

head girl, had been busy thinking out plans for the enjoyment of her friends.

"I thought of asking if we might go to see the Cinematograph at the Polytechnic," she replied. "Miss Phipps promised to take us some day, and if we might do some shopping first, and have tea afterwards, it would be a delightful way of spending the afternoon. There is one thing that we must buy while we have the chance, and that's a present for Fräulein. Her birthday is next week, and she is such a kind old dear that she deserves something nice. I want at least a shilling from everyone, and as much more as they can afford. I wonder what we had better get?"

"I know what she would love. A scent-bottle for her dressing-table like the one Mademoiselle has. We could not afford one quite so good, but we could get a very nice size for about two pounds. One day when I was in Mademoiselle's room, Fräulein came in and took up the bottle, and began admiring it, and saying how nice it was to get presents which were good to look at, as well as to use. She has not many pretty things—poor Fräulein!—and I think she would really enjoy a little taste of luxury. Mademoiselle has her initials engraven on the glass, but that would be too expensive for us. We can have them on the stopper instead."

"And who gave Mademoiselle her bottle? Was it someone here?" asked Pixie curiously, and Kate tossed her head with an air of exaggerated dismay.

"My dear, how can you? Don't say that to Mademoiselle, I implore you! She would have a fit. We are all commoners, and English commoners at that, and the lady who gave her that precious bottle was

Madame la Marquise de Something or other, the mother of her beloved pupil Isoult Andrée Adèle Marie Thérèse—the most perfect, and beautiful, and clever, and amiable *jeune fille* that was ever created!" Kate paused, hitched one shoulder to her ear, spread out her hands, and elevated her eyebrows in ridiculous mimicry of Mademoiselle's mannerisms. "Did she evare neglect her vork? *Jamais*, nevare! Did she evare forget that she was a *jeune fille*, and be'ave like a vild, rough boy? *Jamais, jamais!* Was she evare like these Engleesh—rude, impairtinent, disobedient? *Mais non!* Always the same—*cette ange*, the most wise, the most amiable! And when she has finished her education and made her *début*, to be the most beautiful and admired wherever she has gone, she has vept—vept, I tell you, to say *adieu* to her beloved Mademoiselle! And she has given her a chain for her neck, and Madame la Marquise that beautiful 'ansome botelle. Really, Pixie, you are behind the times if you don't know about Isoult. Just turn Mademoiselle on to her next time you are with her on the walk, and you won't have to exert yourself any more. She will sing her praises until you come in."

"I will," said Pixie sturdily. "And I'll see that bottle, too. I must see that bottle. I'll go into Mademoiselle's room next time I have a chance, and have a good look at it all to myself!"

The girls smiled, but took little note of a determination which seemed natural enough under the circumstances. A week afterwards they remembered it, however, with very different feelings, and Pixie's own words were brought up in judgment against her.

(To be continued.)

HOW TO START A ROSE-GARDEN.

BY W. COLIN ROMAINE.



THERE is scarcely any country hobby more suitable for girls than rose-culture, for, once the plants are in the ground, nearly all the subsequent operations can be extremely well carried out by them, as their fingers are peculiarly adapted to much of the delicate work needed for producing fine blooms.

In starting a collection of roses the beginner should make

up her mind as to the object she has in view, whether she would prefer to beautify her garden with scattered rose bushes or to produce some really fine blooms. It is unfortunately impossible to combine these two objects with the same plants, for the sorts most adapted for landscape gardening are not those which produce the best flowers.

This article is written with the intention of giving instruction to those who are anxious to produce fine rose blooms, and who are able to allot a piece of ground to their exclusive cultivation; for no plants resent as much as roses the growth of other vegetation above their roots. Ninety-six bushes are a convenient number with which to make a first attempt, and in this article this will be the quantity referred to throughout. To grow them a piece of ground 30 ft. by 24 ft. will be required. This should, if possible, be a piece of fresh meadow-land of stiff loam, though roses may be grown with more or less success in nearly all soil except sand. A site with a south aspect and one not overshadowed by trees had best be chosen.

Operations should be begun in October by having the ground trenched two spades deep and the bottom of the trench broken with a fork. At the same time five cartloads of good farmyard manure should be added, and kept for the most part at the bottom of the trench, as rose roots are easily burnt if they are allowed to come in contact with fresh manure. The roses should now be ordered—preferably from some known rose specialist, as otherwise they are not infrequently untrue to name. It is best not to get too many different sorts at first as sixteen varieties are quite enough if the characteristics of each one are to be studied; for it will be found that many sorts require different pruning and treatment from the rest, all of which is a science only to be learnt by studying the behaviour of the plants themselves.

The list given here provides six roses of each sort, and is a good one for a beginner, for it includes only those kinds which can be trusted to give satisfactory results, and which will not discourage the young rosarian.

HYBRID PERPETUALS.

(Six of each sort.)

Camille Bernardin.	Charles Lefebvre.
Marie Baumann.	Mrs. John Laing.
Mrs. Sharman Crauford.	Ulrich Brunner.
Dupuy Jamain.	Etienne Levet.
Duke of Wellington.	

HYBRID TEAS.

(Six of each sort.)

Caroline Testout.	Kaiserin Augusta Victoria.
Mrs. W. J. Grant.	

TEAS.

(Six of each sort.)

Hon. Edith Gifford.	Maman Cochet.
Madame Hoste.	Marie van Houtte.

These should be ordered as dwarf plants budded on seedling or cutting briar, and should arrive about the middle of November, which is the best period for planting, as by that time the plants have shed their foliage and there is more chance of being able to plant them in open weather. The operation of planting should be done with the greatest care, as success is largely dependent on this being properly carried out. The bushes should be planted in rows three feet apart, with two feet six inches between each plant, keeping the sorts in rows together. By this plan the ground will hold eight rows of twelve plants with a margin of eighteen inches. Large enough holes should be dug to allow the roots to be spread out without crossing one another. The plants should not be planted deeper than they were in the nursery, and the mark on their stems showing the original depth of planting should be taken as a guide for this purpose. It is a great mistake to plant deeply, as the roots are then too far from the air, and also from any food which may be afterwards given them. The roots being spread out in the hole, it is advisable, if the ground is wet, to cover them with a spadeful of dry earth before filling in the hole. The earth may then be shovelled in, and well trampled down, as roses require to be very firmly planted. A wooden painted label about eighteen inches high with the name of the rose inscribed on it should be placed at the head of each variety.

The sorts named in the above list are sufficiently hardy not to need any protection from frost; indeed it is doubtful whether it is really ever advisable to shelter roses, as it is probably better to lose one or two in a hard winter than to make the whole collection tender by over-coddling them. The roses may now be left till the end of March, when it is time to prune the hybrid perpetuals (H.P.'s.) and the hybrid teas (H.T.'s.), while the tea-roses had better be left till the middle of April. Pruning so as to obtain fine blooms requires a hard heart, for the shoots have to be shortened till only three or four eyes are left, and consequently the rose-bushes almost disappear. It is a good rule that the stronger-growing roses require less hard pruning than the weaker kinds. Very soon the young shoots begin to appear, and from now onwards the rose-grower is a busy person. Each shoot must be perpetually examined to search for grubs which, if left, would destroy the flower bud, and the Dutch hoe must be kept at work between the rows, cutting up the weeds and keeping the top of the ground loose, so that the air may penetrate to the roots. As the buds form, all the side buds should be instantly removed, as they never develop satisfactorily, and only abstract nourishment from the centre bud. It is necessary to insist on this,

as it is a point about which all who do not understand roses are apt to disagree with those who grow roses for show. If one remembers, however, that the centre roses open long before the side buds have had time to develop, and that if the centre bloom is cut the buds will be cut with it, and that the latter have only subtracted from the rose's nourishment without being of any use themselves, the advantage of removing these side buds will be at once apparent. If the weather is unpropitious during May, green fly will make its appearance among the tender shoots, and may at first be removed by crushing with the finger, but if this pest increases, the bushes should be sprayed with quassia and soft soap. This can be obtained ready mixed in tins. If any mildew appears, the best cure is to syringe with water, and then to dust the leaves with flower of sulphur, but care should be taken to cover the under part of the leaves as well, as the mildew always commences there.

If the weather is dry the bushes will be glad of water; weak manure-water is best, but, if it is inconvenient to give this, artificial rose-manure may be scattered over the ground and watered in. An excellent recipe for this has been recommended by Mr. Tonks, and is as follows:—

Superphosphate of lime	12 parts.
Nitrate of potash	10 "
Sulphate of magnesia	2 "
Sulphate of iron	1 "
Sulphate of lime	8 "

This will be made up by any maker of artificial manure, and is excellent for giving brightness and colour to the blooms. During the entire summer the Dutch hoe should be freely used, as by keeping the surface of the soil pulverised, the sun has less power to abstract the moisture from the soil. Once the roses are planted, the Dutch hoe should be the only instrument ever used on the ground, as a fork or spade will, however carefully used, cut the roots and do much damage. A spud will be found useful for cutting away any suckers of briar which may be sent up from the roots of the roses.

By June the buds will begin to show colour, and any of them which appear to be too heavy for their shoots should be tied to a stick to prevent their falling into the dirt.

By the end of June comes the reward of hard work in the harvest of blooms. To see them at their best early rising is necessary, for nothing is more beautiful than a fine flower just open with the dew still on it. In hot weather roses should invariably be cut as early as possible before the sun has abstracted their moisture, as they will last much longer if cut early, taken into the house, and kept in a dark room till they are wanted.

The cost of all this will be easily covered by a ten-pound note.

	£	s.	d.
Trenching	1	0	0
Manure	1	5	0
Rose plants	4	10	0
Labels		5	0
Total	7	0	0

leaving £3 for artificial manure and sundries.

It is to be hoped that the result of the first year's work will be so satisfactory that it will fill the beginner with the desire to plant more trees, and in course of time to join the National Rose Society and to compete at its shows, where she will find every encouragement given to novices.

Some day she will no doubt desire to make her own rose-trees by budding briars, as additional pleasure will naturally be felt when cutting a rose grown from a plant which the owner may consider entirely her own production. This is, however, a subject which cannot be treated of in this article, but the present writer will be glad to give any information in his possession to those who may be tempted to devote some of their spare time to the fascinating hobby of rose-growing.