

Books to Make Gardens Grow

We are glad to bring together the reviews of five garden books on this page if only to indicate that one of the healthiest instincts of mankind persists even in political and economic cataclysms. Mrs. Marion Purvis Smith, who is responsible for the three unsigned reviews, is an authority on herbals, and what might be called the scholarship of gardening. Mr. Wright, editor of *House and Garden*, is equally competent to discuss design. Amateur gardeners ourselves, we note with particular interest the new resources for northern gardens described in the book on Mexican plants, and read with some dismay of the connoisseur's idea of proper planning surveyed in "Garden Design."

Color and Pattern in Garden Making

GARDEN DESIGN. By Marjorie S. Cautley. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company. 1935. \$5.

Reviewed by RICHARDSON WRIGHT

TO the average gardener, content with helping the birth, growth, and struggle of plants to fruition, the subjects of scale, texture, repetition, and rhythm in garden design are just so much esoteric persiflage. Nevertheless, these and a score of other points in design are essential to the making of good gardens, and in this work Miss Cautley has set them down in portions easy to consume.

She begins with the principles of design, going from the abstract to the actual, and explaining her theories with familiar parallels. When she wants to demonstrate a symmetrical balance she uses the figure of a lateen sail as compared with the nicely balanced sail of a four-rigger. These theories explained, she begins applying them to the problems of garden design—to garden patterns, the location of the house in respect to its gardens, suburban properties and city lots. The next step goes into more intimate details—foliage walls, lights and shadows, the use of water, sundials and garden furniture, and the placing of ornaments.

It is in her fourth chapter—on color—that she tackles a problem more familiar, though just as esoteric, to many average gardeners. By the use of the Munsell color sphere this subject unfolds as smoothly as a rose, and the planting of a flower border begins to appear as an easily accomplished task. Discussions of form and texture follow this, the form and texture of many types of gardens—those for winter, those that repeat the informality of nature, city gardens, intimate gardens. With each of these is a complete plant list. They are the true shrubs and flowers that the average discerning garden-maker would use. We have rarely seen better selected lists or more concise and helpful plant descriptions.

As Miss Cautley passes, step by step, from theory to application in garden de-

sign, she illustrates each point with well-chosen photographs and sketches obviously gathered by extensive travel and wide research. She has drawn on a dozen or more countries for her examples. An ancient bridge in France shows how a hedge of upright and spreading plants may be arranged, the pinnacles of a Gothic cathedral repeat the stand of western spruce beside a stream, the mass of a skyscraper find its counterpart in massed tree planting for a country estate. These examples, aided by text which keeps rigidly to simple statements, carry the reader safely out of the realm of the esoteric into a clear understanding of how good gardens can be made and why one garden is more pleasant than another. Miss Cautley has written a grammar of garden design and garden making. By reading it one comes to a better capacity for garden enjoyment.

Plants from Mexico

MEXICAN PLANTS FOR AMERICAN GARDENS. By Cecele Hulse Matschat. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1935. \$3.50.

IN 1570 Phillip II of Spain appointed a learned physician of Salamanca Protónédico of the Indies and sent him to Mexico to collect and study medicinal plants. This was Dr. Francisco Hernandez who returned to Spain in 1577 with sixteen folio volumes of text and drawings of plants and who received 60,000 ducats for his work. But he had contracted fever on his travels and died the following year. His unpublished descriptions of the plants, animals, and minerals of Mexico were translated from Latin into "lingua Mexicana" by Brother Francisco Ximenez and printed in the City of Mexico in 1616—the first book on natural history to be published in the New World. The copy in the British Museum belonged to Sir Joseph Banks. It is a small, dingy octavo volume with crabbed type, yellow paper, and a clumsy calf binding. The descriptions of plants and trees run along in easy Spanish until one comes to the noun, which is apt to be *cocozochitl* when it is not *hoitzmamaxalli*. The fact that the first is the dahlia and the second the flowering thorn is not at once obvious. This last bit of scholarship is not pure swank but is derived from very attentive reading of Mrs. Matschat's "Mexican Plants for American Gardens." The title is a model of modest understatement, for the book is really a collection of chapters or essays on Mexican history and culture from the point of view of the botanist and the horticulturist.

Part I deals with the agriculture and gardening of Mexico before the Conquest, with Spanish colonial gardens, and with the gardens of modern Mexico. Special emphasis is laid on patios and walled gardens. Mrs. Matschat's very extensive botanical information is displayed with

admirable restraint in Part II. After a bibliographical introduction on the Floral History of Mexico, she devotes a chapter each to the desert plants (chiefly cactus), to the wild flowers suitable for introduction into American gardens, to bulbs, shrubs, ornamental and foliage plants, and to vines. Her concise descriptions of plants in their native habitat, the interesting items she notes in connection with their discovery or use, and her cultural directions are so excellent that the reviewer is tempted to overstep the council of moderation to which the author has subscribed.

In an appendix, the common plants of Mexico are listed in three columns; the first gives their common names, the second, their botanical names, while the third contains a brief but vivid description. This is for the use of visitors to Mexico who otherwise might "lose much, both in the way of pleasure and knowledge, by their inability to identify the plants and fruits seen in gardens and markets." Has any one ever calculated the extent of the losses in "pleasure and knowledge" for the lack of such cleverly compiled lists for visitors in other lands?

The book is pleasantly illustrated with photographs and pen-drawings. It has a short bibliography and an excellent index.

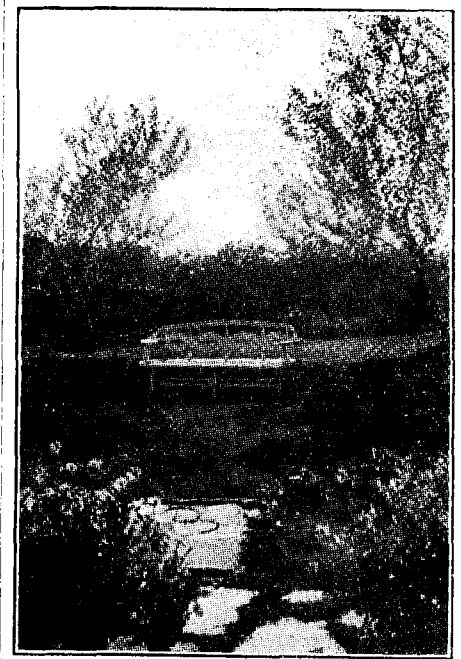
Medicinal Herbs

THE PHYSICK GARDEN. By Edith Grey Wheelwright. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1935. \$3.

THIS is one of those maddening books which one reads with persistent interest and which leaves one in a state of mild exasperation. It is so good and might have been so much better! This state of mind probably results from disappointment of an unfulfilled promise. The publisher announces and the author proposes two aims; one is very comprehensive—"The story of man and his medicines." . . . "The history of medicinal plants and their uses, from the earliest ages to the present." The other is a more manageable project, "the evolution of Anglo-Saxon leechdom into the British Pharmacopeia." That the former aim is not accomplished does not, as a matter of fact, detract from the interest and importance of the latter, but in almost every section, the reader is prompted to wish that a student with such wide technical knowledge as Miss Wheeler possesses, had either pushed her researches much further before publishing, or else had contented herself with a straightforward narrative of British medicinal plants.

The chapters on the medicinal practices and the drug plants of India, China, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and the early Christian era are in reality brief introductory notes to the more detailed study of British medicines and medicinal herbs. After Chapter IX, "Anglo-Saxon Medicines," notices of continental drug plants are fragmentary (though often exceedingly suggestive), and those of the world beyond Europe virtually non-existent. The chapters on European and English herbals are sketchy and add nothing to the work of Lady Amherst, Mrs. Arber, and Miss Rohde. Miss Wheelwright's positive contribution begins with Chapter VII on "Medicinal Plants of the British Flora," in which she gives a series of brief studies packed full of botanical and pharmaceutical learning and of folk-lore. This material might be expanded into an excellent book. The last chapters on the trade in medicinal herbs, the cultivation of drug plants in England and the British Empire, and on the "contents of the vegetable cell," are of the nature of appendices, and reflect the great interest in herb culture which has sprung up in England since the war.

The book is not a "story of man and his medicines from the earliest time to the present day." It is a series of botanical and pharmaceutical studies with special emphasis on the medicines and medicinal plants of the British Isles.



From "Week End Gardening"

Amateur Gardening

WEEK END GARDENING. By Sterling Patterson. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1935. \$2.50.

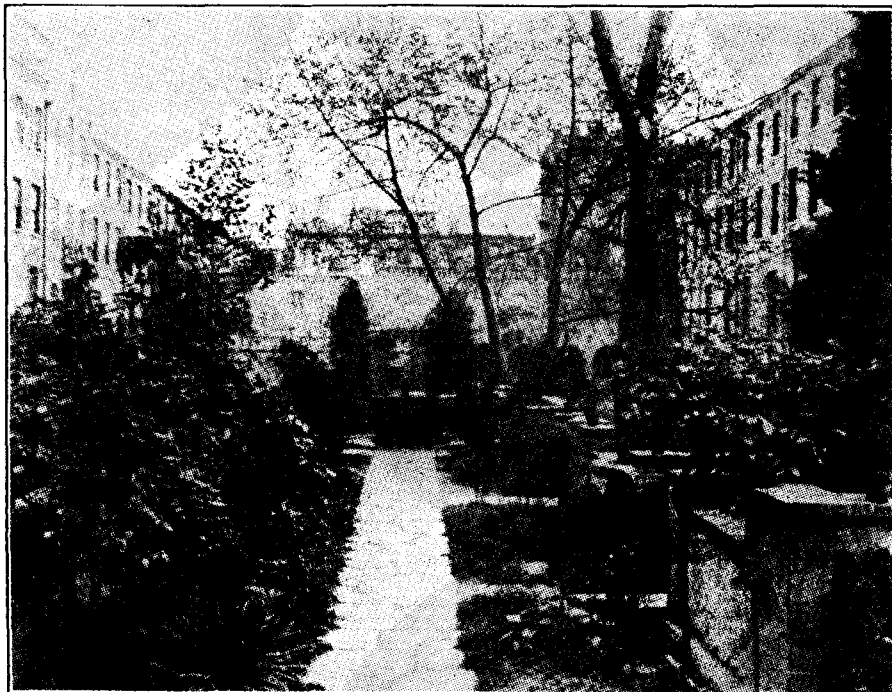
EVERYMAN'S GARDEN. By Max Schling. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1935. \$2.

SINCE John Evelyn wrote the "Kalendarium Hortense or Gardener's Almanac directing what he is to do monthly throughout the Year" in 1666, a vast number of persons have been impelled to write their gardening experiences and to arrange them according to the Labor of the Months. Neither depression, drought, nor dust-storms diminish this crop of annuals. Two of the 1935 harvest deserve special mention.

"Week End Gardening" and "Everyman's Garden" have one feature in common. Each describes the experiences of an amateur gardener who is also a business man. One is a busy business man who can only devote the week-end to hobby. The other is a "retired busir man" who devotes his entire time to garden. The week-end gardener cultivates a quarter of an acre, the full-time gardener four acres and a half. Both books are packed full of well-organized information, but for clear-cut directions, concentrated experience, labor-saving devices, and general good sense, one cannot hope in this imperfect world for a very much better work than Mr. Patterson's.

The material is divided into the work which must be done in the four week-ends of each month throughout the year. This is sometimes planning, designing, or reading. In his quarter-acre garden, Mr. Patterson includes shrubbery, perennial and annual borders, a lily pond, a few fruit trees, and a small vineyard. Explicit directions about the care of lawns, the preparation of garden soil, selected lists of plants that will sustain a moderate amount of neglect, and that bane of all gardeners' lives—spraying for pests and blights—are at once the most comprehensive and the most practical that this particular reviewer has ever read. We do not know what Mr. Patterson's "business" is, but if he should prove to be an efficiency engineer we should not be at all surprised. The only defect in an otherwise admirable book is that it lacks an index.

Peter Martin, in Mr. Schling's book, retires from business, buys a place, and plants a garden. He started from scratch and "knew flowers only as they came from a flower shop." But Peter has impeccable intuition and the invaluable advice of an astute seedsman, "Johnny Garden" (by an interesting coincidence, Mr. Schling is also a seedsman), so he makes no mistakes, and also seems to have encountered no pests or blights. The value of the book lies in the excellent lists of plants, with colors, height, and flowering season, and in careful directions for building paths and rock gardens, planting hedges, and for the care of house plants. There is a quaint turn of phrase that makes it pleasant reading, and it has an excellent index.



TURTLE BAY GARDENS
Photo by City Gardens Club of New York. From "Garden Design."

\$4,370 for Every Family?

THE CHART OF PLENTY. By Harold Loeb and Associates. New York: The Viking Press. 1935. \$2.

Reviewed by E. G. NOURSE

THIS small book is a product of the most ambitious attempt thus far made to answer the question whether our national productive capacity is sufficient to provide a good living for all our people. It is précis of the report of the National Survey of Potential Product Capacity carried out last year through the use of CWA funds. The full report is in process of publication.

Under the supervision of a dozen experts, largely engineers, some forty to fifty assistants were set to work in March, 1934 to assemble data covering

the production and capacity of every item from coal and iron ore to toys and radios. Other men were seeking to follow unusual byways of our economy. As an example, questionnaires were sent to every state asking figures on county fairs, on the wild-game kill, and on similar items. Another investigator was looking into the production of bulbs, flowers, and young trees. Still another worker, or rather a series of workers, was attempting to discover our national capacity for providing entertainments—the cinema, the theater, circuses. . . .

They didn't intend to miss even the man on the flying trapeze!

Thus it would appear that the NSPPC was not to be bound by the limitations of existing data but undertook to track every relevant fact about capacity "from face powder to armor plate" to its lair, drag it forth, and coordinate it with every other until "every pertinent bit of statistics was finally transferred to its particular niche on the flow sheet, where, like a voice in a chorus, it helped swell the final volume of goods and services."

When it comes to the actual tabulation

of results, however, it appears that items even more important than face powder were left out of the reckoning.

No capacities are given on the chart for coal mining or petroleum extraction . . . because . . . consumers' satisfaction is not dependent on the present capacity of the working equipment . . . were it deficient, it could quickly be remedied. A coal mine can be opened in a short time. Much drilling equipment that could be boring for oil is deliberately kept idle today in order not to "flood" the market. And despite the fact that we have adequate fuel reserves, the United States Government with great foresight is at present developing water power. . . . No capacities have been given on the chart for (metal) mining or quarrying operations. The capacity of our metal mines is omitted for a very different reason than was that of our coal mines. Opening new underground metal mines requires time and elaborate equipment. Also the results are often uncertain. Metals exist nearly everywhere on the earth's crust, but only rarely are they sufficiently concentrated to repay, at least under the existing economic and technologic set-up, the effort required to extract them.

It would appear that one or the other of these reasons might also have been invoked for leaving out any other item in the chart.

Of those included, many are listed as "indefinite." "Butter and cheese-making facilities are indefinite. The supply of milk is the only limiting factor. Nearly the same can be said for bread, cake, etc., since our bakeries are equipped to supply more than the country's need." But how much more? Surely the 1929 plant could not have been stretched ten or twenty or *n* times. Of other "indefinite" capacities, we read "the production of plumbing and heating fixtures, telephone and telegraph equipment, and so forth is not limited by the processing facilities but

only by the availability of the needed materials, and there is a sufficiency of these." Would not the same logic apply to all other fabricators of products derived from mine and quarry? One might suggest this also with reference to industries whose materials are of farm origin if one looks at the statement: "The American farmer has a real though unmeasurable 'excess product capacity.'" But when one reads, "So much consideration has been given to food because no 'unused plant capacity' exists for farm products," the matter seems less clear.

While it is clear that the capacities taken are those of 1929, it is not so easy for the reader to feel sure as to the conditions under which these capacities are supposed to be operated. At times it is referred to as under the "existing technology." At other points, however, the promise of abundance seems to be based on other grounds. For instance:

By utilizing more efficiently the farm land under cultivation, the domestic needs of the nation could be satisfied. The present use of chemical fertilizers is small. By a relatively minor expansion of the chemical industries, supplies of fertilizer that would increase farm production by a quarter to a half could be produced. By further mechanization, productivity could be increased.

Likewise a considerable reorganization of our productive system is apparently involved, with the "allocation" of equipment and supplies from points of excess to others where "bottlenecks" exist. It would appear also that there has been considerable smoothing out of the seasonality of operations. Similarly, there has been a free resort to double or triple shifting in major industries contrary to prevailing practices and labor adjustment. Four pages devoted to the discussion of labor do not show the reserve of unused labor whence these extra shifts are to be drawn. Instead it apparently relies upon the increase in numbers (2,812,000) of laborers up to 1934 and an imputed increase in their efficiency during the years since 1929. This would seem a slender basis on which to argue a

potential increase of two-fifths in the output of the busiest years of the prosperous era.

The presenting of so large a matter in so small a volume inevitably results in the omission of many details of method, tedious to the layman, though vital to the serious student of the problem. Whether all the adjustments proposed within the authors' definition of "potential" capacity are feasible and have been justified on the original worksheets, it is impossible to learn from a reading of "The Chart of Plenty." The economist or statistician who wishes to satisfy himself on these points must resort to the full report and spend many tedious hours of careful checking before he will know precisely what has been done and whether his mind will accept the conclusions which Mr. Loeb and his associates present in brief summary.

What, then, are the specific findings of the study? The directors asked themselves the question: "What is the product capacity of the existing (1929) plant if production is limited by physical factors only?" To this they answer: "The existing plant, by utilizing its unused capacity, could produce goods at a rate which would supply the needs and reasonable wants of the whole people." These needs and wants are interpreted through various dietary, clothing, housing, health, and educational standards to mean a national budget of 135 billion dollars. It is computed that in comparable terms we actually produced in 1929 \$93,919,000,000, or \$3,184 per family. Anyone familiar with the figures will realize that this latter amount is larger than the realized income of families in 1929 or of the goods and services currently produced in that year. This discrepancy is due to the authors' method of adding imputed items such as the rent of owned dwellings and of using cash prices at retail for food consumed by rural families. Since the same method of computation, however, is used in the national budget, the two figures may be compared to see how much their estimates of potential capacity runs above the output of 1929. On the basis of 135 billion dollars of national income, this would amount to forty-four per cent. However, the authors translate this into a family income of \$4,370 which would be an increase of only thirty-seven per cent above the \$3,184 family income which they claim for 1929.

The abundance thus charted is not so wide as a church door (held invitingly open by Stuart Chase) nor so deep as a well (plumbed by Howard Scott). But 'tis enough: 'twill serve.

E. G. Nourse is director of the Institute of Economics of the Brookings Institution.



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CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS



The German Church

GOD AMONG THE GERMANS. By Paul F. Douglass. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1935. \$3.

Reviewed by REINHOLD NIEBUHR

THE recrudescence of a primitive racial religion in a culturally advanced nation is an interesting phenomenon. Perhaps the conscious revival of primitiveness in a ripe culture is as obvious a betrayal of decadence as can be found in the history of culture. The German religious situation is therefore interesting not only to political observers and theologians but to all analysts of contemporary culture. Mr. Douglass gives the American reader the first opportunity to review the theories of the various proponents of a Nordic religion and to follow the history of the struggle between the racialists and the Christian church in detail. MacFarland's "The New Church and the New Germany" made some of this material available previously but it is presented in fuller outline by Douglass.

Unfortunately the author does no more than present the material. His single interpretive chapter is quite inadequate. It presents the struggle in terms of the old conflict between church and state. If no more had been involved the Lutheran church would have been more submissive, for it has a long history of submission to the state. The fact is that the religion of Rosenberg, Ludendorff, von Reventlow, Hauer, Wirth, and Schirach is something more than mere loyalty to a totalitarian state. The political philosophy of Hegel had some influence on their thought; but the more important sources of their position are to be found in Herder, Schlegel, and the romanticists. The author makes no effort to trace these roots. He does no more than mention the relation between the pseudo-anthropology of Chamberlain's "The Foundations of the Nineteenth Century" and Rosenberg's "The Myth of the Twentieth Century."

It would be even more important to