

shades, has stood out in this garden with, of course, the accustomed protection, necessary in the northern and indeed all British countries, without injury. The great point is to give adequate protection, and this is accomplished by hoeing or earthing up the soil six inches deep and thus covering the union of stock and scion, which is the most vulnerable part. This method has been followed with unbounded success in the British Isles, and in addition to this put long, strawy litter over the plants to throw off moisture. It is not so much severe cold that kills as damp, and a hard, dry snowy winter is less hurtful than spells of warmth, cold, and wet. Advice such as this may be soon wanted. The old adage that "what is worth doing is worth doing well" applies with strong force to the growing of roses, and fortunately the routine to be followed is simple and interesting. The plant should be three inches below the union of stock and scion, and planting takes place, in the case of roses raised in the country, in the fall, and if imported, about the second week in April. The most favorable season of all, however, for planting in general, is the early spring, and for soil choose very heavy clay, or, failing that, dig out the ground to a depth of four feet, putting one foot of brick bats in the bottom, then cow or pig manure and then chopped loam or sod that has been in the stack one year. On the top layer, or "spit," as it is called, put in a quantity of marl or blue clay, which will pulverize and mix in well. Renew the bed every five years.

As to pruning, the weakly growers should be cut back to four "eyes" or buds, and the strong to six, and this should be done about the end of March; Hybrid Teas, to three eyes, and the middle of April, and the Teas, severely, removing weakly wood. Many different opinions are expressed with regard to feeding, but diluted animal manure promotes the finest growth and flowers, and pig and fowl manure should not be used, as they are too hot.

If the advice given is followed and mixed with sound commonsense on the part of the cultivator, there should be Roses to overflowing. The question of insect pests was recently considered, so further reference is needless here. One thing I hope is that these notes of something that has actually occurred in Rose culture in this country will be fruitful in great results. They should dispel all thoughts of failure and give renewed courage to those who have not achieved success because something was wrong in culture details. The Rose is our flower, and queen in the big, gay, odorous posy that makes up the wild and garden gems of Canada, and the more we know of her winsome, wilful ways, the ways of a spoilt pretty coquette, the more we shall coax from her the rich fulness of beauty that comes in response to those who try to understand her and mean to do so.

Roses are not, of course, confined to the three great races that have formed the chief theme, and as the love of the flower deepens, so other groups will creep into the garden, and the bright chinas, moss, and many others mingle in the beautiful assembling of all that is most lovely in the world of garden flowers.

Fall vs. Spring Planting

A VERY interesting and useful discussion in these pages arises from whether it is wise to plant at all in the fall or leave everything to spring. Men of experience seem to differ seriously on this most important question, and the writer would earnestly like to know why, during such a fall as was experienced last year, planting, except of firs and evergreens generally, should not go forward? The soil was perfect, the weather sometimes almost spring-like in warmth, and conditions apparently favourable in every way. Yet, wise men shook their heads and said, "No, better to plant in spring." Well, if

the spring, which generally means for planting about a month, is the only season to ensure safety and therefore guard against failure, which no one wants, the time is fairly limited, counting delays in obtaining the stock and manifold trials. One would like a clearly defined table of just the things that may be planted during both seasons, and this list or table to comprise orchard trees and plants, everything, in fact, that contributes to orchard and garden. Opinions from those qualified to give them will be welcomed and just settle a matter on which there must be no hesitation.

Evaporation and Soil

MULCHING or covering the surface with various kinds of light materials, such as leaf-mould, littery manure or anything, in fact, which gives an inch or two of loose surface to the earth and prevents evaporation, is a great aid on many soils, but not so important where the beds have been thoroughly prepared, at least not for roses, and many of the best flowers, because if the roots can go down and find good soil as far as they go they really do not want mulching, save on very hot soils. Mulching of various kinds or loosening the surface of the ground is, moreover, much easier to carry out in the kitchen and fruit gardens or orchard than in the flower garden, the surface of which we wish covered during the fine season, and is not difficult to carry out, as we often see it where the health of the forest and other fertile lands depends to a certain extent on the ground being covered with vegetation, which of itself prevents direct evaporation. We see the same thing occur in cultivation where the ground is covered with the leaves of plants, as in a well-cropped market garden.

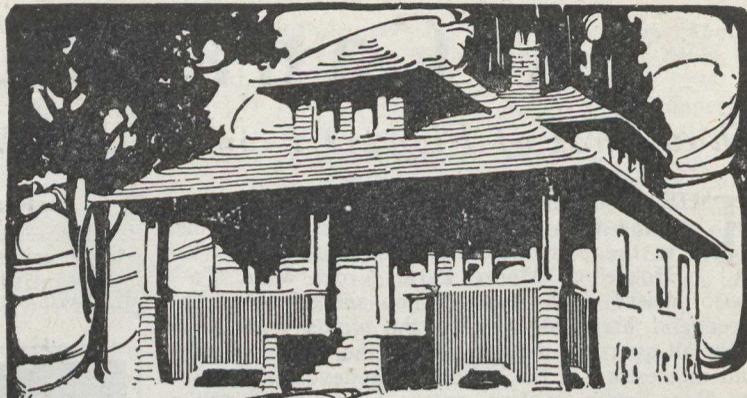
W. ROBINSON.

Barbed Wire a Curse

THE mind that conceived the idea of barbed wire fence was as malignant as the inventor of dum-dum bullets; inventions, if one cares to call them so, that have not even the merit of cleverness. Inventions there are, deadly, venomous and devilish that fill one with wonder, but not the barbed wire, which is no real protection, simply an idea conceived to torture without practical protective results. The sight the other day of a lamb caught in barbed wire filled one with disgust. The man who wishes to get over a barbed wire fence can easily do so, and an ordinary strong wire fence is sufficient to deter cattle. There are more broken fences and big holes in barbed wire fences than in any other and their danger to children in particular and animals is a real one. If more attention were paid to keeping gates sound and shut when not required to be open, a few of the trials of farm and garden life would disappear.

Testing the "Ad."

ADVERTISING is a strange device. All last winter in the street-cars of Canada there appeared a sign that was first put up in the merry month of May—cracking up the charms of a certain kind of summer underwear. Intending customers were counselled to keep cool this summer by buying that kind of sub-clothes. That was in December, and January and February—and still the wonder grew. Girls giggled and young men said the ad. was crazy, and wiseacres said the ad. that left it up must be a backwoods concern. In March somebody wrote to the head of the firm "way down east" calling his attention to the behind-the-times thing. He got a very curt but courteous reply. And the ad. stayed up along into spring. By which time the firm had accumulated a heavy bunch of letters on the subject, each of which was carefully replied to. It was all done—a purpose. The underwear makers only wanted to test the value of that particular kind of advertising. And they did.



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