

THE HOME COMING.

New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

We shall return to the land we were
born in;
To sun-baked gully and bare brown
plain,
To the musical lilt of the creek down-
falling
Through shadowy ways of the Bush en-
trailing.
—Ah, the smell of the Bush in rain!—
To the tree-fern glade, and the gorge
again;
To the gold of the Kowhai, the glory
of Rata.

We shall return.

We shall return to the Sea, our Mother,
By cliff and island and storm-vexed
beaches
Where the green wave breaks, and the
scud is flying.
To the mutton-birds' haunt, and the
gulls' wild crying.
On shingle-banks where the drift-wood
bleaches;
Where kelp sways slowly in sheltered
reaches
Of land-locked harbours like sapphires
lying.

We shall return.

We shall return to the graves of our
forebears,
On many a headland, many a hill,
Nameless Mounds through the tussock
breaking
Where the Pioneers sleep till the day of
awaking;
The sunlit lingers, the flax blades
thrill
As the waka passes, and all is still;
To the spirit that breeds in the strength
of the ranges.

We shall return.

We shall return to the white-bosomed
city
Gliding by waterways blue and serene
To warehouse and spire and roof up-
rising.
Beyond the lighthouse, sudden, surpris-
ing;
And by wharf and street and glint of
green,
And blaze of gardens set between
To the deep-verandahed homes of our
childhood.

We shall return.

We shall return—but we leave them
lonely
Brothers in suffering, brothers in
mirth;
East and West they are lying scattered.
All that is left of them mangled and
shattered—
Aliens hidden in alien earth,
Nevermore by dark or by dawning
Will they return!

Ah! but they live in the hearts of their
comrades—
They move with the water, mix with
the star—
Sweep with the wind through the up-
land places—
Steal with the Spring into flower-
strewn spaces—
Flush with the sunset on snowfields
afar.
Safer than we—immortal they are.
In their life of their country, the love
of their people

They are at home.

—From the "British Australasian."

REFLECTIONS.

In France I used to like to stroll
With sparkling-eyed Marie:
A barmaid—yes—but, bless her soul,
None truer lived than she!
We'd wander nightly, hand in hand;
How sweet those memories are—
Alas, I miss my barmaid, and
Alas, I miss the bar!

Marie was not so strong for style,
Nor keen for etiquette,
But she could cheer me with her smile,
And she could spoon, you bet!
Her glance was like a warm caress:
By George, she was a star!
And so I'm longing for her—yes,
And longing for her bar.

Of course, my sweetheart here in town
Means all the world to me;
I'd not attempt to turn her down
For any sweet Marie.
A barmaid wife might prove too gay,
My whole career might mar,
So I'll forget Marie; but, say—
Could you forget that bar?

Roderick: "I've often gone on the stage
without a bite to eat." Antony: "And
come off again with enough vegetables to
last a month."

HORTICULTURE.

Last week ordering and planting were discussed, and incidentally manuring, particularly as to roses, but other subjects were not reached. In small gardens manuring is woefully neglected except perhaps as to vegetables, persons sometimes spending considerable sums on plants and getting but poor results through not giving either a little money or trouble to manuring. Artificial garden manures are easily used and on the whole give very good results. If applied in winter or spring when there is a good rainfall the more soluble kinds may be applied to the surface raked or forked in lightly but when the weather is getting dry should be worked into a fair depth as on the surface they seem to add to the dryness. Bone dust should always be dug in fairly deep as it is simply wasted on the surface. Stable manure is most valuable as in addition to its manurial qualities the humus provides the ideal bed for the young roots and with a little manure gives best possible results. Fowl manure must be applied carefully as owing to its strength if used carelessly it is liable to burn or rot the roots but if used carefully is invaluable for giving strong quick growth, it also enriches the ground for a considerable period as it contains all the salts (ammonia potash etc.), that are so greatly lost in the urine from the manure of animals that urinate. For most soils and almost all plants lime is beneficial.

To get back to ordering; shrubs should be procured and planted early. Phododendrons are noble shrubs and although the season of bloom for an individual plant is not long the foliage is handsome, and by a succession of varieties a considerable period is covered, but unfortunately there are many varieties of very little attraction and in most gardens where you see one or two varieties only, they are disappointing and the owners, after growing them for a number of years are loth to root them out and get desirable varieties. For goodness sake don't be afraid but if you have something that does not please you root it out and get something that you will be proud of. Nursermen are often to blame, the customer probably orders by colour asking, say, for a red and a white, Alarm and Rachel are sent along according to catalogue colour, and after growing them for a few years the disappointment is put up with. Insist upon getting those with big trusses and large flowers and if you get such varieties as Auguste van Geert (a rosy red), Charles Lawson (pale salmon pink and perfectly lovely), Pink Pearl and others of the same class, you will be delighted. The Persian lilacs both lilac and white in colour are excellent small shrubs. The Eriochordia is a nice white flowering deciduous shrub which grows fairly tall. Acuba Japonica is a very useful dwarf shrub with large leaves variegated yellow and green. Prostranthera rotundifolia is lovely as a shrub, when young, completely covered with its light or dark lavender coloured flowers and looking like a lavender or violet coloured manuka. White Broom grows very quickly, is ornamental and excellent for cutting, young plants give lovely sprays for decoration and it is therefore desirable to remove old plants and grow young ones from time to time, fine for church decoration. Many natives are also well worth growing. Plagianthus (or Gaya) Lyalli being perhaps the best of our small native trees, deciduous, hardy, marvellously quick growing, and giving a perfect wealth of its large pure white flowers in midsummer; Manuka Nicholi with its rich bronzy foliage and glowing crimson flowers is a gem; Rata grows well, the foliage is striking and it will bloom when about three feet high, slow growing but makes magnificent specimens, blooming freely, as it gets older and reaches 8 to 10 feet in height in specimen shrub form, stands cutting back and breaks again freely.

A BALLADE OF PREFACES.

In authorship's crowded arena
Triumphant that writer excels
Whose will find the way to subpoena
A foreword by Barrie or Wells.
And, oh, how sublimely he sells—
How warmly the critics acclaim
A witness whose signature spells
A bright and illustrious name!
The planning of Mr Saltena
With art a rare preface foretells—
Introduced by Sir James adds so keen a
Delight to the mirth it impels.
Barbellion's Diary tells
Of unfulfilled longing for fame,
Although in its vestibule dwells
A bright and illustrious name.
From Bangor to fair Pasadena
A flood of advertisement wells.
Adventure of Bab or Bettina
An eager perusal compels.
A high tide of royalties swells.
Floats proudly the bark that can
claim.

MOTORING NOTES.

Twelve months ago to-day two Invercargill citizens resigned from good positions and better prospects to make a business of their own. The go-aheadness of our western cousins caught their fancy, so they betook themselves to Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A. During four months they studied wit, sleeves uprolled and perfected themselves in the latest process of "making old tires new." They bought an expensive plant—at a half thousand pounds—and shipped it, and after many shipping delays fitted it up in Kelvin Buildings, Kelvin street.

During the three months that their expert work has been in demand from New Plymouth to Taupere they have treated a full four hundred motor tyres. Of these only five have been sent back for re-touching. These statistics speak volumes for the process, the most up-to-date vulcanising treatment known, that these enterprising and energetic young men have introduced to the motoring public of Southland. A visit to their factory will repay anyone desirous of being shown something new in tyre-doctoring.

The commonest failure of wooden wheels is the development of annoying squeaks. This trouble may be remedied by driving wooden wedges into the spiders where the spokes have become loosened. Car owners frequently neglect to give due attention to the hub bolts of their wooden wheels. These bolts pass through the wheel and hold the hub plate in position. If in the rear wheels the hub bolts are permitted to become loose, the wheel will be thrown out of alignment. This will make driving difficult and inevitably tyre wear will be enormously increased.

Some kinds of water form a deposit in the radiator and water passages, and this is all the greater if the water used is dirty, with the result that the circulation is retarded and the engine runs hotter than it should. A satisfactory way to clean out the deposit within the radiator is to make up a solution of one pound of washing soda in two gallons of hot water. This is poured into the radiator, which is then filled with plain water and the engine is then run slowly for half an hour, when the soda solution is entirely drained off and the radiator refilled with clean water. This cleaning out should be done several times a year, and more particularly where the thermo-siphon system is used.

A new form of non-puncturable tyre has been patented in the United States. It consists of a series of half-round curved shields, united to form a complete ring, which is interposed between the inner tube and the outer shoe of the tyre. This forms an inexpensive armour protecting the inner tube which is not liable to get out of order, and which does not materially interfere with the resiliency or cushioning effect as a whole. The formation of the armour in separate sections, easily interfere with the resiliency or cushioning effect as a whole. The formation of the armour in separate sections, easily interfere with the resiliency or cushioning effect as a whole. The formation of the armour in separate sections, easily interfere with the resiliency or cushioning effect as a whole.

A list of daily outputs of American motor-car manufacturers for the months of June, July and August last, has been published in an American motor journal. Though by no means complete, several well-known makes being absent, the figures help to visualise the immense efforts put forth in American factories. The total daily average output of the 33 manufacturers listed is 6544 cars in June, 6773 in July, and 7003 in August. The most noteworthy individual examples are those of the Ford works, with an average output of 3033 machines per day during the three months mentioned, the Buick with 800 a day, and the Dodge with 417 a day.

The well-known aviator, Mr Glenn H. Curtiss, has built a camp car, which amounts to a compact hotel on wheels. It is hitched to an automobile and can be whisked along at the speed of fifty to sixty miles an hour without the owner being conscious of his added burden. The "motor bungalow," as one of his friends calls it, is a compact vehicle with windows front and rear, doors on either side, strongly but lightly constructed of wood veneer. It has a kitchen, pantry, toilet facilities, an ice-box, clothes and bedding lockers, electric lights, a running water system, seats, a table, and even carries a tout cot for use of the chauffeur. It's readily useful characteristics, however, become apparent when it is opened for camp service. By raising the sides and inserting screen frames, the vehicle may be made up into two complete rooms with ample sleeping facilities for two people in the fore end, and four people in the after end.

GARDEN NOTES.

STABLE MANURE.

Stable manure is capable of much good or a good deal of harm in a garden, according to whether it is properly prepared and used or otherwise. If it is in a dry littersy state when dug in it may and probably will be a harbour for woodlice, unless it is well mixed with the soil. The common practice is to push a lot of it into the trench and cover it with the soil from the next spit. There is no harm done by placing layers of manure in the lower trenches, but if it is dry or very littersy it will do harm under the top spit of soil. Apart from probable infestation by woodlice, dry manure in such a position will prevent capillary action during dry weather and so deprive plants of moisture that should be drawn from the lower levels. It may also create a wet, soggy condition of soil during wet weather. Manure of a strawy nature should be well mixed with the soil. Manure of a heavier nature, or that which is free from much litter should be well covered with soil—that is, it should be dug in deeply, so that a surface of clean soil well broken up can be secured for sowing the seeds.

GROWING ASPARAGUS.

It was formerly the practice to plant asparagus on raised beds. The practice has been so generally abandoned that it does not seem to be advisable to describe that method of planting. The plants are now put on the flat, a method that is better than raised beds, inasmuch as it gives the roots a wider and freer run. Before proceeding to plant the ultimate aim should be determined. There are three things to choose between—namely, good heads of ordinary types, giant heads and blanched heads. Blanched heads are secured by a covering of soil. These are most appreciated on the Continent of Europe, and are required by canning-factories. Heads are made green by allowing them to make their growth in the air clear of the soil; the lower portion of such heads are blanched. Green heads are said to have more flavour than white, and are preferred by most British people. Good heads are grown by planting in rows 30in apart, the plants being 15in asunder in the rows. Giant heads are secured by planting at greater distances apart—rows 4ft apart, plants at least 3ft asunder. The distance last mentioned may appear extravagant, but this is not really so in the end. After a few years the plants will practically fill the space.

CABBAGE MOTH.

It is possible to save small lots of affected cabbages if sufficient attention is paid to them but the saving of large areas depends mainly on getting growing-weather. The worst infestations occur during very dry summers. Under such conditions it is practically impossible to save the crops, except where the soil naturally holds a good deal of moisture. When the season is cold and wet the moth is not troublesome. Between the two extremes there is the medium season, when the plants may grow fairly well, and yet there may be a fairly heavy infestation. Under such circumstances the crops can be saved. Spraying large areas in an effective manner is a practical impossibility. In addition to the habit the larvae have of descending to the ground when disturbed and returning to the plant when danger is past, their work is mostly done on the under-side of the leaves, where it is difficult to reach them. I have found it best to concentrate attention on the saving of the young leaves forming in the centre of the plants. If these are injured by the insects growth must cease. A little hellebore powder dusted into the centres of the plants will save them from injury, and if some nitrate of soda is given to the roots there is every likelihood of the plants doing well. Cultivation between the plants should be frequent, and if the implement used brushes against the outer leaves it will cause many of the larvae to drop to the ground, and a proportion of them is sure to be buried in the soil.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS.

About this time the plants are almost always attacked by a grey aphid, which, unless it is checked, speedily ruins the plants. Spraying with Vistolene or XI plants. Spraying with Vistolene or XI easiest method of control. Forceful syringing with boiling water is quite effective. The usable parts of these plants are the little rosettes that form in the axils of the leaves. The question is sometimes asked whether the leaves should be cut off to encourage the growth of the rosettes or sprouts. The answer is emphatically No. The sprouts will not develop properly without the leaves, which should not be cut off until they turn yellow. Seedman's catalogue show the plant without leaves, the leaves being removed to show the sprouts.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.

252 ACRES LEASEHOLD. Rent 16s per year; 16 acres oats and grass; carrying capacity 300 ewes, cattle and horses. Building: Four-roomed house, dairy, stable, cow shed, shearing shed and sheep pen. Railway 1/2-mile, school 1/2-mile, P.O. 1/2-mile. Price £7 per acre. Owner would exchange for a small dairy farm or property.

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