

GARDENING NOTES

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

GROWING ROSES FROM CUTTINGS.

Most beginners, who start to propagate roses by cuttings, are invariably unsuccessful, for the simple reason that they proceed to work the wrong way. They plant their cuttings about two inches deep, and six inches above ground, instead of *vice versa*, and then they wonder why the cuttings will not grow, after all the care bestowed on them. If they proceed according to the following instructions I guarantee they will be more successful. Most roses can be propagated by cuttings, and in many cases it is advisable to have them on their own roots, for very often those that are budded on briar and other stocks put forth shoots from the bottom of the plant, or stock, that outgrow the true rose, which is not so robust. Those shoots should never be left to grow, for if they are they will do much mischief, and eventually alter the character of the blooms. The reason is that the stock being the stronger of the two, it overpowers the weaker, and consequently takes possession. On that account no stock should be allowed to grow from below where the rose is budded. But if the rose is grown from a cutting it will not matter how many shoots it will throw up, as they are all genuine parts of the rose, and the more advantage of having them on their own roots.

The mode of proceeding is to get them, who to men well established in roses. For the rose is brought to twelve inches long, taking care to cut below a joint or bud, making a clean, smooth cut with a sharp knife. Prepare all the cuttings in this manner before proceeding to plant them. This is all as simple as cutting them, but in no way must they be allowed to get dry. Choose a sunny place, and plant them in a row not exposed to the north wind, such as a garden path. Under the soil of the ground is the best place to plant, if the ground is not sandy, nature is the better. Commence by digging a trench, about six inches deep, and use no manure, as the cuttings are not to be planted in it. When the ground is dug, and the trench is made, the row is intended to be made, and the cuttings are planted in it. Then put them in the trench, and make a trench cut or bank along the row. Then plant your cuttings along this trench, and resting against the bank, about three inches apart, with only about an inch of each cutting above ground, and if sand is easily obtained a little at the bottom of the trench is advisable, as this helps them to strike more readily. When the line of cuttings is in place, fill in the soil evenly, and make it very firm against the cuttings, especially at the bottom of the trench. When this is finished, lay your line along about sixteen inches from the newly planted line and proceed as before. If the ground should happen to be dry, a little watering along the trench will do no harm. The work is now finished, the only thing to be done now is to keep the ground free from weeds during the summer months. If the season should happen to be very dry, a good watering would not be amiss. When the planting season comes round, they can be taken up and put in their permanent quarters. Good rotten manure should be well mixed with the soil. The long shoots should be pruned back to a good strong eye. No more is needed now but an occasional dressing of manure if they are not making good headway. Roses like an occasional application of rotten cow manure. To get good blooms the rose must be in a healthy state, and at the winter pruning all poor wood must be cut away, leaving only the good strong healthy wood for the new season's growth.

I think I have said all I can on the mode of growing roses on their own roots. If these instructions are followed, I am sure success will result. They must be planted in good time—the beginning of winter or late in the autumn. They may be put in all through the winter, but ought not to be left too late. There is a

rose, not met very often in amateurs' gardens, but which ought to be there, that is, the white and yellow banksia. This should always be grown from cuttings, of good, hard, seasoned wood. The soft succulent shoots will not strike, as they generally rot away. To grow this rose successfully the best plan is to plant it to grow up a tree or in some corner where it will not be disturbed. It requires no pruning, only merely to keep it within bounds by an occasional cutting back of any branches which may be growing out of bounds. It always flowers on the last year's wood, so if that is pruned away there will be no roses that season. The best plan is to let the banksia have its own way.

Hokitika.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 25.

There was a large attendance of members at the half-yearly meeting of the local branch of the H.A.C.R. Society, held in St. Mary's Clubrooms last Thursday evening. Bro. J. P. Pickering (president) presided. A large amount of business was transacted. Feeling reference was made by the president and other members to the loss sustained by Bro. G. Head, by the death of his wife, and a motion of condolence was passed. The following officers were appointed and installed for the half year: President, Bro. F. P. Callan; vice-president, Bro. W. Jones; past-president, Bro. J. P. Pickering; secretary, Bro. H. Williams (re-elected); treasurer, Bro. G. Keener; guardian, Bro. M. Devaney; warden, Bro. J. Cahill (re-elected); sick visitors, Bro. I. Dwyer and W. Babel (chaplain, Rev. Father Chaney. Bro. J. P. Pickering (past president) performed the installation ceremony, and at his conclusion, took the opportunity of the day to commend for the courtesy shown in allowing his term of office as president. He also said the members that he would continue to show the same interest in society matters in the future as in the past, and wish of the newly-elected president and those around him. A vote of thanks to the outgoing officers, carried by acclamation, terminated a very successful meeting.

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