

Sunday School Lesson

January 27. Lesson IV—The Holy Spirit, John 16: 7-11; Romans 8: 12-17, 26, 27. Golden Text—For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.—Romans 8: 14.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE MISSION OF THE COMFORTER, John 16: 7-11.

II. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, Romans 8: 12-17, 26, 27.

INTRODUCTION—The Apostles' Creed is constructed on a Trinitarian basis, and its third part begins with the words, "I believe in the Holy Ghost." But though this doctrine is thus definitely proclaimed in the Creed, yet it has caused much difficulty, and many find it hard to gain a clear understanding of what is meant by this third person in the Trinity. Nevertheless, the spirit takes a central place in Christian life, and a distinguished American thinker wrote some time ago, "The article of the Creed regarding the Holy Spirit is, I believe, the one matter about which most of us who discuss the problems of Christianity have least to say. Yet, if I am right, this is in many respects the really distinctive and, therefore, capital article of the Christian Creed."

Perhaps it may be said that the simple truth which is conveyed by this important doctrine is that the Spirit represents God in action. Wherever God moves in the world, or among his people, there it is his Spirit that is at work. The Spirit is the divine energy.

I. THE MISSION OF THE COMFORTER, John 16: 7-11.

V. 7. We can scarcely lay too much stress on this passage, which is one of the high places of the Bible. Assurance was here given to the disciples, and through them to us, that the blessings of the incarnation of Christ were not to be continued to his earthly life, but were to be continued to all his followers. There is to be no break in the communion of the soul with God. Two facts are mentioned in this verse: (1) The Spirit who returns is the comforter, or advocate, one who defends people in time of sore trial, who comforts those in distress, and who carries forward the work begun by Jesus while on earth. (2) The return of the Spirit is to be the return of his messenger whom he sends, but in another verse we are told that it is to be the actual return of Christ himself: "I will come unto you." Christ is to fill the heart and mind of the believer, so that "to be in Christ" is equivalent "to be in the Spirit."

V. 8. The threefold mission of the Comforter is now given. These include the most essential elements in the life of religion.

V. 9. (1) Sin. The Spirit will reveal to the world the great sin that was committed when Christ was rejected. It will become increasingly clear that Christ is the one hope of salvation, and that those who turn their back upon him are guilty of a great sin. How true it is that no other religion, or remedy, has been found to satisfy the deep need of the soul, and, therefore, to turn from him is the greatest wrong men can commit.

V. 10. (2) Righteousness. There is no moral standard that can compare with that of Christ. His absolute purity and goodness are so wonderful that when he is held forth we feel their littleness, and realize that there is no righteousness like that which is in Christ. The Spirit still carries on this work of convicting and convicting people of the righteousness of the Saviour.

V. 11. (3) Judgment. Until Christ came the prince of this world was able to make his standard prevail and in the world today it still holds sway, but when Christ came with his perfect goodness, and his new standards of righteousness, then the old estimates dropped. The Prince of the world lost his authority, and those who receive this Spirit of Christ realize that the standard by which they are to be judged, must be the life and teaching of Jesus. Thus in all these departments of the soul the Spirit is to be the guide and inspiration of all that is true and pure.

II. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, Romans 8: 12-17, 26, 27.

The same stress is laid upon the work of the Spirit in the writings of St. Paul as in those of St. John. At times he seems to make the Spirit equivalent to Christ, though there is also a distinction. All the benefits that come to the Christian are the results of the Spirit, and in this great chapter of Romans we have a good evidence of this. We may speak of it as a chapter on the fruits of the

Spirit, though the actual phase is really found in Eph. 5: 9.

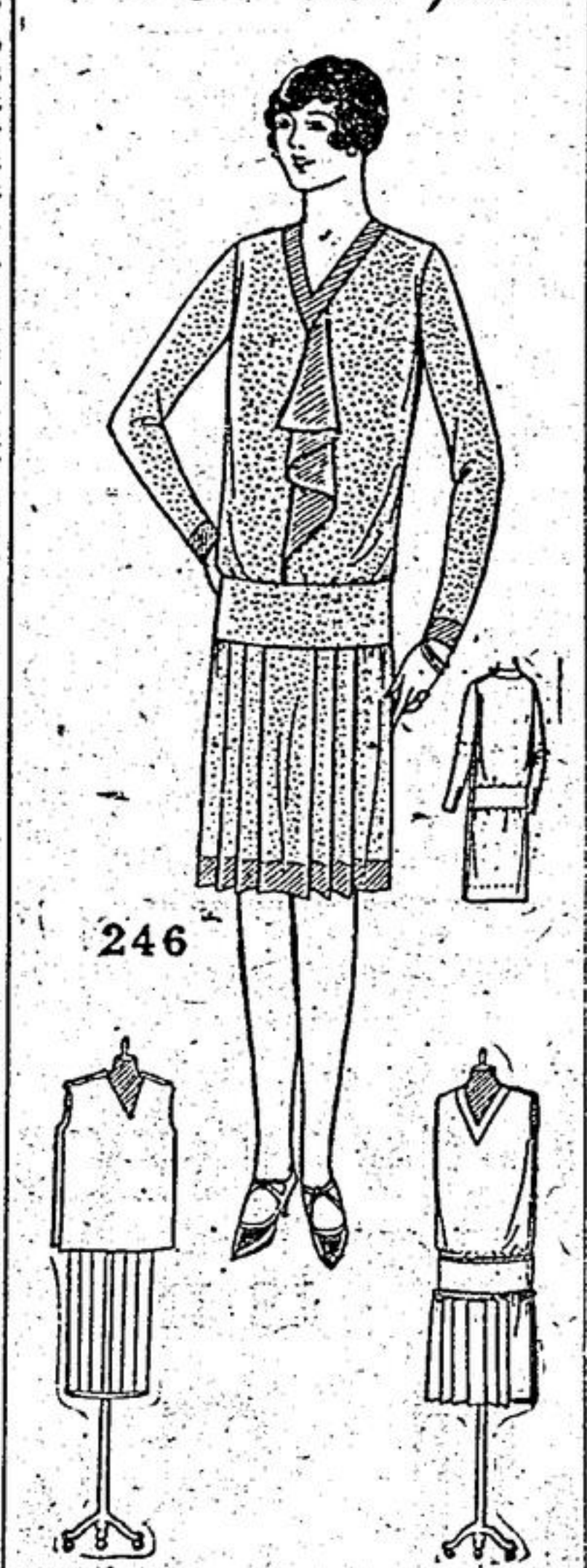
Vs. 12, 13. (a) Victory over the flesh. There is a great struggle going on in every soul between the lower and the higher parts of our nature. Paul speaks of the former of these as the flesh, and the only hope of victory lies in our claiming the Spirit who will be able to overcome all the evil of our heart. To walk in the Spirit is the one protection against sin.

Vs. 14, 15. (b) Christian assurance. If we accept the Spirit then the knowledge is shed abroad in our minds that all things are well with us. We become aware that we are God's children, and that we can believe that God is our Father, even though there are many dark and inexplicable facts in the world. We can say, "Father, Father." Perhaps this means that we can always repeat the Lord's Prayer.

V. 17. (c) Our great inheritance. We also learn that, as the son of God, we have great treasures laid up for us in heaven. What eye hath not seen will then be unveiled before our gaze. The Spirit kindles our hope.

Vs. 26, 27. (d) Our devotional blessing. As we pray in the spirit we come to know what the real meaning of prayer is, and we are taught what we ought to pray for, while this same spirit assures us that God hears us. These are some of the great fruits of the Spirit.

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"Should an airplane be referred to as 'she'?" asks an inquiring subscriber. All except the mail planes.

Winter Care of The Perennials

All plants are hardy in their native environment but since many of our best materials have been introduced from other climates, some kind of winter protection is frequently necessary.

The effects of winter cold alone do not determine their hardiness. Some plants die when introduced because the humidity is too low, the season too short for their maturity or the sunlight too strong during the summer months. Ferns, common in the woodlots of southern Ontario, are hardy in semi-shade but live only a short time in direct sunlight. The native pitcher plants will live through the most severe winters in their native habitat, but they will soon die if planted in any type of soil other than that of a peaty nature. In selecting plants for the garden, their requirements should be considered; and conditions produced that are as nearly natural as is possible. This will eliminate many of the troubles which occur in their growth.

Many common herbaceous perennials will not live through the winter months without some type of protection, which can be supplied by a mulch. This is a material that acts as a non-conductor of heat. It prevents the sun's rays from striking the soil and causing it to thaw at the beginning of warm weather. The expanding and contracting of water in the soil gradually pulls the plant loose. Such shallow rooted plants as Achilles ptarmica are often forced from the soil during a period of freezing and thawing in early spring. The mulch does not keep the plants warm as is frequently thought, but keeps the soil at a more constant temperature.

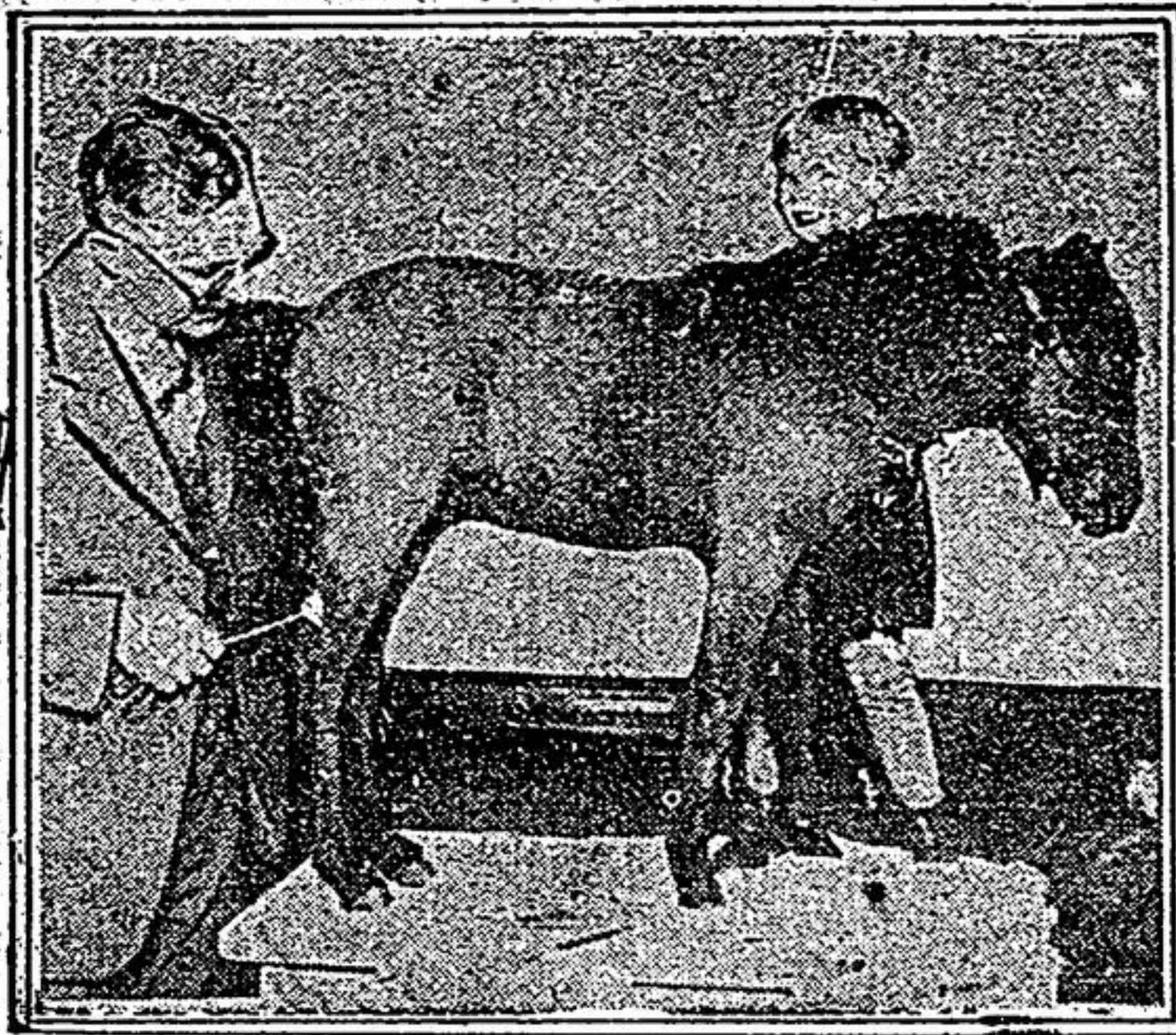
Snow is the best material obtainable as a mulch but to depend upon it alone is not very satisfactory because it often disappears from the ground in early spring when it is most needed. It is a very poor conductor of heat, and if the surface does not become crusted, air circulation will be permitted. The more loose the mulch remains during the winter, the better it protects the plant. Fresh straw or straw manure are the best materials available in most localities. Well-rotted manure, finely ground peat and leaf mold are not recommended. They pack around the plant, cause poor aeration and become good conductors of heat. Leaves are good if they do not become packed. This frequently happens and can be prevented by placing tree branches over the plants before the leaves are applied. Oak leaves are much better than maple or elm because they fall late and remain in a loose condition during the winter months.

Cool ashes serve as a good mulch for some plants. Iris will do especially well if two or three inches of them are applied. Corn stalks, where there are no borers' tobacco stems, or pine boughs are ideal because they remain loose and have a tendency to catch and hold the snow. Wood shavings are sometimes used, but are not as good as coarse straw if the latter can be obtained. The small pieces of wood that remain on the soil the following year decay very slowly and may become objectionable.

TIME TO APPLY THE MULCH
No matter what kind of a mulch is used it should not be applied until the ground is frozen. Herbaceous Perennials may be mulched earlier than shrubs, but if the mulch is applied too early the plants may continue to grow late in the fall and injury will result as soon as the ground freezes. December is usually the proper time in central and southern Ontario, but if not done then can still be applied.

PREPARATION FOR WINTER.
It is advisable in garden practice to have a general cleanup in the fall. Cut the old flowering stalks from the plants and remove the leaf stalks and leaves that might be diseased. The leaves of Peonies carry over the bud rot and other diseases from one year to the next and should be removed before mulching. Many other plant diseases and insects can be partly controlled by removing and burning such rubbish. The mulch should be applied four to eight inches deep, depending on the severeness of the winter and

A Pet the Children Would Love



DOGS BIT A PONY THAT LIVES IN THE PARLOR
It was all in play after the pony had been given to Mrs. Cushing, North Bergen, N.J., for a Christmas present and she made it a house pet. Gladys Sapp, 6, is holding Tiny Princess for the doctor.

the amount of snow fall. The greater the snowfall, the less the amount of mulch necessary.

Plants which go into the winter with some foliage still on them, as the heuchera, digitalis, campanula, etc., should have the foliage brought together and held while the mulch is placed around them. The leaves should not be covered, otherwise crown rot of the plant is likely to result. Plants that hold their leaves from year to year as Heuchera or yucca are wintered more successfully on the frame or they can be grown close together and the frame built over them. Mulching of the plants in the frame is desirable. This type of structure assures drainage of water and freedom from the effects of hot sun in early spring. This has proven a satisfactory method where others have failed. Spring planting of biennials in beds is more desirable than fall planting because those having produced flowers during the current year will have died by spring.

PROTECTION OF ROSES.
Roses may be divided into three groups according to the methods of winter protection. The group which includes hugonis, rugosa, wichuianas, and hybrid perpetuals requires little or no protection. Nearly all of the hybrid teas freeze to the ground in a moderately mild climate, but with a little protection at the crown, several live buds will survive until the following spring. This rose should be cut back severely in the spring and three or four live buds left on each branch of the plant. The placing of soil around the base of the plant to a height of eight to ten inches, before the ground freezes; and a later application of mulch of four to six inches of straw or straw manure will protect successfully the hybrid teas during the spring months.

Climbers frequently blister and the canes are often killed back if they are allowed to remain exposed on the trellis. If the climate is severe enough to cause blistering, they should be removed, laid flat upon the ground, and covered with a straw mulch to a depth of six to eight inches or wrapped with burlap on the trellis. It is usually necessary to pin the canes to the ground with wire before the mulch is applied if the former method is used.

Nitrogenous fertilizers should never be applied later in the season than August 15th. Such applications promote strong vegetative growth late in the season which does not become matured before freezing weather occurs, and killing of the tips of the branches frequently results.

PROTECTION FROM RODENTS
The delayed application of the mulch until after the ground is well frozen is a good insurance against mice and rats. Even then they sometimes build their nests under the mulch and often do considerable damage to the plants. They may be easily controlled by placing poisoned bait under the mulch. Grain treated with stychinine is effective but will kill birds and other animals and for this reason should be placed out of their reach.

Making House Plants Thrive

Those who experience difficulty in making their plants grow luxuriantly should not be discouraged. Nobody has success with growing things because he is lucky, and there is no mysterious recipe for making them thrive. There are usually two chief reasons for failing with house plants, and the person who knows these causes and obviates them will have little difficulty in making them grow as they should.

The causes are subjecting them to too much water and too high temperature. The plants should be given all the water they demand, but no more. Excessive moisture from day to day makes them water-logged. The reason is that it forces most of the air out of the soil, so that the roots receive insufficient ventilation.

There are three simple tests by which a person may ascertain whether or not a plant requires more water. Tap the side of the pot with your fingers or with a knife handle, and if there is a hollow sound, the plant is in need of a little water, examine the soil in the pot. If the surface is of a light color and has a tendency to crumble when pressed on, or if the ground turns into a powdery form when rubbed between the fingers, the plants need a little more water. The third test is that of slipping the plant, soil and all, out of the pot to determine the condition of the contents. This method is not very convenient, but it gives one a good idea of the moisture of the material in the pot.

The best temperature for most house plants is from 60 to 65 degrees. This is too cool for the family, but the plants can be kept in a room which is used only occasionally. They will thrive there better, and when they are blooming, the cool air will keep the flowers fresh much longer. However, it must be remembered that no plants grow luxuriantly unless they get pure air and a certain amount of sunshine.



He: Are you good at history?
She: Indeed I am! I never forget a date.

Pruning Time Is at Hand in Every Garden

Summer and Fall Luxuriance of Flowers Follows Careful Use of Knife in January

As we get into the new year we cannot help thinking about the pruning, and much of it can be done now within the next few weeks before the sap begins to circulate. It is well to bear in mind the general rule that plants and shrubs, blooming in the spring, must not be pruned until after flowering time. For example, the Forsythia should not be touched until after its glorious display of sunshine following the snow, lest we destroy entirely that beauty.

The hardy hydrangea (hydrangea paniculata grandiflora), on the other hand, which blooms late into the fall and which became so popular as to become much overplanted, should be cut back almost to the main-trunk not later than the middle of February. It can well be done at the time of the pruning of grape vines and before the sap starts.

Many of the shrubs form their buds months in advance and consequently the cutting away of bloom-bearing branches removes their flowers. A remarkably fine lilac under my own window was so mutilated a year ago by shears in the hands of an incompetent gardener that at flowering time we enjoyed only a single spray.

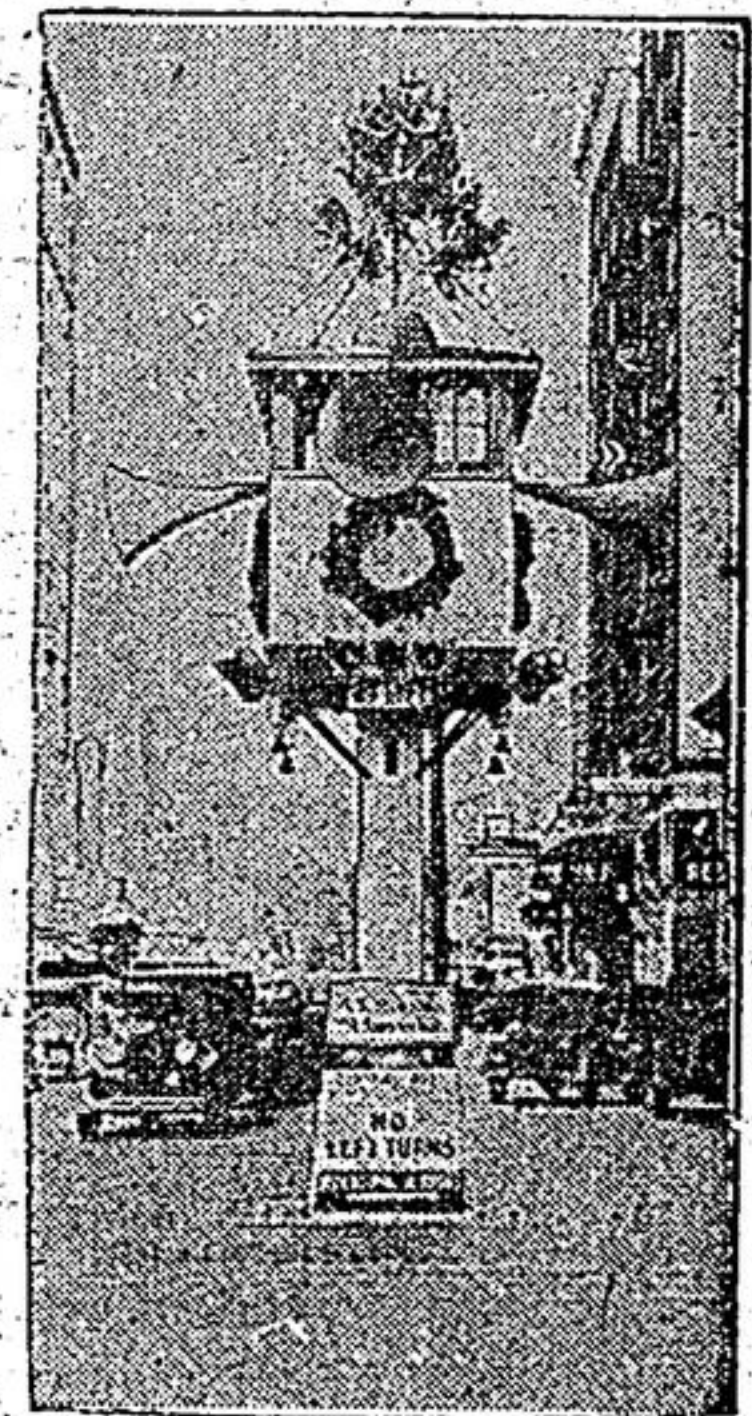
Many shrubs need to have only the old canes cut out, near the base, in order to let the full strength go to the new growth.

Clematis will stand rather vigorous pruning from January to March. Honeysuckles also, excepting the early spring flowering type, can be trimmed at the same time, as can the Indian currant, Japanese quince and Kerria japonica. Philadelphus (the Mock Orange) can be pruned in the early season; the Rose of Sharon; the Snowberry, whose fruit has now disappeared, and the Spraeas in the summer blooming varieties can be thinned out in the winter, when the shoots that flowered may be cut back.

In all kinds of pruning, however, care should be taken to avoid sharp, straight-cut lines, giving a tailored effect. Far better entirely to cut out any very old stalks and allow the new branches to grow into more graceful forms.

Barberry, particularly, should be treated this way, to maintain its natural, graceful outline. Especially as the profusion of berries comes well along toward the ends of the stems.

Any one in doubt about the cutting of a particular shrub or tree at any time of year should consult some local authority before venturing to injure for an entire year—if not for all time—a specimen that otherwise might be a thing of beauty and a joy forever.



MUSIC IN THE TOWER

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