

GARDENING.

SO WE REACH my last piece for 1997. For me it has been a disappointing year. Frosts caused great losses in fruit crops and the wild life of Bruern eats anything that is green and succulent. Little jam made, and it looks as if the only winter vegetables left will be sprouts, provided our friends do not find those as well. To end my complaints for this year, I must tell you that there will be very few berries on the holly. Winter visitors, which have arrived in great numbers, will have eaten all the berries before Christmas.

A few words about pruning which can all be done before the next issue.

Make sure that you have removed the old flowered growth from your shrubs. Now is the time to give attention to both climbing and rambler roses. Be cruel. With climbers cut out all the old growth and anything that is weak.

Put the young growth in position, cut to the height required and prune back any laterals to three buds. With ramblers again cut out all the old wood and tie in the young branches which must not be overcrowded - a hand's breadth, at least, between branches is desirable. Don't prune hybrid teas, floribundas, moss and shrub roses until March.

In January prune apples and pears to three buds. Take out all old blackcurrant growth and spur prune gooseberries and red and white currants. Remove all old growth from raspberries and loganberries and tie in the new growth.

My best wishes to you all for a very enjoyable Christmas and for great success with whatever you do in your garden in the year to come.

A.V.Mitchell.

