

EXPOSURE FOR A ROSE BED.

A friend inquires what is the best exposure for a rose bed. We would say that any exposure is good enough, the main point being to have the soil in proper condition, which is that it shall have good drainage and be well enriched. On a level surface, especially, must the drainage be well attended to, but this is scarcely less necessary on hillsides even of considerable declivity, if the soil is heavy. A slope to the east, or the north, we think most desirable for roses, for the reason that the blooms will last longer, and there is less danger from severe freezing in winter. A southern exposure might give a little earlier bloom but it would be of shorter duration and the danger of injury in winter is greater, and the same is true of a western exposure. But if circumstances should decide any one of these exposures it should not exclude the pleasure of a rose bed. Experiences might vary with the different exposures, and varieties which might succeed with one might not be so well adapted to another, but this is true in regard to all locations. The rose is so beautiful and desirable, and with moderate attention will bloom so generously, that it should be universally planted, and that not sparingly.—Vick's Monthly.

Fragrance of La France Rose.

Not one of the least of the qualities we desire in a rose is fragrance ; in this regard all classes must do homage to La France, which H. W. Ellwanger characterizes as the sweetest of all roses. If he were compelled to choose one variety it would be La France. It is rather tender, but it can easily be protected, and so winter safely. It does not always open well, but it is a simple matter to assist it ; an operation not practicable with most varieties that do not open perfectly. If La France does not develop well, by pressing gently with the finger the point of the bloom, and then blowing into the center, the flower will almost invariably expand, the pent up fragrance escape and almost intoxicate with delight our sense of smell.—R. Y. N.

Herbaceous Plants in Summer.—The great majority of hardy perennial flowers are natives of woods or grassy places where the earth is shaded from the summer suns. When they are removed to open borders they suffer seriously from summer heat. It is, therefore, good practice in these open sunny situations to have the ground mulched,—that is to say, covered with something like decayed leaves or half-rotted straw, or anything that will prevent the scorching rays of the sun on the earth. Herbaceous plants do not care so much for bright sun as they do for a cool soil at the roots. For the same reason a loose, open soil is better for growing herbaceous plants than soil of a heavier character, because having more air spaces, it is cooler. In short, it is a cool soil more than shade that herbaceous plants require.—Mechan's Monthly.