

GARDENING NOTES

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

WORK FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH.

The Kitchen Garden.—While the weather continues dry, good use should be made of the watering can and hose to keep the crops growing. This applies particularly to the cabbage tribe. Celery, spinach, and lettuce also require plentiful watering, otherwise they become stunted in growth and subject to blights. A weekly application of liquid manure will, too, prove beneficial. Watering should be done thoroughly so that plenty of moisture will penetrate to the roots; a mere sprinkling will do more harm than good. After watering hoe the surface to prevent the soil caking and cracking. Such cultivation is essential if good results are to be expected from growing crops. Continue planting cabbage, cauliflower, and winter greens, such as curled kale and savoys. They will prove useful vegetables when other varieties are scarce. Sow a good bed of White-stone or Golden-ball turnips for winter use; also winter, or prickly spinach. A line of silver beet makes a good substitute for spinach. It should be sown in well-prepared soil to give it a good start. Summer cabbages which are not needed should be cut away, leaving the stumps in the ground to provide a second crop of greens for the winter. Such a crop is often more useful than the first one, as it comes in when green vegetables are scarce. Mould up celery occasionally, when needed and as the plants grow. This moulding should be done when the soil is dry, taking care that no earth gets into the heart of the plant. Leeks also require moulding up to render the stalks white and tender. Pull up onions as they mature, leaving them exposed to the sun for several days to ripen before storing. Keep the Dutch hoe well employed among the growing crops, thus preventing an accumulation of weeds, and at the same time rendering the soil soft and porous. A good hoeing is as good as manure for growing crops.

The Flower Garden.—As most flowers will by now be at their prime, the flower garden bears a gay appearance. Keep up the growth by a frequent application of the hose during the dry season. Keep the plots tidy by pulling or cutting away all fading blooms and foliage. Plants will flower much longer if not allowed to run to seed. Stake and tie up all tall-growing plants such as dahlias, chrysanthemums, Michaelmas daisies, and such-like varieties. Carnations and picotees may be layered, but, if preferred, they can be propagated from cuttings. Cuttings of these plants are better torn off with a heel, and dressed with a sharp knife. They should be inserted in prepared sandy soil. Roses can now be budded if any stocks are ready for the purpose. To be successful the bark must be lifted very free. When old geranium plants need cutting back, the cuttings will do well if inserted in good sandy soil. They will not need watering for some time after planting. The cuttings should be well ripened, the soft and succulent ones are useless. Commence planting bulbs from now onward. If the soil is poor a sprinkling of bonemeal will be beneficial.

The Fruit Garden.—Pears and apples should now be picked as they ripen. It is a mistake to leave the

early pears to ripen on the trees if it is desired to keep them any length of time. When packing the fruit in cases all bruised ones should be rejected, as they soon decay and cause loss among the stock. Keep on spraying for the leech, as this pest destroys the leaves of cherry, plum, pear, and many other trees; it also affects different thorn trees, and many of the ornamental shrubs, if allowed to spread. Spraying with helibore and arsenate of lead is an effective remedy. Soot, or slack lime, will also answer the purpose, but this remedy will render the trees unsightly.

TO DESTROY WEEDS.

An Inglewood correspondent asks us to supply a formula to kill weeds in a garden. If our correspondent refers to weeds on garden paths, the cheapest and most effective way to destroy them, without disturbing the surface, is by an application of salt prepared as follows:—Boil the salt in water, 1lb to 1 gallon, and apply the mixture boiling hot with a watering can that has a spreading rose. This will keep weeds and worms away for two or three years. Put 1lb to the square yard the first year; afterwards a weaker solution may be applied when required. Weed plants of a tenacious nature should be cut off close to the ground and a few drops of coal oil poured on to the crowns. They immediately commence to decay and are utterly destroyed. Troublesome weeds on the lawn can thus be speedily disposed of, but others will likely take their place. In cultivated garden plots, the frequent use of the Dutch hoe is the most effective way to eradicate weeds, and they must be rooted out before seeding to prevent fresh growth. Our landscape gardening contributor shows the necessity of this in many of his notes published each month in the *Tablet*.

If you wish success in life, make Perseverance your bosom-friend, Experience your wise counsellor, Caution your elder brother, and Hope your guardian genius.—*Addison*.

Every housewife who provides her home with the pure "GOLDEN RULE" Soap is doing much towards the world's betterment. Price 1/3. All grocers.

ADDRESS BOX 134.

TELEPHONE 285.

MUIR & CO.

Wanganui Monumental Works

(Op. Railway Station)

TAUPO QY, WANGANUI.

Established over 30 years.

DIRECT IMPORTERS OF MARBLE AND
GRANITE MONUMENTS.Large Stock to select from. Designs and estimates
forwarded.

BATTERSBY & CO.

Land Salesmen, Real Estate and Financial Agents.

'PHONE 2141.

A.M.P. BUILDINGS, DOWLING STREET, DUNEDIN.

'PHONE 2141.

If you wish to SELL your FARM PROPERTY OR BUSINESS, we will be pleased to receive FULL PARTICULARS of same, when we will do our utmost to do business for you in a satisfactory manner. We have a SPLENDID LIST OF PROPERTIES FOR EXCHANGE on our Registers, and will be pleased to hear if you will consider exchanging your Farm or Business for House Property or something else in the way of a Larger or Smaller Farm.

WATCH FOR PARTICULARS IN FUTURE ISSUES OF THIS PAPER.