



Delegates and Others in Attendance at Convention of Ontario Horticultural Association

For names of persons numbered see page 305.

What Amateurs Can Do this Month

THE custom of having a Christmas tree is so universally observed that Christmas would not be Christmas without it. Various kinds of conifers are used, such as white cedar, juniper, spruce, balsam and hemlock. Of our native evergreens, the spruce and balsam make the best Christmas trees, as their branches are regular and formal. These may be secured in the woods or bought from florists. Let every home have a Christmas tree.

No scheme of Christmas decoration is complete without the use of one or more kinds of red berries. Of these, the holly is the most important. The English holly is more attractive than the American species, but it is not used so largely. The holly used in this country comes mostly from the southern states. The winterberry, a closely allied species, is found in our swamps and low grounds. Sprays of the common barberry also may be used for Christmas decorations.

If you want to select Christmas presents that will be appreciated not only on account of their immediate beauty and worth, but also for their lasting qualities, why not select growing plants? Some persons give cut flowers for Christmas presents, but growing plants

are much more satisfactory. If these are decided upon, make your selection early. Do not wait until the best plants are gone. When buying, do not purchase plants that have every flower expanded. A few open flowers is sufficient, the remaining buds will expand in due time, and the interest will be prolonged. There are many plants suitable for presents, such as Gloire de Lorraine begonias, Jerusalem cherry, cyclamen, genistas, bulbs in variety, primulas, azaleas, poinsettias, Baby Rambler roses, and many others.

If you are sending plants to friends, and do not have them packed by a florist, be careful in performing the work. Plants like Jerusalem cherry and azaleas should have the branches drawn in towards the centre and secured by a string placed around the outside of the plant. Wrap them by first covering the top of the plant with tissue paper, which may be held in place by a string. Then roll the plant in a single or double sheet of cotton batting. Outside of this comes the wrapping paper. The quantity and thickness of wrapping paper will depend upon the distance that the plant is being sent. Probably it is the safest to first wrap in three or four thicknesses of newspaper and clean

manilla paper on the outside. Include the pots in the wrapping.

Books on horticulture make acceptable gifts. Every amateur gardener is interested in reading books on gardening. For a list of good ones, write for the book catalogue that is issued by THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

When sending Christmas presents, in most cases, the appearance of the gift will be enhanced by the use of galax leaves. Put a leaf in every Christmas package. You can get many of them from your florist for a few cents.

Christmas gifts wrapped in white paper, tied with a narrow silk ribbon or fancy cord, with a small sprig of holly placed in the ends or loops of the bow, and the whole wrapped in heavy paper for transportation, is a common and effective means of preparation.

Fruits are indispensable factors in dressing a Christmas tree, filling stockings or decorating the dining table. It has long been the custom to use imported fruits such as oranges and Malaga grapes for these purposes. While these fruits are excellent, there are many native grown fruits that may be selected. Among them, the choicer varieties of pears, such as Anjou;