

CORNER ROCKERIES IN CITIES

IN attempting to add true beauty to the landscape or even to the small lot the tendency in recent years has been to maintain as nearly as possible a strict naturalness. There are, however, very many cases in which art and nature must be combined to give the desirable effect.

Large boulders and ledges are in themselves natural objects which add a charm to their surroundings. Loose rocks and cobbles on the other hand are unsightly rubbish. But even these objectionable smaller stones may be made use of by having them form the nucleus for clumps of shrubs. It is the larger shaggy ledges, however, that give the best effect.

Large boulders arranged along a steep embankment with no regular outline add a naturalness and beauty which can be obtained in no other way.

By combining plants and rocks even small level lawns may be rendered much more beautiful. Too frequently a corner lot is spoiled by "busy" people taking short cuts and making a hideous path across what otherwise would be a beautiful lawn. Many

means of preventing the making of these unsightly paths have been tried. Fences are being discarded. Shrubs and trees are effective, but as a rule rockeries add more beauty and are just as efficient in preventing inroads of hurried pedestrians.

Large, water-worn limestone rocks produce the best effect. They are so rough and irregular that they are almost certain to present a natural appearance. By combining what artistic tendency is possessed by even an amateur landscape gardener with the inherent naturalness of the rocks themselves it is an easy matter to produce a very pleasing effect.

In building the rockery none but the best soil should be used, and it is important that it be well packed into every corner between the rocks. The choice of shrubs, plants and vines will depend on the climate and on the site, as well as on the size of the rockery.

In Hamilton last year the City Improvement Society offered prizes for corner rockeries and many beautiful effects were produced. As an encouragement to amateurs in any line it might be stated that the first

prize was won by Mr. C. D. Nash, who had had no previous experience in rockeries.

"My rockery," writes Mr. Nash to *The Horticulturist*, "consists of water-worn stones of all shapes and sizes. In erecting them no particular care was taken to make them in any way straight. This, of course, gives a better effect. The rockery is 16 feet long, 26 inches high, and 28 inches



The First Prize Rockery in a Hamilton Rockery Competition.