Biblical Garden Has No Apples: Apricot in Eden Relatives Are Present A Thorny Reminder By RICHARD F. SHEPARD

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The Right Rev. Paul Moore Jr., Episconal Bishop of New York, strolling with his mother by a fig tree in the garden behind the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine.

Biblical Garden Has No Apples

Forbidden Fruit

There are fig trees, carobs,

Relatives Are Present

There also are some plants

of Eden, but it is as charm- View Apricot Was ing an assortment of plants mentioned in the Bible that you will find the length of. Amsterdam Avenue or maybe looking like harmless little anywhere in the city. scrub plants.

The Biblical Garden is an ecumenical growth nestling thyme, sorghum, thistles, ole-against the south side of the ander, flax (too little to make against the south side of the ander, hax (too httle to make towering walls of the Ca- into linen), a pomegranate— thedral of St. John the Di- a green bush with red buds vine at 111th Street and ("Thy temples are like a Amsterdam Avenue. Yester- piece of pomegranate within day, various committee mem- thy locks") and onions. bers representing Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, Jewish and less denominational views, gathered in the garden that didn't exactly flourish and a rabbi quipped, "You in the Bible countries, but could call it God's little quar- are relatives of those that do. ter acre.' There are even a few ringers,

The quiet garden on the such as something called cathedral grounds, which is clary, that do not seem to open to the public, is a leafy have any Biblical reference, guide to the Bible. It is a but apparently fill an esthetic relatively new addition to gap in the collection. One New York, having just opened relative is the styrax japonica a year ago. Yesterday marked that was filling in for the the start of a fresh season. Biblical styrax, which was

Mrs. Albert P. Loening, not on hand. chairman of the garden, said The Judas tree, or cercis that there were more than siliquastrum, the tree from 100 species, each one men-which Judas hanged himself tioned in the Bible, pushing (Matthew, 27:5) is repre-up through the New York sented by the cercis Cana-soil. Not all pushed up, really densis, which never got because a number of less har-closer to the Middle East dy breeds were standing in than the Canadian border. tubs; they had been brought down from Hawthorne, garden tenants come from where C. Powers Taylor of the King James version of the Rosedale Nurseries had nur- Bible, the actual plants used tured them during the cold were determined by the vol-months. Apricot in Eden Marting the cold were determined by the sol-by Harold and Alma Mol-

By RICHARD F. SHEPARD Reflects Botanists' Gardens, is retired, but still It's not exactly a Garden there.

A Thorny Reminder

With obvious delight, he pointed to the aloe, which crossword puzzlers only know as a four-letter medicinal plant, and said that the thorny little green-leafed affair came from Ethiopia and was used to make embalming fluid. It was brought to the Holy Land by Moses and used only to lay away im-portant people.

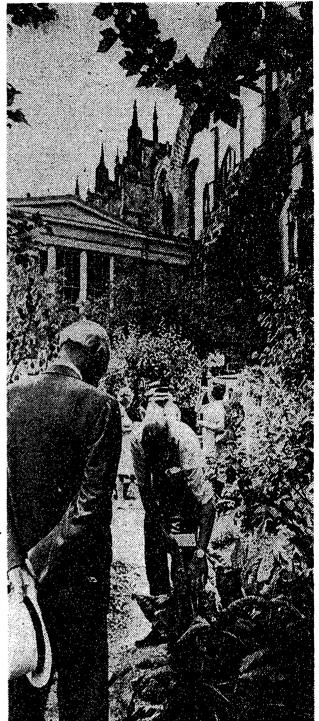
Dr. Moldenke noted the Star of Bethlehem, another small plant.

"This was popularly called 'dove's dung,'" the botanist said. "You'll find it in II Kings 6:25---a famine in Kings Samaria when they sold 'the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver.

The name was given to the plant because it whitened the hillsides much as guano bleaches the Galapagos. Dr. Moldenke said, "We are sure that the bulbs of the Star of Bethlehem was used to make flour with grain."

As the Very Rev. James P. Morton, dean of the cathe-dral, and the Rev. C. E. F. Hoefner, prefect of St. Ig-natius Roman Catholic Church browsed through the garden, which is sponsored by Mrs. Loening as an outgrowth of the cathedral's gardening

program. Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly, noted with satisfaction that the garden covered about one dunam, an old Hebrew land also found measure in puzzles, and that the gathering was appropriately held just before Shevuot, a feast of first fruits. "It's the only holiday when Jews bedeck the synagogue with greens and flowers," he said.



C. Powers Taylor, right, of Rosedale Nurseries, pointing out teasel, another Biblical plant, to a visitor.

hardy denke. 'The apricot а ricot is the apple in the Gar-den of Eden. The apple tree biological field of Biblical didn't exist in that area at botany.

little garden, he noted a lit-tle withering on one of the apricot trees and said he'd have to see what had gotten into it. Someone observed that perhaps a serpent from the streets had gained access.

A walk through the garden revealed papyrus growing in a tiny pond, too little yet to make paper or mats out of; indeed, it looked rather weedy at the moment. Near the entrance was a clump of wormwood, cited in Deuteronomy 29:18 (King James),

Dr. Moldenke (the Mister

While the citations for the

took the names of things they knew rather than of those they didn't know." As Mr. Taylor patroled the said. Dr. Moldenke, who was at the New York Botanical

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