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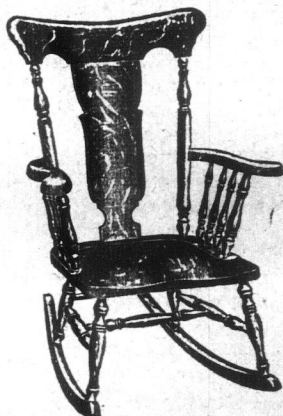
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THERE is a great difference in rocker designs—not only in the "upper works" of the rocker but in its "runners." Some rockers are uncomfortable, some delightful chairs in which to rest and the secret is in the designing.

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RURAL AND SUBURBAN

SPRING-FLOWERING BULBS

In the flower gardens of Victoria, November is pre-eminently the month for planting bulbs. At this season every flower lover is considering the question of early spring blossoms, which is but another way of saying that the hardy bulb for fall planting is at present occupying a large share of attention. An excellent article on this subject is found in Doubleday, Page & Co.'s splendid work on "How to Make a Flower Garden," and the reproduction of the article will be of timely interest to readers of the Colonist. It is written by Patrick O'Mara, who says:

The time to prepare for the spring feast of flowers is in the fall. Too often people forget all about it until they see the tulips in the parks or in their neighbors' gardens, and then they hie to the bulb-seller in a quest for bulbs. Generally speaking, from the middle of October until the ground is closed with frost the spring-flowering bulbs may be planted. Some of the species are late in ripening—lily-of-the-valley, for instance—and so the planting stock is not available until November. In our northern climate frost and snow may have made their appearance before these are procurable, so the expedient of covering the ground where they are to be planted must be adopted. Coarse bagging spread over the ground, and a covering of three or four inches of leaves, hay or litter of any kind, will answer. The best bulb garden the writer ever had—a small one, 'tis true—was planted on New Year's Day, the soil having been kept frost-free by the method described. However, unquestionably, the earlier the better. The first customers get the best stock, and the amateur will do well to order his hardy bulbs in September for October planting.

The ideal soil for most bulbs is a friable, sandy loam, well enriched with barnyard manure. This, bear in mind, must be thoroughly rotted and mixed to obtain best results. It is a common practice for amateurs to get manure fresh from the horse stables and put it in the soil. The fermentation is almost sure to kill the roots. In case properly prepared barnyard manure is not available, then a concentrated fertilizer may be used. This can be obtained of any dealer. The brand does not make much difference. Any complete fertilizer will do. Of vital importance it is to thoroughly dig the soil and pulverize it; also to see that water does not lodge on the beds where bulbs are planted. Let them be raised above the surface of the garden and sufficiently convex to shed the rain that falls. It will repay, also, to cover the beds with two or three inches of the manure already described, not alone for the protection given to the bulbs, but also for the sustenance derived from it. That covering should be taken off in the spring, when all danger of severe frost is past, above the time the bulbs begin to send up their growths. This refers particularly to hyacinths and tulips, but applies to nearly all varieties.

The place to plant bulbs and the formation of the beds must be determined by the individual facilities of the planter. If opportunity exists to have large beds in fancy designs, they should be adopted—nothing is more attractive. For this purpose hyacinths and tulips are admirably fitted. Curved beds or fancy scrolls of tulips along the drives on large estates, or even on modest ones, are most effective. In planting, care should be taken to obtain varieties which bloom at the same time and attain the same heights, or the desired effect will be lost. Round, square, oblong, crescent, star-shaped, oval—in fact, any bed design which suits the owner's fancy and will harmonize with the surroundings may be adopted for planting hyacinths and tulips. Good contrasting colors should be used and so planted as to bring out and accentuate the adjoining colors. Beds of one solid color will find favor with many, and are effective. All the dealers in bulbs cater to the demand for this style of planting, and have lists of varieties made up especially for it, so that the intending planter need not be at a loss as to what varieties to select. All he need decide is the size of the beds and their form, and the dealer will be able to give him the material, properly selected, for planting them.

In park work and public places, where it is imperative to get the very best results, it is the common practice to discard the tulips and hyacinths after they have bloomed once. The amateur, however, may remove these bulbs to a less conspicuous position, as the back yard, the hardy border, or the wild garden, where they will continue to bloom year after year indefinitely. It is now a mooted question, considering the price at which new and superior bulbs can be purchased, whether or not it is worth while taking up hyacinth and tulip bulbs and keeping them for a succeeding year. If it is to be done, the time to do it is after they have ceased flowering, when the leaves turn yellow. Dig them then, place them in a sunny position, put enough soil on to cover the bulbs, and when all vegetation has gone from them put them away in a cool, well-ventilated place, until time to replant in the fall. Indiscriminate planting in the border is much easier than bedding, and here the veriest tyro can hardly go wrong. Wherever there is room, put in some bulbs, singly, in pairs, in half-dozens and dozens; the keenest pleasure is derived in finding the unexpected come up here and there. This is the place to plant bulbs for the purpose of cutting; in the design bed, cutting the flowers will mar the effect of the whole, but they are not missed from the mixed border. This is the place for jonquils, daffodils, all varieties of narcissi, and yet they are thoroughly at home in large beds by themselves. It is the place also to put in

clumps of the lovely lily-of-the-valley, the stately iris, and the massive peony, which is often considered by dealers as a bulbous plant. Here they live and have their being year after year, undisturbed by the vagaries of Dame Fashion; for, even in matters of the garden, the fickle jade will interfere, and the design which finds favor this year may be frowned upon the next.

Bulbs may be introduced with effect along the confines of grounds and in out-of-the-way places, just on the borderland of the cultivated and the uncultivated, in the shade of trees, along winding paths here and there—in such a way as not to mar the natural effect desired in such surroundings. In such places, crocuses, lilies-of-the-valley, narcissi, snowflakes, scillas, trilliums, snowdrops, chionodoxas, hemerocallis, funkias, lilies, etc., blend in perfect harmony with their environments.

An appropriate and very effective place for planting bulbs is on the lawn. Such bulbs as crocuses and Scilla amaena, a very early flowering variety are pre-eminently adapted for this purpose. They look best when planted in irregular patches here and there, as if they came up naturally—a patch of the yellow in one place, the blue in another, the white in another, and again the purple. Chionodoxas, winter aconite, snowdrops, triteleias and bulbocodiums are useful for this method of planting, and very appropriate. They may be

garden planting the single-flowered sorts are to be preferred, as they are more graceful and the spikes are not as heavy, so they stand up better. It may be found necessary to support the flower-spikes with light sticks.

Next to the hyacinth in importance comes the tulip. The directions for planting the hyacinth apply to the tulip also. There is greater variety of these than in the hyacinth—single and double, early and late, tall and dwarf; beware of getting them mixed in the same bed. The leading dealers now offer a class of "bedding tulips," and these, generally speaking, are the best to plant in beds. An effective method which has recently come into vogue for planting tulips and hyacinths is to cut fancy scroll designs out of the sod, wide enough to hold two or three rows, and plant the bulbs to follow design.

The tulips known under the general title of bedding varieties do not embrace the late-flowering sorts—those which bloom in May and which are in bloom generally at Decoration Day. These latter are quite distinct in every way from the former; they grow taller and have larger flowers. They should be planted in large masses to obtain the best effects, but even singly or in small groups they are distinct and showy.

As cut flowers they are superior to the earlier varieties on account of their longer stems and greater substance, remaining a

forus, Van Sion, Orange Phoenix, Alba plena odorata, and all the jonquils.

Scillas have already been mentioned as being pre-eminently fitted for planting on the lawn. Like all the bulbs, they prefer a light, rich soil. The Amonena or Sibirica praecox is the most useful and beautiful of the species. These, by the way, are commonly known as squills. The flowers are produced in wonderful profusion, a beautiful rich blue, and appear almost before the snow has vanished. It is a gem among bulbous flowering plants, so beautiful that no garden is complete without some. Planted among the rocks or in an artificially made rock garden, it is a strikingly beautiful object. Scilla campanulata is also a charming variety, and can be had in blue, white, and rose. This is commonly known as the wood hyacinth. A colony may remain undisturbed in the ground for a number of years, as the natural crowding does not seem to injure them.

Another very useful bulbous plant is the snowdrop, Galanthus nivalis. It should be planted in masses and closely together, about an inch apart. Combined in beds with scillas or chionodoxas the effect is charming. It is best to plant where they can be allowed to remain from year to year; along the edges of hardy borders is a fitting place for it. There are new and improved sorts, such as Elwe's Giant and King of the Snowdrops, which are

soaked with water, that the growth may be vigorous, or the flowers of the following season will be deficient.

Erythronium, the dog's-tooth violet, is a charming plant. The foliage is usually variegated. A mass of this is an attractive object in the garden at all times. There are numerous species in cultivation. The California kinds are worth especial study.

Last, but not least, are the anemones. The varieties of A. coronaria form a most brilliant group of spring-flowering bulbous plants, producing enormous quantities of bloom of every shade of color, both double and single, and of very varied form. Though perfectly hardy south of Washington, District of Columbia, they are not entirely so in this latitude, but if planted in September or October, about two inches deep and protected by a cold-frame in winter, they will flower magnificently in spring. The tubers, however, keep well through the winter, and may be planted out in spring for summer blooming.

The fall is also the best time to plant lilies, but as they are generally regarded as summer bloomers they will not be treated in this connection. It is possible to plant lilies in the spring, but the bulbs start early and should not have a setback. In this connection I would remind the reader that many other bulbous and herbaceous plants, as peonies and aris, which are commonly planted in the spring, can be planted also in the fall.

There are many other bulbs and roots which can be planted in the fall which are not specifically mentioned, but I trust that enough has been said to create a wider interest in this beautiful, and valuable section of flowering plants.

BULB CULTURE

Fall bulbs are so called because they are received and planted in the fall of the year; also in contradistinction to summer bulbs, which are planted in spring. They are nearly all imported from Holland. Millions of them are brought into this country during September, October and November. Fall bulbs include all those early spring-flowering bulbous plants which brighten up the garden almost before the dreary days of winter are past. Crocuses, snowdrops, scillas, star of Bethlehem, narcissus, daffodils, jonquils, tulips and Dutch hyacinths are household words.

From the little attention that these plants require, together with their cheapness, there is no reason why any one who may possess only a few feet of ground should not have and enjoy them, and extend their cultivation in grounds of more ample proportions. Their requirements are simple indeed. We plant them in the fall because it is the season in which they make their roots and establish themselves well in the ground ready to begin work in spring. All bulbs must be well rooted before active growth can take place above ground. In this they are somewhat analogous to seeds which, when germinating, always make the roots first, so as to be able to draw nourishment from the soil to support the growth above ground.

The depth of planting fall bulbs varies with the different species, but all should have a covering of two inches of soil above the top of the bulb. Therefore, hyacinths and narcissus should be planted five to six inches deep according to size of bulbs, tulips four inches, crocuses, snowdrops and bulbs of similar size about three inches deep.

Bulbs are not fastidious in regard to soil, though a loamy soil with a tendency to sandiness is best. The best fertilizer is thoroughly decayed farmyard manure, or ground bone meal and only a very moderate dressing of either, which should be forked into the soil when preparing to plant.

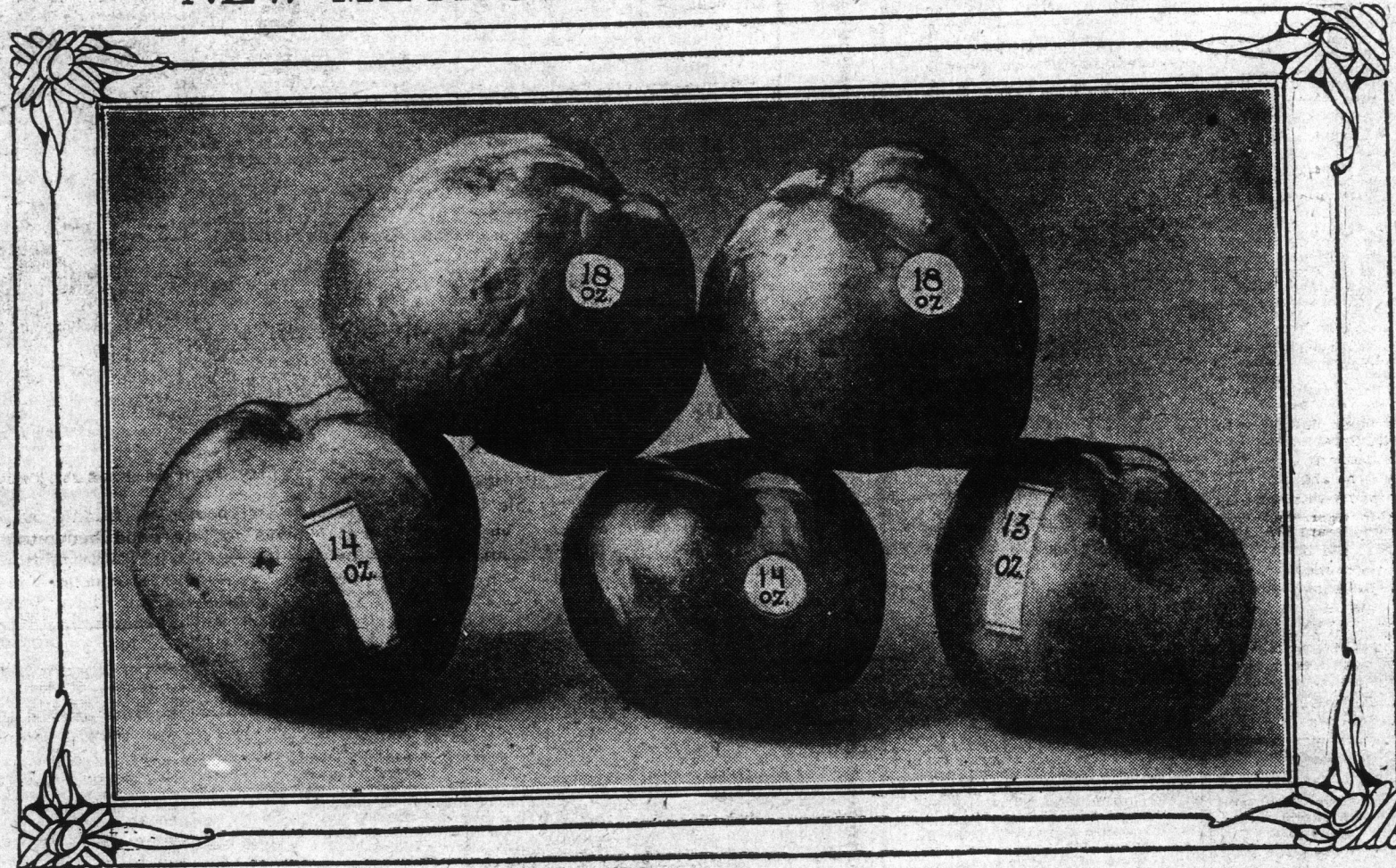
They may be planted in the mixed flower border, or in formal beds or borders near the dwelling, or best of all (tulips and hyacinths excepted) they may be naturalized in such positions as under deciduous trees, on grassy slopes around the edges of lawns or shrubbery borders, along edges of woods, or in any wild or semi-wild positions in company with trilliums, anemones, decenteras, and many other early spring-flowering plants. A bank of crocuses under large colonies of daffodils along the edges of woods or on grassy banks is a beautiful sight, while snow-drops, scillas and star of Bethlehem are well adapted for naturalizing along woodland paths and in open groves. In such positions they should be planted in quantities in order to be effective, and as irregular as possible, and not in square or circular colonies. Always aim to make them look as natural as possible.

When once planted, most bulbs will increase and flower each year, provided the foliage is not cut off. This must be allowed to ripen off naturally, which will take until the end of June.

Tulips and hyacinths, being so highly cultivated or so far developed from the wild types, do not lend themselves well for planting in wild or semi-wild positions. They are best adapted for formal beds or borders near the dwelling. Tulips and hyacinths should not be planted together in the same border or bed, because the times of flowering differ, and unless very carefully selected and arranged the colors of the flowers will not harmonize well. Before planting, the beds should be given a dressing of fertilizer, then dug and raked very smooth. The bulbs should then be placed regularly all over the bed before they are planted, so that each bulb shall have just so much to develop—hyacinths seven inches apart, and tulips five. They should then be carefully

(Continued on Page 8)

NEW METHODS IN APPLE GROWING



We are indebted to James Simpson, Blanchard street, Victoria, for the above specimens of apples. They are not only remarkable for their large size, but for the conditions under which they were produced. The tree, one of the "old-timers," a type familiar to most Vic-

torians, neglected, overgrown, and covered with scale and insect pests, was thoroughly overhauled last winter. The dead limbs were cut out, and about two-thirds of the new growth eliminated; after which the entire tree was treated with a preparation to destroy ver-

min and other pests. Mr. Simpson, who has had a wide horticultural experience in the Old Country, is opposed to the present method of spraying, contending that the good accomplished is more than counteracted by the damage to the vitality of the tree.

superior to the original type.

Chionodoxa, commonly known as "glory of the snow," is an exquisite plant, blooming early in the spring and bearing ten to fifteen scilla-like flowers, a beautiful intense blue with a white centre. As an edging for a shrubbery, or bed of hardy perennial plants in connection with scillas and snowdrops, or for planting on the lawn, or in out-of-the-way places as "naturalized" plants, they are unequalled. Cultivate the same as scillas.

Trillium grandiflorum, the great American wood-lily, as it is called, is another very useful bulbous plant. This should be planted early in the fall in soil which has plenty of sand or leaf-mould. The flowers are pure white, changing to soft rose.

Bulbocodium, or spring colchicum, is one of the favorites for the bulb garden. B. varium is the best known and is a charming early spring-blooming plant. It bears rosy purple flowers, and is one of the first to make its appearance in the spring. It succeeds well in any garden soil, and should be planted about three inches deep in clumps or masses. Its chief interest is that it generally blooms a week before the crocus.

The camassia is also a very desirable bulbous plant among others in the garden. It resembles the common blue scilla, but is much larger, its leaves being about a foot long and very narrow. It is commonly known as Indian Quamash. It does best in sheltered and partly shaded positions. The flower-stocks grow from two to three feet high and bear twenty or more blue flowers each two inches across. It is fine for cutting. Grown in a mass it is very effective. Grape hyacinths should be in every garden.

Crown imperials are among the most showy of bulbous plants. There are dwarf varieties which are very effective in the garden. They may be left untouched for years. In the blooming season, should the weather prove dry, the ground must be frequently well

week in good condition after being cut. They are very hardy, and may be left where they are planted; in fact, they improve each season. This type is generally known as Darwin tulips.

Narcissi come next in importance. The varieties of this prime favorite are "too numerous to mention." Suffice it to say that for general planting, the sorts embraced under the general head of daffodils, with the white-flowered poet's narcissus, are the best. From four to eight inches apart, according to the variety and size of the bulb, are the proper distances for planting. These are especially adapted for planting in mixed borders, among hardy herbaceous plants, between shrubbery, and along walks and drives. They thrive in almost any soil or situation, although they attain greater perfection when liberally treated. The best place for them is in a thoroughly drained, moderately rich, friable soil in which is a fair amount of sharp sand or sandy leaf mould. If the soil is not thus constituted naturally, it will amply reward the planter to thus prepare it. Where it is at all possible, a position should be selected for planting them where they will be shaded by trees or a building, as the flowers on the whole will be larger, and, above all, they will remain in perfection for a greater period, than if planted in an exposed position where they get the full rays of the sun. They should be planted so that the crown of the bulb is three inches below the surface. The jonquils, being much smaller bulbs than the general variety of daffodils, should be planted only two inches under the surface. The foliage should be allowed to ripen thoroughly before being removed, after which a top-dressing of loam and thoroughly rotted manure will be found of great advantage. For outdoor planting, special mention should be made of the following: Ard Righ, Emperor, Horsfieldi, Princeps, Trumpet, Major, Incomparable, Sir Watkin, Maximus, Stella, Poeticus ornatus, Bif-

First in importance among hardy bulbs I should place the hyacinths. Much has been written about putting them in position in the bed and then covering them with soil, putting sand under them, etc., but in actual practice these slow and laborious methods are not essential to success. If, however, the planter prefers to follow the more laborious—and possibly surer—method, then remove five or six inches of the top soil and cover the surface of the soil where the bulbs are to be set with an inch of sand. One advantage of this method is that it enables the planter to accurately place the bulbs in position as to depth and distance apart, so that the effect at flowering time is more regular as a whole than if planted with the dibber. The layer of sand has its advantage, inasmuch as it provides drainage at the base of the bulbs and minimizes the chances of decay from contact with manure in the soil and from water lodging immediately beneath them. The writer has seen good beds of bulbs obtained by both methods, but the last one described is possibly the surer one.

The ground having been made ready, as previously described, and marked off for the various sorts if a design is to be planted, all that is necessary is to use a blunt stick and make a hole large enough to receive the bulb and deep enough to have the crown three or four inches below the surface, and place the bulb in it. Cover the bulbs, smooth off the bed, and the work is done. The proper distance for planting is six inches apart. The hyacinth referred to here is the common "Dutch" kind so familiar to all. They can be obtained in separate colors or in special named varieties. They are in two leading classes—single, and double-flowered. For