation for the summer display—bred in this nursery of floral treasures. It is all delightful and satisfying, this forerunner of what we fervently hope will be a great horticultural and botanical garden.

One illustration is peculiarly tropical; it is of the masses of palms and plants esteemed for their beautiful leaves set out to show as far as possible in a confined space their natural characteristics—a leafy, grateful little scene by the lake shore. The houses have only been built four years, but are a praiseworthy beginning, a credit to Mr. Potter and the earnest workers about him, a work that should receive strong municipal support.

Those responsible for the flower gardening in the Exhibition Park are men of enthusiasm and willing to impart their rich knowledge to others. This is one of the principles that govern the famous Wisley garden of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, and a great principle, too.

Of course much work has to be accomplished, but a beginning has been made and we shall look forward to the time when Toronto has a great botanic garden of its own, having in remembrance the plant houses by the lake—birthplace of a praiseworthy development. A botanic garden has many uses and may be planned to show not merely the economic value of a plant, but its natural beauty, too.

E. T. COOK.