

# GARDENING

## Glasshouse Heating

Ever since glasshouses were first built the economical artificial heating of them has been the study of engineers and everyone connected with the growing of early crops and half-hardy plants, but up to the present it cannot be said that any of the inventions have been easy to work, although some of them have been otherwise satisfactory.

### FLUES.

Before the advent of the hot-water pipe system, smoke flues were used. These were nothing more than chimneys built in the ground. The firebox was built low in the ground near the door with the firing door on the outside of the glasshouse. The flue or chimney went from the firebox just under the ground and all around the inside of the house and came out from the door, where an ordinary upright chimney was built to take the smoke away. The hot smoke and flame leaving the firebox had to travel all around the floor of the glasshouse before escaping and in doing so heated up the soil and the glasshouse. The fault with this kind of heating was, it was too dry for healthy plant growth and it was very difficult to keep an even temperature all the time. The heat was too great while stoking and the flues got cold too quickly when the fire was banked down for the night.

### PIPE HEATING.

The hot water system of heating glass-houses is much older than I am, and although on the whole it has been satisfactory regarding moist heat and even temperatures, it still entails a great deal of attention, night and day to keep the temperatures right. It is a laborious, dirty, and can be an expensive job. Some of the first old saddle boilers I have worked were a heartbreak to stoke and clean, and only coal was cheap and plentiful in those days, they would have never been able for the job. Soon, however, they gave way to sectional, and later to tubular boilers, which were easier to stoke and much more economical regarding fuel and repair.

### AUTOMATIC STOKER.

All the same, the continual watching and stoking on frosty nights, was a nightmare to gardeners until the fairly recent introduction of the automatic stoker. This machine, which is worked in connection with a thermostat, i.e. a self-acting apparatus for regulating temperatures, is filled with small coals and it automatically fires the boiler when the temperature falls. A gardener lucky enough to possess one of these machines, together with sufficient supplies of the right kind of coal, can sleep peacefully on the nights of the hardest frosts.

### ELECTRICITY.

But the ideal heating apparatus has yet to come and we hope it will not be long before electricity will be available at a cheap rate to everyone in the country. It is ideal not only because of easy and trustworthy control, but because it is so clean and there is no smoke or

# OBITUARY

## MR. MICHAEL D. KEATING, KILCOLEMAN.

It is with feelings of intense regret (writes our Knockaderry correspondent) that we beg to announce the death of Mr. Michael D. Keating, which took place at his home, Kilcoleman. Up to a few days prior to his demise, hopes were entertained of his recovery, but despite the best that medical skill could do for him and the unremitting care bestowed on him by an affectionate wife, sister and brother, he was called to his reward on the morning of the 10th December last, fortified by all the rites of our Holy Church (of which he was a devout member) bearing his illness with true Christian fortitude and resignation.

Deceased was brother to Sister Gonzaga, Mercy Convent, Alnwick, England, and of Sister Agnes, Kansas City, U.S.A. During his last hours he had the constant prayers of those religious Communities.

Belonging to an old farming stock in the locality, 'Mick,' the name by which he was affectionately known was very deservedly popular among all classes of the community. A good neighbour, straightforward and conscientious in all his dealings, he was one of the first to subscribe to the calls of local charity. Although not of robust health for a number of years, he maintained a cheerful and kindly disposition and was a lover of sport. He was a member of the Councagh and Knockaderry Harrier Club since its inception, also a keen follower of camming, and was always interested in the affairs of the Knockaderry G.A.A.

The large attendance at the removal of his remains to his Parish Church, Rathkeale, and at his funeral to the cemetery adjoining on the day following, bore very ample testimony to the high esteem in which he was held and was an expression of the sympathy felt for his bereaved wife, sister, brother, and large host of relatives.

The clergy officiating at the graveside were—Very Rev. C. Canon Mangan, P.P., V.F., Rathkeale; Rev. Father H. O'Connor, P.P., Knockaderry; Rev. Father Boyce, C.C., do.; Rev. Father O'Brien, P.P., Castle-mahon; Rev. Father Lynch, P.P., Stonehall; Rev. Father Costelloe, C.C.; Rev. Father Burke, C.C.

The chief mourners were—Mrs. Keating (widow); Miss Lil Keating (sister); Mr. P. Keating, Dublin (brother); Mr. Denis Keating, Knockaderry (nephew); Mrs. D. Keating, Knockaderry (sister-in-law); Mr. W. Clifford (brother-in-law); Messrs. John and Michael Scanlan, William and Michael Ryan and Mrs. McDonnell (relatives).

Among the large number who sent Mass cards were the relatives mentioned and Martin and Mrs. Culhane, Rathkeale; Denis and Mary Collins; the Chawke Family; the Burke Family; Miss Airey, N.T. It would not be possible to submit a list of all the relatives and members of the general public present at the obsequies.