

GARDENING NOTES

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

WORK FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE.

The Kitchen Garden.—All ground intended for cultivation should now be well manured, and, when dug, left with a rough surface during the winter. The soil will be thus benefited by the action of frosts and rain preparatory to the sowing of early spring crops. Clear away the past season's growth from asparagus beds, and apply a good dressing of well decomposed stable manure. The winter rains will then wash the fertilising matter down to the roots of the plants. With regard to sowing and planting generally, only a limited amount is advisable at this period of the year. An early sowing of peas and broad beans, in well prepared favorably situated ground, may be ventured. A small quantity of cauliflower and cabbage may be sown, also a bed of lettuce, to come in early in the spring.

The Flower Garden.—Continue digging the beds and borders, using a little manure where necessary. Separate clumps of herbaceous plants which appear too large, and replant in a vacant spot requiring to be filled up. Dig in all scattered leaves and dead vegetable matter, as these provide the plants with an active fertilising aid. The digging should be fairly rough, as at this season of the year it suits the soil better than if it were raked over smoothly. Dig up old stools of dahlias, separate them, and replant where desired. This fine, showy flower deteriorates and eventually dies out if not attended to each season: and small clumps give greater satisfaction. Now is the time to plant all trees and shrubs intended for the garden, it is also a suitable time to plant roses. When planting roses it is necessary to have them well pruned back. Newly planted trees cannot maintain a heavy growth of branches. When removing old rose trees from one position to another both the roots and branches require to be severely pruned, and if the soil is dry they should be well watered. Soil well mixed with farmyard manure is a requisite when preparing a rose plot. Where space allows for planting in clumps one color in each separate clump will produce the most effective display. Keep the lawn mown, and thoroughly roll often during the winter, especially after rain. Rolling is necessary to the life of a good grass lawn. Top dress, sowing down at the same time, all bare patches, and if there are any grubby patches rake the soil so that the grass grub may be destroyed, and leave for a few days before sowing down.

The Fruit Garden.—Pruning must now be carried out as quickly as possible, root pruning, also, trees that are making too much growth. This latter process is effected by digging down about a yard from the tree, and, with a sharp spade, chopping off the roots: half round the tree is sufficient for the first year. Clear away and burn all the prunings, and when the work is complete attend to the spraying without delay.

THE MOST OBSTINATE

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THE "DARK AGES" ILLUMINATED BY THE LONDON TIMES.

The first page of the London *Times*' educational supplement for January 2, suggests either that some crafty Papist slipped in during the editor's absence or that the editor has recently applied himself to the study of medieval history. He has actually discovered that "the educational activity of the Papacy" during this long night of ignorance, "was remarkable."

"The medieval Church gave the world an educational conference in almost perpetual session. One of the chief affairs of the Pope sitting in council was the control and organisation of European education. And very effective was the work. The organisation and control of the universities of Europe was an achievement that is a deathless laurel in the Papal crown. In educational matters there was universal confidence in the judgment and justice of the Papacy from the days of Eugenius II. in the ninth century to the days of the Counter-Reformation in the sixteenth."

Nor was the zeal of the Popes in the cause of education confined to the universities. On the contrary, they successfully endeavored to set up schools of all kinds:—"But it was not only in university matters that the educational activity of the Papacy was so remarkable. Whether we regard Canon 34 of the canons promulgated at the *Councilum Romanum* in 826, or the decrees of the Third Lateran Council in 1179, of the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215, and of other Councils, such as that of Vienna in 1311, we always find that the medieval Church is seeking to advance learning of all grades, and to co-ordinate educational effort of all kinds. And the efforts of the Central Conference were amply supplemented by what were, in effect, diocesan conferences."

But "the very necessary Reformation," continues the *Times*, involved a certain "loss." That comment is a masterpiece of understatement:—"The partial break-up of the Roman machinery of educational control, which inevitably followed the very necessary Reformation, involved a loss of method and organisation which has never been replaced. The Papal conception of unity of command in education must be revived to-day."

It took the *Times* a long period of years to reach the light. But even now it is the common teaching in non-Catholic American colleges, fostered by rubber-stamp professors who regard Draper and White as "authorities," that in the Middle Ages, as at present, the Catholic Church "discouraged education." Is this simple ignorance, or a simple violation of the Eighth Commandment?

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