

GARDENING NOTES

(By MR. J. JOYCE, Landscape Gardener, Christchurch.)
WORK FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH.

The Vegetable Garden.—The cool days of autumn, when most kinds of vegetables will be coming to maturity, will render garden work more pleasurable than during the heat of the summer season. The gardener's duties now will mainly consist of hoeing the soil to keep it porous, and eradicating weeds, a process which will help backward vegetables to mature before the severe weather of winter sets in. Keep sowing and planting—a little at a time to keep up a supply for the coming months—cauliflower, brocoli, and savoy cabbage. It would be well also to make a sowing of winter turnips, lettuce, and spinach. Mould up celery, taking care that the soil does not get into the hearts of the plants; this may be effected by tying up the plants with some soft material before moulding. Clear away all superfluous growth from tomatoes to give the fruit a chance to ripen; it is not necessary to remove all the leaves, as is often done. Pull and harvest the onion crop as it ripens, and sow the autumn crop in well-prepared soil. Onions should be left on the ground for a few days before storing; exposure to the weather firms and ripens them, and adds to their keeping qualities.

The Flower Garden.—Everything in the flower garden should now be looking at its best, and the lawn, provided it has been well tended during the summer, will be showing at its best. Most of the tall-growing plants will now require to be tied up and staked. Cut away all dead blooms and thus prolong the flowering season. A start should now be made to plant geranium cuttings, using hardy mature shoots; the soil need not be rich, but plenty of sand will be found beneficial, together with a limited amount of watering. Potted plants should be cut back and the cuttings used. Bulbs, such as narcissi, hyacinths, and tulips, may now be started. The soil will need to be well dug, and if it is poor apply a little well-rotted manure. As a rule, manure must be kept away from the bulbs, and when used at all it must not be fresh or heavy but about the consistency of earth. Cuttings of pink picotees and carnations may be planted in shady corners, using plenty of sand and a gentle watering, and seeing that they are firmly inserted in the soil. Plant rose cuttings thoroughly firm about 6 in in the ground. To grow good dahlias an occasional application of liquid manure is essential. Hoe frequently among the beds and borders, and mow and roll the lawn regularly. Hedge-clipping must now be attended to.

The Fruit Garden.—Continue picking apples and pears as they ripen, and store away in a cool room, taking care to reject any bruised ones. Pears should be picked before they are really ripe, or they will not keep any length of time, and thus should be disposed of as soon as possible. Prune away all the young growth from apple and pear trees to allow the air and sunlight to mature the fruit. Gooseberry and currant trees may now be pruned, and all undergrowth of raspberries cleared away, leaving about six good strong canes for next season's bearing.

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Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

March 4.

We are all tremendously sorry that Father Menard and Father O'Connor are both leaving us for pastures new, the former going to Okato, and the latter to Geraldine. Father Menard's removal has been in the air for some time, but we didn't think anything would come of it, and had no idea that Father O'Connor was going. Bad news travels quickly, and in spite of very short notice, Father O'Connor's send-off on Sunday night after devotions, was the biggest gathering of Catholics we have had for ever so long. Rev. Father O'Connell spoke his own regret and good wishes, Mr. T. Lloyd read a short address on our behalf, Mr. Luxford spoke and also made presentation of our small souvenir, and Sergt. Bourke said a few words. Came Father O'Connor thanks and good-bye, some hearty handshakes, and all was over. St. Mary's has not been Father O'Connor's territory proper, he having attended to St. John's Hill and Aramoho, and acting as Chaplain to the Convent. Father O'Connor left on Monday for the south.

Father Menard goes off to Okato, Taranaki, this week also, is going to help Father Soulas on the Maori Missions. The date of Father Menard's farewell has not been arranged yet, but it is inevitable.

After week's of illness, and, later convalescence and a holiday, Miss Curran, although not quite strong yet, has resumed her music teaching and is back at her place at St. Mary's organ. Everyone is pleased that she has recovered from her dreadful illness and hopes she will soon get quite well. During the long interval, Mrs. T. Lloyd, one-time organist and our never-failing standby, filled the breach. The shortest of notice, and Mrs. Lloyd always makes it possible to play the organ, quite regardless of personal convenience and oftentimes, weariness.

Miss Jenny McNair, well-known in our congregation, leaves soon for Hawke's Bay. Before handing over her responsibilities as accountant at the *Chronicle* office, Miss McNair was farewelled by the firm and the staff. A substantial cheque, a Doulton tea service and jardiniere, are some of the gifts received with everyone's good wishes.

Was shown a picture recently in an American magazine, of Miss Eli Benneche, news of whom is likely to be of interest to old friends of the family. The young artist is a granddaughter of Mrs. A. Sullivan, now of Mangamahu, but originally of Canterbury, "Kennedy's Bush," well-known to old residents of Christchurch, was the property of and named after Mrs. Sullivan's father. Some years ago one of Mrs. Sullivan's daughters married Capt. Benneche, and it is a daughter of hers, Eli, who has achieved more than usual distinction in the world of commercial art. After going through her college course, Miss Benneche graduated from a school of art and is engaged now in scenic work at the Los Angeles motion picture studios. Good wishes to her from her friends across the sea.

Those fruits which run up very much into leaves and stalks sometimes die at the root; so some men's religion runs up all into talk and profession.

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