

GARDENING NOTES

(By Mr. J. JOYCE, Landscape Gardener, Christchurch.)

KITCHEN GARDEN: WORK FOR APRIL.

All strawberry plantations should be finished this month, so that they may be well established for the winter. If planted too late, they have not sufficient roothold of the soil, the consequence being that they are lifted out of the ground by the severe frosts. They must be kept free from weeds, so that they may have plenty of sun and air. The old leaves should not be removed from strawberry beds, they are best left on the plants until spring. Celery can now be moulded up. It is better not to mould too high, until the plants are fully grown, when they can be earthed up again. It must be done in dry weather, and care should be taken that the soil does not get into the heart of the plant. The best way to act is to have the soil nicely dug on each side of the row, and catch the plant with the left hand, holding all the leaf stalks together tight, then, with the right hand, draw the soil all round the plant as high as possible. This prevents the earth from getting into the centre. Some people tie paper around each plant, when the soil can be placed along the row with a spade. Leeks must now be earthed up, but they need no hand work, the shovel or spade will answer best.

Kail, winter green, savoys, and broccoli, may still be planted out for spring use. They are very useful when vegetables are scarce. Turnips should also be sown for spring use. The white stone or golden ball are the best to stand the winter. Silver beet is also a very useful vegetable. The leaves are used like spinach, and the stalks like sea-kail. If not sown before, it ought to be put in at once in good rich ground, and when the plants come up they should be thinned out to about six inches apart. French spinach should also be sown, as it comes in when other green vegetables are scarce. Spinners and onions should now be stored away. A little cauliflower and cabbage seed should be sown, as it is always handy to have a few plants ready when wanted for putting out. Early potatoes should be taken up, and the seed selected for next season and stored away. Pears and apples, as they ripen, should be carefully picked, and put by carefully in a cool place. Care must be taken that bruised ones are not stored with the sound.

FLOWER GARDEN.

This should be a busy time with lovers of spring flowers. Now is the time to plant out all narcissi. There is no lack of choice, as there are so many varieties to choose from. Tulips and hyacinths should not be neglected. Ixias and sparaxis are very pretty spring flowers, as also are anemones and ranunculi. There is also another pretty little bulb called tritonia, which is well worth a space in the garden. I must not omit one of the first harbingers of spring, the favorite little crocus. This is a good collection of old-fashioned flowers which can be purchased at a small cost. The admirer of the sweet pea should get his collection, and sow them in a well-cultivated spot in the garden, where the plants will be sheltered from the cold winds and frosts of the winter. There must be a careful watch kept on them during the winter, as woodlice, slugs, and insects are fond of nibbling at the young shoots. It is also wise to sow some in boxes to transplant out where any might have failed. A dusting of soot and lime occasionally will help to keep away the slugs.

Cuttings of geraniums and other bedding plants should be put in this month: plant in boxes of light sandy soil. Towards the end of the month any geraniums which are worth saving should be taken up and put in pots or boxes to keep through the winter.

Now is the time for sowing down new lawns or improving old ones, where the grass has failed through the depredations of the grub or from other causes. Where patches are bare the ground should be scratched with the rake, sown down, then top-dressed with nice

fine soil, and rolled, or patted down with the back of the spade. The lawns should be rolled pretty often just now after rain, as this is the time the grubs are busy among the roots of the grass. The rolling makes the ground hard, and prevents them travelling.

Intercolonial

It has been definitely fixed that his Excellency Archbishop Cerretti, the Apostolic Delegate to Australia, will visit Melbourne on Saturday, April 17, and remain during the following week. Arrangements are being made by a committee for his reception.

Among the journalists seeking active service is Mr. John Bede Dalley, who has received a commission in the Australian artillery, and joins the camp at the end of the present month (says the *Catholic Press*). Later he proceeds to Europe. Mr. Dalley is a son of the late William Bede Dalley. He is a barrister, but he has been a professional journalist for many years.

Right Rev. Mgr. O'Brien, Rector of St. John's College, within the University of Sydney, died last week. He had been ill for some time. Monsignor O'Brien was born at Oldcastle, County Meath, in 1842. He was educated at All Hallows College, Dublin, and in Rome. He was ordained in 1865. At one time he was professor of moral theology in All Hallows College, Dublin, and vice-president. He was appointed Rector of St. John's College, Sydney, in 1888.

A crowd of nearly 2000 people, including a large number of non-Catholics, thronged the Toowoomba Town Hall recently to give a fitting send-off to the Rev. Father John O'Connell, on the occasion of his departure to Ireland. Amongst those present were his Grace Archbishop Duhig (who journeyed from Brisbane to make the presentation). His Grace, in presenting Father O'Connell, on behalf of the parishioners, with a cheque for £410, spoke of his association with Father O'Connell, whose popularity grew with years, as was exemplified by the record crowd present. He sincerely hoped the departing priest would benefit by his holiday.

In the near future several Catholic works in the Rockhampton diocese will be opened by Bishop Shiel (writes a correspondent of the *Catholic Press*). The dedication of the new church at Longreach will take place in May. A new convent has been completed at Richmond for a community of Sisters of St. Joseph, and it will be opened, in all probability, on the fourth Sunday after Easter. The opening of a new convent school at Emerald for the Presentation Sisters has been fixed for about a month hence. Another Catholic building to be opened is a presbytery at Bowen. To open a new convent at Ingham for a community of Sisters of Mercy from Townsville would mean an absence of three weeks from Rockhampton, owing to the irregular steamship service, so the Bishop of Cooktown, Dr. Heavey, kindly consented to perform the ceremony.

His Grace the Archbishop of Sydney, in the course of an address at the blessing of a school-church at Maroubra on Sunday, March 14, said:—The nations will have to see that the gallant country (Belgium) which stood firm for its own honor, its own territory, and for the treaty to which it was a party has a just claim for the moral and physical support of the whole world. And while the case of the Belgians—whose right to their freedom is a right divine—is unsettled the people cannot consent to peace. But why should not these invaders go back to their own country, making proper compensation for the evils they have done? They can then go home and save their sons and families from destruction and their own nation from the terrible destiny which awaits it if justice be not done. But only God can bring this about: let us pray that He will do it.

Lampware is going to be very dear buying. Hadn't you better make a selection from Smith and Laing's stock, Invercargill, before they go up in price?

**WOODWARD'S
2 PHARMACIES**

Customers may call at either Branch—125 HERETAUNGA ST., HASTINGS
Prompt attention by fully qualified
Chemists. Only purest Drugs used. 412 HERETAUNGA ST., HASTINGS