

Horticultural Department.

CONDUCTED BY JOSEPH FROST.

HARDY ROSES.

THE rich, exquisite fragrance of the rose, its varied and perfect form, combining among the different varieties almost every conceivable color, makes it a favorite with everybody; its easy cultivation, too, thriving, as it does, in a degree under all sorts of maltreatment, which makes this flower, of all, the most popular. Necessary as is this plant to ornament our grounds, yet comparatively little is known of the different species, and much less care is given its cultivation. In fact, there is no flowering plant, in proportion to the extent of its cultivation, that receives worse treatment. It is placed in hard, unprepared ground, with a retentive subsoil, and frequently in borders adjacent to the walls of buildings, containing earth thrown from cellar bottoms, freely intermixed with stones and lime, and fully exposed to the scorching rays of the sun in midsummer, where it is expected to flourish. Then its after culture produces the finishing touch. Should the plant be able to produce any branches, they are allowed to crowd and choke each other, wholly excluding the light and air. If it were suggested to prune as a means to produce fine blooms, it would be considered an absurd idea. The result is that the flowers produced under such circumstances, are very inferior in size and color, with but few blooms. Whatever nursery establishment receives orders for a garden conducted in such a manner, bears the entire censure, while the fault is wholly the neglect and mismanagement of others, and entirely out of the control of the commercial florist.

There are, however, many amateurs who know how to cultivate roses, and who take the pains to have them in the greatest perfection; which amply rewards them for the care and attention that is given to their cultivation.

Whatever treatment one may give roses *after* they are planted, all the results in cultivating them will be very unsatisfactory, unless the ground in which they are expected to flourish is properly prepared. Wherever it is intended to make a plantation of roses, the ground should be firstly well drained, (if not naturally a porous soil), and spaded or trenched to the depth of two or three feet. As no soil can be *too rich* for the rose, a quantity of well rotted compost or manure should be thoroughly mixed in the earth before planting. Every autumn rich compost ought

to be placed thickly about the stems of the roses, and upon the approach of spring spaded or forked into the ground.

It is far more essential that roses should be pruned, to have a profusion of fine flowers, than to prune any variety of fruit trees that they may be more productive. This should be done during the latter part of March or the beginning of April. All of the preceding years' growth should be cut off, leaving only three or four eyes, which would throw out as many vigorous shoots, producing a quantity of fine blooms. Long established plants, having stunted or old wood, should be cut out entirely, protecting only the young and vigorous shoots. Hybrid Perpetual roses require to be pruned during the summer, which will insure a succession of blooms during the summer and autumn. This may be done as follows: As soon as the flowers fade in June, the branches that sustained the blooms (the flowers of which are always produced at the extremities of the shoots) should be cut back to two or four eyes, leaving them to push and form branches again. By pursuing this course the plants may be kept in a neat form, and produce flowers in the greatest profusion during the season. This class embraces the most beautiful and desirable roses. They comprise the different colors, from a dull white to a bright crimson or dark purple. They are all perfectly hardy, too, and will endure our coldest winters unprotected,—very vigorous, and blooming at intervals from June to November.

Our stool ground of this class, containing hundreds of plants, has remained wholly unprotected during this severe winter, and they all appear to be uninjured.

Moss roses are all very hardy, blooming but once, excepting some three or four sorts, said to flower two or three times during the season. Under ordinary treatment, however, we have not been able to bloom but one sort more than once. This was *Blanche Perpetual*—producing a number of fine flowers during the end of last season.

The Hybrid China, Provence and Hybrid Provence, Hybrid Bourbon, French roses, Austrian or yellow roses, microphylla roses, &c., bloom only in June. They are highly esteemed, being very hardy, generally very vigorous, some making such rapid growth as to be termed pillar roses. They are cultivated very much, as they contain many varieties possessing quite distinct colors and forms from any in the Hybrid Perpetual class,—as the *Persian*, yellow; *Aureli*, dark velvety-purple; *Madam Hardy*, pure white; striped roses, &c., &c.