



The LANDSCAPE DEPARTMENT
BY
CUSHING SMITH, M.L.A.



THE ROCK GARDEN

To my readers who may have visited Switzerland, or even some of our Western National Parks, where in the shadow of the snow-capped peaks upon the rocky hillsides, and in the fertile damp valleys nestle great masses of Alpine Plants, it is needless to enthuse them further over the delights which can be derived from even a small Rock Garden.

It has been only in recent years that the true Rockery has been found on any but the larger estates or in our Public Parks. Today a rockery has

rockery be a retaining wall, or a part of a pre-studied Informal Garden, the stones must be sloped toward the back or inside of the wall, so as to insure the saving and collection of all of the treasured rainfall for the rootlets of the alpine. As to design that is much a matter of personal taste, but it seems to the writer that no happy result can be achieved by having the rockery rise from an otherwise level lawn in a mound or pile, and expect that it will look natural.

As to soil, the alpine prefer a light, loamy even gritty soil, with a top cov-

an exposed rock quarry wall or other ledge to gradually deteriorate as the wind, rain and frost yearly carve its face. The base of the large rocks are never seen, nor do we ever find a stone wall effect. The fissures are usually wider apart at the base, with apparently smaller stone or narrower fissures near the top of the ledge, such a formation lends stability to the resultant rockery.

Because plants in the rock garden require even more care than those in the open border, their selection should be painstakingly made, and only those adapted to the purpose of rockeries should find their place there. Sweet William and even common phlox and iris are sometimes used, but these belong in an entirely different habitat.

Among the evergreens which we might choose are the Common Juniper, the wintergreen, dwarf mountain pine, and the yew in several varieties. Due to the congested, and somewhat crowded conditions of the average rockery the perennials selected must be those which tend to overcome such obstacles. Among the friends in this class are the following: Alyssum saxatile or Golden Tuft, Columbine, Dwarf Rock Cress, Cerastium or Snow in Summer, Scotch pink, Moss pink or Phlox subulata, Sedum in variety, Thyme and Tunica, Creeping Speedwell and many of our well-remembered Wild-flowers and ferns.

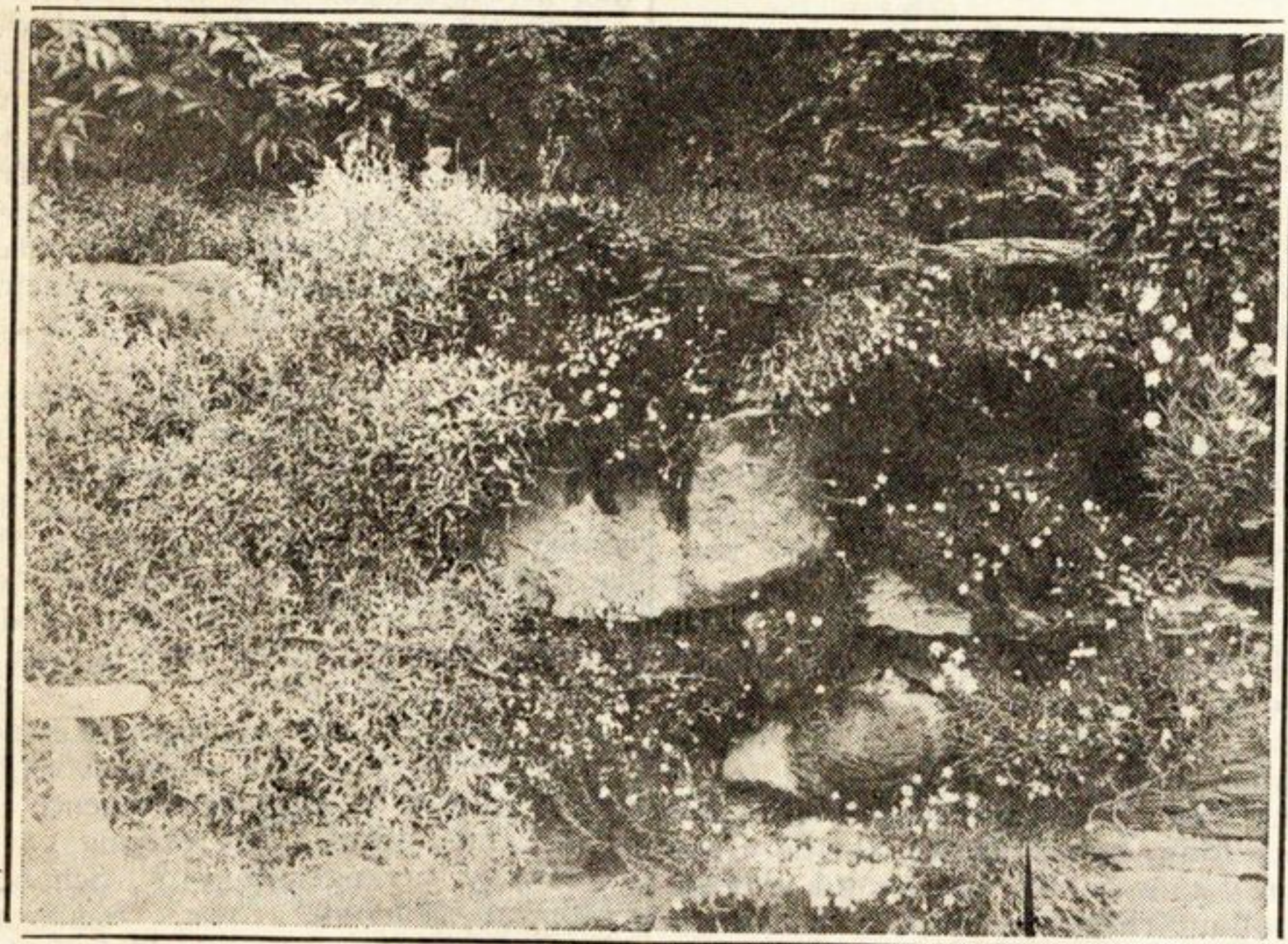
CUSHING SMITH,
Landscape Architect.

THREE CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

At least fifty per cent of the automobile traffic accidents, according to C. S. Mott, Vice-President of General Motors, are caused by three faults in driving:

1. Failure of the driver to indicate his intention of turning or stopping.
2. Passing another vehicle on its right.
3. Coming into a stream of heavy traffic without proper caution.

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become one of the adjuncts of even the small place, and all garden lovers if they but spend the time, can produce miracles of color, clinging mosses and lichens hand in hand with ferns and rock cress and our other alpine friends spreading a protective mantle over the rugged jutting rocks.

Contrary to popular belief, and much general practice, a rock garden should preferably not be built up in the shade of large trees, such as the elm. This location with the carefully prepared pockets of rich soil gives nourishment and permits the larger tree to deplete the soil of water thus tending to bake or at least dry out the soil which for the alpine must be continually moist.

For best results plan the location away from the house, and in the open, where possible, giving all of the plants enough sunlight. Even the evergreens, against whose background the brilliant colored flowers seem to be enhanced, take most of the moisture, and rob the soil of food. Such shade and shelter as is essential in the growth of certain plants can be best secured by the arrangement and design of the rocks making up the rockery.

In the building up of the rockery take care that the garden has more than a mere pile of stones covered with earth as its heart. Each stone must be selected with care, fitted together to carry out the pre-conceived design. That is the reason why a plan as such is difficult to prepare, and why the amateur makes so many mistakes. Nature has many examples of ideal rock arrangement for a rockery, and yet how few of us ever take time to make a sketch of a group which we admire, or even see it in our travels.

In filling the earth around each stone, be sure that there are no spaces unfilled. Air spaces prevent moisture coming up from below. In this section of the country where stone is not one of the 'native' building materials as it is in the vicinity of Philadelphia, stone of the weathered softened colors, with rounded edges, and no artificial stratification is the most choice material. Limestone well selected can be secured from southern Wisconsin quarries where the odd pieces exposed for long years to the action of the elements are much sought after.

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ering of rich woods dirt with much leaf mold to hold the moisture. Clay soil, if existing, will have to be entirely removed, and if the sub-soil is a stiff clay the area may require drainage. The student of geology readily understands the tendency of

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