

# YOUR GARDEN AND MINE

By Ann Earncliff Brown (No. 49)

**A** SPARAGUS beds which have been newly planted will be showing some growth soon, but no stems should be cut the first season. Even in the second season a very light crop should be gathered. Well established beds can be kept cut for about eight weeks, care being taken to keep all stems from running to fern. Keep the surface carefully hoed and free from weeds.

I know a gardener with a limited space for flowers who combines the utility of the asparagus with the beauty of her cosmeas, which she plants out fairly early between the asparagus roots. The combined effect late in summer is certainly highly decorative, but I should prefer to leave a clear run through for a hoe. However it is an idea for conserving space and providing cut flowers, for the cosmea, now obtainable in shades of rose, pink, white, and yellow, is exceedingly useful in the vases.

Although some gardens are a little backward, having had rather more rain and less warmth than they require at this time, most garden soil should be in good condition for planting almost all kinds of vegetables. Keep the hoe going between rows of vegetables already up. It is easier to destroy seedling weeds than to struggle later with large crops of these, and your vegetables will receive a two-fold benefit: the stirring of the soil allows light, air and warmth to penetrate while conserving the moisture necessary for growth, and avoids competition with the weeds for a share of nourishment.

Where conditions are mild, a few rows of dwarf beans and butter beans can go in as well as vegetable marrow and pumpkin seed. However, it is better to delay these where frosts are likely to catch the young plants. At this time the seed pops through fairly quickly and the early bean in the South Island is not always a lucky bean. Every year it happens that the birds beat the gardener who means to protect the new sown peas "to-morrow." Do it to-day. Whether you stretch cotton or cover with wire-netting, place the protection over and don't risk the annoyance of finding your sprouting peas up and out some morning.

Dahlias should now be sprouted nicely. They appreciate being planted where they will be sure of a fair supply of moisture, some shelter from strong winds, and a firm support from well driven stakes. Ground which is to be used for dahlias should be well manured and deeply dug in the autumn. Dahlias are gross feeders, but repay generously for their keep by their gorgeous colour display through late summer and autumn — right till the frost comes. These flowers, native to Mexico, now accommodate themselves to all climates and situations, high on the slope of a hill or at sea level. Dwarf varieties are effective massed in flower beds. "Princess Elizabeth" (crimson scarlet), "Coltness Gem" (vivid geranium), and Purple Robe are good for such an effect. Pompom types come in all the best known dahlia shades. "Little

# LONDONERS IN EXILE

**L**ONDONERS can live for years in one street and not know their neighbours; but now, in air raid shelters, and in war work, Londoners for the first time are getting to know Londoners, says Mrs. K. C. Cresswell.

News from London indicates the truth of her comment. News from Wellington substantiates it, for Mrs. Cresswell last month succeeded in forming an association of Londoners in exile. She was a nurse during the last war, and now finds her family going away to this one. Wanting something to do, Mrs. Cresswell placed an advertisement in the newspapers, was surprised at the response, and delighted at the success of the first meeting of local Londoners. Members of her association must have lived seven years in London or be the close relatives of true Londoners. "News from London," the new name given by the NBS to what was originally known as "Davenport News," is heard by these newly introduced old friends with special interest.

Beeswing," a yellow variety edged with red is specially noteworthy. The Cactus dahlias look well in a mixed border where they keep welcome colour till the frost takes them. You will find "Red-pole" and Edgar Jackson (a coral shade) useful in this association.

Star dahlias are a type evolved by a British firm and are outstandingly lovely in the house.



Spencer Digby photograph  
MRS. K. C. CRESSWELL

## Memories

*I never see the black birch  
spring  
New-green about the waking  
year,  
But I remember how the  
beeches  
Grew in Gloucestershire.  
I never see the swaying  
broom  
Break golden, after winter  
rains,  
But I remember primroses  
In Cotswold lanes.  
For here bright flaunting  
blossoms breathe  
Rich, heavy scented, to the  
heat;  
But violets in English woods  
Were dusky sweet.*

—Dorothy Ann Beavis

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