


The
Madies Floral
Cabinet

A decorative flourish consisting of a central diamond-shaped knot with four arrows pointing outwards, topped with a small crown-like element and a starburst at the bottom.





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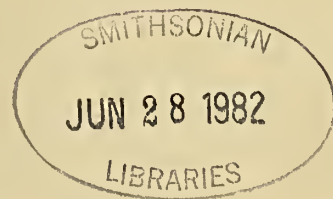
THE
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LADIES'
FLORAL CABINET.

Volume XIV.

JANUARY, 1885.

No. 1.

ORCHIDS—THE ROYAL FAMILY OF PLANTS.



PHALÆNOPSIS. (Butterfly Plant.)

DURING the past two years we have given our readers much information from different writers, with illustrations of several specimens, of this popular member of the Plant family.

This winter, an enthusiastic lover of these rare treasures—HARRIET STEWART MINER—has given to the world the results of her studies in a sumptuous volume which bears faithful reproduction, in colors true to nature, of her twenty-four drawings of leading Orchids—principally from the valuable collections of FREDERICK L. AMES, Esq., at North Easton, Mass., and Major ALEXANDER

H. DAVIS, at Syracuse, N. Y. Accompanying these gems of art—each one of which fills a page 10x14 inches—there are forty brief articles upon Orchids in general; upon the seven orders or tribes, which she divides as follows:

- 1st Tribe MALAXEÆ, *i. e.*, Softness or Waxy Softness.
- 2d “ EPIDENDREÆ: Something growing upon Trees.
- 3d “ VANDEÆ: Sanskrit for Mistletoe, or Tree Orchid.
- 4th “ OPHREÆ: The *Eyebrows*; referring to the ancient fashion of painting the eyebrows.
- 5th “ ARETHUSEÆ: From the name of a *nymph* of Diana, fabled to have been transformed into a fountain.
- 6th “ NEOTTEÆ: *A Bird's Nest*.
- 7th “ CYPRIPEDEÆ: *Venus's Slipper*.

and upon different examples among the varieties of these several tribes, accompanying many of the descriptions with appropriate selections from leading

poets, and drawing largely from the writings of Peter Henderson, Rev. W. C. Gannett and others, for aid in her descriptions.

Among the illustrations are the *Dendrobium Devonianum*, named after the sixth Duke of Devonshire, in whose gardens the plant first blossomed in 1840, having been brought from the Khasia Hills, India, 4,500 feet above the sea. The *D. Ainsworthii*, named after Dr. Ainsworth, of Manchester, England, which took the first prize at the Boston Horticultural Fair in 1883, as the finest specimen of this variety seen or known in this country; The *D. Nobile*, of which Peter Henderson says, "It blossoms freely during the winter, and is one of the very few Orchids that will grow and blossom quite well in ordinary sitting-rooms;" the *Masdevallia Veitchii*, a native of Peru, but named after the famous English florist, James Veitch, a good example among "cool orchids." The *Cattleya*, a numerous genus in the second tribe, has four magnificent examples shown, and all of them from MAJOR DAVIS' collection—*C. Trianaea*, *C. Chocoensis*, *C. Mossia*, and *C. Loddigesii*. Of *Cattleya* in general, Peter Henderson wrote, "What the rose and the lily are among garden flowers the *Cattleya* is among Orchids—prominently beautiful."

The genus *Lælia* has two representatives, *L. Autumnalis* and *L. Dayeana*. A French florist claims that "the *Lælia* rivals, while it resembles the *Cattleya*." *Phala-*

nopsis (the Butterfly Plant), has two representatives, the first *P. Stuartiana* (named after Mr. Stuart Low, Florist, London), is shown on the preceding page as well as a wood engraving can show the perfections of this beautiful and quite rare variety, but little known so far in our country; the other example is *P. Schilleriana*, *Odontoglossum* (Tooth and Tongue), has three beautiful examples, *O. Roeslii Album*, *O. Triumphans* and *O. Alexandra*, the latter illustration recalling with much vividness one of this variety, shown at a Saturday noon gathering of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society during the past year. Of the best known of the seven tribes of Orchids—*Cypripedium*—(Venus's Slipper), there are shown *C. Niveum*, *C. Haynaldianum* and *C. Spicerianum*.

It has been said that "Orchids are the *élite* of the floral kingdom. The flowers are, without exception, the most curious and beautiful in nature." While this is true, it is also true that they are not ashamed to make their homes among their friends, even if those friends do not move among the *élite* of fashion's circles, and every year their admirers and growers increase, and their weird and wonderful shapes and colorings, first known among the Tropics, grace the homes of our Northern and Southern States.

This sumptuous volume is published by Lee & Shepard, Boston, and it will doubtless find its way to the library of many of our readers.

HARDY FLOWERS.

PART II.

IN our last paper we alluded to the rock-border, and here we may offer a few suggestions on the subject. What we call "Alpine plants," meaning any plant from a mountainous region, do grow on inaccessible cliffs and rocky elevations, but if we attempt to grow them on the popular substitute for their habitat, usually on a heap of rocks and rubbish thrown together without any idea of natural conditions, we are very likely to meet with failure. The first idea in rock-gardening should be to give the plant sufficient drainage, while the surrounding and almost overlying rocks should prevent undue evaporation. The commonly accepted idea seems to be to build some clumsy mass of stone filled with "pockets," into which are loosely stuffed some soil and an unfortunate plant. This is radically wrong. Where the rockwork is elevated the chinks or crevices should communicate directly with the ground earth, or the plant will suffer from drought. The chinks should be narrower at the bottom than at the top, to prevent the soil from settling loosely, and the soil itself should contain a number of stones, from small pebbles to pieces the size of an egg. These give the plant foothold, so to speak. Whenever you see a rock-plant growing in some tiny crevice, hardly large enough, you would imagine, to afford ingress for its slender roots, be sure that its tap-roots descend under the moist stones to some fissure filled with soil or decomposed rock, where variations of temperature or drought fail to affect it. We may here remark that *very* few Alpines thrive in horizontal fissures—another common mistake—some few *Silenes* being an

exception, but they require space for their tap-roots to reach some large body of earth.

One may readily make an efficient substitute for the elevated rockery. Choosing some spot naturally well drained, dig out the earth to the depth of two feet, put a layer six inches deep of stones and broken bricks; then fill up with leaf-mould or peat and sand mixed. When planted, give them a mulching of *small stones*, covering the ground to the depth of an inch or two; this, while allowing the rain to penetrate, prevents evaporation. Now, having manufactured our ideal rockery, for the plants to dwell therein, we might make a charming border "on the edge of the forest, like a fringe upon a petticoat," as Rosalind saucily says of the succulents, *Sedums* and *Sempervivums*. The *Sempervivums* have one rather unique charm; it is next to impossible to kill them—they fully deserve their name of "everliving." They multiply by offsets, or a single leaf may be broken off and planted, on the principle of those marine organisms who, or which, coolly break themselves into bits and form whole colonies. The *Supervivums* are commonly known as *Houseleek* or *Hen and Chickens*; the *Sedums*, or *Stonecrop*, are botanically related and similar. Of the former we have some twenty-five varieties from which to choose, but we must confess a weakness for the little *S. Arachnoides*, growing in a neat little rosette, with threads forming a mimic spider's web from tip to tip of its leaves. Its specific name recalls the fate of the poor nymph *Arachne*, who, for her devotion to "fancy work," presumably cro-

cheting, was changed by the irate Minerva into a spider. Of the Sedums, *S. Nevii* is very satisfactory for rock-work; it grows in dense rosettes, flowers white. *S. Douglasii*, an Oregon species, has bright yellow flowers; *S. pulchellum*, Widow's Cross, has bright purple flowers. This variety is annual rather than perennial. Among half-hardy succulents, which require the shelter of a frame during the winter in the Northern States, we have the Echeverias, very similar to the Houseleeks. *E. secunda* is a Mexican plant, forming large rosettes of a charming silvery green. The reddish flowers, forming a *long raceme, are much admired. The plant does well in rock-work. *Echeveria metallica* is a large-leaved species, producing a great rosette of metallic-shaded foliage. It forms a striking centrepiece for an herbaceous or rock-border, surrounded by smaller plants—Sedums, Sempervivums and Saxifrages. It is not hardy; requiring shelter indoors through the winter, and is only mentioned here because it is so often associated with herbaceous plants.

We might fill a bed, or cover a rock-border with the Gentianella—*Gentiana acaulis*. This is a noticeable plant in the high Alps, where it forms close tufts of leathery leaves, with large erect solitary flowers, of a rich blue, with dotted throat. It readily adapts itself to circumstances, doing equally well on low ground, or on rocks, where the fissures give it free root-hold. *Gentiana Andrewsii*, the Closed Gentian, differs greatly from the foregoing in habit; it is tall and erect, bearing tubular flowers, closed at the top, deep china-blue in color. It prefers a moister location than the Gentianella, or the Fringed Gentian, *Gentiana crinita*. This latter is a little beauty, bearing solitary sky-blue flowers, deeply fringed. I have seen it forming a perfect carpet on an exposed bluff, where the soil was a stiff clayey loam, containing a great deal of broken shale and rock. Bryant's lines to this flower are too pretty to leave unquoted here:

“Thou blossom, bright with autumn dew,
And color'd with the heavens own blue,
That openest when the quiet light,
Succeeds the keen and frosty night;

Thou comest not when violets lean
O'er wandering brooks and springs unseen,
Or columbines, in purple dress'd,
Nod o'er the ground-bird's hidden nest.

Thou waitest late, and com'st alone,
When woods are bare and birds are flown,
And frosts and shortening days portend
The aged Year is near his end.

Then doth thy sweet and quiet eye
Look through its fringes to the sky,
Blue—blue—as if that sky let fall
A flower from its cerulean wall.”

Pachysandra procumbens, Mountain Spurge, is a little botanical oddity, well fitted for the open border. There is but the one variety of this genus in the United States—in fact, singular to say, its only relative is found in Japan. It is not at all striking; it has low-growing evergreen leaves and spikes of small dull-colored flowers, but it blossoms as soon as the frost leaves us, and renders its locality delicious by its perfume, though too often it

“Wastes its sweetness on the desert air.”

We should give a little space to the Daisy, not the ubiquitous and—to the farmer—pestiferous Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), but the “wee modest crimson-tipped flower” of the poet, here called the English Daisy—*Bellis perennis*. There are a number of varieties, varying from white to crimson. Their neat growth and profusion of blossom make them very desirable.

We might cover a bank, or edge a border with the Gibraltar Candytuft—*Iberis Gibraltarica*. It is much larger than the other Candytufts, bearing reddish lilac flowers. But the most popular of this family is the Evergreen Candytuft, *Iberis Sempervirens*. It is a half-shrubby dwarf perennial, and in early Spring is covered with masses of white flowers. It forms a very desirable evergreen edging, making a close wreath of white in April or May. It prefers plenty of sunlight.

If we wish to make a carpet under trees or shrubs, where grass obstinately refuses to grow, we may add to the common “Myrtle,” or more correctly, Periwinkle—*Vinca minor*—the pretty Creeping Loosestrife, also known as Moneywort and Creeping Jenny—*Lysimachia nummularia*. It is a charming little thing, with its countless golden stars. The generic name of this plant is a very ancient one, the common name, Loosestrife, being a translation of its derivatives. According to Pliny, it possessed the quality of quieting contention, whence its name.

A pretty little shrubby plant, producing spikes of blue flowers, is *Veronica chamaedrys*, German Speedwell. How it received its romantic name we cannot tell, unless it is dedicated to St. Veronica, the patroness of needlewomen. It will grow rapidly, crawling around sunny rocks. Of course we can only give an outline of what may be done in an herbaceous garden; the subject might fill many volumes. Next month we may have something to say about hardy bulbs. E. L. TAPLIN.

THE CLERODENDRON.

THE several species that compose this genus of greenhouse plants are not less remarkable for their brilliant flowers, so freely produced, than, when well cultivated, for their rich tropical character and appearance. Although natives of tropical India, where they have a humid atmosphere, yet they readily adapt themselves to ordinary greenhouse culture, and thrive remarkably well as house plants. It is difficult to imagine more beautiful objects

than several members of this genus, when well cultivated. They are readily propagated by cuttings taken off at any time when the wood is solid, or half ripened, and given gentle bottom-heat. When rooted they should be potted snugly in small pots, in which they should be kept through the succeeding winter, on a shelf or underneath a bench in the greenhouse. About the first of February re-pot them, giving them a liberal shift. The soil should

be light and very rich. To flower freely they require frequent shiftings from smaller into larger pots. With this treatment they can be made to bloom continually during the entire season. Old plants can be grown on, with occasional shiftings, and make splendid plants for garden decoration during summer. They must, however, be grown in the shade. After flowering, water freely, in order that they may make a good growth; after which they should have partial sun to ripen the wood. If not

bloom a number of years in succession, with the above treatment, and, as all the species require nearly the same treatment, there is no reason why they should not succeed equally well as out-of-door plants.

C. macrosiphen—the long-tubed Clerodendron—and the subject of our illustration, is a species of recent introduction, having been found on the coast opposite Zanzibar Island, and sent to Kew Gardens in 1881. It is found in very rocky places, where it forms small, slender shrubs.



LONG-TUBED CLERODENDRON (*C. Macrosiphen*).

wanted for winter flowering, remove the plants in the fall to a light cellar, free from frost, giving them through the winter just enough water to sustain life. In the spring, when all danger from frost is over, remove the plants to any desired position in the garden or on the veranda for another season of bloom. *C. Balfourii*, one of the best and most showy varieties, we have seen in full

The figure gives a fair idea of the character of the plant and will suggest the desirability of its addition to our collection of greenhouse plants. It is not particularly showy, but when in flower it is exceedingly beautiful, and at other times is a pleasing plant, if kept well pruned. One of its peculiarities is the length of the corolla tube, in which it may be compared with *C. hastatum* of India,

and also with *C. incisum* of Klotsch, which comes near to it in proportions. The leaves are from two to three inches in length, coarsely toothed, and of a fresh green color. The flowers are pale green before expansion, and afterward snowy white, the filaments purple, the stamens blue. Its flowering season is May, and it does not continue so long in bloom as many of the other species.

This tribe of plants is very subject to the attacks of insects, especially of the red-spider, thrip, and mealy bug. It is, therefore, necessary to keep a sharp lookout, and by copious syringing and a moist atmosphere, to keep the enemy at bay. In growing *C. Balfourii* in the garden during summer we have not been troubled in the least with any of these pests.

PLANT AND SEED GROWERS.

PART VII.

PLANT-GROWING as an industry in this country is a modern institution. But a few years ago greenhouses were only to be found near our larger cities, and bore but little resemblance to the vast floral establishments of to-day. The rapid development of this industry is, indeed, marvelous. The village now without its greenhouse is a rarity, for plants and flowers are no longer regarded as luxuries—they are necessities; they minister to our wants quite as much as what we eat, drink or wear. We remember well when the village garden was conspicuous because of the Beans, Peas, Corn and Cucumbers it produced; there was little room then for flowers, for there was no necessity for them, because the ideal was not developed in our natures, and the actual was everywhere apparent. Flowers then would have been an innovation, but to-day in the village garden vegetables are more apt to be intruders, which is as it should be, for they minister only to a temporary want, an appetite which is soon satisfied, while the flowers minister to an appetite that is insatiate, yet easily satisfied.

Every year shows marked changes in the plant industry. Formerly our greenhouses were, in a limited degree, botanic gardens; in fact, that was what they were usually called, and forty years ago nearly every owner of a greenhouse was a botanist. Then those that were engaged in the business took it up because of their *love* for it. To-day the plant-grower and the botanist are in a great measure strangers, and the business is conducted as any other business, because it *pays*. Then miscellaneous plants filled every greenhouse; variety seemed the great object, something to please every fancy—the greater the variety the greater the reputation of the grower. To-day there may be found more plants in a single private collection near New York than could be found fifty years ago in all the greenhouses within ten miles of New York City. This remarkable increase in the demand for plants and cut-flowers has so systematized the business that it has become purely mechanical. Florists and plant-growers have become specialists; there are those who grow nothing but Roses, others Carnations, still others Orchids and rare exotics, while many devote themselves to the cultivation of what is popularly known as bedding-plants, which are used in vast quantities for garden and lawn decorations. There is a still wider division which forms two distinct classes in the ranks of plant-growers—the one that propagates and disseminates, the other that originates. As a rule, our greatest plant-growers know the least about the plants they grow; they know what Rose

will be likely to be in demand the coming winter, because they have ascertained in advance what colors are to be worn, and have filled their houses with Roses to match, and their appreciation of the Rose is in proportion to what the buds bring in the market. We wish to speak at the present time of the originators of new forms, and prominent among them are

MESSRS. V. H. HALLOCK, SON & THORPE, Queens, N. Y., who, while largely engaged in the dissemination of plants, rank first, either in this country or in Europe, in the list of originators of new varieties of Geraniums, Carnations, Chrysanthemums and Gladioli. There may be others who would be willing to contest the field with them in any one of these classes, but in the combination it is safe to say they take the lead. In all business operations where several persons are engaged, there is, or should be, a division of labor, in order that each may make a specialty of his work, and give it his undivided attention. In this firm the work of the hybridist devolves upon John Thorpe, Esq., a gentleman who has made plant physiology a lifelong study, and whose keen perceptive faculties, which readily distinguish form, size and color, together with an innate love of the beautiful in nature, render him eminently fitted for the work he has chosen to perform.

The work of the hybridist is but little understood, and still less appreciated: The general idea is, that hybridization is for the purpose of securing new forms, colors, or various combinations of both, in order that we may have more beautiful flowers or more delicious fruits. Such, indeed, is one of the objects of hybridization; there is another, however, and a more vital one. It is upon hybridization, or cross-fertilization, which is a more proper term, that the life and health of our plants depend. Unless this system is carefully kept up, and the most careful selections of parent plants is made, deterioration will be manifest in every form of plant life. Cultivators as a rule do not pay sufficient attention to the careful selection of the plants from which they wish to save seeds. In fact, the laws of vegetable physiology are wholly ignored, and intelligent selection, the only road to floricultural success, is lost sight of. Herein lies Mr. Thorpe's success as an originator of new varieties. It is a simple thing to cross-fertilize flowers; it is quite another matter to do it intelligently. One might as well compound drugs taken at random from the shelves, and expect good results from the mixture, as to take plants indiscriminately from the greenhouse, fertilize their

flowers, and expect some wonderful forms to evolve from the seeds produced. In reproduction, plants are governed by the same laws as animals; it is therefore necessary to fully understand their true characters, to know what will be the result when certain forms and colors, as well as other specific characters of the plants, are brought together. Good results rarely come from chance, and rarely fail when systematic selection has been made.

Mr. Thorpe has fully taken into consideration the unbounded extent to which the cross-fertilization of many kinds of plants is capable of being carried; and a glance at his Chrysanthemum, Geranium and Carnation houses will show the wonderful success that has crowned his efforts in this direction. When we look over his collection of new varieties of these important classes of plants we are completely astonished that the growing of Chrysanthemums and Geraniums from seed is such an uncommon practice. The very trifling trouble it occasions, and the more than adequate compensation it occasionally affords in the gratification of having been the means of imparting an additional charm to the study of floriculture, by raising a new and beautiful variety, would appear sufficient to incite greater attention to the practice, and make every cultivator desirous of attaining some distinction in so interesting and commendable a pursuit.

But to be more specific let us inspect this firm's Chrysanthemum houses, where every known form and variety worthy of cultivation is to be found. The first is a structure 30 x 100 feet with three aisles running through the entire length. Here the Chrysanthemum is at home, and where it can be seen in its greatest perfection. Our visit was when the plants were supposed to be at their best, just ready for the New York Horticultural Society's special exhibition, and at the American Institute. Here were plants in every form in which they are usually grown for exhibition—standard and dwarf—massive, symmetrical and superbly incurved—all in the full flush of their beauty, and so arranged that a full view of each flower could be obtained. The main house was largely devoted to their new seedlings; these were what we wanted to see, and these were what we were shown. Old forms, however beautiful, we did not care to study; it was "what of the new?" that interested us. We were prepared for a treat, but not for the complete surprise that greeted us, and were simply amazed at the changes wrought in this flower through Mr. Thorpe's manipulations. It was not because there were flowers superior in size, form or color to what may have been seen by the casual observer in other collections. It was what the casual observer would not see that awakened in us the most lively interest. It was the first steps in the great changes through which the Chrysanthemum is now passing that excited our wonder. Petals dividing and sub-dividing, disks elongating, colors softening and blending in the most perfect harmony, erratic forms trying to harmonize in order to form a graceful symmetry; foliage assuming new shapes and showing more health and vigor, while the whole plant seemed as if infused with new life and strength.

These great changes, hardly observable to other than a practiced eye, are indications of greater importance than any of the actual results yet obtained. They show plainly

the sure reward there is for persistent and well-directed labor in any direction, and particularly in the fascinating work of hybridization.

Mr. Thorpe has been remarkably successful; or, rather, has been amply rewarded for his labors by an unusually large number of flowers of superior merit. In fact, in his collection of seedlings, numbering several hundreds, not a poor flower was to be seen, while many were really good, and a large number were of the first order. It is a significant fact that at the November exhibition of the New York Horticultural Society, Mr. Thorpe received twenty-four first-class certificates for an equal number of distinct varieties, all seedlings which have been grown within the last two years. This number fully represents the various sections into which the Chrysanthemum has been divided, and would of themselves make a collection sufficiently large and varied for a first-class establishment. Mr. Thorpe has been no less successful with Pelargoniums, or what are more commonly called Geraniums. For years he has been persistent in his efforts to obtain results that, to less enthusiastic cultivators, would seem impossible. Not content with forms and colors that already exist, he is, and has been patiently at work developing almost indistinct traces of color, until he has secured some shades that were but a few years ago not supposed to exist. He is confident that he will yet produce a yellow-flowered Geranium, and in going over his collection, and comparing some of his seedlings with their parents, one cannot fail to see abundant evidence to establish his hopes. Whether he succeeds or not in developing, or separating, this color, until it becomes a self, he will in the meantime, from the hundreds of seedlings annually produced, succeed in elevating the general character of the Geranium, which, as a bedding-plant, is of the greatest importance. This firm have already sent out many hundreds of Geraniums, that are fully equal, if not superior, to those bearing a foreign stamp. What is true of the Chrysanthemum and Geranium is equally true of the Carnation. Of this popular flower, Mr. Thorpe has succeeded in producing some of the best under cultivation. We cannot attempt a description of varieties of any of their leading productions, but cannot omit mentioning two of their Carnations, that surpass, in many respects, any with which we are acquainted. *Black Knight* is the very best of the dark Carnations, a strong grower, continuous bloomer, flowers a dark rich crimson, very fragrant, and conspicuous for their long stems. *Portia* is a most remarkable Carnation. It is an intense scarlet, brighter and clearer than any of its class; it has a vigorous constitution, equal to any other variety, and its medium-sized flowers are freely produced.

This establishment makes these three classes of plants specialties, and are sending their productions in quantities to Europe, where their reputation as originators of new plants is well established. This is also one of the leading, if not *the* leading, bulb farm in this country. Here Gladioli, Tuberoses and Lilies are grown by the acre; and here, too, we see the work of the skillful hybridist. In no branch of floriculture is cross-fertilization more necessary, more interesting, or more profitable, than in the growing of the Gladiolus. It is necessary, as without it strong and healthy bulbs cannot be grown for any great length of

time. All our hybrid varieties are short-lived, or, rather, they are subject to disease, so much so that it is next to an impossibility to keep up a collection of old and favorite sorts. Hence the necessity of new seedlings to take the place of those that drop from the ranks. There is another reason why seedlings are so much grown, viz., the desire for new forms and colors. The great popularity of the *Gladiolus* calls for large quantities of bulbs, and most of its admirers do not care for many of the same variety; on the contrary, the amateur wants his collection to contain as many distinct sorts as possible. To meet this demand is one of the important aims of this firm, and that their object is fully accomplished may be seen at any of the *Gladiolus* exhibitions held in this country. The number of seedlings they grow annually is simply immense, and among the vast number it is a rare sight to see a poor one, or one at least void of interest. From among those annually produced, a small number is selected which are to be given distinctive names, if, on trial, they stand the severe test given them. To be worthy of a name, the flower must have form, size, color and substance, and so arranged on the spike as to give it a bold and pleasing appearance; it must withal have a vigorous constitution, in order that it will rapidly reproduce, and such combinations are exceedingly rare. The extent of the *Gladiolus* industry alone gives this firm a prominent place among American plant-growers. Their usefulness, however, should not be estimated by the number of bulbs produced, but rather by the effort constantly employed to elevate the character of their productions, which is not only essential to meet a demand, but to create one, a work that is equally beneficial to every one interested in the trade.

The practical work of hybridizing, or cross-breeding, is in its infancy in this country; it has not kept pace with our improved methods of cultivation. Although the scientific bearing of the subject has been fully explained, and it is generally understood, the operation is generally regarded slow and unremunerative. Messrs. Hallock, Son & Thorpe are now thoroughly interested in the work, and the attention they have bestowed on the improvement on the various classes of plants as here named has produced very marked results. There is scarcely a catalogue in this country or in Europe that does not list some of their productions. Their labor of love in this direction does not weary or grow old, and it is a most interesting sight to watch the development of the many infant forms to be seen in their establishment. Many of their seed-

ling *Geraniums* show marked characteristics in their seed-leaves; these are constantly watched; the parentage of each being well known, the character of the offspring as it is developed is watched with a peculiar interest. None other than a true lover of a plant can do this work; it is by no means a business pursuit. As a business, plants can be propagated and cultivated, but that is not the love that is required to nurse and tend the infant plant; the latter is of a far higher order, and one that is as necessary for the development of the plant, as it is for the development of human character.

We do not envy this firm their large and increasing business, their industry entitles them to that; but the love that Mr. Thorpe has for his most fascinating work, and the patient industry, a most important element, which is a marked feature in his organization, we certainly do envy.

Although the work of hybridizing, in order to produce new forms and colors, is an important feature, it is by no means the principal one. We see here *Lilies* of every kind grown in such quantities as to surprise any one not familiar with the business; while *Tuberoses*, *Iris*, and in fact, all kinds of bulbs, tubers and herbaceous plants that can be grown in this climate, are here to be found in proportionate quantities. Nor does their industry stop here. The growing and dissemination of small fruit plants is another and important branch, as is the production and sale of cut flowers. It is not our object to speak of the extent of anyone's business in these notices; that is purely a personal matter, uninteresting to our readers. It is the character of the business that gives it importance, and it is that of which we aim to speak. It is sometimes difficult to do that as we would like; language cannot always be made to convey the impressions that one receives when visiting an establishment where the industry is congenial to his own tastes. In looking through this establishment, and noticing the various changes through which a plant passes, from seed form to old age, that descriptions are lost sight of, and the industry is seemingly a part of ourselves. In visiting this establishment it is what one is made to feel and know more than what one sees that makes a visit interesting. While plants and flowers of all kinds are objects of the greatest interest, there is still something more beautiful, that is a love for them. It is for the manifestation of that love, and its power to make itself felt, that a visit to Messrs. Hallock, Son & Thorpe's nursery at any time, but more particularly in the summer, is both pleasant and profitable.

THE ROCK ROSES.

(HELIANTHEMUMS.)

PROBABLY there are few natural orders which can boast of so large a proportion of thoroughly desirable garden plants as *Cistaceæ*, of which *Cistus* and *Helianthemum* are the two most important genera. The headquarters of the genus is the Mediterranean region; a few occur from the Levant to the Punjab, some half-dozen hail from North and Central America, three from South

America, and a few are found in Europe and the Canary Islands. As some *Helianthemums* are frequently met with in garden and other literature under the name of *Cistus*, it may be well to briefly indicate here the principal distinctive characters of the two. In *Cistus* the placentæ are five in number (rarely three), and the valves of the seed vessel number five also; the embryo is circi-

nate or spiral, the flowers solitary or cymose, rarely racemed. This genus is entirely confined to the Old World. In *Helianthemum*, on the other hand, the placenta and valves are three in number; the embryo is folded, hooked, or circumflex, and the flowers are frequently racemed. As before stated, true *Helianthemums* are found in both hemispheres. The leaves are simple and mostly entire, the lower usually opposite and the upper alternate. The flowers of some species are dimorphic, the earlier ones being large, with numerous stamens and many-seeded pods, while those produced later in the season are much smaller in size (the petals being sometimes altogether absent), the stamens much less numerous, and the seed-pods smaller, with fewer seeds. The flowers open only once, and cast

As it would require too much space to include all the species, only the more showy ones are described in this article. Probably some of these are not at present in cultivation, but it is to be hoped that not a few will be re-introduced now that attention has been called to them. Nothing could be easier than for summer visitors to Spain, Portugal, North Africa, and the Mediterranean region generally, to collect and send home seeds of some of these beautiful plants.

For convenience of reference the *Helianthemums* here described are arranged in alphabetical order.

H. Canadense. This is a perennial herbaceous plant, with several erect or ascending purplish brown hairy stems, simple below and branched above, springing from the



HELIANTHEMUM FORMOSUM.

their petals before the next day; they are produced in such profusion, however, that few plants make a brighter display during their flowering season, which in some species is a somewhat prolonged one.

The cultural requirements of all are of the simplest; *H. vulgare*, and the numerous garden varieties of that species will succeed in almost any soil or situation; the more exclusively southern kinds should have a thoroughly well-drained position in the shrubbery border or rockery. The latter, it is safe to assert, suffer much more from the excessive moisture than from the severity of English winters. In any case, a pot of cuttings could be placed in a cold frame each autumn, in order to replace the parent plants, should they succumb. The annual kinds—and there are many well worthy in any sunny portion of the garden—do best if sown in pots under glass in spring and planted out when two or three inches high.

same root. They attain a height of a foot or more, and produce a large number of beautiful clear yellow flowers an inch or so in diameter; these are solitary, the small apetalous flowers being borne in nearly sessile clusters in the axils of the leaves. It is found in gravelly or dry soil from Maine to Wisconsin and southward. The flowering season lasts from June to August. The name, Frostweed—under which it is generally known in its native habitats—is, according to Dr. Asa Gray's "Manual of the Botany of the Northern United States," owing to the fact that late in the autumn crystals of ice shoot from the cracked bark at the root.

H. Carolinianum. Like the last, this is a herbaceous perennial, with large, pale yellow flowers. Several erect, very hairy stems spring from the somewhat creeping root, and attain a height of from six inches to one foot. These mostly die back in winter for the greater part of their

length, and are replaced by fresh growths the following spring. The branches are slender, very hairy, when young clothed with a hairy tomentum more or less tinged with purple. The leaves are shortly stalked, hairy, clothed with a hairy tomentum. This species is a native of the Southern United States.

H. Formosum. (See illustration.) This is an erect, much-branched, bushy shrub, with leaves greenish when old, but covered with a whitish down when young, and large bright yellow flowers, with a deep purplish brown blotch near the base of each petal. The species thrives well in any rich, dry soil, but is apt to succumb to the cold and wet of English winters. It is, however, such a beautiful plant that it is well worth the trouble of putting in a pot of cuttings each autumn in a cold frame, and planting these out in the open border the following spring. It is one of the largest flowered species, and one of the most distinct and handsome of all the Sun Roses. If raised from seeds, which in ordinary seasons ripen in abundance, a considerable range of variation in the depth of the yellow color and in the size and intensity of the purplish blotch is obtained. Seedlings also vary a good deal in foliage characters, so that any especially desirable variety should always be increased by cuttings, which root readily if made of half-ripened wood and inserted in a shaded, cool frame in autumn. The illustration published herewith represents a fine garden form of this species. It does not appear to be common in a wild state, but has long been cultivated in Britain, and is a native of Portugal.

H. Fumana. This is a pretty heath-like plant, with somewhat fleshy linear leaves and yellow flowers. It thrives in a sunny, well-drained situation, and does well in pots in a cold frame. Widely distributed throughout Southern Europe.

H. Globulariaefolium. A dwarf perennial with a rosette of long-stalked oval, oval-lanceolate, or spatulate, three-nerved hairy leaves and bracteate flowering stems with large yellow flowers. This is a near ally of the true *H. Tuberaria*, but differs in its long-stalked green leaves, in the citron-yellow, black-spotted flowers borne in dense racemes, and in the violet-colored filaments. A native of Portugal and North and West Spain.

H. Halimifolium. The Sea Purslane-leaved Sun Rose is a beautiful evergreen shrub. In a wild state it varies not a little according to the conditions under which it grows, and under cultivation it alters so much as to render it at times difficult to determine. In English gardens it attains a height of three or four feet, is of erect habit, and forms a densely-branched, compact bush, clothed with a short, close, hoary tomentum. It is a native of Central and Southern Spain, and a near ally of the subject of our illustration.

H. Lavipes. A much-branched dwarf shrub with slender rigid branches, heath-like leaves, and yellow flowers. An elegant little plant for a sunny spot on the rockery or for cultivation in pot for cool greenhouse decoration. It is readily increased either by seeds or cuttings. A native of Southwest Europe.

H. Lavandulæfolium. The Lavender-leaved Sun Rose is a beautiful dwarf shrub a foot or more in height, with feathery lavender-like leaves, often glaucous above and

stellately-tomentose below, and dense racemes of yellow flowers. In the common form the leaves are linear-lanceolate with revolute margins; in another, *Var. syriacuno*, they are broader and flat (not with revolute edges). A native of the Mediterranean region.

H. Leptophyllum. A dwarf shrub about a foot high, with ascending ashy-gray branches, linear-oblong, shortly-stalked leaves, dark green above, and clothed beneath with a dense tomentum. The flowers are a bright yellow color. This species is an excellent rockery plant; it is a native of Scotland.

H. Libanotis. A charming dwarf shrub, from six inches to two feet in height, with slender branches clothed with ashy-gray bark and deep-green rosemary-like leaves. The yellow flowers are produced in great profusion. This species is confined to the littoral Southwest Mediterranean region.

H. Occidentale. A very variable much-branched evergreen shrub; in its more northern habitats and toward the limits of its extension up the mountains, procumbent or diffuse; in the warmer southern regions an erect bush sometimes three feet high. The leaves vary much in color from deep green to a dull whitish hue, owing in the latter state to the presence of a dense covering of stellate hairs. There are several forms of this species under cultivation, the flowers of which attain double the size of those of wild plants, and they exhibit a range of various shades of yellow, the petals being totally without any dark blotch at the base, or conspicuously marked.

H. Polifolium. A dwarf under shrub with opposite leaves hoary and downy on both surfaces; margins recurved. In habit it resembles our native Rock Rose, but differs from that in being more shrubby, in the leaves being recurved, or even revolute margins, and in the white flowers. A native of Central and Southern Europe and North Africa. This species is one of the prettiest of native plants, and, it is needless to say, is quite hardy.

H. Umbellatum. This is a near ally of *H. globulariaefolium*, previously mentioned. From that species it differs in its shortly stalked, often silky, hoary leaves. It is a charming little perennial, succeeding well in sandy soil in any sunny spot on the rockery. During the summer months it grows freely enough in the ordinary herbaceous border, and ripens an abundance of seeds, which should be saved and sown under grass in the spring, the excessive moisture of English winters very often proving fatal to the plants left in the open ground, except in dry, well-drained sandy soils. The flowers are a bright, light yellow color, and measure about an inch across. A native of the Western Mediterranean region.

H. Vulgare. The common Rock Rose is the most variable of all the Helianthemums, and none have a wider geographical distribution. It is found throughout Europe—even within the Arctic circle—North Africa and West Asia. A host of varieties have originated in gardens, and the hybrids, natural and artificial, between this species and some of its allies are almost innumerable, some of [the most distinct forms having] been regarded by different authorities as species. The ordinary yellow-flowered type is a common British plant, ascending to about 2,000 feet above sea level. It generally affects dry soils, and exhibits

a considerable range of differences in the form and size of the leaves and the size of the flowers, these latter varying from three-quarters of an inch to about one and a half inches in diameter.

The above interesting history and description of this

beautiful family of plants has been taken from the *Garden* (London) of November 15. We have not described all the species and varieties, but sufficient to give a clear idea of the value of this plant for the many situations it is adapted to fill.

CALLA LILIES.

OPINIONS differ so widely in the culture of the Calla Lily, I do not wonder that amateur florists are non-plussed to know which way is right. Some advise a rest of two or three months in a year, while others say, keep them growing all the time.

One writer says: "I keep my Calla growing all summer, set out of doors in a shady place, and have not repotted it for five years; but every spring and autumn I dig out some of the soil and fill in with new, using most the fine black muck that abounds in our swamps, and let from four to six bulbs live in the same large pot. From each bulb I have four flowers in a season, and treated in this way, my Callas have been in bud and blossom ten months of the year."

Another says: "In June take your Callas out of doors, turn the pots over on their sides, and leave them through the hot summer months, giving them no attention whatever. The old leaves will drop off, and the earth in the pots bake into the consistency of bricks. This looks like harsh treatment, but the Calla likes it. In September bring in the plants and give them water. A short time will suffice to start them into growth; and as soon as the leaves appear, use water quite warm. Never remove the new bulbs that form around the old plant, but as they grow shift the plants into larger pots, and you are sure of flowers for the winter."

And still another writes: "In August, the leaves of my Calla having died down, I take up the bulbs, and, after removing all offsets, which should always be done, I repot in fresh soil, using one-third sand; give but little water until they begin to grow well, then water plentifully, adding a few drops of ammonia about twice a week. At Christmas set them in a vessel and every morning pour boiling water into it. Let them stand in water constantly, and both buds and flowers will soon make their appearance."

Again I turn a leaf and read: "The Calla Lily being a tropical plant, and its native home the marshes and deltas of the river Nile, it, of course, must be well supplied with water, but only at certain seasons. About the first of July lay the pot containing the plant on its side in some out of the way place, and let it remain until the first of September; then repot in fresh soil, using a compost composed of two parts woods'-mould, one part sand, and one part rich garden loam, well mixed. Water freely, and after it has thrown up some three or four leaves, earth up around the stems leaving the outer eyes next to the pot lowest; put on from one to two quarts of boiling water each day, and you will be surprised at the number of blossoms obtained by this method."

As far as my own experience goes, the quotations above prove nothing either way, except that the Calla is a very

amiable plant, and its powers of endurance are indeed wonderful, else it would never survive the rigid discipline to which it is often subjected. That nature has provided a rest for the Calla every season I believe, but it is a mistaken idea to think we are emulating Egypt and the Nile when we cramp our plants into a small-sized pot and turn them on their sides until the soil becomes hard as bricks, and the roots of the plants are as dry as leather shoestrings. I, for one, do not believe the Calla likes such arbitrary treatment. I could as readily believe that an individual undergoing treatment from an "old-school" physician enjoyed being bled and blistered until he was too weak to offer any resistance, because perchance if he recovered he might smile on us again.

Those who cultivate Callas, when repotting their plants have doubtless noticed the rope-like roots coiled in the bottom of the pot, and that these in turn are thickly set with fibrous roots or feeders, which are also found on and around the plant just below the surface of the soil. Now, botany teaches us that every root and fibre, even the most tiny, has its part to perform in nourishing the plant. If this be true, how injurious it must be to the plant itself when we let the roots become too dry for action, and keep them in this condition for months together. I believe it is an error to let the roots of the Calla become absolutely dry; they should have moisture enough when resting to keep them from shriveling.

If we consult history concerning its native habitat, we shall find that from June 21, the beginning of the summer solstice, the waters of the Nile begin to rise gradually within the banks of the stream until the middle of July, when they overflow them. About the 20th of August the valley presents the appearance of a great inland sea, and so continues until the time of the autumnal equinox, when the waters begin to subside, and by the last of November the river is once more within its banks.

The rise is estimated at from twenty-nine to forty feet; and as the land is submerged from July to November, the Calla does not have a great opportunity for drying off, although the roots may lie dormant through it all, and spring up anew through the rich deposit of black mud when the waters have subsided.

We are told, as the waters dry out of the surface of the ground, the long ropes of roots follow it horizontally, going down to the bed of the Nile, where a perfect network is formed.

By this arrangement, the leaves are independent of the dry atmosphere by which they are surrounded; and the plants have from December to June in which to grow and blossom.

My experience with the Calla is, that it should have at least six weeks rest in summer-time. If we set it out of

doors, let it be where the wind will not handle it too roughly, and thus destroy the beauty of the leaves.

It should be kept in an upright position, and have moisture enough to keep the roots plump. The soil for Callas should be a rich one, and repotting should be done in spring-time; if done in autumn it will retard its blooming season. This hint is free to all who fail to make their Callas bloom in winter.

When disturbed in spring, they have the summer in which to form new roots, and if given a warm sunny window in cold weather, they will not fail to bloom. The Calla Lily, when in a healthy growing state, is one of the most noble plants in cultivation; but when neglected and abused, it is one of the most forlorn, and makes us feel indignant for Egypt and the River Nile.

MRS. G. W. FLANDERS.

THE GOLDEN FLOWER.

(CHRYSANTHEMUM.)

ER Advent dawns with lessening days,
While earth awaits the angels' hymn,
When, bare as branching coral, sways
In whistling winds each leafless limb;
When spring is but a spendthrift's dream
And summer's wealth a wasted dower,
Nor dews nor sunshine may redeem,
Then Autumn coins his Golden Flower.

Soft was the Violet's vernal hue,
Fresh was the Rose's morning red,
Full-orbed the stately Dahlia grew—
All gone! their short-lived beauty shed;
The shadows lengthening stretch at noon,
The fields are stripped, the groves are dumb,
The frost-flowers greet the icy morn,
Still blooms the bright Chrysanthemum.

The stiffening turf is white with snow,
Undimmed its radiant disks are seen,
Where soon the hallowed morn will show
The wreath and cross of Christmas green;

As if in Autumn's dying days
It heard the heavenly song afar,
And opened all its living rays—
The herald lamp of Bethlehem's star.

Orphan of summer, kindly sent
To cheer the waning year's decline,
Of all that pitying heaven has lent,
No fairer pledge of hope than thine.
Yes! June lies hid beneath the snow,
And winter's unborn heir shall claim
In every seed that sleeps below,
A spark that kindles into flame.

Thy smile the scowling storm-cloud braves
Last of the bright-robed, flowery train,
Soft sighing o'er their garden graves
"Farewell! Farewell! We meet again!"
So may life's chill November bring
Hope's golden flower—the last of all
Before we hear the angels sing
Where blossoms never fade or fall.—*Selected.*

TEA AND COFFEE LORE.

HOW many people have ever given any consideration to the age of these favorite beverages among our European ancestry? Their common use in England dates from the beginning of the eighteenth century, although both were known before the time of the Commonwealth. Previous to the civil war, beer was the principal beverage of all classes. Some of the light wines of the Levant were indulged in by kings and the nobility on rare occasions, but home-brewed ale was the usual drink. The ordinary quantity for my lord and lady at breakfast was a quart apiece. Queen Elizabeth usually drank a larger quantity even than this, but then she was an enormous feeder for a woman. It is reported by statistical calculation that in the year after the close of the Revolution a quart a day was brewed for every man, woman and child in England, whereas the same calculation makes the amount at the present day sixty quarts per annum, or just one-sixth.

It would be unjust, however, for one to conclude that the English are a more sober people than formerly because less beer is drank; for a great deal that was brewed was very small beer. English people, like the Americans, have three meals a day—breakfast, dinner and tea—and it is

only at one of these that the larger number ever touch beer. The choice then lay between wine or spirits, cider, beer, milk or water. It is to two beverages that have since passed into common use, tea and coffee, that the diminution in the amount of beer is due.

Coffee comes to us laden with the fragrance of Oriental bazaars and the romance of the "Arabian Nights." Its early history as an economic product is involved in considerable obscurity, the absence of historical fact being compensated for by an unusual profusion of conjectural statements, and by purely mythical stories. Throwing legend aside, the use of coffee seems to have been introduced from Ethiopia into Persia about the year 875 A. D., and into Arabia from the latter country at the beginning of the fifteenth century. Notwithstanding that its use as a beverage was prohibited by the Koran, it spread rapidly through the Mohammedan nations, and it was publicly sold in Constantinople in 1554. It easily found its way from the Levant to Venice, where coffee-houses were established as early as 1615.

A Jew named Jacob opened the first coffee-house in England, selling it as a common beverage at Baliol College, Oxford, in the year when the Long Parliament first

met. The next year, Pasque Rossie, a Greek, opened a coffee-house in London. Rossie came from Smyrna with a Mr. Edwards, a Turkey merchant, and in the capacity of servant he prepared coffee daily for Mr. Edwards and his visitors. So popular did the new drink become with Mr. Edwards' friends that their visits occasioned him great inconvenience, to obviate which he directed Rossie to establish a public coffee-house, which he accordingly did. The original establishment was in St. Michael's alley, Cornhill, over the door of which Rossie erected a sign, with his portrait, subsequently announcing himself to be "the first who made and publicly sold coffee drink in London."

Coffee became a social power earlier than tea. About the end of the seventeenth century coffee-houses were very common and important as means of social and political intercourse between men. They occupied the place that is now filled by the London clubs. Some were chiefly political places of resort for only one party; others, especially the famous "Will's," in Covent Garden, were literary. Those who wished to see, to hear, or perhaps to bow to a prominent literary man, like Dryden, Addison or Defoe, would find him at a coffee-house. These houses had great influence in the formation of opinions. Men nowadays often take their opinions from their newspapers or the club;³ then they took them from the coffee-house. Charles II., in 1675, attempted to suppress coffee-houses by a royal proclamation, in which it was stated that they were the resort of disaffected persons, "who devised and spread abroad divers false, malicious and scandalous reports, to the deformation of his Majesty's government, and to the disturbance of the peace and the quiet of the nation." But coffee was too strong for the monarch, and the coffee-houses continued to flourish.

At the close of the century the annual consumption of coffee in the United Kingdom amounted to about one hundred tons. The amount in 1873 was estimated at sixteen thousand one hundred and sixty-five tons. Its culture was introduced into Java by the Dutch in 1690, and it was thence extended throughout the East India islands. In 1715, Louis XIV. received from the magistrates of Amsterdam a fine coffee tree, then bearing both green and ripe fruit. This, according to Du Tour, was the parent stock of all the West India coffee. The Dutch introduced its cultivation into Surinam in 1718. In point of quantity Brazil heads the list of coffee-growing countries; its annual production exceeding that of all other localities combined.

Coffee is spoken of as being used in France between 1640 and 1660. Its general use through the Continent was encouraged by an accident. In 1685 the Turks were besieging Vienna. Germany was paralyzed, but John Sobieski, King of Poland, came to the rescue of the Viennese when they were nearly ready to yield from starvation. His brave Poles burst down upon the Moslem squadrons, and a great rout ensued. They left behind them their rich tents and pavilions, and all their stores, an immense quantity, among which was so much coffee that it then became a common drink, and the first coffee-house in Vienna was opened by a Pole who had swum the Danube to inform the Germans of Sobieski's approach.

Burton, in his "Anatomy of Melancholy," published in

1621, was the first English writer to mention coffee. "The Turks," he says, "have a drink called coffee (for they use no wine), so named of a berry as black as soot and as bitter, which they sip up as warm as they can suffer, because they find by experiment that that kind of drink so used helpeth digestion and procureth alacrity."

It is noteworthy that the three principal dietetic beverages of the world were introduced into Great Britain within a few years of each other. Cocoa was the first of the three which actually appeared in Europe, having been brought to Spain from South America; coffee followed, coming from Arabia by way of Constantinople; and tea, the latest of the series, came from China by way of the Dutch.

Tea, or as it was invariably pronounced in the old time, *tay*,

("Here thou, great Anna, whom these realms obey,
Dost sometimes counsel take, and sometimes tea."—*Pope*.)

was first brought into Europe by the Portuguese early in the sixteenth century. China is associated with the tea plant as Arabia is with coffee, and unquestionably it was indigenous to that country. Its history goes back certainly to the oblique-eyed empress, Ming-gen, 100 years B. C., who is said to have been the first to use a decoction of its leaves for drink.

The use of tea was not common in Europe until the eighteenth century. About the seventeenth century a Russian embassy brought back to Moscow several packages of tea which were received with much favor. For a long time it was regarded as a rare luxury. The gossipy Pepys in his diary speaks of his first tea-drinking, September 25, 1661. He says: "Went to Lady Castlemaine's party; was treated to a China drink of which I had never tasted before." It was a few years after this that the English East India Company made Queen Catherine of Braganza what was considered the brilliant present of two pounds of tea. During the first years of its introduction, tea was sold by the pound at from six to ten pounds, English money.

Through the reign of Queen Anne its use as a beverage rapidly increased. Just after the accession of George II., the consumption amounted in one year to seven hundred thousand pounds, and the price, depending on the quality, varied between thirteen and twenty shillings per pound. Tea is a more popular beverage than coffee among our English brethren; the amount being imported into that country in 1872 was one hundred and eighty-five millions of pounds—more than five times the amount of coffee. In this country the ratio is not so large.

Tea-drinkings were very fashionable among our grandmothers, and in the old-time novels tea-parties were a part of the machinery of the story. Even Mrs. Stowe, in "The Minister's Wooing," opens her story with the statement: "Mrs. Katy Scudder had invited Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Jones, and Deacon Twitchell's wife to take tea with her on the afternoon of June 2, A. D. 17—."

Those tea-parties of the country-side where our grandmothers met, drank their "dish of tea," and talked scandal, were very important occasions from a social point of view. They were less formal and more friendly events than almost any other of the social gatherings of the past.

They were partaken of almost anywhere, sometimes in the broad dining-room, but oftener on the terraces or in the lawns and gardens of the owner's mansion. There was little of the stately etiquette of the dinner party, and the charming way in which they were enjoyed makes one feel inclined to grieve over their decadence.

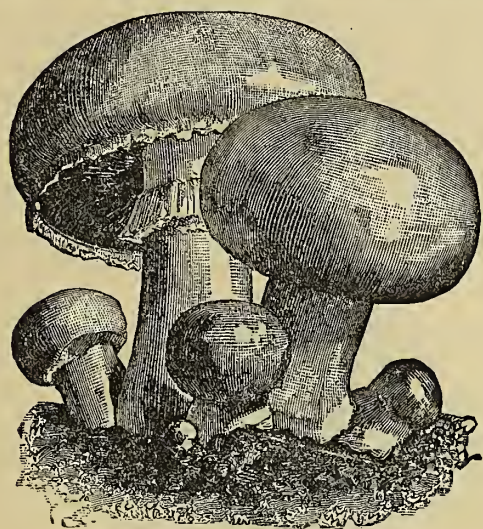
This beverage, which "cheers but does not intoxicate," was dear to our ancestors, and we can admire the patriotism of those grand dames who sacrificed their favorite drink, rather than submit to the tyranny of British taxation. The consumption of the delicious herb is greater now than

at any previous age, and though the old-time tea-parties are out of date, the last meal of the day is generally recognized, in the country at least, by the name derived from the customary beverage indulged in on that occasion. And we would not wish it otherwise, but emphatically join issue with Colley Cibber, who, in "The Ladies' Last Stake," exclaims: "Tea! thou soft, thou sober, sage, and venerable liquid; thou female-tongue-running, smile-soothing, heart-opening, wink-tipping cordial, to whose glorious insipidity I owe the happiest moments of my life, let me fall prostrate." F. M. COLBY.

MUSHROOM CULTURE.

THE common meadow Mushroom is the only one, of all the edible varieties, adapted for culture, and with little care and management it can be grown with success almost anywhere and in all seasons.

The chief conditions for obtaining a satisfactory result consist in growing Mushrooms in a very rich soil and in a genial, and as nearly as possible, even temperature. To secure the latter condition the culture is often carried



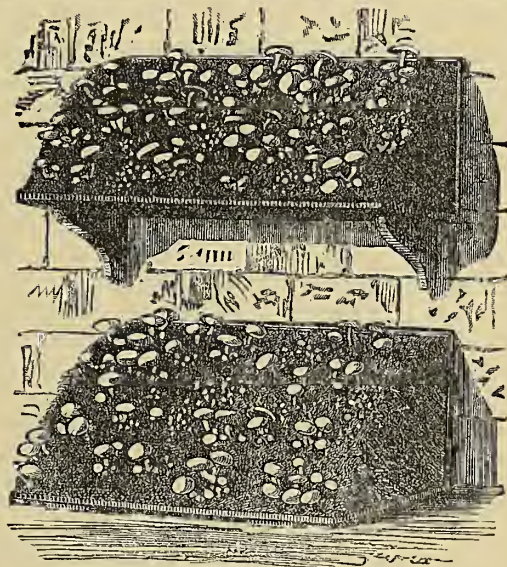
EDIBLE MUSHROOM (*Agaricus Campestris*).

on in cellars, but any other locality, such as sheds, stables, etc., will answer as well, provided that either naturally or by artificial means the temperature does not exceed eighty-six degrees, nor fall below fifty Fahr.

The first thing to be considered, after the choice of a convenient locality, is the preparation of the bed in which they are to be grown. The most essential material for it is horse droppings, preference being given to those of well-fed animals collected as dry and free from straw as possible. Mix with this one-fourth or one-fifth of its bulk of good garden soil to reduce its strength, for if used alone it would make too hot a fermenting material; but by adding the garden soil the fermentation will be slow and the heat produced moderate and even. Prepare the bed at once, make the sides firm and tidy, having care that the situation be a dry place.

Some growers use the horse-dung by itself, and in that case it is necessary to allow the first heat to evaporate,

which is done by piling the droppings, as they come from the stable, in successive layers to the height of about three feet in a dry spot, removing all foreign matter from it and pressing it into a compact mass, sprinkling with water such portions as are very dry. In this state it should be left till the most violent fermentative action has passed, which is generally the case in six or ten days; the heap should then be re-made, taking care that those portions which were *outside* and consequently less fermented, are placed *inside*, to insure an equal temperature, and it should be well mixed and firmly placed so that the whole may be of a similar texture. Generally a few days after being re-made the fermentation is so strong as to render it necessary to be made up a third time, but sometimes after the second operation it is ready for making into beds. This can be seen, when the heating material has become brown, the straw which is mixed with it has lost almost entirely its consistence, when it has become greasy, and the smell is no longer the same as when fresh. It is difficult to obtain a good material without preparing a heap of at least three feet each way, and if that quantity

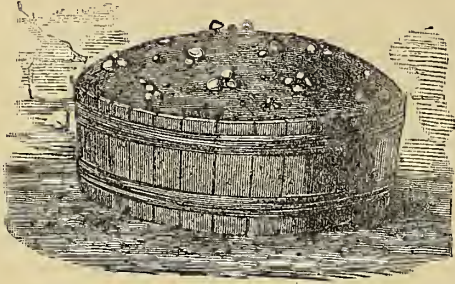


SMALL MOVABLE BEDS AGAINST A WALL.

is not required for making the beds the surplus may with advantage be used in the kitchen-garden.

Having prepared the material for the beds it can now be brought to the place where they are to be made. Ex-

perience has shown that the best way to make use of space and material is to raise the beds to the height of twenty or twenty-four inches with the width about the same as the foundation. An excessive rise of the temperature in consequence of renewed fermentation is to be less feared than when the beds are of larger dimensions.



TUB.

When a large place is at disposal, preference is given to beds with two slanting sides; and when the beds rest against a wall, and consequently present but one useful side, the width ought to be less than the height.

Barrels sawn in two so that each part forms a tub, are well adapted for beds. Shelves on which sugarloaf-shaped beds may be raised are also desirable, as they can be formed before they are carried into cellars, etc., where the introduction of raw materials would be objectionable.

The beds thus established should be left for a few days before spawning to see whether the fermentation will not be renewed with excessive vigor, which may be ascertained by the touch of the hand; but it is safer to use the thermometer, for as long as the temperature exceeds eighty-six degrees Fahr. the bed is too hot, and openings should be made with a stick to allow some of the heat to escape, or else leave it until it cools by itself. When the temperature remains at seventy-six degrees it is time for spawning. Prepared spawn can be obtained from the seed trade at nearly all seasons. A few days before spawning it is advisable to expose the spawn to a moderately warm moisture, which will insure a safer and more rapid growth; it should be broken up in pieces about the length and thickness of the hand, by half that width, and inserted in the bed at a distance of ten or twelve inches each way. In beds from twenty to twenty-four inches in height, which are mostly in use, it should be inserted in two rows, dovetail fashion.

When the bed is situated in a place under cover, and of an even temperature, nothing else is to be done but wait for the growth; if, however, the bed is placed where it

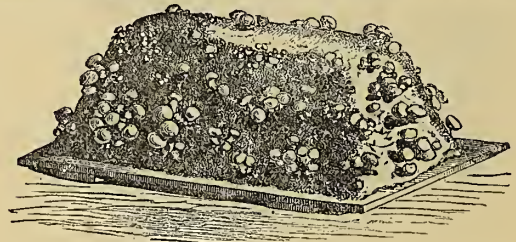
will be exposed to the changes of the weather it must be covered with long litter or hay to keep a uniform temperature all around the bed.

Under favorable circumstances, and if the work has been done well, the spawn ought to show activity in seven or eight days. It is best to examine it and replace such spawn as will not thrive, which can be seen by the absence of white filaments in the surrounding material. Fifteen or twenty days later the spawn ought to have taken possession of the whole bed and come to the surface; the top and sides of the bed should then be covered with soil, for which a light mould in preference to a heavy one should be used, slightly moistening it without making it too wet.

If it does not naturally contain saltpetre it would be good to administer a small quantity of salt or saltpetre, or else give it a watering of farm-yard manure. The covering with soil should not exceed an inch in depth, and be pressed down well, so as to adhere firmly; watering should only be done when the soil becomes very dry. If necessary to remove the covering at any time it must be replaced at once.

A few weeks after, according to the state of temperature, the Mushrooms will appear. In gathering them care should be taken to fill the empty spaces with the same soil as used for the covering. Leaving the bed to itself it will produce Mushrooms for two or three months, but its fertility may be prolonged by careful waterings at a temperature of sixty-eight to eighty-six degrees Fahr. with an admixture of guano or saltpetre.

By establishing under cover three or four beds annually in succession, a continued supply may be reckoned upon; besides, during the summer months beds may be raised



MOVABLE SHELF.

out of doors at very little expense, securing an abundant supply. Frames in which vegetables are forced, may in the intervals be used for Mushroom culture with very good results, providing the temperature is congenial and that the young Mushrooms are slightly protected with soil as soon as they appear.

THE PÆONY.

THE Pæony derives its name from Pæon, a Greek physician, who, it is said, employed this plant as a medicine for the healing of Pluto, who was wounded by Hercules.

P. officinalis, the old and well-known crimson variety, was first introduced into England from Switzerland, its native habitat, in 1548. *P. albiflora*, the old double white, was introduced from Siberia about the same time.

P. tenuifolia, or Fern-leaved Pæony, is a native of Prussia, and was brought to England in 1765. There are of this species both double and single varieties. *P. Moutan*, or Tree Pæony, and its varieties, are natives of China.

The Pæonies grown in our gardens are divided into two classes, the Tree Pæonies and the Herbaceous. The former are said to grow in their native home to a height of eight and ten feet. They were introduced into England

in 1787, but never have been so generally cultivated in Europe or America as the herbaceous varieties.

A late writer in the *London Garden* says: "I have a Tree Pæony on my lawn which has now on it about two hundred blossoms. It is nearly thirty feet round and has not had any protection for years." This was a remarkable growth, surely. An account is given of one in a suburb of London, which was six or eight feet high and eight feet in diameter. Another seven feet in height and fourteen in diameter, planted thirty years ago, and has borne sometimes nearly one thousand flowers in a single season.

The first plant of *P. Moutan* was brought to England through the influence of Sir Joseph Banks, in 1787. He learned of its existence in Chinese gardens through some illustrations. It was first cultivated in the Kew Gardens. The experiments with this species were not very successful for a time, but when grafted on the fleshy roots of

the herbaceous kinds the result was very satisfactory. The colors were mostly light and the flowers not very full and perfect, but now they are found in dark, rich hues and large, finely shaped flowers. *Gloria Belgium* and *Souvenir de Gand* are spoken of as remarkable for the beauty and size of their blossoms.

The following are some of the finest novelties among Belgian Pæonies: *Comte de Cussy*: Exterior petals clear purple, centre petals white tinted with carnation. *Edmund Lebon*: Bright rose, very long and full. *Faubert*: Reddish purple, almost black, double, a superb flower. *Madonna*: Pure white centre, lightly tinted with salmon. *Magnifica*: White, tinted with rose. *Mad. Crouisse*: Pure white, very large and full. *Rose Quintal*: Carmine rose. *Tenuifolia*: Fern-leaved, color crimson. *Mad. Dhour*: Bright rose bordered with white, very large and full.

M. D. WELLCOME.

CROSS-FERTILIZATION.

IT seems to be well established that in size and general appearance Strawberries grown on pistillate plants will resemble those grown on the hermaphrodite plants that produced the pollen which impregnated the pistillate sorts. This principle, which appears to be new when applied to Strawberries, has long been recognized when applied to vine truck. It is well known that the size and quality of Watermelons are materially influenced if a few seeds of Pumpkins, Squash, or preserving Citrons, be planted among them. May not the same principle hold true with other fruits under certain circumstances! Let facts determine.

About the year 1878 when planting an orchard of standard Kieffer Pear trees, we set a few dwarf Bartlett trees among them, thinking that would be a favorable plan for having the blossoms on the low-growing Bartlett trees impregnated with the pollen falling from the taller standard Kieffer trees in the natural way, which is much preferable to the artificial plan of mutilating the pistil in trying to cut away the stamens around it with an unsteady hand. My theory was to plant the seed of the Bartletts thus subjected to showers of pollen falling from the Kieffers, and wait the result of the new seedlings grown therefrom. But this year we noticed some of the Bartletts had the shape and outward appearance of Kieffer Pears, and hung on the trees about one month later than other Bartletts grown here, and attained a larger size, measuring $10\frac{1}{8}$ inches around crosswise, by $11\frac{1}{2}$ around lengthwise; flavor and quality of flesh and color of skin like the Bartlett; size and shape of fruit and time of ripening more corresponding with the Kieffer.

We have carefully planted the seed taken from those supposed crosses which showed a marked change in outward appearance, hoping some of the offspring may produce fruit equal to that from which the seed was taken, and if we get a new seedling Pear, or an improved Bartlett, larger in size, of the same quality, and three to four weeks later in ripening than its female parent, the Bartlett, crossed with the Kieffer, it will be of some value to fruit-

growers, who have no retarding house to keep back their Bartletts.

Another illustration of the same principle: Last winter Charles Parry, who lives adjoining here, removed a standard Bartlett Pear tree, which had borne fruit for several years, to make room for moving his barn. The Bartlett tree thus removed was planted close by and nearly between two large standard Kieffer Pear trees. All three bloomed profusely, and bore an abundance of fruit very similar in outward appearance to Kieffers. The Bartlett fruit was mostly double turbinate, pointed at both ends, like Kieffers, yet when cut open it had the natural Bartlett taste. The Bartlett tree having been recently moved, which checked its growth and weakened its reproductive powers, there was not strength and vigor enough to produce a sufficient supply of pollen to impregnate the pistils of the Bartlett blossoms, and they were in a suitable state to receive pollen from the more vigorous Kieffer trees near by, which furnished an abundant supply for themselves and the Bartletts also. There were but few seeds in the crossed Pears; some had none, and others were defective.

We have grafted the Bartlett in the tops of Kieffer Pears, so as to bring the blossoms close to each other, the most favorable position for cross-fertilization in the natural way. We have likewise grafted the Lawson, the largest and most beautiful Pear ripening in July, in the tops of Manning's Elizabeth, a smaller Pear of excellent quality, ripening nearly at the same time. If we can by this system of cross-fertilization obtain a new Pear combining the large size and great beauty of the Lawson with the delicious quality of the Elizabeth, it will be an acquisition well worth the care and attention necessary to accomplish so desirable an object.

Twenty years ago I thought I was too old to plant Pear seeds with any prospect of seeing the fruit grown from them; but I have now changed my opinion, and I agree with an elderly gentleman, 81 years old, who came here some time since to purchase trees, and said to me, while they were being dug for him, "Some people might

think it foolish in me to plant Apple trees, but I like to do it, for they will do somebody good, and it is a pleasure to be employed in that which will promote the welfare and comfort of others." Five years since that eminent friend of pomology, Charles Downing, sent me some choice Pear seeds for planting, and now in the lawn before me stands a thrifty Pear tree ten feet high, grown from those seeds, bearing twelve good-sized, smooth, handsome Pears, the largest of which measures ten inches around crosswise. There were twenty-five Pears on the tree; but when about half grown thirteen were removed, as we thought one dozen were enough for a tree five years

from seed to ripen. If fruit-growers generally would follow the excellent advice of our venerable president, the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, often repeated in his able addresses before the American Pomological Society, to "plant the most mature and perfect seeds of the most hardy, vigorous and valuable varieties, and as a shorter process, insuring more certain and happy results, cross and hybridize our finest kinds for still greater excellence," there might yet be produced fruits adapted to our soil and climate, superior to any we now have.

WILLIAM PARRY,
in Rural New Yorker.

NEW YEAR'S AT ST. BOTOLPH'S.

IT did seem too much that New Year's Day should follow so closely upon the heels of Christmas, and cause another break in the school-work before the last had been fully repaired. At least this was the mental attitude of the teachers at St. Botolph's, in view of the approaching holiday.

"How delightful it is that Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's all come during this term!" exclaimed Kitty Deming to her mother's four boarders; "they break up the monotony of school-work so delightfully, and make the term seem shorter;" and the four boarders echoed "how delightful!" in an eager chorus.

And, in view of the natural depravity and frivolity of the average school boy and girl's mind, it seems quite probable that the latter was the general attitude of the students in regard to the matter. So great is the difference of parallax between teacher and taught!

But, regret as they might, and did, the approach of the unwelcome day, it was not in the hearts of the unselfish men and women at the head of St. Botolph's to make it other than a happy one to the many boys and girls who were under their care. Accordingly, when they came together at the weekly teachers' meeting to consult on matters pertaining to the school, the holiday came in for a share in the discussion. It was decided that the usual recitations should be omitted for the day, and that a levee should be held in the chapel during the evening, at which a few of the "young gentlemen and ladies" should present a number of historical tableaux for the entertainment of the others. A suitable number of tableaux were then selected, and the parts assigned to those best fitted to represent them.

When these arrangements were made known to the school there was a general murmur and flutter of pleasurable excitement among the girls, but the boys were inclined to think tableaux a bore until the needful forenoon rehearsal was alluded to, when they began to scent possible opportunities for flirtation, and at once heartily approved.

In the assignment of parts, that of Joan of Arc had been given to Laura Edmonds, to her great satisfaction; for Laura, although lively and social among her mates, was really a dreamy and romantic girl, and desired above all things to be a heroine. She even fancied herself capable of martyrdom, and had often regretted

that she had not lived in the times when Christians were persecuted and burned, in order that her name might have come down to posterity as one who suffered and died with unusual cheerfulness and fortitude for the sake of her faith. It never occurred to her that there was any inconsistency between her desire to have been burned for her faith in the sixteenth century and the fact that in the nineteenth century she was not a Christian, and had no professed faith! She took a serene comfort in feeling that her teachers had recognized the innate heroism of her nature, and accordingly had assigned to her the part which she, best of all the school, could represent. Kitty Deming was vexed, as were many others, on finding that she was to have no part in the tableaux, until the Preceptress, who had observed the frown of discontent on Kitty's pretty face, took occasion to remark, when passing her:

"We could not put you into a picture, Miss Kitty, for we need just such lively young ladies as yourself to entertain the young gentlemen while the others are arranging and giving the tableaux."

This diplomatic remark being overheard by other malcontents, they, as well as Kitty, soon came to consider it a special tribute to their personal attractions and conversational talents to have been left out of the tableaux.

The teachers had not made known their plans until two days before the holiday dawned, and well was it for the lessons that they had not, for little was thought of, talked of, or planned for, during those two days, except costumes and accessories for tableaux, and extra finery for the levee. To Tom Rollins had been assigned the part of the soldier who holds the torch to the pile of fagots which surrounds the stake to which Joan of Arc was to be bound, but, although he was commissioned to provide the fagots, the torch, and a pail of water in which to extinguish the latter when done with, his thoughts were by no means concentrated on these preparations. Ever since Thanksgiving Day that stolen turkey* had not ceased to haunt him, and his most earnest wish had been to follow up repentance and confession by restitution. He would gladly have done this at Christmas had not his funds been exhausted by the charges of the tailor for repairing his overcoat. For it will be remembered that when Tom took the turkey from Mrs. Deming's window he wrapped

*See "Thanksgiving at St. Botolph's," in FLORAL CABINET for November, 1884.

it in his overcoat for concealment, thereby greasing it so badly that it could not be worn until newly lined. But since Christmas he had received a remittance from home, and early on New Year's morning he started on a tramp to Farmer Higgins, who lived about two miles from the village, and of whom he had engaged a turkey. He found that Mr. Higgins had sold all his turkeys except one which he had reserved for Tom, and which was as lean and pin-feathery a specimen of its race as that disgusted young man had ever seen, and it weighed only seven pounds. But it was "Hobson's choice," and Tom paid for the turkey, and taking it by the feet trudged away, too thoroughly vexed at having to offer Mrs. Deming so poor a fowl to be conscious that the turkey was not wrapped up. He reached Mrs. Deming's door at breakfast-time, and, standing the turkey on its head against the door, laid on it a slip of paper on which he had written, "A New Year's lark, from a friend." Then Tom rang the bell and took to his heels, and before the door opened was in his own room two houses away. Kitty, when the bell rang, was in the midst of an impromptu lecture to the oldest boarder on the "unbecoming familiarity and glaring impropriety" of omitting the "Miss" from her name when addressing her. The arraigned boarder pleaded in excuse his seniority of age, and superiority of wisdom and attainments, and his long-continued residence beneath her mother's roof, and, last and most important, her mother's consent, while the other boarders laughed outright at her pretty assumption of dignity. Altogether Kitty was not sorry of an excuse for leaving the table and the room, though her dignity forbade all appearance of haste in doing so.

Kitty opened the door just in time to see Professor Ryder's dog dragging Tom's turkey through the gate. Her quick wits comprehended the situation at once, and she dashed down the steps in pursuit of the thief, stooping as she went to pick up the slip of paper that had fallen from the turkey. Up the hill ran the dog, half carrying, half dragging the turkey, and up the hill in hot pursuit flew Kitty. There had been several warm days melting the snow until the village street was an uninviting mixture of mud and snow, and Kitty's foot slipped, and headlong into the mud plunged Kitty. She hastily scrambled up again, but the front of her pretty morning dress was wet with snow and smeared with mud, her face was streaked with mud, her hair had tumbled down and hung a long, brown mass down her back, streaming behind her as she renewed the chase. Young ladies, walking for exercise, and young gentlemen, coming from breakfast at the different clubs, turned to look at her, the young gentlemen putting the well-worn question, "Does your mother know you're out, Miss Kitty?" Kitty answered the question by an upward tilt of her nose, which gesture was robbed of the expression of dignified contempt intended by a clump of mud which adhered to that useful feature of Kitty's face. Kitty also called out a merry "Happy New Year, girls," to her wondering schoolmates, but never slackened her steps, or took her brown eyes from the dog ahead of her.

At the top of the hill the dog turned in at his master's gate, which Kitty reached just in time to catch a dissolv-

ing view of a canine caudal appendage as it disappeared beneath the barn. On went Kitty to the barn and called persuasively, "Tiger! Tiger! good fellow, come here." But the "good fellow," having secured a good dinner, paid no attention to Kitty's request, but proceeded to enjoy his feast. Kitty ran to the side-door, and, pulling the bell violently, called for assistance, and in a few minutes Professor Ryder, Mrs. Ryder, their two little girls, the servant, and two students, who roomed in the house, were gathered with Kitty before the barn, peering through the break in the underpinning, through which the dog had entered with his plunder.

"Tiger! come here, sir, this minute," commanded Professor Ryder, severely.

"Come, Tiger, good Tiger," called Mrs. Ryder, coaxingly.

"Tiger! Tiger! here, sir!" called the two little girls and the servant, in chorus.

Thus appealed to by the united family, what could a decent dog do but yield? Accordingly, Tiger came out, licking his chops and wagging his tail, but leaving the turkey behind him.

"Go back, sir; go back and bring that turkey here," said Professor Ryder, sternly, feeling that he was being improperly trifled with in the presence of his scholars.

The obedient animal started back with great alacrity, but no commands or persuasions could induce him to bring out the turkey, and he went on gnawing and crunching it in a heartless manner, which increased Kitty's indignation.

"Can't one of you go in after it? Mr. Miller, you are so small, you could easily do it; oh, please do!" implored Kitty.

"Miss Deming, I think you forget to whom you are speaking," replied that young man, in a tone of offended dignity. He was a dapper little senior, who tried to make up for his lack of inches by extra heels on his boots, extra dignity in his manners, and a tall hat.

"The turkey is past all usefulness now, Kitty, even if you should get it," interposed Mrs. Ryder.

"And Tiger has eaten it more than half up," excitedly announced one of the children.

"I don't care," replied Kitty, recklessly; "I shall not go home until I get the rest of that turkey, if it isn't more than one claw! Nobody shall ever say that I raced through the streets like a mad woman and got covered with mud, and then made nothing by it."

At this moment Tom Rollins appeared on the scene. He had witnessed the chase, and came to see who won the game. Kitty turned to him, and, clinging to his arm, appealed to his heart.

"Tom, *you* will go under and get that turkey, won't you? I will be your friend forever if you do. Somebody stole our Thanksgiving turkey, and now Professor Ryder's dog has got this, and I must have it."

Poor Tom began to feel as if he were never to get away from that stolen turkey, though it did seem as if he had suffered enough in its behalf. It had cost him a night of mental and physical suffering, and embittered many a retrospective hour; it had occasioned a heavy bill at the tailor's; a long tramp to and from Higgins' for a

substitute with thirty cents for every pound of its lean, scrawny carcass; and now, as Tom looked at the mud and slush through which he was expected to crawl, his heart sank within him. But, feeling that it was cowardly to shirk any punishment which fate—or Kitty—should offer, he commenced his penitential pilgrimage on his hands and knees, but was soon obliged to drop flat on his stomach and wriggle slowly in.

"Truly, the way of transgressors is hard," muttered Tom, as he cut his wrist on a broken lamp-chimney, tore his coat on an empty tomato-can, and found his shoulders wedged tightly between some timbers. But he was now in reach of the turkey, and, in spite of Tiger's threatening growl, seized a claw and held on, while Professor Ryder called off his dog. But the remains of the ill-fated turkey seemed no more likely to be restored to Kitty than before, for Tom was so tightly wedged in as to be unable to stir.

"I am caught, I can't move; you'll have to pull me out of this," groaned the turkey hunter.

"Can't you wriggle out some way?" asked the Professor.

"No, I tell you I can't stir," replied the unhappy Tom.

"Well, lend a hand here, Roberts, and you too, Miller," added the Professor, as Miller attempted to retreat; "each of you take one foot and then both pull together."

The two students obeyed, but just as they were pulling with all their strength, something seemed to give way, and over they went backward into the mud, each holding up at arm's length a large and muddy boot. Mrs. Ryder and Kitty laughed until their faces turned purple; the servant and the children fairly yelled with delight; groans of despair issued from beneath the barn, and expletives, not of the mildest character, fell from the lips of the wretched students.

"Do look at Miller's stovepipe hat!" cried Kitty; "it has turned into a Tam o' Shanter."

But Professor Ryder rallied his forces to combat again.

"Try once more, gentlemen," he urged; "take firm hold of the ankles this time, and bring the whole of him."

This effort was more successful and brought Tom so nearly out that he soon scrambled to his feet, scratched, bleeding, ragged and muddy, but triumphant, for he held in his hand the woful remains of the turkey which had caused such a commotion—a dark, lank claw with a leg attached, and a rag of skin and a portion of mangled backbone hanging to it.

"Have a boot, Tom?" asked Roberts, reaching him one to which a generous portion of mother earth adhered.

"Boot, indeed!" ejaculated Miller, "I should call it a whole farm; if I owned as much landed property I should be a rich fellow."

"Oh, Tom!" cried Mrs. Ryder, "your own mother would not know you."

"I congratulate your tailor, Tom, but I shouldn't wonder if your father would feel more like confounding him by the time you are thoroughly repaired," added Miller.

Kitty had heard her hero abused long enough and came to the rescue.

"Tom, you're a splendid fellow!" she cried; "I will keep that turkey's claw as long as I live; and nobody needn't go to judging you by themselves and think your

merits depend on the tailor; some folks may not have anything but clothes to recommend them, but you're not that kind," and Kitty gave Miller a look of contempt.

"I think they're pretty well matched; I never saw a couple more unmistakably intended for each other," dryly observed Roberts, looking from Kitty with her muddy face and dress and dishevelled hair to the still more muddy and forlorn figure of Tom.

Kitty blushed even under the mud, but looked bravely up at Tom, meeting a look in his honest eyes that made the blood tingle in her veins, but she said quietly, "Come home with me, Tom; mamma will set your clothes to rights," and the two turned away.

"Has she taken you for better or worse, Tom?" called out Roberts.

"I hope so," answered Tom, boldly.

"There can't be any better about it, it is all worse," cried Miller.

"You are mistaken; it is better than you will ever do," retorted Kitty, casting a defiant look behind as they passed into the street.

"They haven't been making a match of it here in my yard and before my very eyes, have they?" gasped Professor Ryder.

"It looks very much like it," remarked Roberts.

Breakfast was over at Mrs. Deming's when Kitty and Tom entered the dining-room where only her mother and the oldest boarder still lingered over their coffee.

"Mercy on us! Kitty Deming, where have you been?" exclaimed her mother.

"I've been on a wild-goose chase, mamma," calmly announced Kitty, as she sank into a chair, letting her long hair trail on the floor, while a delicate pink flush still lingered in her cheeks.

"You seem to have caught the goose," remarked the boarder, giving a significant look at Tom, while rising from the table to leave the room. "I caught so much of it," declared Kitty, holding out for her mother's inspection the long dark claw.

"Why, that is a turkey's leg," said the good woman.

"It was another lark; I left it at your door, and Professor Ryder's dog carried it off," explained Tom.

"And I promised that you would fix Tom up, mamma."

"He does need it," admitted Mrs. Deming.

"And while you are about it" added Kitty, "you may as well give us your blessing."

"Do tell!" ejaculated Kitty's astonished parent.

But they wouldn't.

Over three hundred people gathered in the chapel that evening at the levee—for St. Botolph's was a large school. The tableaux went off with entire success until the curtain rose to reveal Joan of Arc, bound to a stake with fagots piled about her feet. Laura did, indeed, make a fine picture, with her slender, girlish figure robed in white; her long black hair contrasting with the paleness of her face and the purity of her dress. There were murmurs of admiration as the curtain fell, then all was silence as it rose again revealing a soldier with a lighted torch in the act of setting fire to the fagots. The glare of the torch lent an unearthly pallor to the face of the martyr. But Tom's exploit of the morning had rendered his

nerves unsteady, added to which, only a moment before, he had caught a glimpse of the mischievous Kitty in the midst of a lively flirtation. As a consequence, he never noticed how dangerously near he held the torch, and among the wood there chanced to be some soft pine splinters which caught fire unseen by any one. Laura felt a sudden blaze curling up about her ankles, but did not move or change the expression of her face. Should a martyr scream out or jump down, like a silly school-girl? Now, Laura felt, was the time for real heroism. But Tom fancied he smelt something burning, and whispered softly, "Are you on fire, Laura?" But Laura did not move, and he concluded he was mistaken.

There was a hitch about the pulleys and the curtain would not come down, so that this tableau lasted much longer than any previous one, and when the curtain at last consented to fall the smell of burning cotton and woolen was all through the house. There followed the usual screams from the silly part of the audience, and a rush toward the door on the part of some, and toward the stage on the part of others whose room-mates or intimates were behind the scenes. Professor Fowler sprang upon a seat and demanded order in the authoritative tones which none ever disobeyed, while the other teachers hastened to render assistance behind the scenes.

At the moment the curtain descended the fire had communicated itself to Laura's white robe, which blazed up all around her in an instant. Fortunately some one had left near-by a heavy woolen shawl, which Tom, having hastily flung his torch into the pail of water, snatched, and wrapping it around his cousin, had the fire nearly smothered by the time the teachers appeared. Laura had been perfectly calm throughout the whole affair, and had herself assisted in smothering the flames.

"How brave she was!" exclaimed one.

"She never cried out at all!" declared another.

"The real Joan could not have been braver," said a third.

"Are you burned at all, Miss Laura?" asked Prof. Ryder.

For answer Laura held out her hands, smiling as she did so, although she was suffering intense agony, for not only had she burned her hands while helping to smother the fire, but her ankles were severely burned.

"How can you stand there and smile with such hands as those!" exclaimed one.

"I never saw such heroism!" asserted another.

"You dear, brave girl!" cried a third, and Laura was surrounded by an admiring group until the Preceptress sent them all away and herself took Laura to her room, sent for the doctor, and stayed to bandage her wounds and be assured that they were not serious. But Kitty Deming went straight to Tom Rollins, who had stepped aside and was overwhelmed with sorrow and shame at having caused his cousin such pain and injury, and demanded to see his hands. Then she tore her dainty little handkerchief and wrapped up his hands, and, for the second time that day, said: "Come home with me, Tom; mother will know what to do for you."

The next day Laura Edmonds sat in an easy-chair with her bandaged hands in her lap and her bandaged ankles resting on a chair in front of her. There was a knock at the door, and in answer to Laura's "Come in,"

Kitty Deming entered, bringing a large basket. Kitty nodded to her disabled friend, and proceeded to unload her basket. There was a bowl of steaming oatmeal, a pitcher of cream, a pail of chicken broth, oranges, and a roll of soft bandages and a bottle of sweet oil.

"How good you and your mother are!" said Laura.

"My mother is good," replied Kitty, "but I'm not; I am cross as I can be; I feel real hateful and ugly."

"What is the trouble, Kitty?" asked Laura.

"You're the trouble," said Kitty, shortly; "I'm provoked with you for making such a goose of yourself last night! Oh, you needn't put on a look of offended dignity; I know you think yourself a heroine, and every sentimental gushing idiot in school is calling you brave, and heroic, and all that sort of nonsense, but commonplace people like me can't see any heroism in such actions. All I see is that you deliberately allowed yourself to burn and get laid up for a week or two and upset your studies, and are running up doctor's bills that you know your father can't afford to pay, and making your friends a good deal of work and anxiety, to say nothing of being the means of disabling Tom and causing him pain and interrupting his studies when his father is making such sacrifices to educate him; his hands are much worse than yours. If that is heroism, save me from being a heroine! give me a grain of common sense before all the heroics in history or fiction. A girl of common sense would have cried out, or at least have told Tom that she was burning when he asked, and saved so much trouble for other people even if she didn't care for her own skin!" and Kitty stopped for breath.

Poor Laura! She had really believed that she had displayed a great deal of bravery and heroism, but in the light of Kitty's uncompromising sense, her conduct all at once assumed an entirely different aspect, and she was overwhelmed with shame and mortification. An added sting lay in the fact that, fond as she was of Kitty, she had always considered herself greatly superior to her friend in intellect, and had looked down upon her from some indefinite higher plane to which Kitty's volatile mind could never climb. Now Kitty's penetration had seen through her inmost motives and Kitty's common sense had made her own fine sentiments and heroic aspirations shrink into folly and selfishness.

Great tears began to roll down Laura's cheeks, and instead of the haughty defense which Kitty had prepared to meet, she said, brokenly:

"Oh, Kitty! I'm so sorry! I never thought how foolish it would seem."

Kitty was disarmed at once, and proceeded to make her peace; and there was after this an added tenderness in her affection for Laura, and an added respect in Laura's feeling for Kitty, which deepened the friendship between the two.

All this was years ago, and to-day Kitty, now Mrs. Rollins, keeps among her choicest bric-a-brac a dried and shrunken turkey's claw. Tom's mother-in-law never betrayed him, and Kitty has always supposed that Tom laid that turkey at her mother's door simply as a delicate (though fleeting!) tribute to his love for herself!

SUSIE A. BISBEE.

HOME DECORATIONS.

Case for Shaving Paper.

THE necessary materials will be half a yard of gros-grain or satin ribbon six inches wide, one yard and a half of satin ribbon an inch wide and the same shade, and



CASE FOR SHAVING PAPERS.

four sheets of colored or white tissue paper. Fringe about two inches in depth each end of the broad ribbon, and double the piece across the middle. This forms the cover for the paper.

On both sides of the cover paint or embroider some pretty design. Half an inch from the crease where the ribbon is folded should be a row of machine-stitching with silk the color of the ribbon. Through this casing run the narrow ribbon and tie a bow with ends, leaving a loop sufficiently long by which to hang it. A little rod, one made from a small-sized lead-pencil answers every purpose, should also be slipped in the casing to give the top sufficient stiffness to keep it always in shape.

Cut the tissue paper in sheets the size of the case, and pink the edges, or else cut them in small points. Through the two upper corners run a strong piece of cord, making a loop of it at each side, and sew the loops strongly to each of the upper corners of the case, between the covers. The paper can then be torn from it when required for use, and can easily be replenished when necessary.

Blue is pretty for the cover, with white, gold, or blue paper, or Cardinal ribbon with gold or white paper. The cases are easily made, and extremely pretty. Satin ribbon is richer looking than grosgrain, but in either case the rib-

bon should be quite heavy, otherwise a lining will be necessary. In that case two shades of ribbon should be used—Cardinal for the cover and gold color for the lining. Very neatly overhand the edges together, first having fringed out either end of both pieces of ribbon. Then make the case exactly as directed for the single piece of ribbon.

M. E. WHITTEMORE.

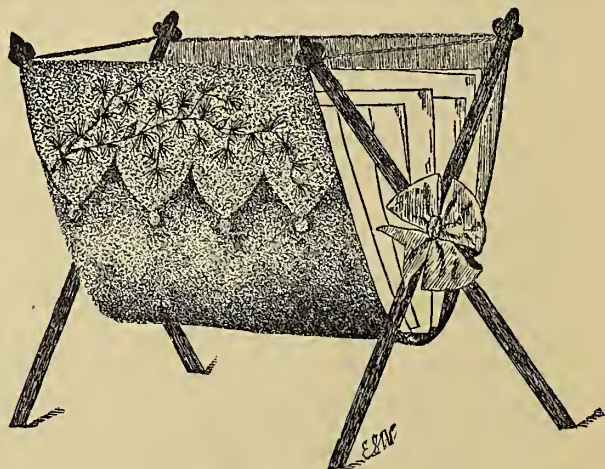
Home-Made Music Rack.

THIS rack is intended for sheet music, as it will not hold the weight of heavy books. It is also adapted for newspapers when not needed for music.

For the frame four pieces of wood twenty inches long and about the size of a small broom handle, will be required. Cross them and fasten firmly near the centre; then ebonize them or else cover neatly with plush the same color as that used for the lower part of the pocket. If the sticks are to be covered they should not be more than three-quarters of an inch in diameter or they will seem clumsy.

After the frame is ready make a pocket to fit it of wigan covering it on the inside with dark-red satin, and on the upper part of the outside with old-gold plush, embroidered with heavy silk in design of Pine needles, which is very effective for anything so large; cut the bottom in rounded points, turn the edges in, line with silesia, and finish each point with an old-gold plush ball.

Cover the lower part of the pocket with dark-red plush, tack the pocket in the rod that runs across the top, letting it come over on the outside, then tack the old-gold piece on its wrong side directly on the top, so it will fall over the rod on the outside and cover the tacks; fasten it on the pocket at the side, but allow the bottom to remain



RACK FOR SHEET MUSIC.

loose; a gilt chain should be fastened around the top of the sticks which compose the frame and extend across each end of the rack, as shown in the illustration.

E. S. WELCH.

Panel with Small Hooks.

THESE dainty little panels will be found most convenient to hang beside the dressing-table, for holding, as the words suggest, shoe-buttoners, glove-hooks, or sundry small articles of like usefulness.

They are as a general thing made of small panels of fine white or gray wood, or the wood may be covered with any shade of satin, if desired.

If covered, the satin must be drawn smoothly over the face of the board, and tacked to the back closely along the edges with the smallest shade tacks. A piece of heavy brown paper is then pasted over the whole of the back, covering the raw edges of the satin, and thus finishing the whole neatly.

ing the brush can be used instead of the needle, or a simpler method is to transfer some of the pretty decalcomanie designs, or silk ornaments, which are prepared for such purposes, and the effect is almost like painting. Still another idea is to select a panel of pretty light or gray wood, place the hooks as directed, and trace the words in quaint lettering, with brush or pen, in the space intended for them, and the lovers of our beautiful autumn leaves who may have made collections of the different varieties can select some of the smallest and finest specimens, arrange a graceful spray in the place indicated for decorating, paste each leaf and stem securely to the panel with mucilage, and when dry coat only the leaves with the varnish, but do not allow it to touch the panel. This work is simple and very pleasing, and to write



SOME SMALL HOOKS.

A row of small brass hooks should then be screwed into the wood; first making a small hole with any sharp-pointed tool. The hooks should be placed nearer the top than the bottom of the panel, and, as directed, but an inch apart.

Space must be left across the bottom for the words which add greatly to the beauty and interest of the panel.

“On these small hooks hang whatever you please,
In the way of shoe-buttoners, glove-hooks or keys,
But although I have placed them a full inch apart,
Remember they'll not hold the keys of your heart.”

In the upper corner at each side of the panel bore a hole, and through each run a ribbon. Leave a loop long enough by which to hang it, and tie the ends in a bow. Just above the hooks a pretty design is painted, selecting any subject which may be pleasing and appropriate.

If satin or velvet are used for the covering, the design can be embroidered upon the material before it is put over the panel, or for those who are skilled in the art of paint-

ing the words in one's own handwriting instead of using lettering is also a pretty idea.

M. E. W.

Decorative Notes.

A VERY pretty rack for a whisk-brush is made by using a ten-inch square of pasteboard for a foundation: cover one side with olive satin, bend two opposite corners so they will lap at the centre to form a receptacle small enough to prevent the brush from slipping entirely through; cover these corners with deep garnet plush, then lap and fasten them firmly and place over the lap a full bow of olive satin ribbon. The case should then be lined on the back with silesia the color of the plush. The brush handle, if a plain one, should be covered with olive plush, extending it down to where the whisks are tied together. Embroider a little sprig of flowers on the brush cover and on the space at the top of the rack above the lapped cor-

ners. Sew firmly a little brass ring at the top of the case by which to suspend it.

Pincushions are made square in shape and covered with satin or velvet of some delicate color, and over this is

flowers or geometrical figures are embroidered with silk the color of the cushion, and a ribbon bow of the same shade keeps the cover in place. The square sides of the cushion are also trimmed with a frill of lace.



FANCY STITCHES.

placed diagonally a linen lawn cover about five inches square, hemstitched three-quarters of an inch wide and edged with the new Oriental lace, which comes in very fine delicate patterns. In one corner of this square three little

A novel idea for cushions is to make two, each one about six inches square, and covered with silk or satin; over this is placed a square of congress canvas, having on its edges a hem three-quarters of an inch wide, and

above this enough threads drawn out to run in side by side five tiny ribbons not more than one-quarter of an inch in width, and of different shades of the color used for the satin cover; at each corner the ribbon is left in loops. The cushions are then joined by a corner of each, and a full ribbon bow tied at the joining.

The Exchange for Women's Work has recently moved into very commodious rooms, and among the many beautiful things exhibited is a new kind of decoration, making use of natural vines, berries, and even fruits, which, after undergoing a process of hardening, are given a metallic appearance by bronzing and gilding. A pair of panels was decorated in this way: one with branches of the chestnut with leaves, closed and half-opened burrs; the other with Grapevine, on which were several bunches of grapes which, having been given a true metallic color, stood out in relief as though carved. A large screen was ornamented in the same manner, with a real Hopvine and Bittersweet with its natural berries, and a scone with Oak leaves and acorns. The branches and vines were firmly attached to the bronzed wood which supported them, and seemed as though they had been so thoroughly hardened as to be very durable.

A portiere of olive plush had, midway between centre and top, a band, eighteen or twenty inches deep, of light blue furniture satine; on this was applied a design representing peach branches bearing leaves and ripened fruit; the peaches were of natural size, made with pink velvet, appliqued and shaded to darker tints with filoselle. The design was copied from a branch sent from Florida to the consignor.

M. L. THAYER.

Some Fancy Stitches.

THE ornamental stitches shown in our illustration are all extremely pretty and easy to execute.

No. 1, plain feather stitch is very simply worked by placing the needle obliquely in the cloth, as represented, and making a stitch first on the left and then on the right and so alternating them. When made with linen floss it is a very neat decoration for narrow hems or facings on white goods.

No. 2, is made in a similar manner, except that a perpendicular stitch is taken instead of an oblique one.

No. 3, is commonly known as coral stitch, and is also a variety of feather stitch with three stitches alternating on the sides.

No. 4, is feather stitch with little loops attached, and is pretty when these are of a contrasting color, or a much darker shade than the main part.

No. 5, is made the same as No. 1, taking care that the threads keep a straight line for the centre. One side is worked first, then the other to correspond with it.

No. 6, make oblique stitches with a loop through the centre.

No. 7 resembles No. 6, with the exception that instead of loops, stem-stitch is made in the centre, which must be kept a straight line.

No. 8 is made like cat-stitch, only the needle, as shown, is put straight across instead of up and down; the loops are added afterward.

Nos. 9, 10, 11 and 12, are made with common cat-stitch and added loops.

No. 13, is composed of straight stitches and loops, and is extremely pretty made with two shades of silk, using the lightest for the loops.

No. 14, is button-hole stitches in graded lengths and groups of nine, working feather-stitch, or No. 1 between them.

No. 15, is to be used as an edging for an appliqued band of velvet, working the points with a very dark and a very light shade of silk.

No. 16, is intended for a similar use; after working the centre pattern, as shown in the illustration, the velvet band is fastened down with couching stitches which are very simply made and very much used in all handsome appliqued work; a heavy thread of filoselle, generally of the color of the material appliqued, is carried straight along the edge of the design and tacked down at equal distances with silk of the same color, drawing the threads quite tight so the filoselle will have a beaded appearance.

S. F.

EVENING TOILETS.

WHITE and delicately-tinted laces and tulle, with small loops of silver woven in them, through which are drawn the stems of tiny velvet flowers, are shown as novelties among materials for handsome evening toilets. The effect is beautiful when draped over satin or surah, but the material is expensive and perishable. Much more useful and very pretty are the dresses of cream-colored surah trimmed with lace of the same tint, or, simpler still, the light qualities of veiling combined with satin and lace. An authority upon fashion suggests "that such dresses be made with a full front and have a standing ruffle at the throat or an opening, square or V-shaped, finished with lace ruffle." Short dresses are still worn by young ladies,

particularly in thin materials; they are then draped, and much trimmed with lace and ribbons or flowers. The satins and heavy silks are trained, but made with single skirts, trimmed or draped upon the front and sides, but raised into a pouf at the back. Magnificent brocaded materials are employed for train and bodice, the panels and plastron being often embroidered, and for the front masses of handsome lace, plaited over satin. Wool is preferred for dresses of all kinds for young girls, but there are also pretty laced waists of ruby or of blue velvet, with the square opening and sleeves of lace or embroidery representing a *guimpe*; with these are skirts of satin surah, trimmed with frills of Oriental lace, and with sash drapery of the satin.

HOUSEKEEPING.

Apple Turnover and Apple Pies.

LOVERS of apple pie, whose digestion is not equal to an undercrust, be it never so well made and baked, will find in the following recipe a compromise between a pudding and a pie, which does away with the objectionable part of the pie. We also invite the attention of housekeepers whose ovens do not bake well on the bottom, and of all lovers of warm apple pie. Just here it might not be out of place to remark, that with an oven that bakes equally well in all parts, the under-crust of a pie should be as dry as the upper. It is not necessary to make it tough, nor to bake it till it is as dry as a herring. A pie that is properly baked will slip from the tin with careful handling, and if placed on a wire frame where the air has access to the bottom, it will cool without becoming moist, and when ready to be served it can be transferred to a plate. One of the wire frames on which meat is often placed in the roasting-pan will answer very well, and the cost is trifling.

To make the turnover, about the same quantity of flour and lard that is required for one pie will be needed. Earthen, or else granite-iron pie-plates are best to bake it in. Select tart, tender apples; pare and cut in thin slices, enough to fill two pie-plates; butter the edges so the crust will not stick to the plates when done. Make the crust precisely like ordinary pie-crust, with openings for the steam to escape, only it should be rolled out a trifle thicker; cover both plates and bake till thoroughly done. Then loosen the edge of the crust on one pie and turn it on a dinner-plate with the top of the crust down. If any of the apple remains on the pie-plate, scrape it off with a spoon and spread it evenly over the crust. Now sweeten the apple and add spice, if you like it; then take the crust from the second pie and turn it top down on the apple layer of the first, spreading its own apples over it, and sweeten as before; serve with cream or plain. It resembles layer-cake, only the layers are pie-crust and apples.

Imperial Cake.

Seven ounces of butter for a rich cake, six for a plainer one; one pound of powdered sugar; one pound of sifted flour; a scant half-pint of sweet milk if seven ounces of butter are used, a full half-pint with less butter; one teaspoon of soda slightly more than level; three level teaspoons of cream-tartar and five eggs. Flavor with a few drops of almond. Pulverize the soda thoroughly with a knife and sift it and the cream-tartar with the flour. It

is still better if sifted twice. Beat the butter to a cream and gradually stir the sugar in it. Then add the yolks of the eggs *well* beaten and stir for a few minutes, after which add the milk. Have the flour ready and have an assistant stir it slowly in while you are beating the whites to a stiff froth, or you must beat the whites and set them in a cool place if you stir in the flour yourself. The whites must be lightly stirred in just before the cake is ready to be put in the pans. Three kinds of cake can be made from this recipe. Bake a thin sheet in a biscuit-tin, ice it, and when the icing has stood till it is firm enough to mark it off in squares with a knife, melt a little chocolate in a cup over the tea-kettle, and with a small camel's-hair brush mark each square of cake into little squares and dot them with chocolate or ornament them in any other way your taste dictates. Two small bar-tins can also be made, one with citron or raisins and one plain cake; or a cake of three layers and a bar-tin. Two kinds of layer-cake can be made by cutting the layers in halves and filling each with something different. A piece of white writing-paper can be placed between the halves, and they can then be placed tightly together, so they will not become dry.

A Word About Icing.

In these housekeeping articles we strive to offer economical suggestions rather than extravagant ones, and with this in view we give a recipe for icing where one egg will ice a cake of four layers, or two good-sized round cakes. The icing is more difficult to make, but one successful effort will win your approbation. When it is just right it is very glossy, and will not flake off when the cake is cut, or be brittle when eaten. Take one-half pint of granulated sugar and a scant half cup of cold water. Boil till it will shred from the spoon, then pour it slowly over the white of one egg beaten to a stiff froth, and stir briskly until it is nearly cool. The cake should not be quite cold when the icing is spread on. The difficulty in making this icing is in determining when it has boiled just enough. It begins to boil thick when it is done. If it seems too stiff when ready to spread, put in a spoonful of boiling water. If it is too thin there is no remedy; use it and do better next time. It is best boiled in granite-iron, and should be stirred occasionally while boiling. For chocolate icing it does not require to be quite as thick as for plain. The grated chocolate should be stirred in when the icing is partially cool and the quantity is determined by the color it gives to the icing.

MRS. C. G. HERBERT.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

New York Horticultural Society.—The December exhibition showed plainly the folly of displaying flowers where there were, relatively, no admirers. While the display of Roses and Chrysanthemums was really fine,

and in some of the classes decidedly rich, the hall was at no time one-fourth part filled with members or visitors. The folly of offering premiums for exhibits that are neither seen nor appreciated is apparent. That New York City will

not sustain a Horticultural Society is evident, and much to be regretted, for the lessons taught there have been invaluable. We think it would well pay the growers of plants to keep this, or some other society, alive for the dissemination of their plants. Certainly they do not think so, because, as a class, they do not exhibit. The very men who could derive the greatest benefits that result from an educated taste for flowers and plants are the men that do not even attend the exhibitions unless they think there will be an opportunity for them to learn something that will benefit their trade. The moment a florist imagines he has secured some prize from the floral kingdom, not possessed by another, he will rush headlong with it to the Horticultural Society and demand special recognition, large premiums, and a certificate of merit for possibly an unworthy specimen, and failing to secure all the coveted awards, he sulks away, saying, "What is the use of such a society, anyway?" and the general question seems to be, What is a Horticultural Society that a Florist should be mindful of it without it is to use it? And what are a society's uses, other than to give a ten-dollar premium for a ten-cent plant? We do not hesitate to say that the air is redolent with this sentiment in the New York Horticultural Society's rooms. There are, however, some worthy exceptions; a few of the members, both in the professional and amateur classes, rarely fail to exhibit some objects of interest, and we are pleased to say that there are those in the professional class who make the greatest sacrifices in their endeavors to keep alive an interest in the society and are the ones that are reaping the greatest pecuniary gains.

The Chrysanthemum was again the prominent flower on exhibition, and the display was highly creditable—in fact, many of the flowers were in better condition than were those at the "Chrysanthemum Show." In the professional class Messrs. Hallock & Thorpe and Peter Henderson, Esq., were the principal exhibitors, and they respectively carried away the principal premiums. William K. Harris, Esq., of Philadelphia, made a special exhibit of new varieties just imported from Japan; some of the flowers were nearly six inches in diameter, perfect in form and of the most pleasing combination of colors; and the selfs were remarkable for their purity and depth. In the amateur class William Barr, Esq., took the lead, and was followed by George Lucas and J. R. Pitcher, Esqs., with very choice collections.

The show of Roses, though small, was remarkably fine; better specimens of Niphetos, Duke of Connaught, Perle des Jardin, and Mme. Cusin we do not remember of seeing. John Henderson, Esq., of Flushing, N. Y., was the largest exhibitor, and secured most of the first premiums in the twenty-two classes.

The special premiums of \$30 and \$20, offered by Peter Henderson, Esq., for the best twelve blooms of the Sunset Rose, brought out a number of good exhibits. By far the best exhibit was that of William K. Harris, Esq., of Philadelphia, who secured the first premium, although John Henderson's twelve were remarkably fine, which gave him a well-earned second premium.

Peter Henderson & Co. offered special premiums of \$15 and \$10 for the best four roots of "White Plume Celery." There were two entries, and both were a disgrace and a

damage to a Celery that is considered to be a decided acquisition, and one that must become generally cultivated. Why such specimens were exhibited, when our markets have been filled for the past two months with those which were far better, we cannot understand.

* * *

Geranium-like Begonia, *B. geranifolia*.—The leaves of this Begonia resemble those of the Zonal Pelargonium; this distinctive feature of the plant giving rise to the specific name. They are light green, and clothed on both sides with short downy hairs. It is very floriferous, the pure white flowers standing up well above the foliage. The floriferous character of the plant, combined with its bright and cheerful appearance, fits it for a place in every stove-house.

* * *

Sweet-scented Pitcairnia, *P. odorata*.—It is rather surprising that we do not see more of this plant, considering its beauty. The flowers are of a creamy white color, tubular, with recurved petals and prominent anthers and stigma. They are deliciously fragrant, and borne in great profusion on a long, thin, straggling flower-stem, about two and a half feet in length. It should be more popular, for few flowers can compete with it for distinct and choice appearance.

* * *

Trailing Fig-wort, *Mesembryanthemum filicaule*.—This is quite distinct from other members of this genus, and forms a pretty plant for hanging in baskets in a cool greenhouse. The leaves are small and fleshy. The chief beauty of the plant is centred in the round flowers, which have narrow pale pink petals, slightly recurved at the edges. Amateurs, and those who have not the means to grow the more heat-loving flowers, should cultivate a few Mesembryanthemums, for they are very distinct in appearance, and the several species differ widely in the shape, color and size of the flowers.

* * *

Bulbous Fig-wort, *Mesembryanthemum bulbosum*.—Unlike the foregoing, this is a stiff, compact-growing species, with small fleshy leaves, surmounted by a ring of bristles. These bristles give a singular appearance to the plant, imparting to it a quaintness which some persons would delight in. The flowers are of a very rich deep purplish color. It can also be grown in a cool greenhouse, and has a cheerful appearance at this dull season of the year.

* * *

Tiger-toothed Fig-wort, *Mesembryanthemum tigridium*.—This is a very interesting plant, and makes a pretty subject for the cool-house. Its curious gray glaucous color is one of its distinctive features, and it obtains its specific name from the leaves resembling a tiger's mouth. The deep-toothed margins of its thick, fleshy leaves, the long teeth all curving inward, and the edges of the leaves being so placed that the opposing rows of teeth appear ready to clasp on any objects presented to them, have a very striking effect.

* * *

Showy *Æschynanthus*, *Æ. speciosum*.—A remarkably showy plant for the stove, and makes a fairly good climb-

ing plant. The leaves are not very elegant, being rather coarse-looking and fleshy. The tubular flowers are produced in terminal clusters, and the lower part of the tube is of an orange yellow color, while the upper part is hooded and of a scarlet orange hue. It is well worth growing, the flowers being of a very dazzling color.

* * *

Tournefort's Crocus, *C. Tourneforti*.—Although this species is not so showy or attractive as some of the more familiar autumn-flowering kinds, yet it is well worth cultivating in a large collection of bulbous plants. The tube of the perianth is short, and the broad segments are of a lilac color, distinctly veined with a deeper shade of the same. The leaves appear with the flowers, and are of a light green color, with a distinct white midrib. It enjoys a nice light soil, and is a native of the Greek Archipelago.

* * *

New Holland Daisy, *Vittadenia triloba*.—This pretty plant seems to be always in flower. It is of spreading habit and forms an excellent subject, although not quite showy enough for edging flower-beds. It grows about six inches in height, bearing a profusion of small daisy-like flowers, having pinkish ray florets, and yellow disk. Select for this plant a well-drained position. The rockery is its proper place, and should have, wherever it is planted, a warm dry soil. Native of Australia.

* * *

Great White Michaelmas Daisy, *Chrysanthemum uliginosum*.—This is a remarkably handsome, free-flowering border plant, growing from three to four feet in height, with lance-shaped deeply toothed leaves. The flower heads are very large and white, with a yellow disk. It is useful for cutting purposes on account of its free flowering qualities. Native of Europe.

* * *

Gibraltar Candytuft, *Iberis Gibraltarica*.—One of the most ornamental species of this family. It is chiefly remarkable for the large leaves and flower heads, and is in this respect quite distinct from other members. The leaves are large, and of a dark-green color. The flower heads are large, and of a rosy purple hue, appearing throughout the summer and early autumn months. It is a very useful rock plant, and thrives in a well-drained sandy loam. Native of the South of Spain.

Books and Catalogues Received.

A DREAM OF THE ADIRONDACKS, AND OTHER POEMS. By Helen Hinsdale Rich. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.—Messrs. Putnam's Sons have issued this volume in dainty style, and as the author has been an occasional contributor to our pages, we welcome its appearance with pleasure. An introduction by Charles G. Whiting, editor of the *Springfield Republican*, presents in concise and sympathetic terms a sketch of the author and a just estimate of her powers. This gifted lady has acquired distinction as a lecturer on social and literary topics, and as a writer for many leading journals and magazines. Her poems possess the spirit, charm and melody born of inspiration. An ardent love of nature pervades many of them. Yet her love of nature, however keen, does not exclude a

tender love for humanity, for many of her choicest efforts reveal deep and genuine sympathy with the joys and sorrows of her fellow kind, as evidenced in "Little Phil," "Famished," "Justice in Leadville," "Two Little Graves," "The Engineer's Story," and others. Many lovely flower poems are scattered through the volume, such as "Naming the Flower," "Red Roses," "Pansies," "Death and Roses," etc. A degenerate tendency which mars much of our modern poetry finds no place in this work, where chasteness of conception is equaled by faultless purity of expression. As Mr. Whiting fitly observes, "Love, labor, hope and Christian trust are the inspiration of this poet."

THE "War Series" already begun in the *Century Magazine* possess peculiar interest alike to North and South, as the story of some of the great battles is told by leaders on both sides. In the February number will be a profusely illustrated article upon Shiloh, by General Grant, which will contain many interesting personal reminiscences; and for the same number is promised a biographical sketch written by the son of General Johnston, the Confederate commander at Shiloh, who was killed in the engagement. The account of the battle in this article will be from a Confederate point of view. The February *Century* will also contain the first of a series of papers by Mr. Howells, descriptive of "Tuscan Cities," the first group of which he calls "A Florentine Mosaic." They are to be accompanied with reproductions of a number of etchings made for the purpose. A new novel entitled "The Bostonians" will soon be begun by Mr. James. The characters are American, and the scene is laid in Boston and vicinity.

THE January number of *St. Nicholas* will prove a delight to its readers. While this magazine does not contain much for the little ones it is full of just such stories as the older children best enjoy and need, for its articles are helpful as well as entertaining. E. S. Brooks contributes the first of a series of papers upon "Historic Girls," giving an account in this number of the girlhood days of Queen Elizabeth and the Christmas festivities at Hatfield House three hundred years ago. It is a companion series to "Historic Boys" just completed. "Among the Law-makers" will interest thoughtful boys, and Mr. Trowbridge's serial, "His Own Fault," will be read by both boys and girls, to whom he has become well known through his many attractive stories.

THE AMERICAN GARDEN.—With the December issue of this valued contemporary a change of proprietorship was announced, Messrs. B. K. BLISS & SONS having sold it to Mr. E. H. LIBBY, who continues its publication. Mr. Libby has had an extended journalistic experience on the *American Agriculturist*, the *Farmers' Review*, and *Our Country Homes*. Dr. Hexamer, who has been the editor of the AMERICAN GARDEN, continues in charge under the new ownership.

REPORT OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO, HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—It contains an interesting essay on "What women have done and what they can do," by Mrs. Gertrude V. Sackett. Also an able essay on "The Grape," by M. Crawford, Esq., of Cuyhoga Falls. If this report is a fair sample of the society's work, its members are to be congratulated.

MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Special list of prizes for Spring Flowering Bulbs to be exhibited at the Azalea and Rose Exhibition, March, 1885. The liberal premiums offered are a sufficient inducement for the florists to make an extra effort to secure them. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society is fortunate in having a sufficient number of public-spirited amateurs to make their monthly exhibitions always attractive.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Preliminary announcement of their Sixth Annual Meeting, to be held at New Orleans, January 14, 1885. From the reports of the proceedings of this society we consider it the leading Horticultural Society in the United States.

ANT. ROOZEN & SONS, OVERVEEN, HOLLAND send us the first catalogue for 1885, through their agent, J. A. de Veer, 318 Broadway, New York. Messrs. Roozen are one of the largest Bulb firms in Holland, having seventy-five acres in cultivation. This is, we believe, the first spring catalogue they have sent out, although they have long been known to the amateurs of this country. They list a very large collection of Gladioli, of the leading sorts and novelties; Dahlias in more than one hundred varieties;

Ranunculus, Iris, Begonias, Gloxinias, Amaryllis, and a large collection of Miscellaneous Bulbs, Roots and plants. The many testimonials from well-known parties is a sufficient guarantee of the firm's intelligent and upright method of transacting business.

JAMES VICK, Rochester, N. Y.—Floral Guide for 1885. In addition to the usual attractions they offer, they have this year added fruit and ornamental trees to their lists, which renders their catalogue complete. Every owner of a garden should have a copy.

JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, Queens, N. Y., sends to his customers, and to all others that apply, a Catalogue of New Rare and Beautiful Flowers, that far surpasses any of his previous publications. Its colored plate of Pansies is fully equal, if not superior, to any that we have seen in any floral publication. It is fully illustrated, and complete in cultural instructions, of Bulbs, Seeds or plants, a general collection of which is listed, together with Vegetable Seeds, Small Fruit plants, etc.

F. DE SITTER, Apeldoorn Nursery, Apeldoorn, Netherlands.—Wholesale Catalogue of Young Roses and Conifers.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Begonia Sceptum.—*Mrs. C. E. Wiley, Vt.*—We cannot say where this plant can be obtained, as we have not seen it catalogued by any of our florists. It is not unlikely that some of our leading ones have it in the course of propagation, and will offer it in the catalogues for the spring of 1885. We would say here, that many of the plants we illustrate cannot, at the time, be readily obtained, as they are often not yet in stock. We make it a point to illustrate as soon as they are introduced such new plants as we think desirable, and leave it for the growers to announce when ready for sale. The new varieties of Amaryllis can be obtained from many of our leading plant dealers. We cannot discriminate, but would suggest your sending for catalogues until you find what you desire. No; you cannot grow the "Stephanotis" or "Dieffenbachia" in your window with any reasonable hope of success. The *Rhynchospermum* will do moderately well, if the situation is a warm, sunny one.

Hibiscus.—*J. E. E., Ill.*—If your plant drops the buds now set, which it is not likely to do, your better plan will be to re-pot it in fresh soil, as there is likely some trouble at the roots, either disease or insects. In either case, shake all the earth from the roots and wash them clean in tepid water. In re-potting, use as small a pot as possible, without crowding the roots too much, and cut the plant pretty well back. We do not, however, think this will be necessary.

Gladiolus.—*E. B. H.*—No; Gladioli do not degenerate; that is, they do not change from good to bad. If you have had "Shakespeare," and have now something else in its place, the bulbs must have been purposely

changed, or else your favorite has died, and some of your less fancied ones have taken its place. We cannot account for the disappointment in any other way; having made this plant a specialty for many years, and carefully noting its habits, we have never known a bulb producing one flower to change and produce one of another color. Yours is a common complaint, and the difficulty may arise from the fact that all our best light-colored varieties have not as vigorous constitutions as many of the dark ones, and will die out, while the dark colors increase rapidly.

Abutilon.—*Mrs. H. U. Fay, Mass.*—There are no plants better adapted for the window garden than Abutilons. To succeed well they should be in small pots, and kept as cool and given as much light as possible, and avoid frost. The varieties are all rapid growers, and to flower profusely the plants should be kept pot-bound, and occasionally watered with liquid manure.

Cactus.—*Mrs. Brady, N. J.*—It is impossible for us to say why a plant does not bloom, unless we know all the conditions of its growth. Most of this family are easy subjects to manage; their requirements are plenty of heat and moisture, when in a growing state, and absolute rest at all other times, during which period any warm out-of-the-way place will answer; give water very sparingly, just sufficient to keep the soil from becoming dusty. The flowering buds are formed while the plant is in a growing state, and if perfect, which they will be if the plant is in a healthy condition, they will, at the proper time, begin to develop; then give the plant a sunny situation and water liberally.

OUR ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 1885.

ALL of our readers who have watched the contents of THE FLORAL CABINET during 1884 must have been gratified to see the large amount of matter prepared specially for its pages, which we have been enabled to give from writers who are thoroughly familiar with the topics they discuss; whose suggestions are as worthy of attention, as their facts are authentic.

But the past has not been so complete but room remains for improvement, and for 1885 we hope to attain more nearly to perfection as "A Magazine of Floriculture and Domestic Arts."

New names are to appear among the contributors, the number of illustrations increased, the magazine made more and more valuable as experience points out the channels for improvement, and the growing business warrants the additional outlays.

In announcing our Premiums for 1885, we would call attention to the unusual variety placed at the disposal of our subscribers to select from, and also to the decided value of each number.

We send, post free, to any subscriber *who requests it at the time of subscribing*, any one of the premiums enumerated below. Thus, if you want the ten packets of Flower seeds, request "Premium No. 1:" if you want the beautiful novelty, *Tigridia Grandiflora Alba*, request "Premium No. 4," &c.

PREMIUMS FOR 1885.

Flower Seeds.

Premium No. 1.—*New Golden Mignonette*.—The best variety of this popular annual.

Hyacinthus Candicans.—New, hardy bulb; flowers the second year from seed.

New Dwarf Petunia.—Last season's novelty, well adapted for ribbon borders.

Prize Balsams.—The best strain under cultivation.

Prize Asters.—Mixed forms and colors.

Improved Zinnia.—A remarkably fine strain.

Gaillardia Picta Lorenziana.—The best hardy annual under cultivation.

Pansy.—Odeir, or Five Blotched and fancy mixed.

Fine Mixed Cannas.—Fine for sub-tropical gardens.

Delphinium.—The perennial flowered or Bee Larkspur.

Will begin mailing seeds in February, 1885.

Bulbs.

Premium No. 2.—Fifty *Gladiolus bubblets*.—Which will flower the second year—all from fine seedlings.

Premium No. 3.—Ten *Summer flowering Oxalis*.—Very fine border plants.

Premium No. 4.—One *Tigridia Grandiflora Alba*.—Pure white, spotted with crimson in centre, gold banded petals. This is one of the most showy and beautiful of all the summer flowering bulbs.

Premium No. 5.—One *Bulb* each of *Tigridia Grandiflora* (red) and *Tigridia Conchiflora* (yellow).

Premium No. 6.—Three *Pearl Tuberoses*.—Flowering bulbs.

Remittances to be at our risk must be in post-office orders, bank drafts or registered letter.

THE HOME OF WASHINGTON.

SIZE, 18½ × 31 INCHES.

This magnificent work of art is a Steel-Plate Engraving of the largest size and the very choicest production of American art and skill. The painting from which it is taken was painted by the celebrated T. P. Rossiter, and obtained a national reputation. Its value was over \$5,000. The Steel-Plate Engraving made from it cost over \$3,000 to produce. The scene depicted in the engraving is a charming one. It represents the home of George Washington and his family at Mount Vernon. Upon the spacious piazza is gathered a group in social conversation, including Washington and General Lafayette, who is on a visit to America. Near at hand, on the piazza, is Martha Washington, her niece and a graceful little girl, enjoying the pleasant scene with their work, and listening to the reading of a letter. Upon the floor of the piazza are strewn the playthings of the little girl, while in front of the porch is a little nephew with black Nannie, engaged in children's sports.

The grassy lawn spreads smoothly all around the house, and upon it graze a flock of sheep. In most picturesque position at the farther edge is a snug little summer arbor sheltered among the trees. From between their leafy canopies is seen the spreading bosom of the broad and placid Potomac, and far down its course are seen many sails and on the other shore lovely vistas of scenery.

The scene is one made memorable by the visit of General Lafayette to America in 1784, when he was the guest of Washington, and shared the hospitalities and social enjoyment which has made the home of Washington and Mount Vernon of delightful reputation.

Here was cemented the friendship which had begun between them, which resulted in such cordial good feelings from France toward America.

This engraving is one of such social and historical character that there is no home but would be proud to possess it. It is rich in its scenery and sentiment. Patriotic, a grand remembrancer of the old social days of our Republic, it will recall to every American with pride the home pleasures and social days of "The Father of the Republic."

For the parlor no engraving can possibly be more beautiful. Ladies will find it beyond their expectations. The beauty of execution of this engraving must be seen to be appreciated. This is no imitation or lithograph, but is guaranteed a genuine Steel-Plate Engraving.

We have a limited supply which are held *exclusively* for our subscribers.

Its retail price is \$2.00. To every subscriber who remits us \$2.00 we send THE CABINET one year and such premium as may be selected from our list for 1885; also mail post free—safely secured on a substantial roller—a copy of the engraving.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

In this issue of the FLORAL CABINET will be found the timely announcements of the following Florists, Seedsmen and Nurserymen, and we bespeak for each of them the favorable consideration of our readers:

- | | |
|---|---|
| H. S. ANDERSON,
W. ATLEE BURPEE & Co.,
A. BRACKENRIDGE,
HARRY CHAAPEL,
R. G. CHASE & Co.,
J. S. COLLINS,
HENRY A. DEERER,
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JAMES J. H. GREGORY,
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JAMES VICK, | Union Springs, N. Y.
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Williamsport, Pa.
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Moorestown, N. J.
Philadelphia, Pa.
New York City.
Detroit, Mich.
Marblehead, Mass.
New York City.
South Glastonbury, Ct.
Queens, N. Y.
Philadelphia, Pa.
Wright's Grove,
Chicago, Ill.
Louisville, Ky.
Fannettsburg, Pa.
Painesville, Ohio.
Rochester, N. Y. |
|---|---|

TO CLUB RAISERS.

"THE FLORAL KINGDOM" ON MORE FAVORABLE TERMS.—During several months we made an offer of the sumptuous volume entitled "The Floral Kingdom" for clubs of Six New Yearly Subscriptions, at \$1.25 each. We have now secured a limited supply of that elegant book (which was published at \$6.50 per copy) on terms more favorable than previous purchases, and until it is exhausted by purchasers at Five Dollars per copy, or by club-raisers, we will deliver (at our office) a copy for a club of FOUR New Names. The express charges on the book, to points east of the Mississippi River, average 35 cents.

—"Do you know why your liver fails to act?" asks a patent medicine ad. Certainly we do. Our liver hasn't the slightest dramatic ability.—*Boston Post.*

—"If my employer does not retract what he said to me this morning I shall leave his house." "Why, what did he say?" "He told me I could look for another place."—*Jimblecute.*

—A man has just died at Bridgeport, Conn., through having too much chalk in his bones. Now that the milkman can see the possible result of his peculiar manner of doing business, we trust that he will be more careful in future.

—A mendicant approached a Westchester man on the cars the other day and said, "Dear sir, I have lost my leg," to which the Westchester man replied, as he hurried away, "My dear friend, I have not seen anything of it."—*Westches er Local News.*

—"Lend me your ear a minute," remarked Mrs. Brown to her husband the other evening. "Will you give it back to me?" he inquired, with mock anxiety. "Of course I will, you idiot! Do you suppose I want to start a tannery?" She got the ear.—*New York Graphic*

—Wife—"Oh! there it comes. That is the delivery wagon." Husband—"There what comes?" Wife—"The—the Christmas present I bought for you." Husband (going to the door)—"You are mistaken, dear. I suppose the present, whatever it is, will come by mail." "But what did the wagon bring?" "Only the bill, my love."—*Philadelphia Call.*

LIFE IN SIAM.

IN 1841, a young man named Jno. H. Chandler felt it to be his duty to go to Burmah and join in the work of Baptist missions in that country. The name of Chandler is an honored one in the literature and labor of the Baptist Church; and on this gentleman and his accomplished wife has fallen a just share of the honor which follows devoted toil. Mr. Chandler at first went only as a lay missionary, but subsequently entered the ministry as a regularly ordained clergyman. He was soon transferred to Siam, and made his home at Bangkok, the capital of the Kingdom. Here his ready facility for acquiring the language made him both useful and busy. He wrote several religious and scientific works in Siamese, and rendered himself valuable to the King and his Court as translator of important documents. One of the almost inevitable results of mission-work is the breaking down of the health of those engaged in it. The Rev. Mr. Chandler and his wife were no exceptions in this respect to the ordinary lot of missionaries. Their labors had been arduous and various. Mr. Chandler had served with the Foreign Missionary Society till 1856. Then he was occupied with various evangelical and literary duties until, in 1859, he became the United States Consul at Bangkok. He was also tutor to the present King of Siam.

The undermining of Mr. Chandler's health went on gradually for years, until in 1872 he entirely broke

down. In Bangkok he received medical treatment, and also on his way to this country and back again in 1876. But the effect of all this was rather to patch up than to cure. It was not until 1880 that he and his wife began to experience substantial relief. But we will let them tell their own story, which will be found exceedingly interesting. Recently, a correspondent of one of our daily papers visited them at their home in Camden, N. J., at which place they have been residing since their return from Siam.

The Rev. Mr. Chandler, conversing freely about his experience, said substantially:

"After coming to this country in 1876, I returned to Siam with somewhat improved health, intending to stay six years. Such was my condition, however, and that of my wife, that we were compelled to return in three. *I was a complete wreck. My lung weakness was so great that for months at a time I could not write or read. The nerves of my stomach were totally demoralized. My food could not digest. I had to lay aside all my teaching and missionary labor.* I required an attendant all the time, and was unable to do either mental or physical work. My sleep was broken and unsatisfactory. I was also troubled with palpitation of the heart, with diabetes, and with an obstinate catarrh of ten years' standing. *Altogether, I was a very, very sick man.*

"While thus a sufferer, the Rev. Dr. Macfarland, a Presbyterian missionary at Bangkok, called my attention to 'Compound Oxygen.'

"While I was on my way home I found myself in a very critical condition, and almost gave up the hope of recovering health. On reaching Philadelphia I consulted Drs. Starkey & Palen, and at once began the use of Compound Oxygen. *It acted like a charm.* Very soon I felt signs of returning strength. In the matter of diabetes the relief was particularly noticeable. *Improvement went on gradually, but surely. I became so that I could eat with regularity and really enjoy my food. In time my old symptoms of wretchedness and weariness passed away and I was myself again.*

"You may judge of my strength and health when I tell you that I was with the Siamese Embassy in New York and Washington a few months ago, traveling with them and going about as freely and energetically as any of them. Compound Oxygen had so recruited my system that the unusual exercise of travel had no unpleasant effect on me; nor was I in any respect the worse for my journey. *I think I am now able to endure almost as severe labor as at any period of my life.*"

Mrs. Chandler then cheerfully gave her experience. She said in substance:

"So arduous were my labors that my health, which had for some time been failing, broke down in 1873. I had been of buoyant spirit, but my nerves were exhausted and I sank down. *Vitality gave out. Endurance failed. I gave up all my work. I was so low that on arriving in this country in 1876 no physician would give me any encouragement.*

"When I returned to Siam it was with only partially restored health. *I broke down again, and for months was absolutely helpless. I was nervous to a frightful extent, and, in spite of the most earnest endeavors, could not obtain satisfactory sleep. We could not see our way clear to leave Bangkok until 1880.*

"On arriving here I at once sought Starkey & Palen, procured a *Home Treatment*, and faithfully followed the directions. Has it done me good? Look at me now. *I am restored to my old good health. There could have been no severer test than in my case.*"

A "*Treatise on Compound Oxygen*," containing a history of the discovery and mode of action of this remarkable curative agent, and a large record of surprising cures in consumption, catarrh, neuralgia, bronchitis, asthma, etc., and a wide range of diseases, will be sent free. Address

Drs. STARKEY & PALEN,
1109 Girard street, Philadelphia, Pa.

MONEY SAVED

—IS—

MONEY EARNED.

We give below the publishers' prices for a number of prominent publications, and have affixed the price at which we will supply one copy of THE LADIES' FLORAL CABINET (with its premium Bulbs or Flower Seeds) and one copy of the publication named.

A large number of publications, not named, can be furnished, and special quotations will be made on request.

Publishers' Prices.	Our Price, Including Cabinet.
\$1.50.. American Agriculturist, New York.....	\$2.25
1.00.. American Garden.....	2.00
4.00.. Art Amateur, New York.....	4.25
3.00.. Art Interchange, Fortnightly, New York.	3.50
4.00.. Century Magazine, New York.....	4.75
2.00.. Demorest's Magazine, New York.....	2.75
50.. Farm Journal, Philadelphia.....	1.25
60.. Floral Instructor, Ainsworth, Iowa.....	1.60
50.. Farm and Garden, Philadelphia.....	1.25
4.00.. Harpers' Monthly, New York.....	4.25
1.10.. Household, Brattleboro, Vt.....	2.00
60.. South and West, Semi-monthly, St. Louis.	1.50
3.00.. St. Nicholas, New York.....	3.75
3.00.. Wide Awake, Boston.....	3.70
50.. Western Horticulturist, Ainsworth, Iowa.	1.65

WEEKLIES.

2.50.. Advance, Chicago.....	3.25
3.00.. Christian Union (new), New York.....	3.50
3.00.. Christian at Work (new), New York.....	3.25
2.50.. Country Gentleman, Albany.....	3.15
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2.00.. Free Press, Detroit.....	2.50
1.00.. Globe, Boston.....	2.00
4.00.. Harpers' Weekly, New York.....	4.50
4.00.. Harpers' Bazar, New York.....	4.50
1.50.. Harpers' Young People, New York.....	2.50
3.00.. Independent, New York.....	3.75
1.15.. Inter-Ocean, Chicago.....	2.25
2.00.. Prairie Farmer, Chicago.....	2.50
1.25.. Tribune, New York.....	2.25
1.65.. Western Rural, Chicago.....	2.60

No Subscriptions received for Youth's Companion.

Make remittances by money orders, bank drafts on New York, or registered letters.

Address LADIES' FLORAL CABINET,
22 Vesey Street, New York.

but with NOT be sent if the promises are NOT made.

Will cure Itching Piles so quickly as to seem almost miraculous, giving relief as soon as applied.

WILL CURE INGROWING TOE NAILS

by merely pressing a little of The Frank Siddalls Soap between the nail and tender flesh.

It is guaranteed that The Frank Siddalls Soap is now sold by Wholesale Grocers in every city in the United States. If the store you deal with does not keep it, try elsewhere.

Your neighbors will be very much pleased if you invite some of them in and let them see The Frank Siddalls Way of Washing Clothes—let them see the whole operation:—Be sure to let them see the Clothes put in to soak. It will be quite a curiosity for them to see a wash done without scalding or boiling a single piece no matter how dirty or soiled, and without even using a wash kettle to heat the water in. Make the blue water VERY soapy.

If not set in your ways try The Frank Siddalls Way of Washing Clothes.

ABOUT PRESENTS AND AGENCIES.

Occasionally letters are received from persons wanting agencies to sell The Frank Siddalls Soap; also letters from ladies who, although not wives of grocers, would like to get the valuable present we advertise:—Please bear in mind that none of these letters are answered until AFTER the Soap has been tried on the whole of the regular family wash and strictly according to every little direction.

SPECIAL PREMIUM TO THE WIVES OF GROCERS

A most Magnificent Premium can be had by the Wife of every Grocer in the United States. The Premium is a very handsome Velvet Plush Case, containing 6 beautiful Heavy Plated Silver Knives and 6 Forks, manufactured specially for this purpose, and guaranteed to be the finest quality made.

The Premium is given to the Wife of a Grocer even if her husband does not sell The Frank Siddalls Soap. It will be sent after she has made a *Thorough Trial* of the Soap, and enough Soap to make the trial will be sent *Free of Charge*.

The Wife of a Grocer who desires to get this Valuable Premium MUST FIRST try a cake of The Frank Siddalls Soap on the whole of the regular family wash strictly by the very easy directions, and then send word by mail to the office in Philadelphia, together with business card or printed advertisement of some kind to show that her husband is a grocer, or send a bill for groceries bought of some wholesale grocer.

If you sell the Soap you can get a cake out of the store to try:—If not, a cake will be sent by mail, *FREE OF CHARGE*, if the 2 promises are made.

The Premium is NOT sent until AFTER a thorough trial of The Frank Siddalls Soap has been made, and no letters from any one asking for information about the Premium will be answered until AFTER the Soap has been used.

Although it seems strange to use for Toilet, Shaving, &c. the same Soap that is recommended for kitchen use, still, sensible people know that the world moves, and will be glad to try The Frank Siddalls Soap.



Children ask your Parents, Sisters persuade your Brothers, Brothers tell your Sisters, to try The Frank Siddalls Soap.

It is made of the finest, purest materials that have ever been put into even the most expensive makes of high-priced toilet soaps, and the process of making it is as CLEAN as the cooking of a dinner.

Persons who allow articles said to be as good as The Frank Siddalls Soap to be forced on them must expect to be deceived. SEE THAT YOU GET WHAT YOU ASK FOR.



And Now for the Clean, Neat, Easy, Genteel, Ladylike FRANK SIDDALLS WAY OF WASHING CLOTHES

There is nothing intricate about these directions:—any child 10 or 12 years of age—who has common sense—will have no trouble in following them:

A Wash-boiler MUST NOT be used, NOT EVEN TO HEAT THE WASH-WATER, and as the wash-water must only be lukewarm, a small kettle holds enough for a large wash.

A Wash-boiler will have a deposit formed on it from the atmosphere, in spite of the most careful housekeeper, which injures the delicate ingredients that are in this Soap. Be sure to heat the water in the Tea-Kettle the first time, no matter how odd it seems.

Wash the White Flannels with the other White Pieces. Be sure to always make the last water soapy; the clothes will NOT smell of the Soap, but will be as sweet as if never worn, and stains that have been overlooked in washing will bleach out while drying, and the clothes will iron easier.

Always dissolve a small piece of Soap in the starch; it makes the ironing easier and the clothes handsomer. The Frank Siddalls Soap washes freely in hard water without Soda, Lye, or any washing compound. Don't use Borax, Ammonia, or any other soap on any of the wash.

FIRST—Dip one of the garments in a tub of lukewarm water; draw it out on a wash-board, and rub the Soap LIGHTLY over it so as not to waste it, being particular not to miss soaping any of the soiled places. Then ROLL IT IN A TIGHT ROLL, just as a piece is rolled when it is sprinkled for ironing, lay it in the bottom of the tub under the water, and go on the same way until all the pieces have the Soap rubbed on them and are rolled up.

Then go away for 20 minutes to one hour—by the clock—and let The Frank Siddalls Soap do its work. NEXT—After soaking the FULL time, commence rubbing the clothes LIGHTLY on a wash-board AND THE DIRT WILL DROP OUT; turn the garments inside out to get at the seams, but don't use any more Soap; DON'T SCALD OR BOIL A SINGLE PIECE, OR THEY WILL TURN YELLOW; and DON'T wash through two suds. If the wash-water gets too dirty, dip some out and add a little clean water; if it gets too cold for the hands, add some hot water out of the tea-kettle.

If a Streak is hard to wash, rub some more Soap on it and throw the piece back into the suds for a few minutes. NEXT COMES THE RINSING—which is to be done in lukewarm water, AND IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF GETTING THE DIRTY SUDS OUT, and is to be done as follows; Wash each piece LIGHTLY on a wash-board through the rinse-water (without using any more Soap,) AND SEE THAT ALL THE DIRTY SUDS ARE GOT OUT. ANY SMART HOUSEKEEPER WILL KNOW JUST HOW TO DO THIS.

NEXT, the Blue-water, which can be either lukewarm or cold; Use little or no Blueing, for this Soap takes the place of Blueing. STIR A PIECE OF THE SOAP in the Blue-water UNTIL THE WATER GETS DECIDEDLY SOAPY. Put the clothes THROUGH THIS SOAPY BLUE-WATER, wring them, and hang up to dry WITHOUT ANY MORE RINSING and WITHOUT SCALDING or BOILING A SINGLE PIECE.

Afterwards soap the Colored Pieces and Colored Flannels, let them stand 20 minutes to 1 hour, and wash the same way as the white pieces, being sure to make the last rinse-water soapy.

THE MOST DELICATE COLORS WILL NOT FADE WHEN WASHED THIS WAY, BUT WILL BE THE BRIGHTEST.

Out of this soap you can make more than one cake!

If a friend wants to try it, she must send in a separate letter.

Don't forget to send for Pamphlet

Offices of The Frank Siddalls Soap, 1019 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

TRY THE FRANK SIDDALLS SOAP

An Eminent Divine says:—"The Advancement of the World, the Spread of Civilization and Christianity depends on interchange of thought among people, and their willingness to learn, and that the Man or Woman who opposes the introduction of new improvements, the trial of new ways and the use of new things, Should be condemned as not being good and useful members of society"

EVERY WORD IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS THE TRUTH

DONT BE A CLAM

A celebrated writer of English literature was paid an enormous price for preparing this article: Children or Grown Persons—wishing to improve themselves in composition or letter writing should carefully read the entire page and note the ingenuity by which so much information has been given in so small a space.

Even a person of only ordinary intelligence will find for certain that Soap the Soda in excellent quality cannot possibly hurt clothes for Toilet and Bath

Clams are not a proper model for human beings to copy after for they open their shells to take in their accustomed food, but they shut up very tight when anything new comes along

FOR THEY ARE CLAMS and dont propose to allow things to penetrate their shells that were unknown to their grandfather clams and to their grandmother clams

A Clam is not a good thing for a Housekeeper to copy after:— A Clam is not a good thing for a Farmer to copy after:—is not a good thing for a Grocer to copy after:—

A WIDE-AWAKE HOUSEKEEPER will try new ways that are endorsed by leading newspapers
A WIDE-AWAKE FARMER will try a Butter Worker and a Hay Fork
A WIDE-AWAKE GROCER will buy the kind of goods his customers call for

A WIDE-AWAKE MAN always wants to try the Soap he sees highly recommended for Toilet, Bath and Shaving.

Of course a woman is NOT expected to try every new thing that is offered her; but when the most reliable papers in the United States emphatically endorse in the strongest manner every claim made for The Frank Siddalls Soap, there is certainly no excuse for not giving it one equare, honest trial strictly as directed. Intelligent women are adopting The Frank Siddalls Way of Washing Clothes, and those who have done so are already beginning to look down with pity on persons who are set in their old ways:—SO DONT BE A CLAM

How a Lady can get the Soap to Try
At Places where it is Not Sold at the Stores:
Send the retail price 10 cents in money or postage stamps.
Say she saw the advertisement in the Ladies Floral Cabinet
Only send for one cake and make these 2 promises:
Promise No. 1.—That the Soap shall be used the first wash-day after receiving it, and that every bit of the family wash shall be done with it.
Promise No. 2.—That the person sending will personally see that the printed directions for using the Soap shall be exactly followed.
By return mail a regular 10-cent cake of Soap will be sent, postage prepaid, it will be packed in a neat iron box to make it carry safely, and 15 cents in Postage Stamps will be put on:—
All this is done for 10 cents because it is believed to be a cheaper way to introduce it than to send salesmen to sell it to stores
If your letter gets no attention, it will be because you have NOT made the promises.
Cakes will be sent Free of Charge to the Wife of a Grocer, the Wife of a Minister or the Wife of a Physician
If the above 2 promises are made, but will NOT be sent if the promises are NOT made.



Don't ask your wife to try it for washing unless you try it much more lasting than any of the most celebrated soaps of Europe and America.
If not set in your ways try The Frank Siddalls Way of Washing Clothes.

How to tell a Person of Refinement
A Person of Refinement will be glad to adopt a New, Easy, Clean Way of Washing Clothes, in place of the old, hard sloppy way.
How to tell a Person of Intelligence
A Person of Intelligence will have no difficulty in understanding and following the very easy and sensible directions.
How to tell a Person of Honor
A Person of Honor will seem to do so mean a thing as to buy the Soap and not follow the directions so strongly urged.
How to tell Sensible Persons
Sensible Persons will not get mad when new and improved ways are brought to their notice, but will feel thankful that their attention has been directed to better methods.
And now dont get the old wash-boiler mended, but next wash-day give one honest trial to The Frank Siddalls Way of Washing Clothes.
Only One Cake must be sent for, to accommodate you, or you can order direct from the Factory.
You must NOT send for more than one cake! If a friend wants to try it, she must send in a separate letter.

Will cure Itching Piles so quickly as to seem almost miraculous, giving relief as soon as applied.
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Be sure to heat the water in the Tea-Kettle the best time, no matter how old it gets.
Wash the White Flannels with the other White Pieces.
Be sure to always make the last water soapy; the clothes will NOT smell of the Soap, but will be as sweet as if never worn, and stains that have been overlooked in washing will bleach out while drying, and the clothes will iron easier.
Always dissolve a small piece of Soap in the starch; it makes the ironing easier and the clothes handomer
The Frank Siddalls Soap washes freely in hard water without Soda, Lye, or any washing compound.
Dont use Borax, Ammonia, or any other soap on any of the wash.
FIRST—Dip one of the garments in a tub of lukewarm water; draw it out on a wash-board, and rub the Soap LIGHTLY over it so as not to waste it, being particular not to miss soaping any of the soiled places.
Then ROLL IT IN A TIGHT ROLL, just as a piece is rolled when it is sprinkled for ironing, lay it in the bottom of the tub under the water, and go on the same way until all the pieces have the Soap rubbed on them and ar rolled up.
Then go away for 20 minutes to one hour—by the clock—and let The Frank Siddalls Soap do its work.
NEXT—After soaking the FULL time, commence rubbing the clothes LIGHTLY on a wash-board AND THE DIRT WILL DROP out; turn the garments inside out to get at the seams, but dont use any more Soap; DONT SCALD OR BOIL A SINGLE PIECE, OR THEY WILL TURN YELLOW; and DONT wash through two suds. If the wash-water gets too dirty, dip some out and add a little clean water; if it gets too cold for the hands, add some hot water out of the tea-kettle.
If a Streak is hard to wash, rub some more Soap on it and throw the piece back into the suds for a few minutes.
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Afterwards soap the Colored Fleeces and Colored Flannels, let them stand 20 minutes to 1 hour, and wash the same way as the white pieces, being sure to make the last rinse-water soapy.
THE MOST DELICATE COLORS WILL NOT FADE WHEN WASHED THIS WAY, BUT WILL BE THE BRICKEST.

Dont forget to send for Pamphlet

Offices of The Frank Siddalls Soap, 1019 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE INDEPENDENT,

No. 251 Broadway, New York.

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IN its thirty-sixth year of publication THE INDEPENDENT stands easily at the head of religious and literary weekly newspapers wherever published. Being undenominational, it has the opportunity offered it to present to its readers discussions upon all religious questions, many clergymen and laymen seeking its pages for a freer and fuller discussion than any denominational paper will grant. Having thirty-two folio pages, it has space to give all of the important religious intelligence; and to aid it in doing so, it has a paid corps of correspondents scattered all over the world. The matter of expense is not considered in its aim to give its readers the most valuable discussions and most trustworthy facts by the ablest and most popular writers.

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A MODEL WINDOW GARDEN (SEE PAGE 34).

A MODEL WINDOW GARDEN.

WE furnish a sketch of a living-room window in the present number of the CABINET, that for simplicity and artistic beauty we have not seen equaled. It was designed and arranged by an English lady, who describes it as follows :

"It is in a recess, and the exclusion of a portion of light by the plants is of no consequence, as the room is otherwise sufficiently illuminated. The stand is wholly formed of metal japanned a greenish bronze color, and the plants are supplied from the greenhouse as required. In each division is a tray covered with wire, on which the pots rest, and any water that drains from them is caught by the tray, and this secures to them a certain amount of moisture by evaporation, and saves the floor from being at any time spotted. This recess I have kept gay from year to year, usually with leaf-plants, as they do not need to be so frequently changed as flowers, and they suit me better, as I have flowers in plenty in various parts of the house."

Much of the real beauty of plants in the living-room depends upon the taste in which they are arranged, and the order in which they are kept. The great failure in window-gardening results from an improper selection of plants—plants not likely to succeed in the situation that is provided for them. Yet there is not a house comfortable enough to live in, where plants of some kind will not thrive, provided, of course, frost is excluded.

One of the many mistakes in selection is a desire for too great a variety, a wish to keep for future use, *all* the plants that were in the garden the past season. This may seem good economy, but it is decidedly poor taste. Half a dozen fine specimens will give far more pleasure than scores of plants taken into the house for humane reasons—to save their lives. For a moderately cool room, where there is not very much sunlight exposure, we shall invariably select Ferns for our stands, with possibly a *Ficus*

elastica for the centre, and a pair of Primulas or Cinerarias, whose flowers harmonize so beautifully with the fronds of the Fern. The Fern should always be selected in pairs, choosing in the main the fine-leaved forms, such as the *Adiantums*, which are the most beautiful of all and best adapted for house culture. Of these we should have *A. Farleyense*, *A. Cuneatum*, and *A. Gracilis*; for the ends of the stand we should select two fine specimens of *Pteris tremula*, and if fine large plants, we should not select others—these would be all that we should require.

For a room where the temperature was always high, we should make a far different selection. Using a *Ficus* in the centre, a plant that does well almost everywhere, and filling the remainder with *Pandanus Utilis*. Palms in variety and some of the more hardy Marantas and *Dracænas*, as will be seen in our illustration.

A few Hyacinths, Tulips or Narcissus, in pots, can be intermixed with good effect, by bringing them in as their flowers begin to develop, and removing them when their flowers begin to fade. Amaryllis, of the evergreen section, make charming plants for such a stand, as their foliage is always bright, graceful and refreshing, while their flowers, produced in midwinter, are perfectly gorgeous. There are not many flowering plants that look well when out of flower, but the Amaryllis *Aulica platypetala* is a notable exception to this rule; it has bright green foliage of a distinctly curved outline, and is a plant always beautiful and well adapted for the window garden.

Selection of plants to fill such a stand will, of course, depend much upon individual taste, and the opportunity to gratify it. One thing is certain, however, that whatever plants we have in our window will be greatly improved in appearance by a neat, simple and tasteful arrangement, so that they can be seen entire; never crowding one plant so as to destroy the beauty of another.

SOME HARDY BULBS.

AMONG early spring flowers nothing offers us more charming variety than the hardy bulbs, though they are too often neglected, except in some old-fashioned garden, where grows, as Father Prout says,

"The Daffadowndilly, beside the Lily,
Flowers that scent the sweet fragrant air."

Big clumps of the Daffodils, turning their bright faces to the April wind, are common enough, especially in old country gardens, where the plants have become well established; but this gives one no idea of the beauty exhibited by the newer varieties. One prominent grower catalogues nearly *two hundred* different varieties. Of course, some of the number are only interesting from a botanical standpoint, as exhibiting the varied effect of

scientific culture, and it is a question whether this busy world imperatively requires two hundred forms of Narcissus; still there are many pretty ones among them.

To begin, we all know the classic story of that gilded youth, Narcissus, who gave his name to our flower, but for its popular name of Daffodil we can offer no reasonable explanation, save the nursery rhyme, where we are informed,

"Daffadowndilly came into town
In a fine petticoat and a green gown."

And we have a blooming witness to that fact in *Narcissus Bulbocodium*—the Hoop Petticoat Daffodil, with golden-yellow flowers, offering a ludicrous resemblance in shape to Queen Bess's farthingale. The common single Daffo-

dil, or Lent Lily, is, botanically, *Narcissus-pseudo-narcissus*. Like all of the family, it is essentially conservative, and is at its best when left undisturbed in the same spot for years. Narcissus fanciers divide these flowers into three great classes, according to the differing proportions of crown and perianth; thus, Trumpet Daffodils, having the crown longer than the perianth; Mock Daffodils, with crown less than half the length of the divisions of the perianth; Narcissus proper, flowers with the crown half the length of the divisions of the perianth.

The flowers mentioned above belong to the first class; also the old-fashioned Double Daffodil *N. telamonius* fl. pl. A charming form, with white perianth and sulphur trumpet, is *N. muticus*.

Of the second class, *N. incomparabilis* is extremely handsome and interesting. Normally, it is a very full double white, but there is a yellow form, with nectary often differing in color. With deep orange nectary, it has the homely English name of "Eggs and Bacon;" with the sulphur nectary, it is called "Codlings and Cream;" this yellow form feloniously appropriates the name often given to our Toad-flax—"Butter and Eggs."

N. odoratus is the Campernelle or Fragrant Jonquil, fine golden-yellow. *N. montanus* is a rare variety with white flowers, deliciously fragrant. *N. juncifolius* is a pretty little plant from the Pyrenees, with small flowers and rush-like leaves. Some of these plants are rather overburdened with names—they are descriptive, but somewhat exhausting. Here is a sample; *Narcissus incomparabilis sulphureus aureo-tinctus*. I think the general public will prefer to call it a Daffodil.

The third section of the family contains some of the very prettiest types. There is *N. poeticus*, the Poet's Narcissus, or Pheasant's Eye, a lovely pure white flower, with red crown. It runs through many variations, but is always of a refined, *spirituelle* order, very different from the more buxom charms of its sisters. *N. jonquilla*, the Single Jonquil, is a fine yellow, very fragrant; *N. biflorus*, Twin-flowered Narcissus, has pure white fragrant blossoms borne in pairs.

The Tazetta, or Polyanthus Narcissus, bears clusters of small flowers. They are very pretty, and very useful for forcing. *N. Tazetta papyraceus* is the Paper White Narcissus; *N. Tazetta aureus* is a fine yellow. All these species are of simple cultivation and quite hardy. They have a fine effect, when planted in clumps in grass, and all arrive at their highest perfection, when left in one position for years without disturbance. The autumn is the proper time to plant them; in fact, this rule applies to nearly all hardy bulbs. They require rich loamy soil; when in beds, they should receive a generous top-dressing of good manure in the autumn.

The Allium family contains some showy members, but they are often ignored, on account of their odor; as one botanist says: "Scratch a Russian and you find a Tartar; but in this case, bruise an Allium and you find an Onion." However, if the leaves are unbroken, there is no offensive odor, and the clusters of flowers are often very handsome. *A. cernuum* has red flowers in the autumn; *A. stellatum* is very firm, with rosy purple flowers; *A. Moly*, bright yellow flowers, broad leaves.

The Calochortus tribe is very showy, requiring a rich, sandy soil, where water will not collect, though it must not be too dry. The handsomest of the family is *C. Gunnisoni*, the Mariposa Tulip, with pale lilac flowers, banded with purple; *C. luteus* has deep yellow flowers lined with brownish purple; *C. Nuttallii* is white, tinged with yellow and lilac. They should be planted in September or October. We all know the *Muscari*, or Grape Hyacinth, of which the commonest form is *M. botryoides*, sometimes called Baby's Breath, for some inexplicable reason. Its spikes of little round flowers, almost like miniature sleigh-bells, dark purple in color, and a familiar object in early spring. *M. moschatum major* has pale blue flowers, strongly musk-scented. *Muscari comosum atrocæruleum monstrosum* is an oppressive name, but the plant itself is charming, with large plumes of dark purple flowers. This genus is of dwarf habit, easily grown, requiring autumn planting and similar treatment to the Narcissus. The Fritillarias are bulbs with showy flowers, suitable for naturalizing in rich light soil. *F. imperialis* is the popular Crown Imperial, or "Cromperial," as I have heard country people call it. *F. meleagris* is the Guinea-Hen Flower, with large bell-shaped flowers curiously checkered in white, yellow, black and purple. The Golden Fritillary, *F. pudica*, is a native of Oregon, with handsome golden yellow flowers. *F. recurva* is a very fine American species, with bright scarlet flowers, but it is not quite hardy in the latitude of New York. *F. Thunbergii* is a hardy Japanese, with red and white bell-shaped flowers.

What can we say of the hardy Lilies? They are the aristocracy among bulbs; more graceful in habit than Iris or Gladiolus, more varied and beautiful in flower. If care is taken in selection of varieties, one may have a fine show of flowers from June to October. Some species form a gorgeous relief when planted among shrubs; others, such as *Canadense* and its allies grow finely in swampy places. In planting Lilies the bed must be carefully prepared beforehand. First, it must be properly underdrained, that water may not collect around the roots; then deeply and thoroughly enriched with well-rotted stable manure. One-third of leaf-mould or peat might be added to advantage; in heavy soil the same proportion of sand will render it more suitable. Late in the fall a mulching of leaves or hay is beneficial to any bulbs. Lilies, like all bulbs, are at their best when left undisturbed for some years.

Lilium auratum, the Golden Lily of Japan, is one of the grandest varieties; flowers white, spotted with maroon, and banded with gold. It grows to a superb height and form, when well established. It varies in color considerably; a charming form is *L. auratum var. pictum*, with the upper half of petals rosy-tinted; another is *L. auratum var. virginale*, pure white, banded with gold.

L. japonicum Kramerii, Kramer's Lily, is a rarely beautiful variety, with delicate rose-pink flowers. *L. speciosum album præcox* is a pure white species, easily grown. *L. speciosum rubrum* is a red-spotted form.

The pure-white Easter Lily, *L. longiflorum*, is too familiar to need description. It is hardy, and easily grown.

Perhaps the grandest of all is *L. tigrinum splendens*.

It grows tall and large, forming a perfect pyramid of fiery scarlet flowers. Massed in a border, it forms a most gorgeous spectacle. There is a double form, *L. tigrinum fl. pl.*, lasting longer in bloom.

L. Washingtonianum is a fine native variety, from California, bearing white flowers, which turn to lilac; very fragrant. It grows to a height of six feet under favorable circumstances.

The Pacific coast rivals Japan in producing these flowers. They should be planted ten or twelve inches deep in well-drained soil.

Of Atlantic coast species, *L. Philadelphicum* has ver-

million flowers, spotted with black. It should be planted three or four inches deep, in sandy soil. *L. superbum*, the Turk's Cap Lily, has bright orange flowers, purple-spotted. *L. canadense* is a showy pendent flower, bright orange, spotted with brown. *L. canadense var. rubrum* is a dark-red form of the preceding. The three last-named varieties require a moist home; they may be naturalized finely in a swampy shrubbery. I have only enumerated a few hardy Lilies out of many, being the most familiar species. They are all very handsome, and all most satisfactory for general culture.

E. L. TAPLIN.

ROCKS AND ROCKERIES.

THERE are frequently seen in improved public and private grounds large boulders, or ledges of greater or less extent, or piles of rocks, either natural or artificial.

The natural rocks were probably left because it was too expensive to have them removed, or it was thought they might be made to add to the attractions of the place in some way; and the artificial piles of rocks called "rockeries" were built with the idea of making them ornamental, and were generally placed in the most inappropriate places, and built without the least idea of their proper construction, and with only the most vague idea of how they would be ornamented after they were finished.

I have seen a rockery built in the centre of a nicely finished lawn, or in a conspicuous place in a public park, right in the glare of the sun, and without the appearance of ornamental vegetation on it, simply because appropriate plants could not grow in such a situation. The place for an artificial rockery is in a secluded spot where it will not be exposed to the full heat of the sun.

Perhaps a good idea of a properly and an improperly constructed rockery could best be given by describing two examples of such work, not far from Boston.

A considerable sum of money was bequeathed to a certain town to be used in improving the common, a triangular piece of ground of about ten acres area, extending from the centre of the town to a lake near. A committee was chosen to make the improvements; they first considered it the proper thing to build a rockery. The result was a pile of great smooth boulders selected from walls and pastures with special reference to the amount of moss and lichen on them, and laid in a pile with nearly perpendicular faces, about thirty feet long and twenty feet high, with a small basin at the top for soil; on one side a cemented basin with fountain; this basin and a narrow triangular strip was bordered with pointed stones three or four feet high, and the triangular place filled with earth and grassed over. This structure was placed at the point of the common nearest the centre of the town. Now, it is very doubtful if anything can be kept growing without a very liberal supply of water, and it is generally when the water is wanted most that the supply is limited.

It might be covered with vines if the soil about the base was good enough, and if they could be kept in place in a public common where boys are numerous.

Not many miles from this place is another rockery, built by a private individual. On one side of his house is a small grove of evergreens, planted by his own hands less than twenty years ago, and it is a most delightful retreat in hot summer days. Nearer the house and partly shaded by the grove and house, was a terrace bank; this he has made into a rockery, using odd-shaped weather and waterworn rocks interesting in themselves, on account of their oddness, but not so placed as to make the rocks prominent, but to allow good pockets and crevices connecting with the cool moist soil under and around the rocks to which the roots of plants can penetrate.

The rocks are not built up so high that the moisture will all dry out in dry weather, and there is a large barrel built in the rockery and supplied with water to be used when necessary.

In this rockery may be grown a great variety of our native Ferns, and many pretty flowering plants and creeping vines. There are many plants suited for the different conditions to be found on the natural ledges and boulders, and the same plants will grow in the artificial rockwork, and also many others.

For a large smooth surface nothing is better than the Japanese Ivy (*Ampelopsis Veitchii*); it will cling to the surface of the smoothest rock, and form a perfect mat of green in summer, turn to most brilliant colors in the fall, and when the leaves are off in the winter, the branches form a most delicate tracery on the surface to which they are attached. For an evergreen plant the *Euonymus radicans* and its variegated variety, or the English Ivy, will grow well in shady spots south of Rhode Island.

For crevices and cracks in the rocks nothing can be better than the House Leeks or *Sempervivums*. There are hundreds of varieties, many of them perfectly hardy; they vary from diminutive specimens of light and dark green, red, gray and purple rosettes, either smooth or covered with cobwebby hairs, to those that are six to eight inches in diameter, and they will grow where there is absolutely no soil, if their roots can find a crack in which there is a

little moisture. Bunches of them growing in such spots are very interesting and pretty.

The Sedums, too, are in great variety, and vary greatly, from large forms like the Live-forever (*Sedum telephium*) of old gardens and roadsides, to tiny little plants forming mats of stems and leaves on the surface of the rocks; many have very pretty flowers, others ornamental foliage. A great many of them are suitable for pockets and crevices in ledges or rockeries.

Other plants suitable for such places are the Campanulas *Carpatica* and *rotundifolia*, the last, our common Harebell, the first from the Carpathian Mountains. It produces large blue flowers for a long season. Then there are Alyssums, *saxatile* and *gemonense*, with bright yellow flowers, and *erysimum pulchellum*, with rosettes of leaves and yellow flowers, the Moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*), the Ground Ivy (*Nepeta glechoma*) for a moist, shady spot, the evergreen Myrtle (*Vinca minor*), also for shady places. The Adam's Needle (*Yucca filamentosa*), or its narrow-leaved variety, *Y. augustifolia*, for a prominent place, where a large plant is needed. For a dry place, the *Opuntias*, or Prickly Pears, those curious and prickly Cacti with large yellow flowers.

For pockets in the rockery the creeping Phloxes, Cerasiums, Arenarias, or Sandworts, Speedwells, Pasque Flower, Columbines, and many others of low growing habit could be picked out of a list of herbaceous plants that would be suitable.

There are also many varieties of Ferns that are suitable for a rockery. For moist limestone rocks the cliff Brakes *Pellaea gracilis*, and the Walking Fern (*Lycopodium*

alopecuroides), the first is difficult to grow and rare, but very pretty. For dry limestone rocks in crevices, *Pellaea atropurpurea*, for shady places the Polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*), the Bladder Ferns (*Cystopteris bulbifera*, and *gracilis*), for Evergreen Ferns *Aspidium marginale* and the Spleenworts *Asplenium acrostichoides* with fronds one and a half feet long, *A. ebenum*, with tufts of narrow fronds, *A. Trichomanes*, a very delicate and diminutive little Fern. Ferns require a cool, shady place, with moisture, and a light, porous soil.

A complete list of plants could not be made for any locality, as conditions vary, but suggestions can be made as to the classes of plants that will grow in a rockery, and those who are really interested will not be slow in finding plants to add to their collection.

Many beautiful rock plants are grown in England that we cannot grow here, and those who plant them will be disappointed; but we have on the mountains in our own country a great number of beautiful Alpine plants, and it is very desirable that some person with time and means will collect and test them for the benefit of lovers of flowers.

A rockery is liable to be disappointing even in the most favored locality, unless care and observation is exercised to establish the plants, and it will take more than one year to get one filled so as to look well; an unfilled rockery is not pretty or interesting, but one that is filled with a carefully selected list of plants is the most fascinating and interesting spot in the whole garden; it is always new, and there is always a place to add another treasure.

WARREN H. MANNING.

THE APHIS.

AT the extremities of the young shoots of the Rose-tree are myriads of very small insects, of a reddish green, which entirely cover the branch and seem motionless; they are aphides or vine-fretters, which are born within a line or two of the place where they now are, and which never venture to travel one inch in the course of their lives. They have a little proboscis, which they plunge into the epidermis of the branch, and by means of which they suck certain juices which nourish them. They will not eat the Rose-tree. There are more than five hundred assembled upon one inch of the branch, and neither foliage nor branch seem to suffer much. Almost every plant is inhabited by aphides, differing in color from those upon others. Those of the Elder are velvety black; those of the Apricot a glossy black; those of the Oak a bronze color; those of the Gooseberry trees are like mother-of-pearl; upon the Absinthe-tree they are spotted white and brown; on the Field-sorrel black and green; upon the Birch, black and another shade of green; upon the Privet, of a yellowish green and upon the Pear-tree coffee-colored.

All enjoy a life sufficiently calm. You scarcely ever see an insect of this kind which is vagabond enough to pass from one branch to another. They sometimes go

so far as to make the tour of the branch they dwell upon; but we believe that this is only done in the effervescence of ill-regulated youth, or under the empire of some passion. These outbreaks are extremely rare. Some of these aphides, however, have wings; but these wings only come at a ripe age, and they do not abuse them. The only serious care that seems to occupy the life of the aphis is the changing of its clothes. It changes its skin, in fact, four times before it becomes a perfect aphis; something like men who try on two or three characters before they fix upon one, although in general three are preserved: one which we exhibit, one which we fancy we have, and another which we really have.

When the aphides have finished changing their skins, there only remains one duty to fulfill, which is, to multiply their species; they produce their little ones while feeding on the branches, and never take the trouble to even look at their offspring. One aphis will produce about a hundred; and each one takes its rank below its predecessor, and plunges its little trunk in the green skin of the branches and begins to eat. In ten or eleven days, they change their skin four times; on the twelfth day, in their turn, they begin to produce little ones who take their rank, and themselves become prolific toward the twelfth day after

their birth. The aphides of the Poppy are more precocious, for in seven or eight days they have changed their vestments four times, and produced their set of little ones.

Nature has taken the fancy to free herself, with regard to aphides, from the general law of reproduction. Don't, however, imagine that she shrinks from the difficulty on account of the smallness of these animals. There are other animals which can only be distinguished with the assistance of a microscope, which, in that respect, come within the general rule. Notwithstanding the admiration which the study of insects must create, you must not let this admiration be exercised upon their greater or smaller size. Great and small are only such with relation to ourselves; and, when we express astonishment at seeing perfection in the organs of the invisible cheese-mite, equal to those of the ox or the elephant, it is a false feeling, arising from a false idea.

One of these aphides will produce nearly twenty young ones in the course of a day; that is to say, a volume ten or twelve times equal to its own body. A single aphis which, at the beginning of the warm weather, would bring into the world ninety aphides, which ninety, twelve

days after, would each produce ninety more, would be, in the fifth generation, author of five billions, nine hundred and four millions, nine thousand aphides, which is a tolerable amount. Now, one aphis is, in a year, the source of twenty generations; I very much doubt whether there would be room for them upon all the trees and all the plants in the world. The whole earth would be given up to aphides; but this fecundity, of which there are so many examples in nature, need not alarm us. One Poppy plant produces thirty-two thousand seeds, one Tobacco plant, three hundred and sixty thousand—each of these seeds producing in its turn thirty-two thousand, or three hundred thousand; would you not think that at the end of five years the earth would be entirely covered with Tobacco and Poppies? A carp lays three hundred and fifty thousand eggs at once. But life and death are nothing but transformations. Death is the aliment of life. These aphides are the game that nourishes other insects, which, in turn, form the food of the birds we eat. Then we are returned to the elements, and serve as manure to the grass and the flowers, which will produce and feed other aphides.

ALPHONSE KARR.

FLORAL MIMICRY.

A NOTABLE instance of the resemblance of plants to animals is to be seen in the *Cibotium*, a genus of polypodeaceous Ferns. They are large-growing and very handsome, in some cases arborescent, the fronds bipinnate and often glaucous beneath. The fructification is remarkably pretty. *C. Barometz*, sometimes called *C. glaucescens*, is believed to be the Barometz, *Agnus Scythicus*, or Tartarian Lamb, about which travelers have told so wondrous a tale. This "Lamb" consists merely of the decumbent shaggy caudex of a kind of Fern, which is no doubt the species referred to. When inverted, the basal part of the stipes of four of the fronds suitably placed, having been retained as legs, and the rest cast away, these caudices present an appearance which may be taken as a rude representation of some small woolly animal. The "traveler's tale" is, that on an elevated uncultivated salt-plain of vast extent, west of the Volga, grows a wonderful plant, with the appearance of a lamb (*Baran*, in Russian), having feet, head and tail distinctly formed, and its skin covered with soft down. The "lamb" grows upon a stalk about three feet high, the part by which it is sustained being a kind of navel; it turns about and bends to the herbage, which serves as its food, and pines away when the grass dries up and fails. The fact on which this tale is based appears to be, that the caudex of this plant may be made to present a rude appearance of an animal covered with silky hair like scales, and, if cut into, is found to have a soft inside, with a reddish, flesh-colored appearance. When the herbage of its native haunts fails through drought, its leaves, no doubt, droop and die, but both perish from the same cause, and independently of each other. "Thus it is," observes Dr.

Lindley, "that simple people have been persuaded that there existed, in the deserts of Scythia, creatures half animal, half plant." This condition of the root-stalk of some Ferns long engaged the attention of early writers of the marvelous, and many strange figures were published of it; but Dr. Beyne, of Dantzic, in 1725, declared that the pretended *Agnus Scythicus* was nothing more than the root of a large Fern covered with its natural villus, or yellow down, and accompanied by some of the stems, &c., in order, when placed in an inverted position, the better to represent the appearance of the legs and horns of a quadruped.

The *Radulia eximia*, a genus of plants closely allied to *Gnaphalium*, is the "Vegetable Sheep" of New Zealand, a plant that causes great inconvenience to the shepherds, as, at a distance, the clumps so nearly resemble sheep that they are not unfrequently taken for them, when calling them in from the mountains.

We are indebted to the *Garden* for our illustration of "A bunch of quaint flowers," and for the following very interesting article in relation to it:

"To make a list of the plants which in some way resemble others not in the least related to them would be a long task, but a few of these resemblances may be instanced here. Thus the resemblance between *Fabiana imbricata*, a Solanaceous plant, and some of the *Ericas* is so close as to deceive any one at the first glance; so also a bush of *Colletia Benthamiana* might readily pass for a clump of the Irish Furze or Gorse. Or, again, why the *Salisburia*, a Conifer, should produce leaves like the pinules of a gigantic Maiden-hair Fern is another puzzle. Even a good botanist might be excused if he thought that

Senecio microglossus was some kind of Ivy, so closely do their leaves resemble each other; and we have one South American *Calceolaria* (*fuchsicefolia* or *deflexa*), which has leaves singularly like those of the Fuchsia, and might be mistaken for one when not in bloom. That some Euphorbias, when out of flower, can scarcely be distinguished from Cacti is a well-known fact. The milky sap of the Euphorbias is so different from the watery juices of the Cactus family, however, that a prick with a knife-point settles the question when one's eyesight fails to decide.

sepalled *Peristeria*, in the centre of which a little dove is formed by the column and petals. There are *Brassia* flowers like long-legged green spiders, and a *Cypripedium* from Siberia has big pouched flowers, the lips and petals of which are singularly suggestive of an octopus as it propels itself through the water. Here also we note flower-spikes of *Pleurothallis* and *Dendrochilum*, the flowers of which are not unlike those of some tropical gnats or midges, so airily do they float in mid-air, suspended on the most dainty of hair-like stalks. Near the base of the illus-



A BUNCH OF QUAIN T FLOWERS.

Again, we have Cycads (*Stangeria*) resembling Ferns, while some of the Ferns, and at least one Pandanad, mimic the Palms in port and leafage. That the flowers of some plants, notably those of Orchids, bear some resemblance to spiders, birds and insects, is an old story, and one which is well illustrated in the engraving. Among our native wildings we have the Bee, Spider, Fly and Butterfly Orchids, to say nothing about our Ladies' Slipper plant (*Cypripedium*), and that of other terrestrial Orchids, the flowers of which resemble a lizard or newt in contour and markings. In the engraving we have the yellow *Cynoches* represented, and its likeness to a swan is easily seen. There also is the tropical Butterfly Orchid with outspread wings and long antennæ; so also a flower of the waxy-

tration are shown some curious examples of the 'leaf' and 'dead stick' insects which Miss North has portrayed so well in some of her paintings of tropical life. It is indeed wonderful how closely these living animals resemble things inanimate, so closely, indeed, that I have often been a little startled when I saw them move, just as I once was when I caught hold of a harmless little green flower snake, thinking it was the stem of a *Nepenthes* of which the spotted pitchers were dangling overhead. No doubt this mimicry in the case of insects and animals is to some extent protective, inasmuch as it aids their concealment from their natural enemies; but why Orchid flowers should resemble insects, or why a Groundsel should try to look like Ivy, is a question not quite so easy of solution."

OUR WINTER GARDENS

WERE never more beautiful than now, and they are always more attractive than our summer gardens, and quite as real, although they are but paper. Of course, we mean our catalogues, and do they not contain more flowers, vegetables and fruits that are nearer to nature than the real ones of our gardens? In winter all is joy in *this* garden; no work to perform, no gardeners to annoy by throwing away *our* much valued plants, while they are carefully looking after *their* favorites; no insect enemies, no dangers from frost, no droughts or hail-storms. All we have to do is to look over our catalogues and enjoy the beautiful forms and colors of the flowers, the luscious fruits and delicious vegetables. The imagination is fully as capable of enjoyment, and is quite as discriminating in selection, as either the eye or the palate. The imagination never feeds on aphids, worms, or distorted forms; it only sees the beautiful and good. As we look over our catalogues we see in its greatest perfection everything that is listed; our only difficulty is, in what to select and what to reject. We cannot grow all in our gardens, but we can in our hearts. Whatever we choose to cultivate the coming season we must select now, not because it is time to plant, but because of the dangers of delay. The best seed is none too good, and the only way to procure it, as there is always a limited quantity, is to order early; don't wait until the most reliable dealers have sold out their stock, and then be obliged to get seeds from parties whose integrity has not been fully established.

What to select is quite an important matter, and from the many inquiries received we judge it is one but little understood. In this particular we trust we are able to assist our readers, and we will do so to the extent of our ability. In so doing we shall only notice such things as we have tested, or have seen growing the past season. But where shall we commence? Not having any individual preferences, we will look through the first garden (paper) that is before us. It is V. H. Hallock, Son & Thorpe's, Queens, N. Y., in which we find, in addition to their usual collection of Bulbs, Vegetable and Flower seeds, Greenhouse and Bedding plants, Small Fruit plants, Hardy Herbaceous plants and shrubs, the following specialties:

Clematis.—Among climbing plants the Clematis has no rival for beauty and elegance. The genus consists of a large number of species, and hybrid varieties almost innumerable. Among the most valued is *C. Jackmani*. This may be regarded as the type of a race of hybrids to the dissemination of which is to be attributed the present popularity of these hardy ornamental climbers. Though the first hybrid introduced to the public, it stands at the present time in the foremost rank as to merit. It is a free grower, and an abundant and successful bloomer, becoming profusely laden with very large showy flowers of a remarkably rich violet-purple color. To contrast with this is *C. coccinea*, one of our native species, whose

intense scarlet flowers, produced in the most prolific manner the entire summer, entitles it to a prominent place in every collection. Of this same class is *C. crispa*, another of our native sorts, and one of the most desirable under cultivation. The flowers are fragrant, nodding, bell-shaped, of a lilac-purple color. The plant grows, under favorite circumstances, to the height of eight feet, and flowers incessantly from June to October. Making a specialty of these varieties, the prices are within the reach of all.

Marigold (Eldorado).—This is a decided improvement over the old and well-known African Marigold; its flowers are fully four inches in diameter and very double.

Chrysanthemums.—We notice with pleasure that Messrs. Hallock & Thorpe have succeeded in saving sufficient Chrysanthemum seed from their choice collection of new and rare varieties to offer it for sale this year. The pleasure of growing plants from seed, the result of cross-fertilization, is of the highest order, and when the certainty of getting varieties of superior, if not rare merit, is positive it is doubly interesting. The annals of Horticulture do not record a class of plants that has rewarded the hybridist more liberally for his labor in this direction than the Chrysanthemum. And now that our amateurs can get seed saved by the most careful hands, we look for increased interest in Chrysanthemum culture.

Peter Henderson & Co., 35 and 37 Cortlandt street, New York, Manual of Everything for the Garden, Farm and Greenhouse, Either of Vegetable or Flower Seeds, Bulbs, Plants, Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Gardener's Tools and Farm Implements. This is not only the most complete, but the best printed catalogue that has yet reached us. We make a note of the following "novelties," some of which we had the pleasure of testing last summer, so that we can truthfully endorse all that is said of them:

Henderson's New Rose Celery.—Celery is now one of the leading table ornaments, both for public and private tables, and this new rose-color, combined with the "White Plume," which was sent out last summer for the first time, must add greatly to the adornment of the table. It is well known by all growers of Celery, that the red-tinted varieties are more solid and hardy than the white, and hence better keepers in winter, and also, that under the same conditions they are more crisp and superior in flavor to the varieties that blanch yellow or white. In Henderson's New Rose Celery there is a combination of all the good qualities of the older varieties, together with a delicacy of shading that gives us something entirely distinct and valuable in this vegetable. Among the flowers of recent introduction listed, we notice a complete collection of Chrysanthemums, with a well executed colored plate: The New Double Bouvardia "Thomas Meehan," first on the list of Bouvardias, and a plant every way adapted for the window garden or for the flower border in summer; the New Yellow Carnation "Buttercup,"

which is the nearest approach to a pure yellow that has yet been seen in the Carnation. The flowers are immense in size, rich yellow in color, and only slightly flecked with crimson. It is a strong, free grower and a profuse bloomer.

The New Tea-Rose "Sunset" is fully entitled to all the praises given it. Mr. Henderson says of it: "This magnificent Rose, which was first sent out by us last year, has more than equaled our expectations. It has held its splendid coloring, and has excelled the present variety (*Perle des Jardins*) not only in vigor of growth, but far exceeds it in its delightful tea fragrance. Its color is the richest shade of saffron and orange, blended and shaded so as to resemble some of the tints of sunset—hence the name." We would add, from our experience with this rose, that could we have but one Tea-Rose in our garden, it would be the "Sunset."

H. S. Anderson, Union Springs, N. Y., contributes to our winter garden some delicious small fruits. He is one of the fortunate owners of the "*Marlboro Raspberry*," which we had the pleasure of testing last summer, and, contrary to the experience of some leading horticulturists, we find it a decided acquisition. Plants put out last spring in our trial grounds surprised us with a fair crop of fruit of good size and fine flavor. We are fully convinced that it will not do to condemn a fruit because in one locality it is not a success, neither to hope that it will succeed well under different conditions of soil and climate, our experience having taught us that many a fruit, flower or vegetable of superior merit with us has proved worthless with others, and the reverse. While in imagination we are now enjoying this delicious fruit, we trust our tables will be loaded with it the coming summer.

D. M. Ferry & Co., Detroit, Mich., never fail to interest and instruct with their complete catalogue of Vegetable and Flower Seeds. The cultural instructions are so plain that no one need go wrong in gardening operations. This feature of their catalogue is a good one, as it is information that is wanted in regard to the culture of vegetables and flowers, rather than the praises of what is offered, and which cannot be secured without a knowledge of gardening. The page devoted to the Formation and Management of the Vegetable Garden is worth in itself a dozen "complete" catalogues that are incomplete without it. Their catalogue will repay careful reading.

David Landreth & Sons, Philadelphia, Pa.—Those of our readers who saw in the October, 1884, number of the CABINET an account of our visit to Landreth's Bloomsdale Farm, need not ask of us any opinion of this firm or question the pleasure we take in looking over their catalogue. Send for it.

D. R. Woods & Co., New Brighton, Pa.—This firm makes the Rose a specialty, and we find listed all that is valuable either in the old or new. Among the novelties for the first time offered this season, and which have been fully tested, we find:

Mlle. Alexandrine Bruel (Tea).—A vigorous grower in the style of *Glorie de Dijon*; flowers medium size, double, very pure white.

Souvenir de Gabrielle Drevet (Tea).—A strong grower, with large double flowers, well formed and very fragrant;

color, light salmon with lively rose centre, changing to clear salmon; a superb variety.

William F. Bennett.—"This rose is expected to fill a long-felt want, to take the place of the 'Jacquemint,' when that capricious beauty refuses to bloom. It is described as being the shape of the 'Niphetos' bud, but twice the size, of a bright crimson color, scented like 'La France,' and a perpetual bloomer. It is one of the latest triumphs of Henry Bennett, the 'pedigree rose-grower' of England."

This Rose is also known as the "\$5,000 Rose," the price, it is said, that Mr. Evans paid Mr. Bennett for it.

Alegature Polyantha.—A vigorous grower of dwarf habit, only growing from eight to twelve inches high, which will make it a valuable sort for borders. The flowers are about one inch in diameter, of good shape and very sweet; color, white tinted with rose, fading to pure white. A plant of this with 250 buds and blossoms was awarded a first premium by the Horticultural Society at Lyons, France, on March 17, 1884.

Gloire Lyonnaise (Hybrid Perpetual).—This grand new variety has created quite a sensation in Rose circles, a yellow Hybrid Perpetual being unknown hitherto, and regarded as one of the impossibilities. It has formerly been sold only by subscription, as the supply was very limited, but this firm have secured a number of fine plants and hope to be able to fill all orders. It is described as being very vigorous, flowers very large and double, finely shaped, with large, firm petals of handsome chrome yellow color, widely bordered with pure white. The flowers are borne singly, and have the fragrance of Tea-Roses. A remarkably free bloomer.

Although the "Rose" is a specialty, we find many rare and useful plants listed in this catalogue; enough to make the ornamental garden all that could be desired.

W. Atlee Burpee & Co.'s Philadelphia, Pa., Farm Manual for 1885.—This publication furnishes much food for thought. How so many seeds of approved kinds and good quality can be furnished for the low price at which they are quoted passes our understanding. Then the question arises, can a business of the magnitude of theirs be sustained unless seeds of the best quality are sold? Among the novelties listed is the

New Red China Squash.—This we tested thoroughly last season, and must say that a more beautiful field crop we never saw. The ground seemed completely covered with handsome scarlet squashes from six to nine inches in diameter, and about four inches deep. With us the quality of this squash was not up to the high standard claimed for it; we do not, however, wish to convey the idea that it is not of superior quality because ours was not, as many vegetables are good in one locality and good for nothing in another, which was undoubtedly the case with this squash.

Melons, Cabbages and Tomatoes are specialties with this firm, and from the many testimonials they must be entitled to the praises given them.

Flower Seeds, Bulbs and a general assortment of bedding plants of the most desirable sorts are listed.

James J. H. Gregory, Marblehead, Mass., sends us a catalogue, which we take pleasure in perusing. His repu-

tation as a seed-grower has been justly earned, and will be sustained so long as he exercises the same watchful care in the protection of his business as he did in building it up.

In the catalogue sent us by Wm. Henry Maule, Philadelphia, Pa., the principal features are vegetables in variety, remarkable for size and quality, the result of careful selection and good cultivation. There are many kinds in the different classes that we do not know by the names given them, but from the descriptions furnished, the distinctive names are not misapplied; surely the

New Mammoth Onion, "*Silver King*," of which there has been grown 900 bushels to the acre, a single Onion often weighing three pounds, entitles it to a prominent place in the list of remarkable vegetables.

The Ironclad Watermelon, about which there has been no little discussion, and which has obtained a premium for a specimen weighing ninety-five and a half pounds, is another specialty, and there are many things listed which are worthy of trial.

L. W. Goodell, Amherst, Mass., sends us a catalogue of selected flower seeds, making the *Pansy* a leading article, and of which he offers more than forty named varieties.

Beach & Co., Richmond, Ind.—A finely illustrated and very tempting catalogue of Roses, Greenhouse and Bedding plants. The Rose is the leading plant offered, and this we notice in its various classes, carefully selected.

Among the "New Roses," we find the

Perle d'Or, a new yellow Polyantha Rose, similar in character and habit of growth to Anne Marie de Mont-ravel. The flowers, however, are larger, and if possible produced in still greater numbers than those of that valuable variety, but the great difference lies in the color, which is a beautiful nankeen yellow with vivid orange centre; the petals are slightly imbricated and overlap each other, giving the flower a very double appearance.

This firm is said to have one of the largest and best managed Floral establishments in the West.

THE PLEASURE OF FLOWERS.

(Read before the New Jersey State Horticultural Society, at their Annual Meeting, December 30, 1884.)

FLOWERS are of all embellishments the most beautiful. So much has been said and still remains to be said, about their influence on man and his surroundings, that I do not hesitate to say they are a part of every one's birthright. The love for them commences with infancy and continues until death. They are distributed over the entire world, springing up in every forest and glen, cropping up by the roadside and in every nook. It is only where mechanical man has laid his iron hand and blotted out the face of nature that flowers do not grow; but this does not stamp out the love for them, for the fact of their being so much a part of nature, for it is this that keeps them so constantly foremost in our affections. There is no education required for us to learn to love flowers; we have only to note their influence on a troop of poor neglected children, such as can be found in the humble quarters of thickly populated cities, how their faces light up with joy and their eyes sparkle with delight at the very sight of a bunch of flowers carried in the hand of some passer-by. These children have not had as much education, in all probability, as to be told that flowers grow; yet their very sight kindles in their hearts that love that cannot and does not die. How fortunate are we who can always see flowers; they give us pleasure and enjoyment that no money can purchase—a pleasure without price! This leads us to say some things practical about flowers. It is truly said that the man who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before is a benefactor. I say the man or woman who makes a flower blossom anywhere is a true friend to all. Some may say the enjoyment of flowers is one thing and the growing of them another. I say that the common-sense application which produces a healthy animal existence applies exactly to the production of healthy plant life. It would be absurd to set a hen on a nest of eggs in the middle of a snow-bank and expect a brood of chickens.

It would be equally as absurd to subject flowers to as great improprieties and expect them to thrive. The love for flowers is, no doubt, beyond question, and what is more, the management of flowers is becoming better understood and more intelligently applied. When I look around and see the progress floriculture has made in ten years, I feel that I have made a mistake and the time is not ten but a hundred years, so great have been the strides, yet there remains much to be done. The masses are beginning to learn that whatever care is properly bestowed bears fruit a hundredfold; there is yet much to learn, and it is the duty of us all to stand boldly out and give all the information that lies in our power. There is an immense field open for improvement, and this improvement should be made by comparing notes, by consulting the best authorities, by personal contact, and the diffusion of right ideas. It is such bodies as the New Jersey State Horticultural and other kindred societies that help along the good work. We want to talk to the people in such a manner as to be easily understood. We must aim not to write over them, but whatever we do write should be instructive and to the point. We want to encourage the meeting together and the interchange of ideas. We want to support all practical journals such as are not trammelled by individual whims or corporative influence. It is to the practical men we have to look for much support, most of whom are willing to tell what they know.

The numerous classes of flowers from every quarter of the globe and from many altitudes are widely different in character requiring much study for their best welfare. The canons of successful cultivation require to be carefully studied and carried out, and are as necessary to the welfare of flowers, as are the laws of a nation for the administration of justice.

The nearer to the requirements, the nearer to perfection. Selections should be made as far as possible with the

end in view of making every plant happy. It is not wise to place *sun*-loving plants in the shade, or *shade*-loving plants in the sun, neither is it wise to expect ten plants to thrive where there is only room for two.

We make or mar, according to our right or wrong treatment, the pleasures we seek; we have only to note as the cultivation of flowers becomes more understood. Instead of being satisfied with the ordinary routine of management, as prescribed by individuals, we begin to note that certain plants require a peculiar mode of treatment; we are at once led to inquire why that treatment is necessary; we frequently see amateurs, giving their attention to one particular class of plants, surpassing professional men in the perfection of their specimens.

The best Pansies I ever saw were grown by a shoemaker, whose garden was considerably over a mile from his home, and the only time he had to attend to them was before seven A. M. and after six P. M.

The best Dahlias I ever saw were grown by a butcher, who had no more time at his disposal than the shoemaker.

In England there are hundreds of Floral societies, the members being composed entirely of factory hands. Weavers, iron workers, mill hands and other artisans making specialties of Pansies, Tulips, Roses, Carnations, Dahlias and Chrysanthemums; having their exhibitions often Saturday evenings, the prizes frequently being made up by subscriptions on the spot, and amounting only to a few shillings. The pleasure these men derive from such meetings is calculated to be and is beneficial to their interests. Cannot we hope for the beginning of such interest in cultivation here? The improvement among flowers keeps pace with the improvements of the nineteenth century, and it seems that, instead of only a few families receiving the attention of introducers and raisers

of new varieties, there are actually hundreds. I may mention the Abutilons or Flowering Maples. Begonia, especially the tuberous varieties, first introduced twenty years ago from Bolivia and Peru, as compared with the magnificent, brilliantly colored flowers of to-day, they were transparent and of poor shape. The perpetual flowering Carnations (or Pinks), are of modern date, the Chrysanthemum, in all its glory, has achieved its popularity within ten years.

The Geraniums of every class have been brought to their present forms within a generation. The same applied to Gladioli, to Dahlias, Clematis, many Roses, and indeed nearly everything else has been progressing—each succeeding generation of seedlings being in advance of its predecessor. As an example showing the improvements in varieties, the past summer I selected ten sorts of Gladioli that were introduced before 1875, and compared them with the same number of varieties introduced since that time; the same comparisons were made with twenty Geraniums, the differences were most remarkable—those of the latest introduction surpassing the others incredibly.

Let it be understood that I do not believe in *all* recently introduced plants as superior to *all* old, or that we are to despise old favorites, for many of our old friends are as desirable and welcome as the new. We have some that live with us generation after generation—veritable Methuselahs, as it were—I may refer especially to some old Roses, such as *Agrippina*, introduced in 1789; *Baltimore Belle*, in 1843; *Bon Silene*, in 1843; *Safrano*, in 1839, and *Souvenir de la Malmaison*, in 1843, and others. Then, the beauty of the single Dahlias and single Hollyhocks of fifty years ago has been re-discovered, so with many other almost forgotten flowers.

It is the *love growing stronger* that has brought from oblivion these old favorites.

JOHN THORPE.

ABUTILONS AND LANTANAS.

THE Abutilons, as a class, are very desirable plants, good either for the house or garden culture. For cleanliness, healthfulness, or constant flowering habit, there are but few shrubs that excel them. Only a few years ago—I think less than eight—there were but three shades to be found; but what a great improvement has been made in this class of plants since that time.

We now have a good variety of colors—pink, purple, tan, rose, crimson, scarlet, pure white, and various shades of yellow.

These plants are very tractable, as well as attractive; by dwarfing them in season we can make them assume a graceful, compact habit. A well-rounded, tree-shaped plant, hung with its pendulous bells, is a charming sight, and far more preferable than those that are allowed to grow at random, with their two or three branches shooting upward five or six feet before they put out one single bud or bloom; and when at last they do this, the branches are so slender, the flowers are but sparingly produced.

When my plants are six or eight inches high, I cut off the top; this induces them to throw out at least three branches, which are in turn cut back, and this process may be continued until the plants are bushy and symmetrical; then let them bloom as soon as you please. I am aware that cutting back plants has been termed a "barbarous practice;" and, doubtless, it seems so to the amateur florist; but, when by beheading a plant that is inclined to grow quite tall before it throws out side shoots, we can double, triple or quadruple its number of branches and flowers in a short period of time, it is quite a temptation to continue this "cruel" treatment regardless of consequences. That this practice is sometimes carried to excess, I cannot deny; indeed, I recall an instance as I write. A friend came in one springtime when I was pruning and cutting back my plants, getting them ready for the garden beds. She inquired particularly the whys and wherefores of so doing, and went home to put the theory into practice; the result was that she lost nearly

her whole collection by cutting and slashing them indiscriminately. In this instance it might appropriately be called a "barbarous practice." Whenever we have occasion to prune or dwarf a plant, let the act be tempered with common sense; we should never go to extremes in using the knife, nor in other practices of moment that may endanger the life of our plants.

The *Abutilon* is easily propagated by cuttings and seed. If the seeds are sown as early as March they will make flowering plants the following winter. Plant the cuttings in moist sand, and place them in a sunny window. The following are among the later introductions, and are fine varieties: *Boule de Neige*, pure white; *Rosaflorea*, beautiful rose-color; *Arthur Belsnam*, dark crimson, large bells; *Couronné d'Or*, deep sulphur yellow, a fine variety; *Snow-Storm*, pure white; *Etenard*, light crimson, a distinct and free-blooming variety; *John Hopkins*, golden yellow, large flower, a free bloomer; *Pluton*, deep red, with darker veinings; *Chamois*, tan color; *Coronet*, large, blood-red bells; *G. Delaux*, violet carmine; *Firefly*, scarlet, an extra variety. There are several varieties with variegated foliage very fine for bedding purposes. I have found none with prettier leaves than *Ameum maculatum*, *Thompsonii*, *Vexillarium pictum*. The latter is very useful for vases, being of a drooping, spreading habit. *Thompsonii plena* is the new double *Abutilon*, and the only one, I believe, in cultivation. This variety has its origin in a "sport" from *Thompsonii variegata*. It has the same beautiful foliage, mottled yellow and green, and the flowers are said to resemble in form a double Hollyhock; color, rich deep orange, shaded and streaked with crimson. As yet I have only seen a cut of this double variety.

The *Lantana* is another tribe of plants that I would rank among those deserving of more extensive culture. I know not why they are neglected, as they apparently seem to

be, for I seldom find a single specimen growing in the houses or gardens of my friends and acquaintances. It may be that they do not know their worth.

I consider them one of our most obliging summer bedders, thriving well in a hot or dry season, sunshine or shade, blooming almost continuously; and then they will do equally well as a winter bloomer in the house. The varieties of *Lantana* are almost numberless. The flowers are borne in Verbena-like heads, and the colors embrace shades of pink, white, purple, orange, carmine, and crimson.

I should advise treating this tribe of plants in the same "barbarous" manner recommended for the *Abutilon*. Some varieties can easily be trained upon a trellis, but for standard plants I prefer a straight single stem, and a good bushy top. There are a great many varieties that I have never tested, but the following, I think, will please the most fastidious: *Alba grandiflora*, pure white, fine; *Jeanne d'Arc*, white, yellow centre, passing to violet; *Madame Horté*, golden yellow, passing to purple; *Favorite*, yellow, passing into purplish crimson; *Rosa Mundi*, white and rose; *Craig*, rich orange carmine, medium growth; *Delicatissima*, deep lilac, a dwarf variety; *Harkett's Perfection*, foliage green, variegated with yellow; flower, lilac, showy and constant; *Raphael*, purple, orange and rose; *La Niège*, a mass of snowy-white flowers, delicate and pretty; *California*, plant very dwarf, flowers dark yellow, completely covering the plant; *Meteor*, flowers small, pale yellow, passing to violet rose; *Prince de Galles*, yellowish bronze, with a large fiery centre, one of the best varieties; *Le Styx*, vivid red, passing to crimson purple, a beautiful variety.

These plants may be propagated the same as *Abutilons*; seeds sown early will, with good culture, make flowering plants the following winter.

MRS. G. W. FLANDERS.

NEW SEEDLING GLADIOLI.

THE *Gladiolus* growers, both in this country and Europe, annually send out a limited number of new varieties, and we are pleased to say that each year gives us some that are superior, in some respects, to the already long list of choice sorts. When we say this, we also wish to say that we cannot find any improvement in certain classes over those introduced ten years ago. For instance, in their respective colors, we have nothing better than *Shakespeare*, *Meyerbeer*, *M. Legouve* and *Eugene Scribe*. In yellows and whites, there is a marked improvement, as the colors are purer, and the flowers are of more substance and of better form.

The following varieties grown by M. Souchet, Fontainebleau, France, will be sent out this season for the first time:

Ali.—The spike rather long, very compact, and well arranged; the flowers of good form, the upper divisions cream-colored, spotted and striped with red cerise; the lower divisions, yellow, shaded rose, and reticulated with

red purple. *Amitie*.—The spike very fine, and the flowers of exceptional size; the divisions light rose-color marked with purple; the lower divisions feathered with brilliant rose. *Daphnis*.—Very distinct and beautiful; the spike long and well arranged; the flowers of full size and a pleasing rosy salmon, richly painted with purplish violet and spotted with white. *Eugene Souchet*.—The spike of medium size and well arranged; the flowers of good shape and a rich rose-color, richly striped with purple. *Ganymede*.—Spike rather long, and very compact; the flowers of medium size and a rich rosy carmine, shaded with amaranth. *Gordon Pacha*.—Spike rather long, and of bright rose carmine, beautifully painted and spotted with rose. *Latone*.—Spike of medium length, very compact, and richly feathered with delicate rose on a creamy-white ground. *Madame Auber*.—Spike rather short, and very compact; the flowers large and of grand form; the color pale lilac, maculated with creamy white, and spotted with rose. *Stanley*.—A distinct

variety; the flowers of medium size, good form, and borne in neat spikes; color, rosy salmon, richly feathered with rose. *Thérèse de Vilmorin*.—Spike rather large, and very compact; the flowers of full size, splendid form, and beautifully striped with rose on a pure white ground.

Whether our own growers are to send out any of their new seedlings this season, we cannot say. Messrs. Hal-

lock & Thorpe exhibited some very fine ones last season, several of them fully equal to any of the French or English varieties; but whether their stock is sufficiently large to warrant offering to the trade, we cannot say. Messrs. C. L. Allen & Co., we know, are not going to offer theirs until they have at least a thousand bulbs of a kind, which they expect to have for the spring trade of 1886.

FORGET-ME-NOTS.

IT would be difficult to find a more familiar group of plants than the "Forget-me-nots." To assign a reason for our knowledge of these plants is not a difficult matter. In the first place their flowers are attractive, without being in the least degree showy. There is another reason, they are the emblem of love, and if we look at them, we shall find that they are well worthy of that honor, for they are as innocent-looking, as playful, but treacherous, as Cupid himself.

Nature has planted these flowers in moist places, on the richest soil. Therefore, if we wish to be successful in growing them, we must choose the dampest places in our gardens, and if we follow nature in her teaching, we shall not go far wrong. They are plants of easy cultivation if their wants are satisfied, but very troublesome if they do not obtain all they want. They need lifting and replanting every other year, because they get sick of the same soil year after year and finally dwindle away and die. Therefore, we must come to the rescue, and give timely aid in the matter of supplying them with fresh soil, and in lifting and replanting. The time for doing this operation is after the flowering is over, and, as a rule, good light rich loam is the best to plant them in. They can be propagated in three ways, either by seed, cuttings, or division; and all the methods are easy, for they come up well from seed, if the seed-pots can have the protection of a hand-light and a nice open compost is employed. Propagating by cuttings is a favorite way, and also a good one. Take the cuttings when the Antirrhinums and similar plants are propagated and serve Forget-me-nots in the same way as you would those cuttings. Dividing the plants can be done when the flowering season is over. Take care to choose as damp a situation as possible, and the richer the soil the better for the well-being of the plants. Other minor details peculiar to each species will be noted in the enumeration of the sorts.

Alpine Forget-me-not, *Myosotis alpestris*.—This is a fine ornament in gardens during the spring months, and one that ought to hold a place among the smallest collection of hardy plants. It is of dwarf habit, attaining only a few inches in height, with hairy dark-green leaves. The flowers are rather large and of a bright blue color, appearing about May and June. It is a good species for growing on the rockery, and requires a moderately shady spot, where the soil is well drained. Found sometimes in Britain, but very rarely; and is more frequently met

with on the Alps. This species is best raised from seed. It is sometimes catalogued as *M. rupicola*.

Azorean Forget-me-not, *M. Azorica*.—Unlike the foregoing, this is a good sort for the border. It is very distinct from others in general appearance, and bears differently colored flowers, so that it should be grown for the sake of the variety it affords. It grows about nine inches in height, and is of very compact habit, with rough hairy foliage. The flowers are produced in dense racemes, and are at first of a rich purple hue, which rapidly passes into a deep blue color. It revels in a moist position, and should be planted in a well-drained soil, consisting of sandy loam incorporated with a small proportion of leaf-mould. Native of the Azores.

Loose-Flowering Forget-me-not, *M. dissitiflora*.—An early flowering kind, about nine inches in height. Its fine large deep sky-blue flowers appear in the earliest spring months, continuing in bloom throughout the summer. It is invaluable for spring bedding, and also forms a good border or rock plant. When planted in a good moist soil it sows itself, and may also be very easily raised either by division or cuttings. Native of the Alps. It was first catalogued as *M. montana*, but the name given above is now generally adopted.

Common Forget-me-not, *M. palustris*.—Every village child is acquainted with the beautiful common species that grows so abundantly in moist places. It is not necessary to describe it, because everyone ought to know it, but suffice it to say that if this common plant was more generally cultivated it would be better for our gardens and afford us an endless fund of pleasure. It will not grow anywhere, as some people think, but requires a good loamy soil, and, of course, needs a wet position, because in its native state it inhabits swampy places; so we must try to make it as home-like as possible. It should be lifted annually, as it soon dies away if allowed to remain in the same position for any length of time. For beds and borders it is also serviceable, and, in fact, in a variety of ways this plant can be utilized in the flower garden.

Wood Forget-me-not, *M. sylvatica*.—A popular spring bedding plant, growing about one foot in height. It should be planted in masses, because the individual plants are far too thin to produce any effect. The flowers are of a beautiful blue color, produced in long loose racemes. It sows itself freely, and is, therefore, easily propagated. Native of Britain and Asia.—*Exchange*.

THE GREAT CHRYSANTHEMUM EXHIBITION.

NEW YORK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

FOR the benefit of those of our readers who are now making the Chrysanthemum a specialty, we publish the following report of the committee, which is complete ever excessive training to mechanical models is employed, the plants always appear unhappy. As to variety and effectiveness, the exhibition was glorious — taking the



INCURVED CHRYSANTHEMUM.

in descriptions of the flowers that were awarded the highest premiums and Certificates of Merit.

The Japanese varieties were in the greatest force, and, on the whole, were the best grown and most effective. We were pleased to note that a very natural and effective manner of training had been adopted throughout the whole of the classes; this is as it should be, for when-

colors in their various shades. The bronze and old-gold shades were Kirakana, Katakana, Red Dragon, Jessica, Triomphe du Châtelet, Comte de Germiny and Chang. The whites were: Elaine, Ceres, Lady Selbourne, Hiver Fleur with lemon centre, Mlle. La Croix and Comedie. The deep crimsons were: Bras Rouge, Juvena, Abd-el-Kader, Fulgore, Earl of Beaconsfield, Mons. J. C. Equileor.



POMPON CHRYSANTHEMUM.

In pink shades there were : *Admiration*, *Mme. C. Audi-guier*, *Ile Japonaise* and *M. Planchenau*. The purple and rose shades were : *Cité des Fleurs*, *Purple King*, *Magnum Bonum*, *Viceroy of Egypt*, *Gloire Rayonnante*, *Dr. Audi-guier*. Shaded pink and white were : *Striata Perfecta*, *Hoff Lehl*, *M. Deveille*. The yellow ; *Golden Dragon Grandiflorum*, *Bend Or*, *Fulton*, *Soliel*, *Levant* and *Source d'Or*. When we state that nearly every specimen we have named was on an average over three feet across, some idea of the effect may be imagined. This is a good representative collection for pot culture.

The Chinese, or smooth-typed flowers, were not in such variety, though the specimens in many cases were as large. Good whites were : *Lady St. Clair*, *Mrs. Rundle*, *Empress of India* and *Virgin Queen* (incurved varieties, see illustration), *Felicité* and *Mrs. Forsyth* ; yellow, *Mr. C. H. Glover*, *Mr. George Glenny* ; sulphur, *Golden Beverly* and *Temple of Solomon* ; blush, *Mdle Croizette* ; deep red, *M. Coussé* ; amaranth, *Progne* ; brown, *Fremy* ; amber, *Baron Beust* ; purple, *Fingal* ; rose and lemon colored, *Belle Castillane* ; purple striped with white, *M. Futton*.

The Pompons (see illustration) were as popular as ever, especially with the conservative part of the admirers, those knowing the *Chrysanthemum* as *Artemisias*. The plants were mostly very fine, especially the old favorite deep crimson *Bob-and-Fanny* ; the two *Marthas*, golden and white ; *Arbre de Noel*, rich amber ; *Princess Meletia*, fringed white ; *Drin Drin* and *General Canrobert*, yellow ; *President*, rich purple ; *Montgolfier*, crimson and gold ; *Inimitable*, amber, and *Souvenir de Jersey*, gold. The Standard or Tree *Chrysanthemums*, as they were called, were represented by all the above-named popular

varieties, and never before have we seen such effective grouping ; many of the plants were nearly ten feet high, arranged as a grand semicircular bank—their heads of most beautiful coloring, far surpassing imagination. A plant of *Elaine*, and one of *Earl of Beaconsfield*, shown by *W. Barr* (*John Farrell*, gardener), were truly magnificent, their stems six feet high with spreading heads, two to three feet in diameter, were simply superb. So far, this is a fair digest of the ordinary forms of double *Chrysanthemums*, but our American seedlings, with superb single flowers, were represented in all sizes and all shades of color, some of them being actually more effective than the double forms : these were all seedlings of *John Thorpe*, and were *Mrs. C. L. Allen*, rose, white and gold ; *Casino*, pink, white and gold ; *W. A. Harris*, bronze amber ; *Mrs. Gubbins*, pure white and gold ; also *James Y. Murkland* ; *Mrs. Robertson*, pink, cream and gold, all of large size ; others we noticed were *Peter Henderson*, pure lemon ; *Leucantha* ; *Ragged Robin* ; *President Arthur* and *Pyrethum*. The forms known as Anemone-flowered (see illustration) were also in strong force ; eighteen plants shown by *Hallock & Thorpe* being as effective and having as many admirers as the other classes.

The Cut-flowers. We question if even among the *Chrysanthemum* Society of London better flowers have been staged than those taking the first premiums in the single-blooms of Chinese and Japanese. The flowers in the Chinese class were models of perfection, as far as size and form go. The twelve were : *Lady St. Clair*, white, a perfect flower, three and a half inches across ;



ANEMONE-FLOWERED CHRYSANTHEMUM

Prince Alfred, purple; Lord Wolseley, dusky salmon; Emily Dale, primrose; Fingal, puce; Empress of India, white; Miss M. Morgan, pink and white; Jeanne d'Arc, white with lavender tips; Mr. Bunn, golden; M. Ardenne, rose; M. Lavellee, crimson, and Marguerite d'Anjou, nankeen buff. Dr. H. P. Walcott took first premium for twelve and six Chinese varieties in amateurs' collections, his flowers being very fine, but not quite so large as in the trade class. The varieties different from the above were: Abbe Passaglia, amber; Mr. Gladstone, buff and yellow; Mabel Ward, primrose; Le Grand Fawn; St. Patrick, crimson and blush, and King of the Crimson, deep crimson.

The best six of one variety was Mr. Bunn.

The Japanese were even more astonishing; in the class for twelve varieties the flowers averaged fully five inches in diameter. They were: Ceres, creamy white; Viceroy of Egypt, bright rose; Grandiflorum, rich yellow; Anna Delaux, silver white; Comte de Germiny, tawny gold and brown; Triomphe de la Rue des Chatelet, buff; Bouquet Fait, silvery blush; L'Incomparable, gold and brown; Blanche Neige, the purest snow-white; Mme. Audiguier, silvery pink; Julius Scharff, amaranth; M. Mousilac, richest crimson.

The best six of one variety were superb flowers of Comte de Germiny, six inches in diameter.

The twelve new varieties created great interest among those looking out for the latest arrivals, and all lovers of the Chrysanthemum will do well to note their names.

Japanese varieties were: Mr. W. Barr, crimson and gold; Julius Scharff and Mrs. S. A. Nutt, white and blue; Mastic, rosy pink and fawn; Galatea, pink and white; La Fraicheur, like balls of creamy-tinted paper; La Pluie d'Or, gold, and Rosea Superba (the first three were seedlings of Mr. Thorpe's). The Chinese were: President Lavallee, crimson; M. Moynet, pure white; Mr. Bunn, gold, and the glorious single flowering variety, Mrs. Gubbins (Thorpe).

Among all the Cut-Flowers the greatest attraction were the American seedlings raised by Dr. H. P. Walcott and John Thorpe, Dr. Walcott having placed in Mr. Thorpe's hands many of his varieties for trial. The varieties shown

were all grown at Queens, N. Y. Certificates of Merit were awarded to the following in Dr. Walcott's collection: Morning, rich amaranth, of large size, with full double flowers, anemone flowered; Robert Walcott, reflexed Chinese, of the richest crimson, with perfectly shaped flowers.

John Thorpe—a new type of Chinese with outer guard petals of bronzy-red, the centre of each flower forming cushion-like globes in each flower, the petals being pointed, and of the richest golden yellow. Wenonah (Japanese), pure white, each petal being laced with deep rose-color, and was called by many a Blushing Beauty; Manhattan (Japanese), silvery rose, with distinct white centre, large and fine.

The Queen's seedlings were: President Cleveland (Japanese), a superb variety, with petals tubular half their distance, over four inches in diameter, of a delicate blush-white tint, grand variety; Dr. Walcott (Japanese), richest amaranth purple, exceedingly bright, of the largest size, the centre of each flower having a spiral crown and each petal tipped with silvery white, quite distinct; Samuel Henshaw (Japanese), resembling Comte de Germiny, in shape, the body-color being a rich rose-pink with silvery reflex, of the largest size; Golden "Gloire de Rayonnante," an exact counterpart of Gloire de Rayonnante, except the color, is a deep yellow—the second of the "Hedgehog" type; Mrs. LeMoult (single), amaranth crimson with rich golden disk, most effective and beautiful; Mrs. Gubbins (single), an extraordinary flower six inches in diameter, much curved and twisted, of snowy-white, and the disk golden yellow; Ragged Robin (single), golden yellow, straw and deep crimson, a very effective and distinct variety, much confused; Casino (single), rich pink and white, very large and effective; Mrs. C. L. Allen (single), deep rose with pure white rosy ground, yellow disk, forming dense heads of fine flowers; Pure Gold (single), a very smooth flower, two inches in diameter, of a pure golden yellow, forming dense heads, of the most beautiful effect.

SAMUEL HENSHAW, }
WILLIAM BARR, } Committee.
C. L. ALLEN. }

A FLOWER SHE GAVE.

A FLOWER she gave me years ago,
It lies to-day, a withered thing—
A handful of pale dust. But oh,
The memories that round it cling
More fragrant are to me by far
Than ripest roses' sweet perfume
The old dreams stir, of love and her—
No fairer flower for me can bloom!

Dear withered flower, every hour
I'd breathe thy faint sweet odor deep,

Life's bloom like thine did fade and pine
And leave me naught but dust to keep!

A flower she tossed me carelessly,
A trifling gift I deemed it then—
Love was so rich and life so full.
Oh, never can it be again!

My heart holds fast to that dear past,
When this poor flower was fair to see,
I gave away my heart that day,
And this is all that's left to me.

MAMIE S. PADEN.

THE FLORA OF WINTER.

POETS rave about the delights of spring and the glories of autumn, and the luxuriant magnificence of summer has been extolled by all classes of writers. But who has ever talked about the flora of winter? Yet there is nothing so beautiful as a winter landscape. There is a purity and a grandeur about it that the summer landscapes lack. That sensuousness of sound and color is gone, but the air is full of ozone, and the delicate aroma of the Pines and Cypress trees is suggestive of the subtle fragrance that emanated from the goddess of the Greeks when she came from her bath of nectar and ambrosia. Even the slumberous whisperings of the needle-laden boughs, or the soft pelting of the snow crystals upon the emerald tufted cones, have a charm that summer sounds do not possess. It is as if Pan was breathing lightly upon his pastoral reeds.

The flora of winter is as well defined, as suggestive, and as beautiful as that of the hot midsummer season. It may require a finer sympathy with Nature to appreciate its beauties; they are less glaring and obtrusive, and more in the way of suggestion, so to speak, than of pageantry. Yet winter is rich in color, and the enchanted foliage is like a description from the Arabian Nights. Not only ruby and emerald jewels and shining crystals, but living cones and leaves of green—the dress of a real sovereign—are borne by these trees, the Evergreens, which stand against the whiteness just as if they had stepped out of Aladdin's garden.

It is a poetical fallacy, I think, to associate the winter with stillness. Although one has written—

“On a lone winter's evening, when the frost has wrought in silence,”

snow-time is everything but silent to the open ear. It fairly rings and sings with unnumbered resonances and sibilations, but all so harmonized upon some mystic keynote like that of the sea-waves, as not to intrude themselves upon our senses, and in fact to intensify the quiet. One poet has discovered this, and Whittier, in his “Snow-Bound,” more than once refers to the winter sounds:

“ Within our beds awhile we heard
The wind that round the gables roared ;
We heard the loosened clapboards tost,
The board-nails snapping in the frost ;
Faint and more faint the murmurs grew,
Till in the summer-land of dreams
They softened to the sound of streams,
Low stir of leaves, and dip of oars,
And lapsing waves on quiet shores.”

But the Flora of Winter: Have you counted all these beautiful evergreen trees that pitch their emerald richness against the snowy whiteness or the dreary brown of winter? They constitute a very interesting family. The Pine, the Spruce, the Hemlock, the Fir, the Arbor-vitæ, the Cedar, the Juniper, the Cypress and the Yew. Which of these trees could we spare from the landscape? If we call the White Pine the king of our woods, the Hemlock

should stand for the queen and a group of Balsam Fir would answer for the princes. The Cedars and Spruces stand as sentinels along the line of hills, guarding the valleys—the Cedars solitary watchmen, the Spruces clambering up in bands, while the Yew and the Arbor-vitæ cluster with neighborly kindness in our gardens and cemeteries and the squares and parks of our cities.

These trees belong to one of the oldest classes of our floras. They formed the landscapes of the old coal period. All these black masses of anthracite were once stately Pines and Cedars. They sheltered the huge unwieldy lizards, and reflected themselves in the glassy waters where the saurians swam and basked in their dreamy existence. Legends, sweet and manifold, cluster around these trees in the literature of every race. The Juniper tree is dear to the children, from the old German story of the “Step-mother and the Juniper tree.” The Yew, so celebrated from its churchyard associations, and from its being employed in the manufacture of bows—the weapon principally used by our warrior ancestors before the introduction of fire-arms—was a sacred tree with the Druids and is connected with many of their religious ceremonies.

The Balsam Fir (*Picea balsamea*) commands our attention in this respect. It is the tree that forms a great feature in the German forests, and it reigns especially in the famous Black Forest, where all the elves and dwarfs of the German stories are to be found. Can you not fancy one of the little elves sitting astride a cone-laden bough, high in the air, just as the dwarf appeared to the Twin-Brothers? Then there is the Cypress consecrated by the ancient Greeks to Venus and Apollo, and dedicated to the dead, through the Eastern world from Magonderan to Constantinople.

Ovid gives us the traditionary account of the mournful origin of the Cypress tree, and we always find it devoted to mournful thoughts, or sad solemnities. Cyprissus, son of Telephus of Cea, was beloved by Apollo. Having killed the favorite stag of his friend, he grieved, pined, and, dying, was changed by Apollo into a Cypress tree. The shade and smell were considered dangerous; hence the Romans looked on it as a fatal tree, and made use of it at funerals. We are told by Irving that, at Latium, on the decease of any person, a Cypress was placed before the door. Loudon's lines are familiar to us all:

“A funeral train
Will in Cypress grove be found;”

and again,

“The moon is o'er a grove of Cypress trees
Weeping like mourners.”

The stateliest and noblest of the Coniferae is the White Pine. Like a Greek statue in a luxurious drawing-room, sharp cut, cold, virginal; shaming by the grandeur of mere form, the voluptuousness of mere color; so stands the Pine, a thing to be worshiped rather than to be loved. One sees it frequently standing near our villages in the

summer, its dark-green forming a contrast to the other trees around—a picture of powerful growth—or dotting the hillsides in the country, its dark color prominent against the soft green of the Wild Cherry tree, or its trunk serving as a support for the Bitter-sweet and other trailing vines. It is with reason that Emerson sings :

“Who leaves the Pine tree,
Leaves his friend,
Unnerves his strength,
Invites his end.”

In the winter the Pine seems like a trusty friend, stretching out his sheltering arms, a type of strong constancy. You think of Bayard Taylor's "The Palm and Pine," and dream of the swart, bare-armed hewers who built the fleet of Eneus of the emerald crowned kings from Ida's sides, and of the rude songs of the Viking rowers as they swept over the seas in their ocean steeds, framed from the dark tossing Pines of Norway.

Pleasant are the Pine woods even in the winter time. One has a warm, comfortable feeling standing among them on the coldest of midwinter days, for their thick branches have kept the snow from the brown tasseled ground, and the cold winds cannot enter them. The wind sighs pleasantly through the leaves, and the piney odors are as satisfying as a wafty frankincense and myrrh from Araby the Blest. Here and there a stream of sunlight comes in making a fiery tinge on the soft brown carpet, and we can venture to linger awhile and listen to the story the wind is whispering to the Pine.

Almost as beautiful is the Hemlock, the name we are

in the habit of giving to the *Abies canadensis*. Its soft, delicate foliage suggests dreams of summer amid deep snows. These trees are all cone-bearing, or as the Germans call them, "needle-trees." It was one of this family, you will remember, that in the folk-lore story wanted to change its needles into "truly" leaves, like those of the Maple and the Oak. Glad enough, however, was the dissatisfied tree, if we recollect aright, to receive its needles back again, and very much should we miss them if all the Pines and Firs and Spruces should choose to give up their needles and cones and put on the costume of the other trees. We should then have no winter flora, no emerald freshness to relieve the sombre brown or the dazzling whiteness. The Larch is the only one of this family that mimics the other families of trees and sheds its leaves in winter. In Canada and New England this tree is known as the "Hackmatack;" in the Southern and Western States it is sometimes called the "Tamarack." Its European cousin is one of the most valuable of ornamental trees.

Useful trees are all this family; they are not merely ornamental, but commend themselves to the most utilitarian mind. The wood of the red Cedar is used in the manufacture of lead-pencils. The tall Pines on our mountain sides again tower aloft in foreign harbors and on distant seas. From the white Spruce the Indian cuts his swift darting canoe. Our great tanneries are supplied by the bark of Larch and Hemlock. Healing balsams are furnished by the Firs. Pitch, resin, balsams—these are the spices that flavor our winter flora.

FRED. MYRON COLBY.

THE PILGRIM ROSE.

FOUNDED UPON FACT.

IN the spring of 1634 the ship "Hercules" sailed from England for the newly settled shores of America. Many of her passengers were men who, with their families, were leaving their homes to join the Plymouth Colony, willing to endure the hardships and privations of a new country for the sake of religious liberty.

Among these was Thomas Besbedge, of Sandwich, a man of wealth and position in his own country. With him were his wife, six children and three servants. This group, as they stood watching the slowly receding shores of England, was noticeable chiefly on account of a slender young girl in their midst, who held in her arms a flower-pot containing a thrifty rosebush.

Catherine Besbedge could not have been more than thirteen years of age. She had the slim, undeveloped figure common to girls of that age, and a small, delicate face, with an expression of unusual sweetness and purity. Whoever looked at her felt that she was not long for this world—not that she looked sickly, but that her beautiful soul so predominated over her frail body, that one could not imagine that slender shape rounding into womanhood, or that delicate face receiving the impress of age and experience; one felt intuitively that the lovely and sensitive soul would develop and outgrow its earthly cov-

ering, until the latter would fade away and become invisible. The rosebush was as stout and vigorous as Catherine was slight and fragile, and was covered with buds of all sizes, from mere tiny points of green to those already bursting into white loveliness. Every day when the weather was fair, Catherine brought it on deck, where the sun might shine on it, and one by one the buds opened. But there was never a full-blown rose on the bush, for whenever a bud attained that most perfect condition half way between a bud and a blossom, some one on board the "Hercules" was sure to become the possessor of it, together with one of Catherine's loveliest smiles.

If a little child was sick and fretful, and its tired mother failed to soothe it, one of Catherine's half-blown roses would find its way into the small hand and turn discomfort into pleasure.

If anyone was oppressed with the burden of past sorrows or present hardships, Catherine seemed to divine it by some subtle, tender instinct, and offered her rose and her sympathy alike unobtrusively. When a poor mother died during the voyage it was Catherine who placed in the dead fingers one of her fairest rosebuds, and at night hushed to sleep with her sweet voice the motherless boy. The rosebush came to be known all over the ship as

the Pilgrim Rose, and the possession of one of its beautiful buds was looked upon as a token of tender sympathy for some grief or hardship. There were not a few homesick hearts on board the "Hercules," and among them all pretty Catherine Besbedge moved like an unspoken benediction. Perhaps there was no one for whom she felt a deeper commiseration than for the cabin-boy: he was always busy, often at work far too heavy for his strength, and was kicked, cuffed and beaten by captain, mates and sailors until life was to him but a wretched burden. One night, after a severe and unmerited beating, the boy stood leaning over the rail and looking into the sea; he wondered if the dark waters were any colder than the hearts of men, or if the finny monsters in their depths were any more cruel than the rough sailors. The sea seemed drawing him down, his own burdened heart seemed pressing him down, and he stretched out his arms to the waves and soon all would have been over—but just then Catherine stood beside him, and a white, fragrant rosebud was laid in his hand, and a sweet smile shone on him, and a few hopeful words rang like heavenly music in his ears.

It was soon whispered about that the cabin-boy had received one of the Pilgrim Roses. The news sank into the hearts of the sailors more deeply than the sharpest rebuke, and not a hand was lifted against the boy again during the voyage.

Catherine flitted about from one part of the ship to another, never in the way, always quiet and shy, but smiling and pure; and wherever she went the sailor's grog was left untasted, the oath smothered before spoken and the angry impulse banished before it became an act; it was as if she created about her an atmosphere of goodness and purity in which sin could not live.

Among the passengers was Lois Ripley, a girl of eighteen, who, in the care of her uncle's family was coming to America to be married. Her lover, to whom she had been betrothed when scarcely older than Catherine, had come two years previously, and now anxiously awaited her arrival. The two girls were much together, and a warm affection sprang up between them before the voyage ended.

Just before they landed, Catherine gathered her last rose for a sick sailor, and Lois, who was watching her, said, a little sadly:

"I had hoped there would be one for my wedding day."

"It is a monthly Rose, dear Lois," said Catherine, "but, in truth, it blossoms a great part of the time; see! there are already new buds forming; if you will but wait a little you shall have them all."

"I shall willingly wait," answered Lois; "methinks a Pilgrim Rose would add a blessing to my wedding. You love the rosebush dearly, do you not, Catherine?"

"I do, indeed, Lois; to me it is a bit of dear England; it is English soil that fills the pot, and an English rose that thrives therein, and it is all of the dear old home that

will ever gladden my eyes again," answered Catherine, sadly.

The little company landed at Scituate, and a few weeks later Lois wore Pilgrim Roses at her wedding. Many of the settlers had brought with them flower-seeds from their old homes, but Catherine's rose was the only one in Scituate, and it grew and thrived in its new home as cheerfully as in the old.

But Catherine drooped and faded. The hardships of a settler's life bore too heavily on one so delicate and sensitive. The rude wilderness was too unlike the blossoming hedgerows and smiling fields of her old home to win her love. The coarse and scanty food which her buxom brothers and sisters ate with relish and thankfulness, Catherine scarce could swallow. She did not know that she was homesick, only Mrs. Besbedge, with that clearer vision that comes with mother-love, knew of what disease her child was dying. And there was no remedy. One day after Catherine had grown too weak to leave her bed, she asked her mother to bring the rosebush that she might see if it was budding. There was one small bud on it. "Will it open for me, mother?" asked Catherine, wistfully. "It has blossomed for so many. I would that it might blossom for me this once!"

Sweet Catherine, in all her thirteen years she had never before been known to think of self!

The bud did open for her, and when they laid her in her early grave, it was clasped in her thin, dead hand.

After Catherine's death, the rosebush she had so loved was carefully tended by her mother and sisters. It was planted on her grave in summer and safely housed in winter.

After a few years Thomas Besbedge grew restless; he had left houses and lands in England, and the rude homes of the new country scarcely contented him. He bought a house and land in Duxbury. It was autumn when they moved; the weather had been mild, and the rosebush had not been taken from Catherine's grave. The night before they were to start for their new home the mother said:

"We must take up the Pilgrim Rose."

"I like not to take it away from our Catherine's grave," said Elisha, the eldest son.

"I, too, would fain leave it there, my son," replied the mother, "but it soon would die of the cold, and truly our Catherine herself would far rather it should bloom for the living."

"Methinks you are right, mother," and I will fetch it in the morning, though it will grieve me sorely."

And in the early morning Elisha went to the grave of the beloved girl, but in the flower-pot were only a few bare and shrunken sticks and a handful of shriveled leaves.

The cold had been more severe than they knew, and the Pilgrim Rose was dead.

MRS. SUSIE A. BISBEE.

FLOWERS are not trifles, as might be known from the care with which every one is finished. They fringe the borders of mountain winters, grace the pulseless breast

of the old gray granite, and harmonize with their surroundings. Murderers do not ordinarily wear roses in their button-holes. Villains seldom train vines over cottage-doors.

HOME DECORATIONS.

A Novel Idea for Plaques.

THERE are plaques of all sizes and materials; some of metal, wood, porcelain, or papier-maché, but most of them require framing to give them a finished appearance; but for those which we are about to describe, a frame is entirely unnecessary, for frame and plaque are combined in one, and are no other than the round wooden bread-boards which are intended as a general thing for use in families where the bread is cut upon the table.

a brush, and the directions for using it are given with each box.

This gives the appearance of a gilt frame, and on the plain inner surface the design may be traced with pencil. Flowers, birds, figures, or whatever is preferred, will look well.

One of the prettiest designs which we have seen used was the copy of an engraving entitled "Lending a Hand"—an old fisherman with his little granddaughter in a boat which had been becalmed, and the little one was endeavoring to help her grandfather with the oar.



A NOVEL PLAQUE.

The frame, or rather border, in many cases is carved with a motto in raised letters; these, of course, would not be at all appropriate; therefore, in selecting them for decorating, choose those with a border which has no lettering, and the carving plain or elaborate as desired.

The wooden surface within the border is for the design, the border itself to be gilded either with the prepared powders, such as Marsching's, or William's gold; or first cover the frame with gold-sizing, then gild with gold leaf. The latter is much more troublesome, as it is difficult to put the gold leaf on smoothly, unless one has had some previous experience in applying it. The gold powder is simply mixed with varnish, and applied with

There are also many styles of figures or heads which fit well on plaques.

The design given in our illustration is of Wild-roses and butterflies. For the background paint a light-gray sky with white and gray clouds, and a slight break in the clouds where a patch of blue sky may be seen. Shade gradually down to deeper gray, then to a rich warm tint, with burnt sienna. The Roses are, of course, pink, and the leaves green, deepened where there are shadows with Vandyke brown, or lightened with white.

The butterflies are of burnt sienna with the dark border on the edge of the wings, also the veining of black.

In order to hang them, a screw-ring, such as those used

in all picture-frames, is screwed into either side of the thickest part of the plaque at the back.

If desired the title of the picture can be painted with some dark color in any quaint lettering that may be fancied.

When hung on the walls, they are very pleasing, and have the appearance of some antique medallions, and one would not think of them for a moment in connection with the use for which they were originally intended.

M. E. WHITTEMORE.

Blotting Books.

SMALL blotting books prove exceedingly useful on the library table, and can be made so pretty as to be quite an ornament. There are several colors of blotting-paper from which to select the shade desired, or several colors may be combined, but the cream or buff is prettiest for decorating. The paper can be bought already cut, and put up in packages, or it may be purchased in large sheets and cut in whatever size one may wish.

Place together four or six of the leaves or pages for one book. Before tying them together, however, mark, half-an-inch from the top, two places for slits, which must be cut with a sharp knife. The distance between the slits should be about two inches, and each slit should be at an equal distance from each side of the leaf. After one has been accurately marked and cut, the others must be done in the same way. Run through them a ribbon, the color of which should harmonize well with the design to be painted on the cover, and tie in a bow with ends. The ribbon must be run through the slits from the back.

The cover should then be decorated with a design of any kind which may be pleasing. One, for instance, is a broken pen, from which several little pigs are making their escape with great rapidity, and in the upper right-hand corner are the following words in gilt and brown letters: "Excuse haste, and a bad pen."

The whole design may be outlined in monotint with water-color paint, or if desired, can be more elaborately painted.



DESIGN FOR BLOTTER.

Another design has the branch of an apple-tree in full blossom, with several little birds perched upon it. For this, however, the whole design was filled in, using colors appropriate for it.

The blotters are useful little things, and very pretty if neatly made.

M. E. W.

Splasher for Wash-Stand.

ONE of the many good uses to which rods and rings are now put is to hold a wash-stand splasher, and the arrangement is especially desirable, as it can be taken down and put up again so easily. The splashers are made of a straight piece of linen crash, raveled out on each end, and knotted to form fringe. Above the fringe, embroider in outline any pleasing design, on opposite sides of the ends, so that when folded the embroidery will all be on the right side. One end is then folded over about one-third of the length, as shown in the illustration. Work as many eyelet-holes on the upper part of the fold as you need rings and fasten a small screw-hook in the bottom of each ring on which to slip the eyelets, and in this way hold the splash-er in place. The Lily design given in our illustration should be worked in outline with deep red marking cotton; embroidery silks can be substituted, if before using they have been prepared so that the colors will not fade when the splash-er is washed. Drawn work is also pretty above the fringe, and designs can be traced in indelible inks instead of using embroidery, if preferred, as both styles of ornamentation are suitable and pretty.

E. S. WELCH.



DESIGN FOR SPLASHER.

Decorative Notes.

LINCRUSTA-WALTON can be applied with excellent results to nearly every object of use or ornament in the household. Its value as a wall-covering is well known, but its fitness for other uses is not perhaps so extensively appreciated. It is used with excellent effect in the manufacture of small articles, such as wall-pockets, portfolio-cases, glove and handkerchief boxes, splash mats, and screen-panels. For the last-named decoration it is peculiarly well adapted. It is beginning also to be used to cover the tops of small fancy tables. Umbrella-stands are made of it, as are jars, vases, and it is also admirably adapted for mirror-frames, as it can be obtained in metallic colors, and for this purpose it is infinitely preferable to plush and velvet.

With no other material, unless it be the costliest leather papers, is it possible to so beautifully ornament wall and ceiling surfaces. The range of decoration includes dados, friezes and wall-panels, and this variety of form, taken in connection with a large number of designs, widely differing in style, color and finish, make anything approaching monotony an impossibility. The designs, which are in relief, are modeled after the best examples of Italian and French decorative art.

A handsome dining-room screen of this material shows two panels covered with relief conventional flowers painted in colored bronzes; the central leaf, of dull gold, has painted on its rich surface a beautiful Chinese damsel bearing a tray with teapot and teacups, Lincrusta forming a canvas-like ground for painting.

Besides being in many ways desirable, Lincrusta-Walton has other claims to consideration. It is indestructible, capable of being polished, and of being subjected to cleansing processes without impairing its beauty. It can also be removed from one house to another; it costs less per roll than the finer grades of wall-paper, and it is to be commended on the score of healthfulness.

Ferns, grasses and small leaves are given an iridescent lustre and used in many decorations combined with knots of ribbons and alone in clusters. The liquid with which they are coated renders them stiff enough to be quite durable, and they are sold at reasonable prices ready for use. By using natural leaves, and coating them with varnish, and while wet dusting with iridescent or silver powder, similar ones might be prepared at very small cost by anyone not able otherwise to obtain them.

A handsome mantel lambrequin shown at Bentley Brothers is composed of a straight piece of dark garnet velvet about twelve inches deep; on the lower edge, as though growing up from it, a design of Pansies is painted in natural size and colors, and the edge is then finished with a rich tassel fringe in garnet and olive color. Olive velvet passes across the top of the mantel, and is draped at the ends and trimmed with the same kind of fringe.

Little baby hoods can be crocheted in crazy-stitch, with white knitting silk, and then lined with white cashmere. When finished with a soft frill of lace and a full bow of satin ribbon on the top, they are very pretty.

Darning aprons are made of a straight breadth of fine

white lawn one yard in length. One end is turned up straight across and a quarter of a yard deep, and sewed fast on the sides to form a pocket. On the other end a hem is made wide enough to insert the ribbon belt. The sides and top of the pocket are trimmed with lace, and the words "Never too late to mend," worked in outline, a portion of them being above and the rest on the pocket. Scissors, spool and a couple of Greenaway figures complete the design, which is all done in outline. The proverb should be of the color of the belt ribbon, and the rest of the design any bright color fancied which will combine tastefully.

A handsome cover for a lamp shade can be made with a half-yard square of white surah or else pongée. Embroider a sprig on one side or a vine around the four sides with crimson silks and finish the edge with oriental lace one and a half inch deep. Cut a circle seven inches in diameter from the centre of the square, edge with lace the remaining portion and run in a little shir, half an inch from the edge, in which to put a white cord elastic so that the cover will adjust itself to the neck of the shade, and tie about it a very narrow satin ribbon, the color used for the embroidery.

S. F.

Painting on Lincrusta.

IN directions given for decorating this popular material, the effect of majolica is said to be produced as follows: "For a first coat, use tube colors ground in japan, equal parts of flake and zinc whites thoroughly mixed with Damar varnish. Apply to the surface of the lincrusta two coats of this preparation. When perfectly dry, proceed with the colors desired." For the second coat: "Use tube colors, ground in japan, mixed thoroughly with Damar varnish only. The varnish should be used thin enough to allow the color to flow freely into deep places. To finish the decoration, when perfectly dry apply two heavy coats of Damar or white spirit varnish. Damar varnish, if too heavy to flow freely, should be thinned with turpentine, but alcohol should be used in thinning the white spirit varnish. Lincrusta being a non-absorbent material, but little preparation is necessary before gilding, but a coating of brown dryer or shellac varnish economizes the bronzing powder and enhances its effect. When a burnished surface is desired, the surface is prepared by the application of three or four coats of the ordinary burnish size."

Madame Le Prince gives the following suggestions for producing metallic effects on lincrusta: For oxidized silver: "Cover in silver leaf, or, if preferred, in one or both silver bronzes. Glaze the silvered surface with white shellac varnish; when dry, rub a brush well charged with dark blue gray oil color into all interstices of the ornament in relief, as well as upon the background, leaving the color thickest upon those portions of background more immediately surrounding the raised ornament; now remove the color from highest points by rubbing with a soft cloth tightly folded, and pass a clean brush over those parts in lower relief that require to be left in half-tone. Duller yet, more artistic effects are produced by using 'dry color' in



MARKING LETTERS.

powder for the deepest shades. It is of importance that these colors lie thickest on those parts of the design thrown most into shade, and, as in natural oxidation, the flat surface forming a background should have fewer and more subdued lights than the more prominent parts of raised ornament. A careful study of some piece of silver oxidized by nature will help the student more than many words, and every little grace of burnished light and softened shadow noted on the true chasing and transferred to work in hand will give to it further beauty. For a fairly permanent bright green bronze, paint over a first coating of brown dryer a second of copper bronze in powder, mixed with bronzing liquid; dry thoroughly. Over this draw a brush laden with green bronze powder, also mixed with bronzing liquid, clear all high lights by rubbing with a soft cloth, allowing tiny patches of the copper to show through on background also. Dry well, and heighten the effect by drawing a brush containing pale gold bronze, damped with bronzing liquid; and held horizontally, rapidly backward and forward, catching lightly the prominences. When dry, coat once or twice with white glazing varnish. This again may be toned, where more subdued effect is desired, by a thin wash of terre verte (oil color), thinned with boiled

linseed oil, and more rubbing with a soft cloth, to bring out or keep under the various portions of relief. For Florentine bronzes copper and varied shades of gold bronzing powders are used, with Vandyck for shades. For 'antique' bronzes, use the same list of material as for 'bright green bronze,' laying first a ground of green oil paint to obtain depth in shade. When lights have been 'picked out' in colored bronzes, rub a little beeswax, softened by turpentine to a thin paste, and mixed with a very little of the brown dryer, into the deepest shadows of your panel, and a few moments later pass over them a brush laden with Paris green in fine dry powder."

Marking Letters.

THE five letters given in the above illustration are the first portion of a set comprising the entire alphabet and designed expressly for THE CABINET. They are adapted for solid embroidery in colors, or two shades of one color, using dark for the letter and light for the little sprig, or for white embroidery. When used for the latter the little leaves should be made in open-work.

HOUSEKEEPING GOODS.

THE displays of housekeeping goods give evidence that the annual sale of these articles has commenced, and linens, muslins, embroideries, etc., are offered at such reasonable prices that all wants in this direction can be supplied with much less outlay than in previous years. The general depression in business affairs has doubtless affected the sales of even these standard goods, and obliged the dealers to put their prices low enough to be an inducement to purchasers. Lonsdale muslin is at present sold for six and one-half cents by the yard, Wamsutta and the anchor brand at nine cents, while bleached Utica Mills sheeting two and one-half yards wide is offered for twenty-five cents, with correspondingly low prices for the pillow-case muslins; and linen sheeting the same width can be bought from sixty-five cents upward, according to the quality. Huckaback towels in good size, with fancy colored borders and netted fringe, retail at twenty-five cents, the bath or Turkish towels at fifteen cents each. Double damask table linen, formerly sold at one dollar and fifteen cents per yard, can now be obtained for seventy-five cents.

Very handsome lunch-cloths are shown among table linen, and come in sets of table-cloth and one dozen napkins to correspond. They are made with deep netted fringe on all sides, and above the fringe a band of red about four inches wide in the table-cloth, and one and a half inch in the napkins. Handsome dinner cloths are either heavy white or the buff damask with deep netted fringe and napkins to match.

A pretty way, though not new, to make very light yet warm comforters, is to cover the wadding with cheese-cloth; four breadths will be needed for one of ordinary size, and when tying fasten in a little tuft of Germantown wool of a delicate shade of pink or blue. The wool should be cut in one-and-a-half inch lengths and ten of these threads tied through the centre at every place where the comforter is tied. Finish the edges with a border of full shells, crocheting together in this way the upper and under edges of the cheese-cloth and just above the shells to complete the border; coral stitch should be worked as shown in the January CABINET for 1885.

HOUSEKEEPING.

Tapioca or Sago Cream.

Wash thoroughly one cup of tapioca or sago and let it soak over-night in an earthen dish with one pint of water. In the morning add one quart of milk, a small teaspoon of salt, and boil two hours in a double boiler. Just before it is done beat three eggs, one cup of sugar, and a half teaspoon of vanilla, and stir them into the tapioca. The whites can be reserved for a meringue, but in that case the tapioca must be put into a pudding dish, the meringue spread over it, and placed in the oven till the egg is cooked and has the faintest yellow shade.

White earthen pudding dishes look better than yellow, and are not expensive.

Pudding Sauce.

Stir the butter and sugar together. Moisten the flour, needed to thicken it, with a little cold water, and pour boiling water over it till it is cooked, then pour it over the butter and sugar, stirring briskly all the time.

Codfish Tongues.

It seems strange that the tongues of fish should be sold by the pound in market, and stranger still, that they should make a palatable dish. Those of our readers who have access to Fulton Market will find them there at the low price of fifteen cents a pound. Two pounds will be sufficient for a family of six. The tongues are to be egged, crumbed, and fried like oysters, and those who try them say they are delicious.

Bread Cakes.

One pint of light raised dough as it is ready for molding into loaves. Three eggs beaten separately, three-fourths of a cup of butter, one and a half cups of sugar, one teaspoon of soda dissolved in two tablespoons of tepid

water, a little grated nutmeg, or one teaspoon of ground cinnamon, and a pound of stoned and chopped raisins.

Cream the butter, add the sugar, and then work it into the dough with the hand. A large bowl is best to mix it in; the spice can be put in with the butter and sugar to insure its being thoroughly distributed. Next put in the yolks and beat with the hand or a wooden spoon. Then add the whites and the soda dissolved in two tablespoons of tepid water, and lastly the raisins. Put it into a pan and set in a warm place to rise, and when light bake in a moderate oven about forty-five minutes. It can be tested with a broom-straw.

Meat Cakes.

One pound of round steak chopped very fine at the butcher's. Mix with it half a teaspoonful of onion juice, one-fourth of pepper and one of salt, and make it out into small thin cakes as sausage is made. Broil in a double wire broiler that has been rubbed with butter. If it is more convenient to fry them, fry first two slices of fat salt pork until they are brown and crisp, then take them out and put the cakes in the hot fat. Cook them till done, then thicken the gravy and pour it around, not over them.

Scallops.

If they have any liquor with them drain in a colander, then season with salt and pepper, and dip in beaten egg and then in finely-rolled bread or cracker crumbs, and fry in hot fat—it should be hot enough to smoke a little. If you have no frying-basket use an open wire skimmer to take them from the fat. Two minutes will be sufficient to cook them. Lay them a few minutes on a brown paper and then serve in a hot dish.

MRS. C. G. HERBERT.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

CHARLES DOWNING, one of the deservedly best known of pomologists, died at his residence at Newburgh, N. Y., January 18, 1885, in the eighty-third year of his age. He was among those whose work is their best record; there lives not in this country, if in the world, a more conscientious, intelligent fruit grower than he who has just passed away. The fruits raised by him are well known throughout our country, as well they might be, for no fruit, whether of his own or another's production, could get his approval unless it justly deserved it. It is fair to say that there has not been a new variety of fruit of any kind introduced in this country during the past fifty years, but has had to be passed upon by him in order to warrant its introduction.

His father, Samuel Downing, who was a carriage maker, gave up his trade to establish a nursery at Newburgh, in 1800. After working for some years with his father

among trees and plants, he began in 1822 (the year his father died), his experiments with fruits. To this work, through a long life, he brought habits of close observation, careful judgment and honest expression. No personal interest could cloud his vision and no influence could affect his declared opinion of the merits of a fruit submitted to his examination. The book on fruits and fruit-culture published originally by his brother, Andrew Jackson Downing, was largely the inspiration of Charles Downing, and developed practically his experience and accurate knowledge. Since his brother's tragic death—at the time of the burning of the Henry Clay, near Yonkers, on July 28, 1852—this book has run through several editions, and has received volumes of addenda from his pen. It has become a standard work, and its decisions are received with entire confidence. The two brothers became distinguished early in life as authorities on ornamental plants.

Charles Downing, however, devoted himself chiefly to fruits, while his brother was the first man to give a real impulse to landscape art in this country. Charles Downing gave up the nursery business in 1867, but he continued to exercise an active interest in pomology until ill-health forced him to give up nearly all work. He was genial, loving and kind. The fruits he dearly loved, and taught others to love and cultivate, are true blessings to every home, but no less so than the ripe fruit of his noble manhood.

Misnomers.—We try to be patient with all men and keep good-natured at all times. But there are provocations that make us boil over; such an one is before us, in the catalogue issued by a nursery firm supposed to be responsible and intelligent. In order that our readers may not be deceived, we give the firm's description and name of a "New Climber."

"*Wistaria tuberosa*.—A vine having foliage resembling that of the common purple *Wistaria*, but smaller, and clusters of chocolate-colored blossoms of the same general style of those of the old sort, only smaller, and often with compound clusters of three bunches growing together. It has the odor of Violets, and has this great advantage over the other *Wistarias*, that it will flourish in the poorest soils and always blooms the same year planted—as its top is mostly annual, the tubers supply it with the needed strength. It can be planted in pots in the house in the autumn and will flower in a sunny window and climb with great rapidity. It is sold in the form of a bulb resembling a very small Sweet-potato."

This plant is simply the *Apios tuberosa*, commonly known as Ground-nut or Wild Bean, common in wet places throughout the Northern and Eastern States. Any firm that will send this out as a "New Climber," must be either ignorant or dishonest.

* * *

Edward Gillett, Esq., Southwick, Mass., sends us flowers of *Hepatica triloba*, and *Houstonia cœrulea*, found in the open border January 1. This is something extraordinary. With them were some very fine blooms of Pansies, also in flower in the open ground. These are not strangers in winter, although flowers of such beauty are rarities, and show what a specialist can accomplish when his energies are well directed.

* * *

Hyssop-leaved Galatella, *G. hyssopifolia*.—This, in general appearance, resembles an Aster. It is of dwarf habit, about eighteen inches in height, and has purplish white ray-florets with a yellow disk. It thrives in ordinary soil, and is a fine plant for the mixed border or rougher parts of the garden. Native of North America.

* * *

Rose-Growing.—Something like a year ago a lady (we should judge from thirty-five to forty years of age) called upon one of our largest growers of cut-flowers and plants, to get his opinion as to whether she could make Rose-growing a profitable industry. She stated her wishes in a business-like way, as she was a lady of more than ordinary intelligence and business capacity. During the conversa-

tion she said she "had money enough to maintain her, by living economically, but she wanted employment, not wishing to lead a life of idleness, and she could not think of any occupation more congenial to her taste than that of a florist." Our professional florist was equally frank in expressing his views. He estimated the cost for her very carefully. Although the outlay was large, it did not seem objectionable. At last she was informed of the difficulty of procuring a manager, both capable and honest, and at the same time willing to work for the price she would be willing or able to pay. Her reply was, "that she did not propose to hire a manager, or a man accustomed to greenhouse work. She intended to be her own manager, as she always had been in all business matters." This was a surprise to our florist, and he told her as plainly as he knew how, that it would be impossible for her to succeed, as Rose-growing was an art that could only be obtained by long practice and close application. In short, it was a trade that could only be learned in the regular method, apprenticeship. All the discouragements that a fertile imagination could invent were presented to her, and that with a conscientious regard for her pecuniary interests. All the obstacles that were thrown in her way she replied to with a determination that knew no failure. She built her Rose-houses on the most approved plan, and stocked them with the most desirable varieties; she hired men to work according to her instructions, and she did her own thinking. And what is the result? We cannot say further than that there are no better Roses sent to this city than hers, and we have not seen any others in the market that were as good. In fact, we saw several hundreds of Catherine Mermets that she sent in, that, as a whole, were better than the average seen on the Horticultural Society's exhibition tables. And what is true of this Rose was equally true of all the other Roses she produced, and she now gets the highest prices the market affords, simply for the reason that she is entitled to them, because of the superiority of the flowers. If Rose-growing is profitable to anyone, it will be to her, and upon this point she expresses herself as perfectly satisfied, besides having the intense satisfaction of accomplishing what was said to be an utter impossibility. Is not this a beautiful field of labor for ladies.

* * *

Platynerium Alcorni (**Stag's-horn Fern**).—Speaking of this curious Fern, an English writer has this to say about its adaptability for window culture, and certainly, if so curious a plant can be as readily grown, it is worth while to try it: "I flatter myself that, in finding out the value of this Fern for window culture, I have made something of a discovery, for I have never, in any gardening periodical, seen it recommended for that purpose. For several years I grew a plant of it in a living room where a duplex lamp is burned and a fire constantly maintained through the winter, and where the air is, of course, very dry. It did remarkably well, not only living, but growing so freely that it got too large for the place. This is the quaintest and most distinct of all Ferns, the fronds being of great substance, of a rich, dark green, and divided at the top into two unequal parts. From the top where the fronds spring a curious shield-like growth issues, which, spreading

downward, clasps and covers a portion of the soil, thus rendering it quite distinct from all other Ferns, with the exception of the other members of the genus. This Fern ought to be grown in a basket, but it will do very well in a pot, using lumpy peat, and keeping the crown of the plant two inches above the level of the pot, so as to admit of the development of the shield."

* * *

Rosy Nerine, *N. amabilis*.—This is a very pretty species, from the Cape of Good Hope. The flowers are borne on a slender stem about eighteen inches in height, and are of a rosy pink color, with wavy narrow segments and prominent stigma and anthers. It is a beautiful plant for the greenhouse, succeeding in light sandy soil.

* * *

Trailing Phlox, *P. amana*.—This is a capital plant for covering the facings of stones, and should be seen on every rockery. It is of trailing habit, producing a mass of narrow, shining leaves. The flowers are of a bright rosy purple color.

* * *

Cheap Flowers.—Never in the history of the cut flower in New York has the prices of choice flowers been as low during the month of January, as they have been during the present season. The very best Perle des Jardin Roses were sold, at wholesale, for \$2 per 100, Bon Silene and Safrano Roses in some instances were sold for \$1 per 100, and all other flowers at equally low rates. There are two causes for this depression—one, the general depression in all kinds of business, the other, overproduction. There are numerous instances where men of wealth have, for reasons of economy, sent the productions of their greenhouses into the market. Other men of wealth have built greenhouses simply as an investment, and for the past few years it has been a good one. Now that the business is overdone, they may possibly wish their capital invested in a business better understood.

* * *

Double Meadow Saffron, *Colchicum autumnale*, fl. pl.—This is one of the finest varieties. It is most useful in gardens when in large clumps in the front of the border or rockery. The flowers are very double, and fully four inches in diameter, and of a rosy purple color. It thrives best in a deep, sandy loam, but fine plants (*var. album*) have also been obtained when grown in cold, damp clay, which they evidently enjoyed, as suiting their nature.

* * *

White Meadow Saffron, *Colchicum autumnale* var. *album*.—A very choice variety, with delicate white flowers, which appear without the leaves, as in the type. The tube of the perianth is of medium length, and of a yellowish white color. This variety should be grown in conjunction with the other forms and choice appearance adapts it either for the border or rockery.

* * *

Byzantine Meadow Saffron, *Colchicum byzantium*.—A very handsome free-flowering species from the Levant, with pale rose-colored flowers, larger than the common species. The leaves are short, broad, and of a

dark green color. As in the other cases, it is most suitable for the border or rockery, thriving in deep well-drained soils.

* * *

Showy Meadow Saffron, *Colchicum speciosum*.—This is, without doubt, one of the finest bulbous plants flowering in borders at the present time. It is most striking in appearance, and forms one of the most showy subjects for the choice bulb border. The flowers are quite as large as a good-sized tulip, very stout in texture, and of a rich rose-color, supported on strong reddish stems. A variety called *C. speciosum rubrum* is also deserving of cultivation and has deep magenta flowers.

* * *

Rigid Diplopappus, *D. rigidus*.—A very beautiful plant, with prostrate stems. The flower-heads are borne on stems about eighteen inches in height, and have narrow ray-florets of a bright-blue color, and a very showy yellow disk. It thrives in ordinary soil, and forms an excellent border subject. Native of North America.

* * *

Graceful Sunflower, *Helianthus orgyalis*.—Where tall plants are in request this graceful species should be grown. It attains about seven feet in height, and has very handsome long, narrow leaves. The flowers are borne on very long petioles, and are of a yellow color. This plant would have a magnificent appearance in a prominent position in the pleasure garden, and could also be employed among tall-growing subjects in the rougher parts of the garden. Native of North America.

* * *

The "Reason Why."—The "reason why," says the *Independent*, is always an attractive study. Botany, especially, has found in the "reason why" many additional motives, of late years, to pursue the amiable science. The arguments for or against certain reasonable suggestions fill much place in scientific serials, and the papers are read with avidity by those who love these speculations. These suggestions do good so long as they are not mistaken for pure science, and even the plausible though wild speculations of Grant Allen do much good by leading the mind to inquire whether these things are so. Recently the question of thistledown has been again revived. The reason for its existence is that it is a seed distributor. But objection has been made that, if this was its purpose, it is a signal failure in the main, as no seed is ever or rarely found floating with the down. A paper appeared in an American scientific serial, some years ago, showing that in a piece of land surrounded by Canada thistle the owner never saw a single plant on his own grounds. But a neighbor's land, lower than his, and subject to overflows from the thistle-infested ground, soon became covered, because the thistle-heads containing the seeds, or the seeds themselves, were carried hundreds of yards beyond where any thistledown seemed able to carry them. Subsequently, Mr. Bentham recorded that, in England, he had never seen thistle seed connected with floating down, and recently Dr. Maxwell T. Masters has stated that he has taken every available opportunity of

examining these floats, and never saw a seed attached except in the immediate vicinity of the plant. Water, and the attachment of a thistle-head to a passing traveler is evidently a better distributor than thistledown. Besides this, some of the thistle family have heavy seeds that are held in place by the chaffy scales of its surroundings, while the papus or down breaks off easily by the wind, and floats away without, in a single instance, carrying a seed with it in these species. We cannot say the down is for distributing seeds in those species where it never distributes. Yet, when we look at a dandelion head, and note that, although the feathery crown does not carry the seed far before it breaks away and loses it, yet it does aid in a small degree in carrying the seed from the parent plant, and leaves a fair presumption that distribution was, at least, a purpose in its formation. For what purpose the seedless floss is carried many miles is still open to investigation.

* * *

Bessarabian Starwort, *Aster amellus* var. *Bessarabicus*.—Very much superior to the type, growing about eighteen inches in height, with a deep brownish stem, and dark-green leaves covered with short hairs. The flower-heads are very large, with long spreading ray-florets of a deep purple color and a small yellowish disk. It is a very beautiful border plant, and also deserves a

place on the rockery. Native of Central and Southern Europe.

* * *

Reeves's Starwort, *Aster ericoides* var. *Reevesi*.—This is a very distinct kind, of bushy habit, growing only about one foot to eighteen inches in height, with feathery foliage, which gives to it a very distinct appearance. The flowers are not so large as the common Daisy, but as they are produced in great abundance their smallness is hardly noticeable. It is a capital subject for the front line of a mixed border.

* * *

Bullate Aphelandra, *A. bullata*.—A good specimen forms a very handsome plant, but unless well grown has a very miserable and half-starved appearance. The leaves are dark green and bullate, as suggested by the specific name. The flowers are borne on a four-sided flower-spike, densely clothed with serrated bracts. The flowers are bright scarlet and two-lipped, with the lower lip, which is the largest, three-lobed.

* * *

Californian Zauschneria, *Z. californica*.—A free-flowering plant with flowers of a bright crimson color. It grows about eighteen inches in height, with the stems clothed with glaucous green leaves. It is easily cultivated, thriving in a rich well-drained soil, but on a damp soil does not survive a hard winter. Native of California.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Camellia—Mrs. James Franklin.—Your Camellia is deficient in root action, the cause of which is, most probably, to be attributed to the use of hen manure, which is not at all suitable, as it contains too much nitrogen. Your plant may possibly have suffered from drought during summer. It is a good plan to set the pot in a tub of water, two or three times during the summer, and allow it to remain several hours. The roots form such a solid mass that water on the surface will not be absorbed in sufficient quantities to keep the roots in a healthy condition.

American Banner Rose—Mrs. C. H. Smith, Miss.—It is not at all likely that you have this Rose; if you had you surely would have had no reason to complain of its not flowering. Please send us two or three leaves, and we will decide the matter for you.

Begonia—Mrs. St. John, Kansas.—The leaves of your Begonias dry up and turn brown, because of too dry an atmosphere. The Rex varieties are poor plants for the house. Strong lime-water will destroy the earth-worms in your pots without injury to the plants. Let the earth get fairly dry, then water thoroughly. The Cape Jasmine is not a winter-flowering plant. It should be turned out of the pot into the open border for the summer, taken up upon the approach of frost, potted in a strong rich soil, using a pot only large enough to accommodate the roots by carefully pressing them together. Water liberally, in order that the

earth may become firm about the roots, then do not water again, excepting to keep the earth from becoming dusty, until the flower-buds begin to swell. During its period of rest it may be kept in a cool situation. A light cellar, free from frost, will answer.

Carnations—A. M. A. H.—You must commence anew, and throw out all the old soil, and replace with fresh turfy loam, made moderately rich with well-rotted manure. The soil in which your plants now are has most likely been too wet. For the winter give the earth a good soaking with strong lime-water.

Green Insect—Lizzie R. Reinhart.—Your insect enemy is the aphid. Your best remedy is to dip your plants in strong soapsuds or tobacco water, after which dip them in clean tepid water. Repeat as often as necessary.

Calla—The same.—Your plants may have too large pots. They should be root-bound, and have plenty of heat and moisture. Plant in the open ground during the summer; about the middle of September pot them, first removing the offsets.

Anemones—Mrs. F. T. G., Ithaca, N. Y.—Yes. There are two classes of Anemones; the one, a hardy herbaceous plant; the other, a tender or half-hardy bulb, or corm. The term "*flore pleno*" means double flowering.

OUR ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 1885.

ALL of our readers who have watched the contents of THE FLORAL CABINET during 1884 must have been gratified to see the large amount of matter prepared specially for its pages, which we have been enabled to give from writers who are thoroughly familiar with the topics they discuss; whose suggestions are as worthy of attention, as their facts are authentic.

But the past has not been so complete but room remains for improvement, and for 1885 we hope to attain more nearly to perfection as "A Magazine of Floriculture and Domestic Arts."

New names are to appear among the contributors, the number of illustrations increased, the magazine made more and more valuable as experience points out the channels for improvement, and the growing business warrants the additional outlays.

In announcing our Premiums for 1885, we would call attention to the unusual variety placed at the disposal of our subscribers to select from, and also to the decided value of each number.

We send, post free, to any subscriber *who requests it at the time of subscribing*, any one of the premiums enumerated below. Thus, if you want the ten packets of Flower seeds, request "Premium No. 1:" if you want the beautiful novelty, *Tigridia Grandiflora Alba*, request "Premium No. 4," &c.

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This magnificent work of art is a Steel-Plate Engraving of the largest size and the very choicest production of American art and skill. The painting from which it is taken was painted by the celebrated T. P. Rossiter, and obtained a national reputation. Its value was over \$5,000. The Steel-Plate Engraving made from it cost over \$3,000 to produce. The scene depicted in the engraving is a charming one. It represents the home of George Washington and his family at Mount Vernon. Upon the spacious piazza is gathered a group in social conversation, including Washington and General Lafayette, who is on a visit to America. Near at hand, on the piazza, is Martha Washington, her niece and a graceful little girl, enjoying the pleasant scene with their work, and listening to the reading of a letter. Upon the floor of the piazza are strewn the playthings of the little girl, while in front of the porch is a little nephew with black Nannie, engaged in children's sports.

The grassy lawn spreads smoothly all around the house, and upon it graze a flock of sheep. In most picturesque position at the farther edge is a snug little summer arbor sheltered among the trees. From between their leafy canopies is seen the spreading bosom of the broad and placid Potomac, and far down its course are seen many sails and on the other shore lovely vistas of scenery.

The scene is one made memorable by the visit of General Lafayette to America in 1784, when he was the guest of Washington, and shared the hospitalities and social enjoyment which has made the home of Washington and Mount Vernon of delightful reputation.

Here was cemented the friendship which had begun between them, which resulted in such cordial good feelings from France toward America.

This engraving is one of such social and historical character that there is no home but would be proud to possess it. It is rich in its scenery and sentiment. Patriotic, a grand remembrancer of the old social days of our Republic, it will recall to every American with pride the home pleasures and social days of "The Father of the Republic."

For the parlor no engraving can possibly be more beautiful. Ladies will find it beyond their expectations. The beauty of execution of this engraving must be seen to be appreciated. This is no imitation or lithograph, but is guaranteed a genuine Steel-Plate Engraving.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

In this issue of the FLORAL CABINET will be found the timely announcements of the following Florists, Seedsmen and Nurserymen, and we bespeak for each of them the favorable consideration of our readers:

- | | |
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|---|---|

TO CLUB RAISERS.

"THE FLORAL KINGDOM" ON MORE FAVORABLE TERMS.—During several months we made an offer of the sumptuous volume entitled "The Floral Kingdom" for clubs of Six New Yearly Subscriptions, at \$1.25 each. We have now secured a limited supply of that elegant book (which was published at \$6.50 per copy) on terms more favorable than previous purchases, and until it is exhausted by purchasers at Five Dollars per copy, or by club-raisers, we will deliver (at our office) a copy for a club of FOUR New Names. The express charges on the book, to points east of the Mississippi River, average 35 cents.

—What is my opinion of contentment? It is a man fastening his suspender with a nail and thinking it is a button.... What is my opinion of extravagance? It is drinking to-morrow's cream with today's coffee.... What is my opinion of negligence? It is objective laziness.... What is my opinion of malice? It is a fire which destroys the building where it starts, without serious injury to the surrounding property.—*Merchant Traveler.*

—"Smith, how is it that you always get such good bargains?" queried Jones. "Because I was taught from my infancy habits of thrift, patience and economy," replied Smith. "My father was always drumming it into me to 'wait a little while and you'll purchase cheaper.' Why, even my mother used to sing 'bye-low, baby,' before I could walk." Jones was perfectly satisfied with the explanation.—*Boston Courier.*

—There had been some illness in the family, and when a kind-hearted but inquisitive neighbor asked Johnny who had been sick he promptly answered, "Oh, it's my brother, that's all." "What was the matter with him?" "Nuffin, only he was just sick." "I know, but what ailed him?" "Oh, I dunno." "What did he have?" "He had the doctor." That closed the inquisition.—*Hartford Post.*

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Spitting, and the Men who Spit.

The habit of spitting is a peculiarly American one, and it is growing on the American public. Why do people spit so much? Is it a mere habit, or is there a valid cause for it? It is at best a very unpleasant and untidy habit. With some the habit is from another cause, which is quite as objectionable, namely, the chewing of tobacco. With that habit, however, we have nothing to do just now, for we are about to refer to a far more deeply-seated cause of the evil practice.

The fact is that a very large proportion of the American people have catarrh. Catarrh is a disease of many forms. Its seat is chiefly in the processes above and in the immediate rear of the nose. The delicate passages are lined with an exceedingly sensitive membrane, which is often either lightly or severely inflamed. When inflamed it secretes a peculiar liquid or semi-liquid deposit, which must be got rid of. And so along the street and in public conveyances and in halls, churches, theatres, stores and even elegant private apartments we hear and see the constant hawk, hawk, spit, spit, spit of thousands of people who would like to be free from the unclean habit, but who cannot, because they have catarrh.

Our editor had occasion recently to hold conversation with a gentleman who was formerly in bondage to this habit by reason of grievous catarrh, but who has of late years been thoroughly emancipated from it. He is a gentleman of culture and education; Mr. Chas. E. Cady, at the head of Cady's Business College, at Fourteenth street and University place, New York.

Mr. Cady's catarrh was of long standing; probably inherited. He remarked to our correspondent that in his early life he had a few hobbies on the health question; such, for instance, as that he should bathe freely in very cold water all winter, and that he should sleep with more cold air in his room than most people consider good for them. As he lived in Ogdensburg, N. Y., he had all the facilities he wanted for making the most of cold air and cold water in wintry weather.

"By the time I was twenty years old," said Mr. Cady, "I had catarrh; deep seated and firmly fixed. It came on so slowly that I hardly knew it was catarrh. I had to use my handkerchief constantly. I was continually hawking and spitting. The habit grew upon me. It became a great nuisance to myself, as I know it was to other people. There was a constant dripping into my throat. I always had a weak stomach, and this made it weaker. I was not prostrated, nor was I such a dyspeptic that I could not eat my food; but I was in slavery to this horrible catarrh, and I saw no way of escape from it.

After trying sundry catarrh remedies without advantage, I concluded to make an experiment with Compound Oxygen, for which purpose I consulted Dr. Turner, at the New York office of Drs. Starkey & Palen. I procured a Home Treatment: In about four weeks great improvement was visible. I continued the treatment for nearly six months at intervals, my catarrh, which had been unusually obstinate, was now at an end. The unpleasant secretions disappeared, and also the pain in my head which had accompanied them. The necessity for hawking and spitting ceased, and I was free from that unpleasant bondage. My stomach grew stronger and my digestion better and so continue to the present time.

"This was about three years ago. Since then I have had no return of the catarrh, and I have not needed any more Compound Oxygen. I know my cure must be reasonably permanent for I have taken several slight colds which have passed away without leaving any evil effects. During my catarrhal days, such colds would have aggravated my disease to a serious extent and caused me much annoyance."

A "Treatise on Compound Oxygen," containing a history of the discovery and mode of action of this remarkable curative agent, and a large record of surprising cures in Consumption, Catarrh, Neuralgia, Bronchitis, Asthma, &c., and a wide range of disease, will be sent free. Address Drs. STARKEY & PALEN, 1109 and 1111 Girard street, Philadelphia.

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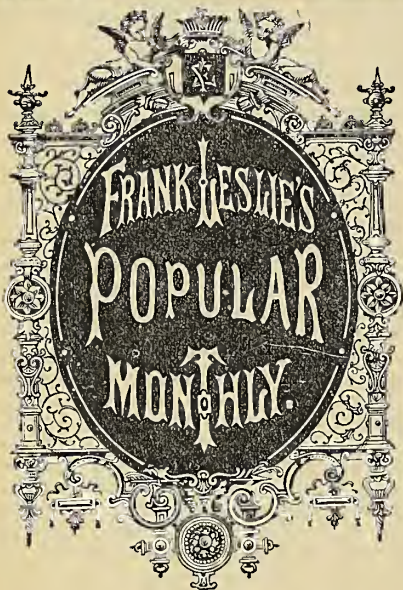


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NEWSPAPER WAIFS.

—A Mormon editor of Salt Lake City had the following in a recent issue of his paper: "The unknown woman who was killed at this place about three months ago by the cars proves to be one of the wives of the editor of this paper." A new count appears to have revealed the fact.—*Carl Pretzel's Weekly.*

—"Yes," said the captious man, "I enjoyed the congregational singing at your church immensely. There was none of that slavish uniformity which is so monotonous, you know, but, on the contrary, a most charming diversity of time and tune. I was much impressed by it." This was high praise, but nobody seemed to appreciate it.

—A Maine farmer had a wife who declared she would never be weighed. One day, when she was in the wagon, he drove his team on to the hay scales in Auburn, and had the whole thing weighed without his wife knowing what was going on. Then he afterward came back and had the team weighed without his wife, and found it just 225 pounds lighter. So he had his way, and she had her weigh.—*Lowell Courier.*

—Philosophy is a good thing for a man to have in the family. An old farmer had a fine field of potatoes, and one night a thief went through the patch for about half there was in it, and in the morning his wife met him as he came out to breakfast. "Husband," she said, "somebody stole half your fine potatoes last night." "Is that so," he replied, quietly. "Just go out and see for yourself." "Oh, no, my dear; there's no use, I guess. If they're gone they're gone, but it was right clever in him to dig them himself, and not wait until I had done it, ain't it?"—*Merchant Traveler.*

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FLORAL CABINET.

Volume XIV.

MARCH, 1885.

No. 3.



WHAT ARE THESE YOU ASK THESE DELICATE THINGS WITH PETALS AS AIRY AS FANCY'S WINGS AND DAINTILY PINK AS A MAIDENS CHEEK WHEN SHE THINKS OF THE LOVE SHE CANNOT SPEAK WHY THESE I'LL WHISPER A SECRET TO YOU NATURE IS DREAMING OF FLOWERS ITS TRUE THESE ARE HER DREAMS WHEN SHE WAKENS AND SHOWS HER MARVELLOUS LILY HER PERFECT ROSE DO YOU THINK SUCH THRILLS TO OUR HEARTS THEY'LL BRING AS THESE LITTLE DREAM FLOWERS FOUND IN THE SPRING

JANE WILSON.

SUBTROPICAL GARDENING.

THIS term "subtropical" does scant justice to a most ornamental order of gardening: that in which beauty of form in growth and foliage takes the place of mere coloring, as in ordinary bedding out. It is manifestly an indescriptive title, for we do not by any means confine our attention to tropical or half-tropical plants; whatever offers stately habit or handsome leaves may be used. The prime idea of the subtropical gardener should be harmony with nature; the arrangement should not be suggestive of a line and plummet; it should be a "Natural wildnesse."

A very handsome border or bed of this class may be filled with hardy grasses, doing best in a light rich soil, with unlimited sun. The South American Pampas Grass (*Gynerium argenteum*) and our native Pampas Grass, so-called (*Erianthus Ravennae*), will form a most effective centrepiece or background from their tall and stately growth. They may be surrounded by the *Eulalia*, a Japanese grass having a feathery, dun-colored plume like an ostrich tip. There are two variegated forms; *E. japonica variegata*, with longitudinal green and white stripes, and *E. japonica zebrina*, with horizontal markings, giving a unique effect. Such a bed might be bordered with *Funkia cœrulea*, the Purple Day Lily; its spreading leaves and purple flowers are very attractive. All the Funkias are suitable for subtropical gardening in shady spots; they form an effective groundwork for tall-growing shrubs, or may be associated with herbaceous plants. *F. Sieboldiana* is a handsome Japanese variety, with greenish-gray leaves and lilac flowers. *F. subcordata* is a white variety, flowering in August or September. *F. variegata* is a spring bloomer.

The *Canna*, or Indian Shot, is one of the most useful plants we have for foliage gardening; it is always stately and graceful, and runs through innumerable gradations of color. The finest growth of Cannas I have ever seen was in central New Jersey, where the soil was poverty itself, being little besides sand and totally devoid of shade. The border was well spaded up with manure in the early spring; when the roots were planted, late enough to avoid risk of frost, a top-dressing of manure was put in a slight circular depression two feet in diameter around each plant. During the dry weather each plant would receive a can of water poured into this depression every day. The growth made under these circumstances was marvellous—they flourished like the proverbial green bay tree.

We will give first rank to *Canna Ehmannii*, one of the newer sorts. It differs from other varieties in having conspicuously beautiful flowers, as well as fine foliage; as a rule, the flowers of this plant are merely a secondary consideration. It grows, under favoring conditions, to a height of about four feet; the leaves are bright green, rather long, and pointed; the flowers very large, clear geranium red, borne on a drooping spike. It is strikingly beautiful, always attracting much attention. I have been

asked on several occasions if it were not some new and wonderful Lily. If taken up in the fall and planted out in a cool greenhouse, this *Canna* will flower profusely all winter. I have never seen other varieties tried under such circumstances.

C. flaccida bears some resemblance in habit to the above, though smaller; the flowers are large, resembling an Iris, brilliant yellow in color, but they are flaccid, as the specific name implies, few in number, and transitory in character. It is our only native *Canna*, being described by Willdenow as a native of the Mississippi valley, while Paxton gives South Carolina as its habitat. Robinson, however, describes two separate and distinct *Canna flaccidas*, one a native of North, the other of South America; but I think this must be a mistake on his part.

Canna August Ferrier is a tall-growing variety, with reddish-bronze leaves and scarlet flowers; it usually attains a growth of ten feet. However, it is overtopped by *C. heliconiaefolia*, the tallest of the tribe, with tremendous green leaves, like a Banana. Either of these will form a noble object, solitary on a lawn or towering above other plants in a border. The *Eulalia* mingles well with Cannas, while *Achyranthes* and *Alternanthera* make an effective groundwork.

Canna tricolor is a striking dwarf form; the leaves are handsomely striped with green, white and pink. *C. Bihorelli*, another familiar form, has the stem and leaves green, with red ribs and veins; very fine. *C. atropurpurea* is a tall-growing variety, with bronzy, purple leaves. *C. Warscewiczii* is one of the best bronze dwarf sorts. *C. Brenningsii* is a beautiful dwarf grower with variegated leaves, light green, white and yellow. *C. zebrina-nana* is a small variety, having green leaves striped with red. It makes an excellent border for a subtropical bed. This list of Cannas comprises but a few out of many; it is an extensive family, and the hybrid section receives new additions every year. They are of simple culture; in the autumn, when the foliage is blackened by the frost, the tops should be cut off and the roots dug up and stored in a dry place, free from frost, with as little ceremony as if they were potatoes.

A familiar half-hardy annual for the subtropical border is the Castor-oil Bean. It gives a picturesque, half Oriental air to the mixed border, when judiciously planted among other foliage plants. There are several varieties commonly grown, the dark red form, *Ricinus sanguineus*, being one of the handsomest. *R. Gibsoni* is a very dark variety. *R. viridis* is a uniform green. They all grow to a considerable height with us; in the tropics they run up like Jack's beanstalk. *R. communis borboniensis* often attains a height of twenty-six feet in one year. Some of our common annuals, such as obtain almost rank luxuriance in a single season, are not out of place in this style of gardening—in fact, anything giving picturesqueness of form is admissible. Take, for exam-

ple, the *Amaranthus*. We see these in old-fashioned gardens, represented by *Amaranthus candidus*, "Love lies bleeding," usually crowded in such close masses that all its beauty of form is lost. It is looked upon as rather a coarse thing, but give it room to develop, with harmonious surroundings, and, like the misunderstood and slightly appreciated Hollyhock, what appeared coarseness when contrasted with smaller plants, is a stately and massive beauty. It may be planted in large vases, or dotted among low-growing plants. Its drooping spikes of dark-red flowers last from July to September. *A. sanguineus* is noticeable from the dark-red leaves. It grows about three feet high, and bears quantities of purple flowers. *A. speciosus* is a very large kind, often growing to a height of five feet. It is most effective in the autumn. *A. tricolor* is distinguished by the color of the leaves, which are remarkably variegated. The lower half, to the centre is dark red; above this is a large spot of light yellow, while the point of the leaf is green. The variegation often varies somewhat, though retaining these colors. These plants may be sown in April and pricked out in May, then finally planted out after the frost is over. They do well in seaside localities. The

foliage in all of these varieties is very fine, and is very effective when planted with large subjects, such as *Ricinus* or *Cannas*. The *Aralias* offer a diversity of appearance and character varying in habitat from the temperate regions to the tropics, but they are all, without exception, most graceful foliage plants. Some are merely herbaceous annuals or perennials, others are tree-like in their growth. *Aralia spinosa*, the Angelica Tree, has handsome pinnate leaves, the leaflets deeply serrated. The stem is covered with formidable spines. It grows in an umbrella-like head, and is very striking when in an isolated position. It bears numerous umbels of small white flowers in the autumn. It is a native of Virginia, but would no doubt stand the winter in the latitude of New York if slightly protected. *Aralia racemosa*, American Spikenard, is a native herbaceous species, with large pinnate leaves, and umbels of white flowers, similar to the foregoing. *Aralia japonica* is an herbaceous plant, with large undivided leaves. It is useful for grouping, and grows remarkably well in the dwelling-house. There are other very fine *Aralias* requiring shelter through the winter; this class of subtropical plants may be treated in a future paper. E. L. TAPLIN.

SPRING FLOWERS—MARCH.

ONLY a very few garden plants come into blossom out of doors in March, in the Northern States, but in April we have many. Among the March flowers are Crocuses and Snowdrops on warm and sunny slopes; the winter Aconite with parsley-like leaves and buttercup flowers in some warm, cosy corner near the bushes; blue and white Hepaticas, so bright and pretty, where shaded from the warm sunshine of summer, but unshaded in spring; blue Siberian Squills that grow anywhere, in sunshine or shade, and multiply exceedingly by seed; the Christmas Rose, like some large white Anemone, and others of its genus with homelier and more sombre flowers, and that love a moist and faintly shady spot where they are sheltered from the winds; *Iris reticulata*, a little bulbous beauty from the Caucasus with gold and purple fragrant flowers, and another pretty little Iris with a horrid name from Turkistan, namely, *I. Kolpakowskiana*; the spring Meadow Saffron not unlike a purple Crocus; and on warm dry sunny banks we may expect to find fragrant Violets and blue Periwinkle. The Mezerion is the showiest among shrubs; it must have open sunny quarters. We also have *Andromeda japonica*, whose white flowers open before the snowy season is past; *A. floribunda* of our Alleghanies, not unlike the last but later, and which does not open well till April; *Erica carnea*, profuse and pretty, but is a little tender; the evergreen Siberian Rhododendrons; the Cornelian Cherry and Buffalo-berry. And it all depends on the season and situation whether the Zanthorhiza, Spicebush, and Leather-wood begin to bloom in March, or wait till April.

In the flower garden in March, we cannot do much, unless the ground is free from frost and the weather favorable. It is dangerous to uncover plants that have been protected by a mulching, except in the case of March-blooming plants, and even then, only remove part of the mulching. The searing winds of March are often more destructive to plants than the zero frosts of January. While it is all very well to mulch late-starting plants with a coating of litter or leaves, you can now perceive how much better it is to mulch bulb-beds and early-growing plants with short manure, half rotted leaves or similar light material that we need not remove at all in spring, but, instead, allow the plants to grow up through it. Over evergreen plants, as prostrate Veronica, Erysimum and Pentstemons, a light sprinkling of tree leaves or sedge grass is good enough, and may rest undisturbed till into April; but such a slight mulching over Lilies would be of little account.

I dislike digging in the borders in March, no matter how fine the weather may be; it is all very well to dig open patches in the garden, but among the flowers, I want to let the plants get a good start before disturbing them; then seedlings are apt to spring up over the borders, and they may be wanted.

But now is the time for improvements. Whenever the ground is in good working order, attend to repairing the lawn, re-sodding the bare spots on the banks and mending the grass verges in the garden. Sods laid in March grow away as if nothing had happened, and do not need the amount of watering and care they would if laid later. Often where trees or large stones have been

removed from the lawns, we find indentations; remove the sod, fill up with loam, replace the sod and pack firmly with the back of the spade or roller. Where your lawn is poor and grass thin, rake off loose and dead grass, weeds and dirt, top-dress with loam or compost, rake smooth, sow blue-grass and red-top, and roll. Under the dense shade of trees, grass dies out after mid-summer; but if the surface of the ground is now raked over, sown and rolled, we shall have a nice green surface from April till June, at any rate. Roll lawns while they are soft and moist, as after a thaw or soaking rain; a puckered surface is made smooth easier than at any other time; but do not allow, upon the ground, a horse or cart, or anything else that is heavy or likely to leave a hole or track.

Trees and shrubs may be transplanted as early as the ground shall permit of being worked. In lifting trees and shrubs for transplanting, dig wide holes so as to secure as many of the fibrous roots as possible; it is not the stout naked roots we want so much as the fine feeders, and these usually are farthest from the butt of the tree. In transplanting, have holes wide enough to accommodate the spread-out roots without having to bend them in at the ends; have wide rather than deep holes; cut clean all the ragged, wounded roots; shorten the branches in proportion to the mutilation of the roots, but shorten anyway; set the tree in the hole as deep only as it was before, spread out the roots and introduce fine,

mellow soil among them, packing it firmly and filling up every hollow, and in finishing pack the ground as if you were setting a fence-post. A good soaking of water now, if it will do no good, will do no harm, but will help fill any cavities about the roots that were omitted by hand. If necessary at all apply a neat strong stake—at any rate a mulching of grass mowings, rotted manure, or rakings of top-dressing from the lawns will be of excellent service in the summer time. One vital point in tree planting is—from the time the tree is lifted till planted, never allow the fibrous roots to get dry.

Prune deciduous trees and shrubs. In pruning trees be careful to preserve them in handsome form, shorten back long out-reaching branches, thin out over-crowding branches, remove brushy stuff from the trunks and about the roots. In pruning shrubs we have to be guided by the kind as well as by the object of the use. Hedges want clipping into dense form; lawn shrubs into flowing, graceful proportions; shrubs that blossom on the old wood, like Forsythias and Lilacs, should not be pruned till they have done blooming; whereas, those that blossom on the new wood, like Altheas and *Hydrangea paniculata*, should be cut hard back. But disregard all circumstances in order to have handsome bushes. Avoid the round-clipped form. Shorten the branches and cut out the old wood so that your shrubs shall always be full of young, firm wood.

WM. FALCONER.

OUR PREMIUM SEEDS.

New Golden Mignonette.—This does best when sown in the open border where it is to remain. Make two sowings, the first as soon as the border or beds are ready, the second about the middle of July. This will flower splendidly in September and October.

Hyacinthus Candicans.—Sow the seed in any convenient place where it will have a good chance to develop the plants. Treat them the same as ordinary vegetables. Take up the bulbs after the tops have been killed by frost and store in any dry place the same as Gladioli. The second season they should be planted about six inches apart each way. Although small, the bulbs will produce flowers the second year. They are perfectly hardy, and can remain in the ground during winter.

Petunias, Balsams, Zinnias and Pansies can be sown where they are to remain, or they may be started in pots in the house or in the hotbed, and transplanted at the proper time into the place designed for them. This will prolong their season of bloom.

Asters can be planted in the open border, but they flower much better if sown in boxes or pots and transplanted two or three times. A second sowing of *Asters* for autumn flowering should be made about the first of July.

Gaillardia Picta Lorenziana.—This, one of the most beautiful of hardy annuals, can be treated in the same manner as *Asters*, only the seed should be sown as early as possible, either in the house or in a hotbed; and

transplant as soon as the weather will permit. It matters not how early it comes into bloom, it will continue and increase in beauty until after severe frosts. It is quite hardy—at least frosts that will kill *Balsams* will not in the least injure it.

Cannas.—Soak the seed in boiling water and sow singly in small pots as soon as convenient, and grow on as rapidly as possible, and they will flower the first season. Or the seed may be sown in the open border as soon as the soil is warm and dry.

Delphinium.—This seed should be sown in boxes in the house or in a hotbed, and the plants will flower freely in autumn. They are perfectly hardy perennials, and can remain undisturbed for many years. It is best to sow a few seeds annually in order to have late flowers, as the old plants flower in June. If cut back, however, before they commence to bloom, they will make a new growth and bloom in August. By both means a succession of lovely blue flowers can be kept up nearly the entire season.

Gladiolus Bulblets.—Sow in good rich soil, when in good order, in the same manner as *Peas*; cultivate well and take up the bulbs upon, or soon after the first frost. Store in paper bags in any convenient place away from frost, but as cool as possible without freezing. Plant the second season about two inches deep, and all, or nearly all, will bloom.

Summer Flowering Oxalis.—Plant one foot apart for

a border, cover one inch, and you will secure one of the most chaste and beautiful of borders.

Tigridias.—These are very easy subjects to manage, and there are no flowers more beautiful or showy. They delight in a rich loam and rather a moist situation. Plant two inches deep as soon as the soil is light and warm. They increase quite rapidly by division, the smallest bulbs

flowering freely. Take up after the first frost, tie them in a bunch without cutting off the tops, and hang up in a room free from frost, where mice cannot reach them.

If among those of our subscribers who ordered the seed premium any one should fail to receive it by March 15, and will notify us, we will mail them a duplicate package.



CHILIAN PITCHER FLOWER (Flowers Scarlet).

CHILIAN PITCHER FLOWER.

(*Sarmienta Repens*.)

THIS charming little plant constitutes a genus of the natural order *Gesneraceae*; it is a native of the cool regions of Chili and Peru, consequently will succeed well in the ordinary greenhouse. It is of a climbing or creeping habit, easily cultivated, and admirably adapted for growing in baskets, for the decoration of the conservatory or for planting on rockwork, over which it will creep, and thus form a beautiful object. It branches very profusely, and when planted in a basket its slender,

wiry, creeping stems hang gracefully over the sides, and for a long time during spring bear a profusion of bright scarlet tubular flowers, which are very showy. It is not at all adapted for the living-room, or other than a cool, moist situation, and should be planted in damp moss; it must not be exposed to a strong light. The leaves are opposite, somewhat fleshy and hairy, forming a dense mat, among which its tiny flowers sparkle in the most delightful manner.

GARDEN FLOWERS.

(Read before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, in Boston, February 14, 1885.)

WITH the awakening of spring comes the first flowers, alike pale and delicate, in native and cultivated species. Under the snow they have been waiting, and they seem to shrink from the light. As the season advances, brighter colors appear. Crocuses, Scillas, Hyacinths, Crown Imperials, Tulips, Narcissi, and many other flowering bulbs make our gardens gay. These have all been planted out in the autumn and need not enter into this discussion. Nevertheless, they are an important feature in the garden, which must necessarily be almost without flowers through the spring months, unless we have spring bulbs. None that I have mentioned need be renewed or transplanted every year, except Hyacinths, which are the best the first year and gradually deteriorate. In the spring it is more pertinent to take up the subject of summer flowers, and for this reason I shall confine myself to flowers that come after spring bulbs have done blooming. Among the many flowers worthy of cultivation, it is difficult to select a few. I hope you will not think, because I speak of particular kinds, that I consider them the most worthy of cultivation, but rather for the reason that I have grown them and they are familiar to me. There was a time, and not very long ago, when we could have talked up the subject of familiar garden flowers, and disposed of it in half the time we can now. Times have changed and flowers have multiplied in number and species until it would take half a dozen papers like this to exhaust the subject or even treat it fairly. Not only have we more known species, but each is divided into almost countless varieties, so it is simply impossible to speak of more than a small number of our cultivated flowers in the short time allotted to this subject to-day. Therefore, I will talk of some flowers that grow in my garden.

Roses have been so ably and exhaustively treated and discussed by this society that little remains to be said of them. For every variety of years ago, there are hundreds now. In the old time no one thought of improving the Rose. Why should they? Had it not been sung and praised from time immemorial? and were not the same Roses good enough for them? I suppose it did not enter into the minds of our forefathers that there could be any improvement. The Damask was the Rose among Roses. Centifolia or Cabbage, as it is commonly called, the old White Rose, and some other sorts were grown in all old gardens. Well do I remember the bushes in our home garden laden with their wealth of fragrant blossoms and the low red Roses which were my beau ideal in childhood. These old Roses are like voices of the past to aged people. Except as souvenirs, they have been superseded by an entirely new class.

Take the Lily. From a very few varieties, what an outgrowth there is. We have them from many countries. There are seedlings, hybrids and sports, and collectors are on the lookout for new sorts every year. The Lilies

to which "Solomon in all his glory" was not to be compared were probably *Amaryllis lutea*, a small yellow Lily, which blooms abundantly in Palestine. What would have been said, if the Lilies in question had been *auratum*?

The *Gladiolus* not many years ago was confined to a very small number of varieties, and now their name is legion. Not only is there increase in quantity, but also in quality. The flower must not only be different, but superior or the growers discard it. Careful hybridization has brought and is bringing about a great many changes. In no flower is there greater change than in the *Dahlia*, which was introduced into Spain from Mexico, by seed, the latter part of the seventeenth century. The seed produced three distinct varieties, one semi-double and the other two single. These seedlings were named Dahlias after a Swedish botanist named Dahl. They were distributed throughout Europe, and were the only varieties grown for some years. After a time some one experimented with seed and finally succeeded in producing double flowers, when the single were discarded as worthless. Later it was introduced into this country and was considered *the* flower. Then it went out of fashion—for there is fashion in flowers as well as in everything else—but within a few years the Dahlia has again come into notice. We have it in a great variety of colors, double and single, large and small. I like the single sorts best for cut-flowers, and either the single or double will flower abundantly the first year from seed, provided the seed is sown early in the spring and the plants put out as soon as possible, that is, as soon as there is no danger of frosts. After the first year there is no difficulty in propagating by tubers.

Helianthus multiflorus fl. pl., the Perennial Sunflower, is not as extensively cultivated as it should be. I find quite old people know it better than younger ones. For it had been lost to cultivators until some one found it, probably, in some old garden. I cannot see how any one could let it go who once possessed it. It is herbaceous and perfectly hardy, commencing to bloom in mid-summer and blooming until severe frosts. It is a beautiful plant, growing from four to six feet in height, producing abundantly perfectly double, pure yellow flowers, about three and a half inches in diameter, and is the most showy of all flowers, either for cutting or for garden decoration.

There are many hardy plants and shrubs worthy of cultivation which require no special care, and there is a growing tendency toward hardy flowers, especially herbaceous and bulbous sorts. What is more beautiful in late summer and autumn than *Anemone japonica*? The white variety *Honorine Jobert* is the finest of them. Often it grows four feet in height. Large bunches of dark-green leaves are surmounted by numerous pure white single flowers resembling *Helleborus Niger* (Christ-

mas Rose). It is herbaceous and hardy, only requiring a little compost in the fall. One very acceptable feature about this plant is the fact of its thriving in partial shade, and as almost everybody has some such place which is rather hard to fill, it just supplies the want.

Early in summer we have *Paonia tenuifolium*, with its delicately cut foliage and double flowers the color and size of a Jacqueminot Rose. This is also an herbaceous plant.

The new hardy *Amaryllis Hallii* is very beautiful. It makes its foliage early in the spring, and after maturing it dies down. Late in the summer the flower-stalks spring up almost like magic, so rapid is its growth, and produce a number of pink blossoms, which are unlike any other *Amaryllis* or *Lily* with which I am acquainted. I consider it a great acquisition to the list of hardy bulbs.

Euphorbia corolata is an exceedingly valuable plant. The flowers are white, quite small, in panicles, and keep a long time after being cut, making it very useful for cut-flowers. It is also a member of the herbaceous family.

The *Oriental Poppy* is a very showy flower, and deserves a place in the garden. It is a perennial, but is easily grown from seed, and blooms the second year. Most people like it because it makes so much show when in bloom, and after that it requires no care. It is also very hardy.

The *Hardy Penstemons* are useful flowers, and are well worth cultivating. They are very easily grown, and I should miss mine very much. I shall not touch on shrubs, as they form a subject by themselves.

The *Hollyhock* is a great favorite. People who have grown *Hollyhocks* in old times remember them as purely single flowers, or at most semi-double, and they look on the *Hollyhock* of to-day as entirely disconnected with the old-fashioned flower of long ago. Their plants were hardy and came up year after year; ours must be protected or the place where they were will be vacant in the spring. They must be taken up and covered in a cold frame or protected in such a manner as not to feel the effects of freezing and thawing. It is a good plan when you have one or two rows to put some compost and leaves around the plants and cover with sashes and matting, or something of the kind, or, what is easier, plant against a fence, and a stake will keep the sashes in place without the trouble of making frames. They are grown extensively from seed, and the seedlings require no protection the first year beyond a little compost around the roots. Each year brings a more varied range of color. From white to black we have almost every color and shade.

The *Clematis* is considered hardy, but many complain that a blight has fallen on some of their plants. Many times they flourish in the same location for years. I have a number of varieties which get no special care beyond a little mulching in the autumn. They have been out a number of years, always come up strong in the spring, and flower profusely through the season. I think *Clematis flammula* one of the finest climbers we have. It seems more like a *Jasmine* than *Clematis*. Indeed, I

first saw it in a private garden, where it was called *C. jasminoides*, and under that name I tried more than two years to get it. The foliage is unlike any *Clematis* that I know. It is small and bright. The flowers are pure white, very delicate, covering the whole plant, and very like the *Jasmine* in fragrance. *C. viticella* I find very hardy, and *C. viticella alba* has survived two winters. *C. Jackmani* and some other old varieties, as I have said before, I have no difficulty in growing, but some newer sorts which I have tried the last two or three years have come up and suddenly withered and died. Some dealers assert there is a disease among them and they dare not recommend them as they used to do. All I can say is, they disappear, and from no apparent cause.

There is a great range in bedding plants; some are desirable for cut-flowers, some only valuable for garden decoration, and some answer both purposes. Among the last named are the semi-double *Geraniums*, and they are so beautiful and useful we might discard the single ones altogether and gain by it.

I cannot stop to enumerate the annuals, biennials and greenhouse plants that help make up our gardens.

Gladioli we must have, and any one who will may grow them. One can hardly go astray in selecting varieties with the descriptive catalogues sent out by reliable dealers, but, as a rule, it would be better to select from exhibition flowers, from which one can judge better than by description. A great many new varieties do not satisfy our expectations, and there are so many of the comparatively new ones that are really fine and reasonably cheap, it does not pay to invest much by way of experiment. On the other hand, some fine varieties never are cheap, because they propagate slowly either by increase of bulbs or by bulblets. I have some that I have had several years with little increase, and I can see by them why the price keeps about the same on some bulbs while others just as good are comparatively cheap. There is *Eugene Scribe*, which increases rapidly and never produces a poor spike, I wish there were more varieties as good, yet it is cheap and accessible to all. The seedlings grown in this country are, in my opinion, as fine in proportion to the number grown as those grown in France, and England. I had some unbloomed seedlings last season from C. L. Allen & Co. Garden City, among which I found some spikes of rare merit. A few which they had set aside for name were superb. Also by courtesy of Mr. Allen I bloomed their seedling *General Sheridan*, a very fine scarlet not yet on the market. I have also had seedlings from V. H. Hallock, Son & Thorpe, which were very fine. James Vick has furnished us with some excellent varieties. I think *Longfellow* very fine indeed.

There is no need of mentioning the fine seedlings produced by the members of this society, as they have spoken for themselves when on exhibition. With the seedlings that are being produced in this country there will soon be no need to send abroad, if, indeed, there is now. I have purchased bulbs from home and abroad, and I find I cannot get as satisfactory results the first

year, from imported bulbs, as from home grown, but after the first year there is little difference. I never make up my mind as to the merits of a *Gladiolus* the first year I bloom an imported bulb. *Gladioli* grow in almost any soil, except wet and heavy, under which conditions they will not thrive or produce fine flowers; a sunny location, with light loamy soil, well enriched, suits them, with plenty of water in dry times. The bulbs must not be planted too near the surface. Three or four inches deep is about right, according to the size of the bulb. Remember the new bulb or corm is made above the old one.

Tuberous-rooted *Begonias* ought to be grown in every

except that it is rather new. I protected mine with newspapers and cloth until the last week in October. Then I lifted them in boxes and let them ripen off. The tubers may be kept in sand during the winter, examining them once in a while to see that they do not get so dry as to wither, or so wet from any cause as to decay. In the spring they may be planted quite close together in a box of earth, where they will start without any heat. As I said before, they will stand a great deal of cold. We all remember the hard frost the latter part of last May. I trembled for my *Begonias*, which had been planted out only a few days before. I had protected them with flower-pots from the sun in the hottest part of the day,



INATOPHYLLUM (*Miniatum Cruentum*).

garden. I prize them higher than any other bedding plant, for with me they are truly bedders. They stand the rain much better than any other bedding plant that I have ever grown, from the fact that the blossoms have thick, waxy petals, and as they close when it rains, the water slips off the outside of the flower. As soon as the rain is over the blossoms open as bright as if there had been no rain, and seem to look with surprise on their bedraggled neighbors. Last summer I bedded out about fifty varieties, among them *Piercei*, which I had never seen outside the greenhouse. I never saw such fine plants of that variety. They were literally covered with the lovely yellow blossoms, standing well above the handsome foliage. I cannot see why this class of *Begonias* is not more generally grown for bedding purposes,

and at night from any change that might occur. Over these I put some carpeting, and they were not affected in the least by the extreme cold. I speak of my experience thus minutely to show how valuable I consider them for bedding. Another important fact is, they commence to bloom when quite small, and flower without intermission through the season.

It seems as though some new plague, in the way of disease, worm or bug, made its appearance every year. The last two years have been no exception. It seemed to me last year I had every worm or insect injurious to plant-life, known or unknown, in my garden; 1883 brought the aphid on Lilies, in many instances destroying them entirely. Last season I determined to experiment with tobacco stems. I have several beds of Lilies, com-

prising, perhaps, twenty-five varieties. One bed I mulched about three inches with stems that had been steeped to syringe Rose-bushes. I threw them wet about the stalks, and let them remain through the season. Although the plants were perfectly covered with the pests the previous season, none came last year. The others were as bad as they could be, and I doubt very much if some of them come up this spring. I brushed and syringed with tobacco water and cold water, but all to no purpose.

It is time to think of sowing seed. Annuals must be sown soon in order to have them bloom early, for the time between seed-time and harvest is short, and we must be up and doing. Biennials, if sown early, will many of them bloom the first year, and those that do not will, by being started early, make stronger plants and be better able to withstand the winter. Truly the spring is a busy time to all growers of flowers. Dame Nature has been storing her forces, and spring flowers are only awaiting her orders to appear. The Snowdrop and Crocus will soon be here, and the thought of the dainty blossoms fills us with gladness and delight. Birds will not tarry long, for, despite the weather, they come, bringing comfort to hearts weary with waiting for winter to be over. No matter how hard the storms are after they come, winter cannot stay long, we know, for the couriers

of spring have arrived. And let us remember, as we admire the beauties of the floral kingdom,

“God might have made the earth bring forth

Enough for great and small,
The oak-tree and the cedar-tree,
Without a flower at all.

We might have had enough, enough
For every want of ours,
For luxury, medicine, and toil,
And yet have had no flowers.

Then wherefore, wherefore were they made,
All dyed with rainbow light ;

All fashioned with supremest grace,
Upspringing day and night ;—
Springing in valleys green and low,
And on the mountains high,
And in the silent wilderness
Where no man passes by ?

Our outward life requires them not—
Then wherefore had they birth ?

To minister delight to man,
To beautify the earth ;
To comfort man—to whisper hope,
Where'er his faith is dim,
For whoso careth for the flowers
Will care much more for Him !”

MRS. T. L. NELSON.

IMATOPHYLLUMS.

THE genus *Imatophyllum* belongs to the natural order *Amaryllidaceæ*, and is composed of but a small number of species, all of which are natives of Africa. The genus includes some of the most beautiful and useful plants for the greenhouse, and they are also well adapted for the window-garden. Any plant that produces gaily-colored or sweet-scented flowers during winter or early spring has strong claims upon our attention, and all such plants are or should be greatly esteemed, and doubly so if they are adapted to ordinary house culture, as there are so few really choice plants that thrive well in the living-room. We cannot understand why amateurs, such as have a small conservatory, or a large window-garden, should reject such plants as the *Imatophyllum*, which produce their handsome flowers freely and profusely, and select such only as produce flowers but rarely, and then only moderately well. As an illustration of what we mean, take the subject of this article, plants that were introduced from Africa more than thirty years ago, and thrive well in the conservatory or as window plants. They are not difficult to cultivate. They are very free flowering, and do not lack in beauty. In fact, there is not a genus of this natural order that furnishes more showy or truly beautiful flowers than this, and they are more easily managed than the *Amaryllis*, now so popular. They remain long in flower, so that with half a dozen plants a successive bloom can be kept up nearly the whole season by changing their periods of rest, conditions to which they readily adapt themselves. When at rest they can be kept under the

benches in the greenhouse, or in a dry cellar, free from frost.

The following kinds are of special value, and deserve a place in every collection :

I. miniatum.—This is a very striking species, one of the most ornamental greenhouse or window plants we have, and so readily managed that it should be generally cultivated. It has stout, bold-looking leaves, ranged in two opposite rows, from one to two feet high, broadly sheathed at the base, and of an intense green color on both sides. The flower stems rise to about the same height as the leaves, and support a large umbel of from ten to twenty blossoms, which are individually upward of two inches across and about the same in length, somewhat vase-shaped, the outer half of the segments a fine deep orange color, shading to vermilion ; the lower part of a deep buff, and the anthers and style bright yellow.

I. miniatum cruentum (see Illustration).—This is one of the newest as well as one of the very finest of the varieties, and for exhibition specimens is of much value. It has the free habit of the species, and produces flowers much larger in size, finer in form, and of a much richer color, the latter being a brilliant shade of orange scarlet.

I. miniatum Marie Reimers.—A magnificent variety, of bold habit, and remarkable for the large size of its umbels, which range from twelve to eighteen inches in diameter ; the flowers are of large size and splendid form, and of a rich orange scarlet with white centre.

I. Gardeni.—This very handsome winter-blooming

plant has its leaves arranged in two rows and all springing from the root; they are from one to two feet long, blunt-pointed, and of a deep green. The flower stalk is about the same length as the leaves, and bears an umbel of from ten to fourteen flowers, which are from two to three inches long, curved downward, and of a reddish orange color, passing into yellow. They last many weeks in great beauty.

These plants are increased by division of the stems,

also by seeds, which are freely produced; as they are apt to vary somewhat when increased by seeds, it is best to divide any particular variety if a quantity of plants is desired. They thrive best in a moderately heavy and rich soil, with a small mixture of coarse sand. The pots should have good drainage, and during the growing season and when in flower they should have a liberal supply of water; less, however, is necessary during winter.

OUR WINTER GARDENS.

THE catalogue of Nanz & Neuner, Louisville, Ky., is filled with descriptions of rare flowers, beautiful foliage plants and delicious vegetables. We do not find in it any old forms with new names, but everything neat and in good order. It is well worth consulting before completing all the arrangements for the summer garden.

Robert Buist, Philadelphia, Pa., has visited us every winter for the past fifty-seven years, and his visits are ever welcome, as well as entertaining and instructive. Mr. Buist's strong point is the vegetable garden, or the essentials for one—good seeds. He considers the vegetable garden the most important appendage to a country villa, and in this respect he is quite correct. However beautiful the lawn and flower garden may be, the vegetable garden, when well ordered, is equally beautiful, and the satisfaction of having the first mess of green peas or asparagus is doubly sweet. Mr. Buist's catalogue gives all the instruction necessary to enable a person to have the best of everything in the line of vegetables.

Henry A. Dreer, 714 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Pa., provides for all the necessities of a first-class farm, garden, greenhouse or ornamental grounds. His catalogue is neat, concise and complete in illustrations, descriptions and cultural instructions. This is one of our old and tried friends whose annual visits are always anticipated with pleasure, and one who rarely disappoints us. Among the specialties offered this year are the favorites, the Fancy Caladiums, in more than seventy-five distinct varieties, including all that is valuable in the old as well as in the new varieties. For many years the fancy-leaved Caladiums have been a special feature of this establishment, and the specimen plants which they have shown at the various horticultural exhibitions are sufficient evidence that the plant is in good hands, some of the plants exhibited having leaves two feet in length and eighteen inches in width, perfect in every respect. The Tuberous-rooted Begonias, now so popular for the shaded border, are also largely grown at this establishment. For a complete list of plants, seeds and bulbs, send for their catalogue.

The Storrs & Harrison Company, Painesville, Ohio, send us their catalogue of 116 pages, finely illustrated. Their scope is an extended one, taking in vegetable and flower seeds, greenhouse and bedding plants, fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs, roses and small-fruit plants. In each and every class there is a complete list, novelties

included. This firm makes a specialty of dollar collections, and when business can be so managed that eight good apple-trees or twelve grape-vines can be had at any post-office in the United States for \$1, there is but little chance for further improvement or the slightest excuse for not having fruits, vegetables or flowers. Consult their catalogue.

John Saul, Washington, D. C., sends us a series of catalogues, in value second to none that we have received. They are neatly printed on fine paper, fully illustrated, and list a most complete collection of vegetable and flower seeds, rare plants, roses, bedding plants, fruit and ornamental trees, &c. The following enumeration comprise the series:

No. 1.—A descriptive catalogue of fruit trees, &c.

No. 2.—Catalogue of garden, agricultural and flower seeds.

No. 3.—Wholesale catalogue, or trade list, published every autumn.

No. 4.—Catalogue of ornamental trees, evergreens, shrubs, &c.

No. 5.—Descriptive catalogue of a selection of Roses.

No. 6.—Descriptive catalogue of new, rare, and beautiful plants, Crotons, Dracænas, and other fine foliage plants, Pelargoniums, Geraniums, Fuchsias, Dahlias, &c.

No. 7.—Descriptive catalogue of bulbs, published every autumn.

No. 8.—Descriptive catalogue of Orchids, &c.

J. F. Mendenhall & Co., Indianapolis, Ind., have issued a very handsome and useful catalogue of seeds for the farm, field, vegetable and flower garden. The cultural instructions are concise, the illustrations good, and the colored frontispiece well executed, both as regards drawing and coloring; it is, in short, exceptionally good. Every lover of flowers will find it worth many times its cost. Price, 10 cents.

J. M. McCullough's Sons, 134 and 136 Walnut Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. This well known establishment formerly confined its business to the sale of vegetable and field seeds, agricultural implements, &c. They have now gone into ornamental departments, and, judging from their announcement, intelligently. They ignore the too common practice of selling \$2.50 worth of seeds for 60 cents, which is a financial impossibility, and aim to give their customers full value for their money in all

cases. In their article on "The Flower Garden" there is much valuable information. Their catalogue is well worth perusal.

Frank Ford & Son, Ravenna, Ohio, contribute to our gardens a new Tomato, the "Advance," which they claim to be superior in point of flavor, solidity and in earliness, to anything heretofore introduced. Their "New Departure" in adding to their select line of small fruit plants and specialties in seeds, a small line of strictly first-class seeds, will please their many friends. Their long experience as market gardeners enables them to make such selections as are the most valuable, a course they have adopted, instead of making their catalogue cumbersome by a long list of relatively, worthless articles. Catalogues free to all who apply.

J. M. Thorburn & Co., 15 John street, New York. Annual spring catalogue of vegetable, flower and tree seeds, bulbs, &c.

William Rennie, Toronto, Ont. Illustrated catalogue of seeds, bulbs and plants.

Vic. Keen & Co., 816 Charlotte street, Philadelphia, send us their abridged catalogue of vegetable and flower seeds, bulbs, &c. The selections offered are of the best varieties in the market, and their "specialties," which are of their own production, commend themselves to all who would have a garden in the full sense of the term.

From Cole & Brother, Pella, Iowa, we have received a catalogue of vegetable, farm and flower seeds, bulbs and garden implements. A careful perusal of this publication will satisfy anyone that good and useful catalogues are not confined to any given locality, or to our older States. Iowa is noted as a seed-growing State, and being such, should have representative seedsmen, to which class this firm belong. Their catalogue is no less valuable because it is not illustrated.

J. O. Manson, Harford, Pa., seedsman and florist, sends to all who apply a plain and unassuming catalogue, but from the large number of testimonials given, he is not obliged to depend upon "printers' ink" to establish a reputation. He offers a very general collection of vegetable and flower seeds at moderate prices.

Frank Finch, Clyde, N. Y. Illustrated catalogue and price list of garden and flower seeds.

W. C. Wilson, Astoria, N. Y. Wholesale catalogue of greenhouse and bedding plants, Roses, Orchids—in fact, everything in the plant line, grown under glass. Almost every plant-grower has some "specialty" to offer, but Mr. Wilson makes a specialty of everything he offers, and grows each one in amazing quantities. Among those of particular merit is *Asparagus tenuissimus*, of which the following is Mr. Wilson's opinion, which we most heartily endorse:

"I consider this variety the grandest acquisition for decorative purposes for the greenhouse, conservatory or for cutting that has been offered in years. As a plant for contrast it stands unrivaled. For bouquet or floral decorations it possesses more durability than any of the Ferns. When cut it will retain its freshness of beautiful rich green for several weeks if placed in water."

William H. Moon, Morrisville, Pa., sends us his illustrated catalogue of the productions of the "Glenwood Nurseries," consisting of fruit and ornamental trees, flowering shrubs, small fruit plants, bulbs, &c., &c. The Rancocas Raspberry is given a colored illustration, and its good qualities are attested by some of our leading horticulturists. The "Suggestions to Planters" and "Treatment of Orchards" are papers of interest to all fruit growers.

J. C. Vaughn, 42 La Salle street, Chicago, Ill. Annual catalogue of seeds, tools and plants.

Edward Gillett, Southwick, Mass. Eighth annual catalogue of North American perennial plants, including Orchids, shrubs, climbers, ferns, alpine, aquatic and bog plants. It is a rare thing to find such a list of our beautiful native flowering plants as we would like to introduce into our gardens. Such a one, however, is in this catalogue, an important feature of which is that the common as well as botanical names are given, which makes it useful for educational purposes.

Ellis Brothers, Keene, N. H. Wholesale and retail catalogues of greenhouse and bedding plants, small fruit plants, vegetable and flower seeds, bulbs, &c., &c. This firm makes a specialty of one dollar collections of plants by mail, and it is surprising to see how much can be given for a dollar, when business is arranged for that purpose.

George L. Miller, Stockton, Ohio, Ridgewood Fruit Farm and Nurseries. Descriptive catalogue of small fruit greenhouse and bedding plants. A useful feature of this catalogue is, "Hints on Planting and Management." We do not consider the information here given simply hints—on the contrary, genuine instruction—just what many are looking for and what all need that intend cultivating small fruits.

F. K. Phoenix & Son, Delavan, Wis. Price list of the Phoenix Nursery, fruit and ornamental trees and small fruit plants.

Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y. The twenty-sixth edition of their descriptive catalogue of fruits. It is only a waste of time to speak of a firm so well known to every person who enjoys fruit. All we need to do is to welcome the catalogue as we would any old and trusted friend, for such it is to us, and such it will prove to all who seek its acquaintance.

J. B. Root & Co., Rockford, Ill., claim that all seeds are proportionately better the farther north they are grown. And it is true that seeds grown at the North, planted at the same time with those grown at the South, will germinate sooner and perfect their growth much earlier. Their catalogue lists only such seeds as are grown as far north as it is possible to perfect them. They quote vegetable and flower seeds, plants, &c., &c.

W. H. Smith, 1018 Market street, Philadelphia, Pa. Seed catalogue for 1885 furnishes brief directions for the culture of the vegetable and flower garden. It is finely illustrated and contains select lists of vegetable, field, flower and grass seeds, bulbs, &c., &c. Thirty years' experience in the seed business with Henry A. Dreer, has given Mr. Smith all the information required to carry on

the business in such a manner as to please all that may intrust him with their orders.

Shaker Seed Company, Mount Lebanon, N. Y. Descriptive and Illustrated Catalogue and Amateur's Guide to the flower and vegetable garden. The "Shaker Seeds" are well-known all over the country as this establishment has been engaged in seed growing for nearly one hundred years, and probably more seeds of their own production are sold at retail from this place than from any other in the country.

R. G. Chase & Co., Geneva, Philadelphia and Boston. Catalogue of fruit and ornamental trees, shrubbery, &c.

W. W. Johnson, Snowflake, Mich. General trade catalogue of tree seedlings, tree seeds, cuttings, &c.

The Rose is a specialty with the Dingee & Conard Company, West Grove, Pa., and there it has found a congenial home. More Roses are grown there than in any other locality in this country, and nowhere are they grown better. Although the Rose is their chief production, they also offer hardy flowering shrubs, climbing vines, Gladioli Lilies, and a few other choice plants. Their catalogue is beautifully illustrated, and is invaluable to all who wish to grow the Rose successfully.

Hale Brothers, South Glastonbury, Conn. Catalogue of small fruit plants. Of their business, a good idea can be formed by the following from their catalogue:

"Fully appreciating the importance of pedigree in plants as well as in animals, we have for years made a most careful selection of all stock for propagation, and we now offer for sale a stock of plants which we believe to be equal, if not superior, in health, vigor and productivity to any in the country. This is a subject which every fruit-grower would do well to consider before purchasing cheap stock."

A. D. Cowan & Co., 114 Chambers street, New York, send us a comprehensive catalogue of vegetable and flower seeds, garden requisites, &c., &c. This firm make a specialty of the market gardener's trade, and whoever can satisfy that class of customers, can easily satisfy all others, as they are more exacting in their demands, and willing to

pay a much higher price for seeds than any other buyers. "The Best Only," is the motto of this firm, the best only is what their customers will accept.

Arthur Bryant, Princeton, Ill. Price list of Bryant's nurseries.

Pansies a Specialty.—It is a rare thing to start a seed store and only sell one kind of seed. But then, this is an age of surprises, and we must expect to find them cropping out everywhere. The last is a catalogue of Pansies, issued by Albert Benz, Douglaston, N. Y. This is a move in the right direction, because when a man devotes his whole attention to a single article he is sure to obtain the best possible results. That Mr. Benz has done this, we know very well, having seen his Pansies on exhibition for the past five years, and know them to be strictly first-class.

Z. De Forest, Ely & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Garden almanac and seed manual.

Warren W. Rawson, 34 South Market street, Boston, Mass., furnishes a catalogue that we delight to look over. It is neat, systematic and complete. As a specimen of typographical work it is absolutely perfect. As a guide to the kitchen or the flower garden it is safe to follow. Everything listed is accurately described, and the cultural instructions are concise and plain. Mr. Rawson has been a prominent and successful market gardener at Arlington for many years, and has done much in the way of selection, to raise the standard of many of our choicest vegetables.

Young & Elliott, 18 Cortlandt street, New York. Wholesale catalogue of vegetable and flower seeds, bulbs and florists' supplies.

Michel Plant and Seed Company, 708 Olive street, St. Louis, Mo. Illustrated descriptive catalogue of garden and flower seeds, summer flowering bulbs, greenhouse, stove and bedding plants, Roses, herbaceous plants, &c., &c. This is one of the most extensive and best known floral and seed establishments in the West, and, as such, is entitled to the confidence and patronage of all our Western friends.

THE SALVIA.

THIS genus belongs to the natural order *Labiata*—Labiatis, or lip-flowered plants—which has reference to the peculiar pendants attached to the blooms, and which in the form of a lip lend to them such peculiar beauty. The genus includes some of our most valued border plants, the most useful being the well-known *S. splendens*, which is also used with good effect as a greenhouse or conservatory plant. This species was introduced from Mexico about fifty years ago, and justly maintains its proud position in the flower garden. It is readily propagated by cuttings or from seed, which, if sown in the hotbed in March will make splendid flowering plants for autumn. If plants are desired for the window garden, they can be taken from the border about the middle of September, and potted in good rich soil, using a pot only large enough to accommodate the roots

without crowding; shade the plants for a few days, then remove to a sunny window, where they will bloom profusely for two or three months. After flowering, the plants may be kept in a partially dormant state until about March 1, when they should be started into growth to furnish young shoots for cuttings, which root freely in sand, and make plants sufficiently large for planting out in about two months. The old plants may be grown on until they get so large as to become unmanageable. We always prefer young plants, either from cuttings or from seed, as they make more vigorous growth, and produce larger racemes of flowers. It is well, however, to keep a few old plants over for seed purposes, as the young ones, particularly the seedlings, rarely produce seed.

S. patens is an exquisite blue-flowered variety. We have nothing in our gardens to equal it for blue flowers.

It blooms freely the entire summer, and its fleshy roots can be easily kept through the winter, like those of the Dahlia. It does not propagate readily from cuttings, but it is freely increased by seeds. It should be grown in a partially shaded border.

The following varieties are of more recent introduction,

in diameter, or have more than two-thirds of the space advised above, if planted out.

S. Betheli.—A distinct and beautiful species, bearing slender spikes of medium-sized flowers, which are of a pleasing rose-color shaded with white.

S. Boliviana (see *Illustration*).—A remarkably hand-



SALVIA BOLIVIANA (Flowers Crimson).

and are the most distinct and beautiful of any under cultivation :

S. albo-cerulea.—A very slender growing form, of dwarf habit, and bearing elegant spikes of blue and white flowers. As it is of smaller growth than most of the other Salvias, it should not be put in pots exceeding six inches

some species, the leaves cordate and of large size, and the flowers, which are of a bright crimson color, are borne in long thickly set spikes. One of the finest for its effective, shade of color.

S. coccinea grandiflora.—A dwarf free branching variety with bright red flowers which are rather short, and

so thickly set as to form dense spikes. Very useful for small decorations.

S. Gesneriflora.—A robust growing species with large bright green foliage and bearing long spikes of very large flowers which, as indicated by its name, are not unlike those of a *Gesnera*. One of the very best for flowering at midwinter.

S. Heeri.—A robust growing species producing light scarlet flowers, and very effective when grown to a

comparatively large size. It is usually at its best during January and February, when it is of special value.

S. Ianthina, which has obtained considerable attention under the designation of *Hoveyi*, is valuable for the distinct shade of color it affords. It has a rather strong habit and blooms freely, the flowers being of medium size and a rich rosy purple. Its season of flowering is November and December.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

The Best Acre of the Farm.

THE best acre of the farm is the garden, and the one that yields the greatest profits when properly managed, and, withal, the acre we rarely meet. We have occasion annually to look over a great many farms, and come in contact with a great many farmers, and we can truly say that we have not met one during the past three years who was the possessor of a garden worthy of the name. Nor do we know of a farmer that appreciates vegetables, fruits or flowers for their intrinsic worth. Almost every farmer has an orchard, or rather, has a regulation number of fruit-trees planted, but without regard to selection, as to variety or of their adaptation to the soil or climate in which they are to grow. As a general thing, our farmers seem to look upon choice fruit with contempt; they cannot understand the value in the family of early, medium and late fruits of their respective sorts, or that they are of the slightest importance in domestic economy. We remember visiting in a single day, during the past autumn, nearly, if not fully, twenty farmers, and in not one instance were we asked to see the orchard or garden, but in nearly every instance we were asked to see the pigs, which seemed to be the only production in which they were heartily interested.

Almost every farmer has what *he* calls a garden, in which may be found a very small and equally poor selection of poorly grown vegetables, and, as a rule, an abundance of weeds. But what a rarity a good garden is in connection with the farm, the proper and legitimate place for one! The farmer is the man of all men who should have not only a garden, but the best one possible. He, of all men, cannot afford to be without a garden, yet *he* is the only man who tills the soil and says he cannot afford to have one. His plea is, that it interferes with his farming operations which are of greater importance, when, as a matter of fact, it should be the most important part of his work, because it is not only the most essential to his happiness, but because it pays the best dividends on the capital invested, in healthful, nutritious and delicious food.

Every farmer, no matter what the size of his farm may be, should take an acre adjoining his dwelling, enclose it with a fence, which should be made to answer for a grape trellis, as well as to keep out all depredators. The plot should be in the form of a parallelogram, say 100x400 feet, with a border of three feet in width all around, in which should be planted grape-vines in such varieties as

will best succeed in the soil and situation that is to be given them. This border, like all the rest of the garden, should be made rich and worked very deep. The vines should be planted eight feet apart and always kept well pruned and properly trained, and we need not say that the border should be kept perfectly clear from weeds. In this border there should be nothing else grown excepting, perhaps, early radishes and a row of lettuce, and it should be separated from the main garden by a path three feet in width, covered with coal ashes to make it dry and hard, and to prevent the weeds from growing.

The plot should then be divided into two equal parts, with an avenue running through the centre wide enough for a horse and cart to be driven through. On each side of this avenue should be planted a row of currant and gooseberry bushes, which will require a space of four feet on each side. This will form two plots, 175x88 feet each. One of these should be devoted to asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries and other small fruits. The other plot should be devoted to early and late vegetables. If the ground is of a tenacious character, it should be thrown up in ridges in the fall, in order that it may become thoroughly pulverized by the action of the frost during the winter. As soon in the spring as the soil is fit to work plant peas, onions, radishes, lettuce, early potatoes and beets; also have, ready to transplant, early cabbage and cauliflower plants in sufficient quantities for family use. Later on, as soon as all dangers from frost are past, beans, both pole and bush, summer and winter squashes, melons in variety, a few hills of cucumbers, a succession of peas and, in fact, any desired vegetables may be planted. Where early peas are sown, the ground may be cleared in time for a crop of celery, and where the early potatoes are grown, a crop of turnips, for fall and winter use, can be obtained.

Now, after the small fruits have come into bearing, let us take an inventory of the garden and see what the acre up to this time has furnished for the table. Very early in the season we had all the rhubarb that we required for sauce and pies, and for which purposes there is nothing more wholesome. Next in order asparagus, the most delicious vegetable the garden affords, and a splendid appetizer. Soon thereafter radishes and lettuce were ready for use. Before we tire of these the strawberry season commences, and what dish is equal to strawberry short-cake, smothered with rich, sweet cream, which can only be had where it is produced? And now, in the height of the strawberry

season, the acre is yielding all the peas, beets, onions and potatoes that are required for the family. By the time the strawberries fail the raspberries invite us to their portion of the acre and gratify our appetites for, at least, three weeks longer. In the meantime, string-beans, summer squashes, cucumbers, early cabbage and cauliflowers invite our attention; and while they are still luxuries, the blackberries will be ready for use. And with these will be a beautiful supply of green-corn, early tomatoes, and in rapid succession melons in variety, egg-plant, and, in fact, all other vegetables that will relieve the monotony of the too common diet of the farmer—his favorite pork and cabbage. All these luxuries will be rapidly followed by delicious grapes for dessert; and upon the approach of frost, the most delicate of all garden vegetables, the celery, will be ready for use; and of this, if properly cared for, there will be sufficient to last until spring.

Nor is this all. The acre will afford a surplus of all the small fruits, which can be dried or canned for winter use. A keg of cucumber pickles can be put up, and all the tomatoes that will be required until the next season's crop is ready can be canned or preserved. The root-cellar can be well filled with cabbage, turnips, parsnips, carrots and salsify, and a dry room, away from frost, may be filled with squashes for winter use.

This is not theory, but a common practice of one who has not got the acre, but who accomplishes all these results upon less than an acre of garden. Farmers, try the experiment and see if this acre does not yield a larger income than any five acres of the farm that are devoted to regular farming.

Radishes.

IT is the opinion of a great many persons that the Radish is a tough, indigestible vegetable, quite unfit for human food, but if they only could be induced to try a few when properly grown, I am quite certain they would change their opinion; for, instead of being pungent and tough, they are crisp and tender as well as cooling and refreshing, and, coming as they do so early in the season, form a very welcome addition to our limited supply of early vegetables, and render it very desirable for amateur cultivators to obtain a supply as early in the season as possible.

Whether grown for an early or late crop, radishes require a moderately enriched sandy loam, as a heavy or

clayey soil not only retards their maturity, but renders the crop inferior in appearance and quality; so, if at all possible, all such soils should be avoided. But it is not my intention to write an essay on the cultivation of radishes, I merely wish to tell the readers of the CABINET how easily an early crop can be obtained, even by those who possess but a little skill or experience in the cultivation of vegetables. Let a gentle hotbed be prepared as early as possible, in any warm sheltered situation, being careful to have the bed some two feet wider than the frame and bank the frame up on all sides, in order to prevent the loss of heat during cold wintry nights.

Into this frame place about five or six inches of rich loamy soil and press it down thoroughly but neatly, and then mark it out in drills four inches apart and a quarter of an inch in depth. In these drills the seeds can be carefully sown, covered and watered. The water used for this purpose should be slightly warmed, and it should be applied through a fine rose. Now place on the sashes and keep close for a few days until the young plants make their appearance, when air should be freely given during the middle of the day, and just as soon as the young plants have obtained their first rough leaves they should be thinned out so that they stand an inch apart. On all favorable occasions the glass should be wholly removed during the middle of the day, and as good a rule as any is to remove the glass only when the sun is shining directly on the frame, unless the weather is exceptionally mild and pleasant, but air must be freely given at all times.

Water should be given thoroughly, whenever necessary, as on this, as well as an abundant supply of air to prevent the plants from becoming drawn, depends the entire success of the crop. Where a succession is desirable or necessary another frame can be prepared about ten days later, and this repetition can be continued until cold weather is over, when they can be sown in a cold frame similarly prepared, or in the open air after the 10th of April.

During the night as well as during severe cold weather the sashes should be protected, by covering them with mats or wooden shutters, and, if necessary, with straw or salt hay. For forcing, the French Breakfast, Woods Early Frame, or Early Round Dark Red, are the varieties mostly used, and one cannot go astray in choosing any of these varieties. CHAS. E. PARNELL.

DO PLANTS VARY WHEN PROPAGATED BY CUTTINGS?

THE question of the variation of plants when propagated by cuttings is ably discussed by Peter Henderson in a recent article to the Philadelphia Press. To the assertion in a previous paper "that seed potatoes taken from the most productive hills gave a larger yield of tubers than that taken from the least productive," Mr. Henderson replies: "I am inclined to believe that further experiments will show that this increased productiveness will not continue to hold, because the reason for the greater or

less yield was probably only an accident of circumstances, specially favorable conditions of the set made to form the hill, or by being highly fertilized, or some such cause that gave it this temporary advantage; and that the chances are all against any permanent improvement being made by such selections.

The potato is said to have been introduced into Europe in 1584. If the original tubers had had the highest cultivation that the skill of man could give, it is exceedingly

doubtful if 300 years of culture would have changed them in the slightest degree if propagation had been solely from the tubers and not from seed proper.

"I base this opinion on a very extended experience in the cultivation of plants from cuttings. Strawberry plants taken from any well-known kind, such as Sharpless, for example, from strong, vigorous-growing plants, will certainly give better results than from weak plants of the same kind, planted in the same soil. But if the progeny of the strong and the weak plants are again taken and replanted, the difference between the two would hardly be perceptible after they had been growing together under the same conditions. Every now and then we hear of varieties of fruits or flowers, said to be degenerating, that are propagated from cuttings, grafts or roots. I believe there is no such thing as permanent degeneration of any fruit, flower or vegetable that is raised from cuttings, grafts or roots. The Jargonelle Pear, the Ribston Pippin Apple, the Hamburg Grape, or the Kean's Seedling Strawberry of the English gardens are found to look just as good, and as bad, under different conditions of culture, as they were fifty or one hundred years ago, and that any change, either better or worse, is only an accident of circumstances and temporary. For be it remembered, that when a plant is raised from cuttings as in the Grape-vine, grafts as in a Pear, or layers as in a Strawberry, or pieces of the root, as in a Potato, such parts are not seed proper, but are merely parts of the same individual first called into existence. The Early Rose potato, introduced nearly a quarter of a century ago, is just as good to-day, under proper cultivation, as when first introduced, but it is certainly no better. It is often to be found, of course, under unfavorable circumstances, and then may be supposed to have degenerated; but when it is shown under other circumstances to be as fine as when first introduced, how can the assertion of permanent degeneracy be admitted?

"Permanent improvement in my opinion, in varieties, can only be made by the selection of the fittest specimens that have been raised from seed proper. Here we have, as in the Early Rose potato, the Sharpless strawberry and the Concord grape, varieties that have shot away ahead of their fellows, having merits that the

general public recognize; but all the art of man cannot further improve these so that their "progeny" (to use a convenient, though, perhaps, not a strictly correct term) will be permanently better or worse than when first called into existence. It is a very common error, when a luxuriant crop of anything is seen growing under specially good culture, to imagine that cuttings, roots or seeds from such plants must necessarily give similar results, when the same conditions to grow such crops well are not present. Not long ago Boston was famed for its rosebuds, and even experienced florists paid double price for stock from such plants, only to find that in their hands these plants would not produce Boston rosebuds. Now the case is changed. Madison, N. J., as a whole, beats Boston in rose culture, and the demand has changed from Boston to Madison, and, of course, with the same results, for, if the purchasers of Madison roses cannot give Madison culture, there will be no Madison rosebuds. While we admit the advantage of a healthy stock, and even, perhaps, the value of a change of stock, what I claim is that no culture will permanently change the variety from the normal condition, and that the only advance that can be made is by selecting the best specimens, hybridizing these from their seed, again selecting, and so on forward.

"To be sure, we have in rare instances what are known as 'sports' by gardeners, or what Darwin has called 'bud variation,' which may be improvements on the original variety or the reverse; but culture good or bad has nothing to do with such anomalous cases.

"Again and again we see it asserted as a matter for wonder that the wild celery of English marshes, or the wild carrot of the hedgerows, have attained their present high condition by 'cultivation.' If cultivation means that man has through generations 'selected the fittest' of these again and again, taking always the flower of the flock, so as to have attained the present perfection, then that is true; but, if by 'cultivation' is meant that 'domestication' by high culture, manuring, &c., in a garden or field has caused such results, then, in my humble opinion, it is not true."

A BOY WHO PAID HIS DEBTS.

GREEN'S grocery store was near Mr. Utley's house, and Ned had lately grown quite old and wise enough to go there alone upon errands.

The great charm of Green's grocery for Ned was its windows; for Mr. Green was really an artist in window decoration. No grocery windows in the whole town were so attractively arranged as his, or so often changed in decoration. Sometimes the central decoration would be a delicate display of foreign fruits, oranges, lemons, figs, dates, &c., around which circled a sort of halo of raisins, dried currants, colossal prunes, and sugared citron and ginger. Sometimes tempting jars of jelly and jam, of

every name and color, would be the heart of the great flower, and every sort of sweet, fancy biscuits the petals. Sometimes sugars would be the main feature, and Ned, pressing his pug-nose flat against the large pane, would wonder to himself into which box, the central one full of maple sugar, or one of the circling ones of Demerara or "double-refined," he would plunge his fist, should fire break out on the premises and destruction be let loose upon those windows.

It was Monday morning. Clean and bright as a new silver dollar, Ned was on his way to school. He was five minutes earlier than usual, therefore had quite time enough

to stop a little while, and see what a delightful change Mr. Green had made in his windows since the pea-nuts, pecans, filberts, walnuts and figs of Saturday night.

There *was* a change. Such raisins he had never seen in all his life, as these great fat, imposing looking ones, that spread themselves, very much at their ease, upon dry branches, over a background of artistically mingled brown nuts.

"My!" he exclaimed. "Phose raisins are like some grapes in our family Bible phwhat they call 'clusters of Eskle,' and phwhat takes two men to carry 'em! Don't I just wish I were Mr. Green's little boy!"

Ned looked lingeringly and long at those raisins. Mr. Green, inside, said to his clerk:

"Look a here, Joe! If eyes could eat, what a jolly stomach-ache Mr. Utley's youngster would get!"

All through his lessons that morning, Ned seemed, if not more thoughtful, at least less mischievous than usual.

On his way home at noon he marched straight into Mr. Green's store.

"My mother has sent me for some of your very best raisins, Mr. Green," he said.

"All right, my little man. How many does she want?"

"Oh, about *phree!*" answered Ned, with affectation of great carelessness.

Mr. Green carefully selected three raisins from the window. He then carefully weighed them, carefully did them up in a brown paper parcel, carefully tied the parcel with twine, and carefully presented it to Ned.

"To be charged," said Ned, importantly, as he walked away.

That same afternoon Mr. Utley stopped in at Green's grocery to leave an order. The moment he appeared Mr. Green exploded with laughter. Then he told Mr. Utley the funny joke about Ned's wholesale purchase of raisins. Mr. Utley looked grave.

"My poor boy has been weaker than a temptation!" he said to himself. "How can I give him a lesson that punishment always follows wrong-doing?"

As Ned returned from school that afternoon, Mr. Green stood in his door.

"I find that your mother has no longer an account with me, Neddie," he said. "So you will oblige me by bringing the money for those raisins on your way to school tomorrow morning."

Ned was thunderstruck. He had scarcely realized before that Mr. Green was paid for his groceries. He had a sort of dim idea that the grocer was a general benefactor of humanity, who dispensed his goods for the general benefit of the public, without thought of selfish gain. All the afternoon long the thought had been tormenting his heart. What a strapping, horrid big lie to have told, but it had never occurred to him before that, as well as disgracing himself by a deliberate lie, he had got possession of something that really belonged to another, and that must be paid for before it could be his.

"Am I a stealer as well as a tell-a-lie-er?" flashed sharply through his brain.

"You ought to [have seen the poor little chap's chin drop," said Mr. Green to Joe. "I declare, if twarn't for

Mr. Utley I'd a wished I hadn't a done it. He just said 'Oh!' and took to his legs like a rabbit."

Ned went straight to his savings bank. It was deplorably light and perfectly empty. He remembered then that he had shaken out its last cent on Saturday morning to buy jujube paste, and that it had never held more than two cents at a time since he had owned it. He was very downcast, and his conscience never ceased crying "stealer as well as tell-a-lie-er."

When Mrs. Utley went up stairs to her room that night, she thought she heard sounds of crying from Ned's bed. She concluded herself mistaken, however, when Ned called to her:

"Mamma, how much do raisins cost?"

She thought him dreaming, and answered lightly:

"That depends, dear. The best are sometimes as high as twenty-five cents."

"*Twenty-five cents!* And I had PHREE" groaned the boy to his pillow.

Till nearly morning he lay awake trying to find out the cost of three raisins at twenty-five cents apiece. He had not made the calculation any closer than that it was more money than he had ever seen in his life, or ever expected to. When he started for school, Mr. Green stood in his door.

"Have you brought me my money for the raisins?" he asked, gravely.

"There wasn't any in my bank!" said the frightened boy.

"And he just swung them little legs of his like castanets," chuckled Mr. Green, telling the incident to Joe.

Poor Ned missed every one of his lessons that forenoon, and went from the head to the foot of his class. He returned sorrowfully at noon, looking sharply ahead to see if anybody stood in Mr. Green's door. The coast seemed clear, and he was rushing by, as Mr. Green told Joe, "like a chicken to a dough pan," when that fatal person called to him:

"Ned Utley! Ned Utley! You haven't paid me for those raisins!"

There was really little need for Mr. Green to trouble himself so much; for two voices were ringing incessantly in Ned's ears, one crying:

"Stealer and tell-a-lie-er!"

The other:

"You owe Mr. Green about a billion cents for phose raisins!"

He pondered deeply every night before he fell asleep, upon the ways and means by which a boy of eight could earn money.

He surprised his mother when she passed his door, by calling out:

"Mamma, did you ever hear of a boy who earned a billion cents by picking up old iron?" And made his father smile behind his newspaper, by asking gravely at breakfast:

"Papa, how long would it take me to get a drillion cents if I went without salt on my potatoes?"

He grew into deep disgrace at school by being always late. Green's grocery store had become such a terror to him that he took roundabout ways to avoid passing it. He

no longer enjoyed the old pleasure of looking into those marvelous windows, and the very thought of raisins made his heart go pit-a-pat, as if a small trip-hammer worked under his little jacket.

Unfortunately, that trip-hammer worked pretty often; for, somehow or other, he was always running upon Mr. Green in all sorts of unexpected places. Once he ran against him at the very school-house door; once or twice he met him on the most out-of-the-way (to him) road he could take to school; once that terrible person accosted him as he was swinging on his own father's gate. And never did that awful Mr. Green see him that, with continually increasing severity, he did not say:

"Ned Utley, you owe me for my raisins!"

"Anyhow, I can have a little peace on Sundays!" poor Ned comforted himself.

That very day, walking to church between his father and mother, Ned was appalled by the sight of Mr. Green, looking a tremendous swell in his best clothes, and walking toward the Methodist church, while Ned was headed for the Baptist. They met, and for a moment his tyrant held poor Ned with glittering eye before he said:

"Mr. Utley, may I speak a word to your son in private?"

"Not to-day, if you please, Mr. Green," answered Ned's papa. "I think we will leave him in the possession of a tranquil mind for to-day at least."

Ned did not understand these big words, and wondered why everybody smiled.

His mind was not tranquil, however, unless the word meant "unhappy"; for all through sermon time, as well

as in Sunday-school, he kept thinking. "I am not safe even on Sundays," while a voice kept crying: "Stealer as well as tell-a-lie-er."

The next morning was the first day of the summer vacation. Mr. Green had scarcely entered his store when he saw Ned Utley leaning against a sugar barrel.

"Mr. Green," said the child, timidly, and yet with determination, "I bought phose raisins 'thout my mother knowing anything about 'em. Will you let me work for you all this vacation, and all the vacations I'm goin' to have till I'm a big man, and pay for the raisins? To-night, after I go home from work, I'll tell Papa and mamma how I lied and stealed; but I want to begin work first."

("He looked about knee-high to a grasshopper," chuckled Mr. Green, afterward; "but he felt as fierce as a rabbit!")

"Strip up your sleeves, then, my man!"

So Neddie bared his white arm.

"Now sweep out the store!"

So Ned struggled with the big broom till his brow was wet. And at the end of five minutes Mr. Green frowned savagely, and said:

"Put up the broom; I've other work for you! Pick out three of the very biggest and handsomest bunches of raisins in that window."

So Ned blushed, but selected.

"Now, vamous, Ned, my boy!" said Mr. Green, grinning, and patting the boy's head. "You've worked a little over time. Take your pay in raisins."—*Selected.*

JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT.

CRACKLE! crash! the ice is melting;
From the west, wild showers are pelting;
Swish and gurgle! splash and spatter!
"Halloo, good folks! what's the matter?
Seems to me the roof is leaking!"
Jack from down below is speaking.

You know little Jack? In the spring he stands up on
the swampy edge
Of the hemlock-wood, looking out from the shade of
the ferny ledge;
But in winter he cuddles close under a thatch of damp
leaves,
Hark! the water is trickling fast in through his gar-
ret-eaves,
And he opens his eyes, and up he starts out of his
earthy bed;
And he carefully holds, while he climbs aloft, his um-
brella over his head.
High time for you to be up, Jack, when every living
thing
Is washing and sunning itself, Jack, and getting ready
for spring!

Little Jack, the country preacher,
Thinks, "These rustics need a teacher!
I shall reprimand the flowers—
Flirting with the rude March showers
That invade my honest dwelling!
What I'll tell them, there's no telling!"

They call him Jack-in-the-pulpit, so stiff he looks, and
so queer,
As he waits on the edge of the swamp, for the flower-
folks to come and hear
The text and the sermon and all the grave things that
he has to say;
But the blossoms they laugh and they dance, they are
wilder than ever to-day,—
No hearers—so never a word has the little minister
said,
But there in his pulpit he stands and holds his um-
brella over his head;
And we have not a doubt in our minds, Jack, you are
wisely listening
To the organ-choir of the winds, Jack, and the tunes
that the sweet birds sing!—*Lucy Larcom.*

THE FRONT-YARDS OF LONG AGO.

MRS. STOWE somewhere in one of her books, I think it may be "The Minister's Wooing," pictures one of these old-fashioned front-yards. It was an unpretentious, wide space, shut in by a picket-fence painted white. A Lombardy poplar stood on either side of the gate; Morning Glories and New York Beauties clambered over the door-porch, and on either side of the walk grew bunches of ribbon-grass and clumps of Southern-wood. Poppies, Larkspurs and Monkshood, and, later on, single Marigolds and China Asters grew under the windows. Homely as everything was, the picture recalls visions of old-time ease and hospitality, and there is an idyllic grace and sweetness about that departed life of a by-gone century that is altogether lacking in our more prosaic age.

The history of front-yards in the Northern Atlantic States, if written, would be very interesting to read. It would begin with the romantic times of the early settlers and end in a treatise upon landscape gardening. The first colonists familiar with the broad gardens and parks of England and Holland must have felt somewhat confused when restricted to front-yards by way of pleasure-grounds. There is great pathos in the fact that they had time or place for gardens at all. Their life was stern and hard, and for several years it was more necessary to raise maize and pumpkins and peas to keep themselves from starving than to lay out alleys and plant flowers and box-borders among the rocks and stumps.

But when, at last, the pioneers found time to cultivate a few of the amenities of life, how tenderly guarded were the little slips and cuttings which had been sent to them by friends beyond the sea! What fears they must have had lest the first winter's cold might cut them off in their infancy. And when they bloomed in the warm summer time, how their thoughts must have been carried to their old homes in the Norfolk fens, on the Kentish wolds and among the Cornish hills, where they had last seen them blossom!

There are Rose-trees still blooming which were brought over by the first settlers. I know of an old ruined cellar around which grow bunches of Sweetbriar, the Eglantine of the poets. It is like a bit of romance to see it there; to touch the leaves and make them give out that bewitching fragrance; and each June to gather the lovely single Roses, whose perfume is the purest attar, and whose petals are so deftly tipped and tinted with carmine. How it came there no one knows; but I love to think that the young wife of the settler had brought a slip from her home in the old country and set it out in the clearing in the wilderness. It seems scarcely possible that civilized New England is no older than the apple-trees that still thrive on the dreary shores of Duxbury and Marshfield, near the graves of Perigrine White and the doughty old soldier Miles Standish.

Those early gardens and front-yards are very pathetic in the contrast of their extent and their power of sugges-

tion and association. Near the old Pepperell mansion at Kittery, Maine, the visitor can still see the remains of what was once an elegant front garden. There are the Box-borders and the Rose-bushes which were set out by the first Lady Pepperell in those long-ago days, when Queen Anne was reigning in England, and Addison was editing the *Spectator*.

Across the Piscataqua from the Pepperell House is another mansion of "ye ancient time." It is the Wentworth House, the home of Governor Wentworth of colonial fame, and of Lady Wentworth, of Longfellow's musical lay.

"Baronial and colonial in its style;
Gables and dormer-windows everywhere,
And stacks of chimneys rising high in air."

Vast hedges of Lilacs border the house, around which they seem to hold sweet communion. These are the very bushes planted there under Martha Wentworth's direction in 1760. Year after year they bloom and throw their fragrance to the soft June air. Unchanged themselves, they have witnessed decay and death at the ancient mansion. Their waving boughs seem to whisper many a sad requiem over the fallen glory of Wentworth House.

Who of us is there who does not remember a front-yard garden, which seemed to us a very paradise in childhood? There is one in my mind as I write, where there were a good many Lady's Delights growing under the bushes, and coming up everywhere, even in the chinks of the walk, and hosts of yellow and white Daisies. It was a miracle to see the tall Tiger-lilies and the great Rose-bushes all in bloom. Often have I waited by the gate when sent on an errand, to have the mistress of the house pick a nosegay to send back to my mother. They were always prim, flat bouquets, as was the fashion of the time, but the beauty and scent of those flowers will never be surpassed. There would be sprigs of Lavender and Burgamot and Southern-wood, and great leaves of odorous Mint, huge White and Damask Roses, and sprays of Asparagus, and, later on, bunches of China Asters, Snowballs and stately Dahlias—wonderful to the eyes of a child.

It is to be deplored, I think, that more of those old-time flowers are not cultivated in our modern yards and gardens. Many of them were in no ways inferior to the horticultural pets that our sisters take pride in to-day. Memory reverts to and lingers fondly among those flowers of my grandmother's time—*Flower-de-Luce*, blue, pink, white and purple Columbines, and the dear sweet Wild-roses that grew so lavishly by the wayside.

"Oh, the dear old-fashioned flowers!
How sweetly they used to grow,
And fill with their perfumed splendor
The gardens of long ago,
Before these foreign invaders
Arrived to usurp their claims,
And bother us to remember
Their many new-fangled names."

F. M. COLBY.

HOME DECORATIONS.



Portfolio for Writing-Paper.

A PIECE of light pasteboard ten inches deep and fifteen wide should be used for the foundation. Make a fold in the centre so that the two leaves will each present a surface ten inches deep by seven and one-half wide, cover the outside with deep wine-colored velvet or satin, and the inside with olive-green silk, and join the edges of the two materials as neatly as possible. A sheet of white blotting-paper should be folded together and cut the same shape as the cover, only one-half inch smaller each way, and fastened in it by slipping it behind a small cord elastic, which should extend from top to bottom where the cover is folded. The writing-paper is held in place in the same way.

The design given in our illustration is to be painted on one side of the cover; the pink and white blossoms prove

SWEET-PEA—DESIGN FOR PORTFOLIO COVER.

very effective upon the deep red velvet. It is also very suitable for embroidery, but this must be done before being made up, and the blossoms should be worked with filo-floss, which resembles filoselle in appearance, but is

superior to it, as it is considered by experienced workers to be made of a much better quality of silk, and being composed of six strands is easily split; it is also desirable because of the durability of the colors, the palest tints remaining unchanged when exposed to a strong light. The leaves should be worked with fine chenille.

A Chapter on Plaques.

THERE is nothing in the decorative line more quickly and easily prepared for gifts, by those who paint, than plaques; and the immense variety in the sizes and styles of these popular articles renders it comparatively easy to avoid monotony in one's gift collection.

Commencing with the much maligned pie-plates, the money expenditure in them may be increased to an indefinite amount. Apropos of pie-plates, I have lately seen some that were lovely. One pair representing snow scenes was especially charming. Diamond powder was scattered over them while wet with the last painting, imitating wonderfully the sparkle and glitter of real snow and frost.

Other plaques representing summer landscapes were bordered with pale blue, black and gold. Still others were of tin cut into an oblong, oval-shape, which, after painting, could not be distinguished from the composition plaques which they so cleverly imitated. Some economical students keep a number of these inexpensive plates all prepared, with shaded or plain backgrounds, in readiness for immediate and unexpected use; for often a very desirable study is seen, which, if transferred at once to one of these plates, is permanently secured, but if left until better material could be procured for use, might be lost or forgotten.

The plain wooden plaques are desirable for some subjects, but are often treated in different ways before painting to give the study the best effect. Ebonized and porcelain plaques are lovely for flower subjects, as are also the brass ones.

The beveled French-plate mirror plaques are a novelty, being extremely useful as well as ornamental on a lady's or gentleman's toilet table. In a small parlor I have lately seen hangs a very elegant-looking plaque whose plebeian origin was in a grocery store, and had once been the top of a candy bucket. It was covered with a dark moss-green velvet, on which was painted an exquisite design of water-lily buds, flowers and leaves. Hanging against a background of dead-gold wall-paper, the effect was very rich and pleasing.

A pasteboard plaque (an advertisement) was covered with white velvet, having a graceful spray of wild-roses painted on it. Its companion-piece was similar, having a half wreath of pansies trailed over one side.

A handsome and useful object is a plaque match-holder. A pasteboard or light wooden plaque is covered smoothly with either velvet or plush, and supported at the back in easel fashion. Two small receptacles about the size and shape of common plain napkin rings are also covered and fastened to the front, after which the whole is painted or decorated in any way desired.

Bronze designs in relief are mounted against plush, and

are very attractive. Fragile as a breath are the semi-transparent plaques of thin ground French glass. So transparent is this material that the designs upon them have the appearance of being in the air.

The creamy, stippled, octagon-shaped plaques are very pretty, and having a plush background or edging, require no further mounting.

The new terraline plaques with their designs in bold relief are a novelty to some, and are quite elegant when skillfully painted.

The photographic statuary in plaque-shape has an extremely pretty effect in over-door decoration. One ingenious little lady, upon being presented with a pair of these lovely groups, delved down among the treasures of her attic, and brought up some old family portraits, in defaced rosewood and walnut oval frames. The "family groups" were promptly consigned to oblivion again, but the frames were cleaned, rubbed, stained and gilded, and proved exactly the thing for the dainty statuary groups. A lovely Christmas card was one designed by Mrs. Whitney; a satin plaque, with a rich plush star-shaped mounting, all supported easel fashion, and on the satin was painted an elaborate design of pansies, wild-roses, narcissi, and apple-blossoms.

L. M. HARVEY.

A Plaque Wall-Pocket.

VERY pretty wall-pockets are made in the shape of a large circle, the foundation of which is very stiff pasteboard. A variety of materials may be used for covering it, but something quite odd is to crochet of coarse tidy cotton a plain circle, which is slightly larger than the pasteboard, the surplus edge to be turned over the back of the foundation and held firmly and smoothly in place by catching it across the back with strong thread.

Cut two circles of stiff pasteboard exactly the same size—fifteen inches in diameter is a pretty and convenient size—and cover them with silver-gray or gold-colored silesia. The two pieces are then overhanded together with cotton or sewing-silk the color of the material, and the second covering, which is the crochet work, is put over the silesia. Coat the entire surface and edge which turns over on the back with either gold, silver or bronze paint. This may be purchased from any paint shop, in powder, with varnish for mixing and a broad, stiff brush with which to apply it; but great care should be used when preparing the powder, and even in putting it on the material, for, should any of it be inhaled, it proves sometimes injurious. It is perhaps safer, therefore, to purchase the gold or silver paints already prepared, but the first method described is rather less expensive. The circle must then be put away to dry.

The pocket is of stiff pasteboard, one-third as high as the back, and cut large enough to allow a space at the top of two inches between it and the back; the bottom should fit closely to the edge of the circle.

This piece must be coated on both sides with the gold, silver or bronze paint, whichever may have been used for the back.

When both pieces are perfectly dry they should be fastened together. This is done by carefully piercing holes



WALL-POCKET.

about two inches apart through the lower edge of the pocket and corresponding ones through the edge of the back.

Then tie the two pieces together with a soft cord, run through the holes in both pieces. Do not carry the cord from one joining to the other, but fasten each place separately, tying the string at the back where it will not show, and cutting as closely as you can without danger of untying. These cords are then coated with whatever color has been previously used on the pocket.

It is now ready for decorating, and, if gold is the background, pansies are very pretty for the design.

Group together the different varieties, light and dark purple, violet and gold, with a little of their foliage.

The grouping should extend quite high on the back, and a similar design be painted on the pocket.

When the paintings are dry the pocket is ready for the ribbons with which to hang it. Satin ribbon two inches wide should be used, and the colors should match those in the painting.

Make a loop of gold-colored ribbon sufficiently long by which to hang the plaque; a full bow is then made of purple, violet and gold-color satin ribbons, and sewed at the top of the loop. It is then ready to be hung wherever desired, and will prove a pretty convenient receptacle for papers.

Other materials than the crochet-work can be used, such as plush, satin, silk or velvet, and in that case the front of the pocket is covered with the same material as that used for the circle. Paintings in water-colors should be used for decorating these, and, although they are

pretty, will not be found so odd or pleasing as those made of the crochet-work.

M. E. WHITTEMORE.

Easter Gifts.

A SHEET of writing-paper transformed into an Easter card makes as pretty a one as could be desired. Any style of paper can be used, but the ragged-edged linen is much handsomer than any other. Paint or draw a spray of flowers on the upper half of the sheet, leaving a space, as seen in our design, for the lettering; get a quarter of a yard of satin ribbon an inch wide, draw around this space the form of a card, the width of the ribbon; cut a slit in each end of the card, run the ribbon through, and write the words "An Easter Greeting," with gold ink. A handsome decalcomania design can be used, if one can not paint.

Sachets in egg-form, are also made to send as Easter gifts. White or cream colored satin should be used. Cut two pieces of thin cardboard the shape of an egg, and about twice as large as one; cover each on one side, with the satin, place several similar shaped pieces of cotton batting sprinkled freely with sachet powder between them, and overhand them neatly together; paint a band of flowers diagonally across the egg, or a few sprays on the front.

Satin ribbon an inch and a half wide, with an Easter greeting written on it with gold ink, makes a very neat little gift.

To make a pretty egg-shell bouquet-holder, take some bonnet wire and bend it in the shape of a saw-buck; tie it at the angles with stout thread, then tie little pieces of raisin-stems to it, and gild with liquid gilt, break about a



DESIGN FOR EASTER CARD.

third of the shell away, so that it will lie long-ways in the saw-buck; gild it, and fill with artificial violets.

A pure white shell makes a cunning little baby's head to ornament a pen-wiper, or to amuse the little ones. Break off the small end, so that it will stand well, make a cap of silk with a full white ruching around it, sew some yellow floss in the front of the cap, and comb it out to make the bang, draw a face on the egg, paint the cheeks pink, and tie the cap with tiny pink ribbons; finish it on

the bottom with a broad plaiting of swiss, make the pen-wiper the shape of a mat, and glue the head on it. Eggs can be colored with the dyes which come in ten cent packages, and then with the aid of a sharp penknife be transformed into beautiful little objects; if one can draw or design, the name and date can be put on any way; if bright pieces of calico are sewed around an egg and it is then boiled for ten minutes it will be very prettily colored.
E. S. WELCH.

SPRING FASHIONS.

IT is early yet to ascertain with any degree of definiteness what the prevailing styles for the coming season will be, but it is asserted that such changes as are yet introduced are more in details than in general outlines. Full back draperies will be retained, and may be looped or allowed to hang straight, the bouffant appearance being given by the bustle, which has most of its fullness immediately below the waist line.

New basques and polonaises show vest fronts, either real or simulated. A design which promises to be most popular, because of its suitability to various figures, is formed by closing the basque at the throat, sloping it back at the chest so that a space of three inches is obtained, and bringing it together at the waist-line, after which it again slopes back to the second dart at the bottom of the basque. Another pretty style is the pointed vest, which may be of the dress goods braided in an all-over design, or else of velvet; the basque fronts are finished with a revers collar turned back from the vest and graduated in width to form a point where it meets together at the basque bottom:

Polonaises are very long and left open from the waist-line down. The back is made full enough to dispense with draping when the plain effect is desired.

It is said that short braided jackets are to be revived and worn over round waists, the fronts of which are plaited in such a way as to give them a fluted appearance.

In suggestions for over and lower skirts the *Bazar* says: "One of the prettiest apron overskirts has four lengthwise pleats on the right side hanging from the belt

as far down as the hand can reach, then dropping naturally; the left side is much longer and is caught up in cross pleatings, while the back is very bouffant with puffs, or with a draped sash ribbon of great width. Lower skirts of striped stuffs are arranged quite plain in front, that is, without lengthwise pleats or flounces, while the back has large pleats very deeply lapped that retain their shape the whole length without being stiffly fastened together. A plain wool goods, the color of one of the stripes, is then used for a dress apron and for the basque. There are also dresses striped all over, with cross stripes for the overskirt, and lengthwise stripes for the basque and lower skirt. Three narrow gathered lapping flounces, with their lower ends pointed or scalloped and faced underneath, trim the front and sides of skirts of silk, wool or velvet; the back breadths need no ruffles, as they are either formed of pleated breadths or else they are covered by very long drapery. A stylish braiding design for bordering lower skirts is made of diagonal rows of braid six or eight inches long, ending at the bottom in curves forming a wheel as large as a silver fifty-cent piece; the diagonal rows are of soutache laid double and joined closely together."

The wool guipure laces are brought out this season in sufficient widths to be used, in a similar manner as the jetted laces, in ornamenting the fronts of dress skirts. They are, however, adapted only to the fine wool materials, and are either the color of the dress goods or in contrast with it. The white guipure is said to be very effective when used over pale blue or pink cashmere.

HOUSEKEEPING.

FOR variety this month, in place of our usual house-keeping article, we give the recipes used in one of Miss Parloa's recent demonstrations

Escalloped Tongue and Macaroni.

For this Miss Parloa used a veal's tongue, which she informed her class could be bought for twelve cents. It was not pickled, and had been boiled slowly for three hours and allowed to stand in the water until it was partially cooled. When entirely cold it was sliced in thin

slices as for the table, and enough to fill a pint measure was used.

The macaroni was broken into lengths of three or four inches and a pint of it was washed quickly in cold water and put into a granite-iron saucepan with plenty of boiling water, and boiled twenty minutes. The pan must be occasionally shaken to prevent the macaroni from sticking to the bottom, and it should remain uncovered to keep it from boiling to pieces. The sauce was composed of the following ingredients: A generous pint of rich stock, two

large tablespoons of butter, two rounded tablespoons of flour, one large tablespoon of onion, one level tablespoon of carrot, one of celery, a sprig of parsley, a bay-leaf, four whole cloves for a dark sauce, for a light sauce a little mace. The vegetables were cut very fine with a knife on a board, and with the butter and other seasonings were put in a frying-pan and cooked slowly ten minutes. The pan was then placed on a hotter part of the stove and the flour added. For a light sauce, Miss Parloa said, the flour should only be cooked till it was frothy, but as this was dark it was stirred till the flour began to look a little brown, then drawn back to a cooler place and the cold stock slowly added; it was seasoned with salt and pepper, about a half teaspoon of salt, and was then cooked three minutes and strained.

When the macaroni was done, it was turned into a colander to drain, after which it was put in an escallop dish, with the tongue in alternate layers, beginning and ending with macaroni, making three layers of macaroni and two of meat. The sauce was then poured over and it was lightly sprinkled with dried bread-crumbs, and baked twenty minutes in a moderate oven. This kind of sauce was also used to make another dish. After it was strained, it was put into a saucepan and returned to the stove, and a pint of cold meat (in this case it was also tongue) was put into it to heat. Six large potatoes were boiled thirty minutes, then carefully mashed, and one-half cup of hot milk, one tablespoon of butter, and one even tablespoon of salt were added to them, and they were laid in the form of a wall on a hot platter, and the meat and sauce placed in the centre. Any kind of cold meat will answer.

Spider Corn-Cake.

One and one-half cup of corn meal—fill the half cup with flour; two eggs, one-fourth of a cup of granulated sugar, one level teaspoon of soda dissolved in a cup of sweet milk, one cup of sour milk, and a teaspoon of salt. Beat the eggs till light and add them to the sour milk; then add the cup of sweet milk with the soda in. Miss Parloa put the soda in the cup and stirred it with a little milk till it was all dissolved, then filled the cup with milk.

Pour this mixture on the dry ingredients and stir well. A short-handled spider was used to bake it in. When the spider was hot it was thoroughly greased with a large tablespoon of butter and the batter poured into it. After allowing it to stand a minute a second cup of sweet milk was poured over it without stirring, and it was put into a hot oven for thirty minutes. When it was done it was loosened from the sides and bottom, a plate was placed over the spider and the cake turned bottom up on it, and from this plate it was turned on a second so it would be right side up. Miss Parloa says this is one of the most delicious forms of corn-bread.

Waffles with Sour Cream.

One pint of sour cream, two eggs, one pint of flour, one tablespoon of corn-meal, one teaspoon of soda, one-half of a teaspoon of salt. Beat the eggs separately, mix the cream with the beaten yolks, stir in the flour, corn-meal and salt, add the soda dissolved in a little sweet milk, and last the whites beaten to a stiff froth.

Corn Muffins.

Three eggs, one scant half cup of sugar, one-third of a cup butter, one pint of sweet milk, one and two-thirds cups flour, one cup corn-meal, one and one-quarter of a teaspoon soda, two and one-half teaspoons cream-tartar or four teaspoons of baking-powder, one-half teaspoon of salt. Cream the butter, beat the sugar into it, add the eggs well beaten, then the milk in which the soda has been dissolved, and lastly, the flour, corn-meal and cream-tartar, which have been sifted together twice. Bake half-an-hour in iron or tin gem-pans, cup-shaped. This recipe will make fifteen muffins.

Cream Waffles.

One-half cup of butter (one-fourth of a pound), beaten to a cream, four eggs, the yolks well beaten and added to the butter, one-half pint of sweet milk, one-half pint of sweet cream, one pint of flour, and one-half teaspoon of salt; add the whites beaten to a stiff froth just as you are ready to bake the waffles. Two minutes will cook them sufficiently. No soda or baking-powder is used.

MRS. C. G. HERBERT.

CURRENT NOTES AND COMMENTS.

FAILURES IN FLORICULTURE.—Like most other failures in life, the failure on the part of the general cultivator to have his or her efforts to produce a satisfactory supply of flowers crowned with success can be directly traced to ignorance; and ignorance is a very diffusive quality. It permeates through and into all the strata of human events and calculations. It meets you at the outset, when you select the plot for the garden, and having selected it, in putting it into a suitable condition for plants to thrive. It meets you when you select your seedsman, from whom you expect to obtain good seeds; it is plainly manifest when you are confident of getting \$2.50 worth of *good* seeds for fifty cents. But it is still more formidable when, with catalogue in hand,

you undertake to make your selection of varieties. You fail to know what is best suited to your climate, to your manner of gardening, or to the spot upon which you intend to grow your flowers. After having made your selection of seeds, ignorance again crops out, and causes failure in the time, place or method of planting; in supposing that one plant may be as readily transplanted as another; or, still worse, in allowing *all* the seeds that germinate to go on growing up in a mass of weak, spindling plants without vitality, instead of thinning out to a few that will do credit to your efforts. Ignorance, too, will lead us to plant in the sunniest spots those very plants that require shade, and, on the other hand, to plant in the shade those plants that demand the sun

from morning to night. Ignorance prompts us to prune such things as should not be pruned, and the reverse; to water plants that do not require it, and to withhold water when it is needed. Ignorance in the principles of cultivation, in the requirements of our plants, leads us to use the hoe, the spade or the trowel when they should not be used. It causes us to use fertilizers that burn and destroy, instead of those that nourish and build up. Ignorance has a first-rate companion in laziness; the two acting in harmony cause many would-be gardeners to say "that nothing will grow in their gardens." No, nothing will grow in such a place, not even a crop of experience, with sufficient vitality to keep over until another season for gardening comes around.

* * *

New York Horticultural Society.—The February meeting of this society was one of more than ordinary interest, not because of a large show of flowers and plants, but because of a remarkably fine one. It is to be regretted that there is a feeling allied to indifference among some of the members which deprives the citizens of New York and vicinity of a monthly exhibit that would be a credit to all interested in floriculture. At the last meeting we inquired why Mr. A—— was not here with his Hybrid Perpetuals. The reply was: "Disappointed in not getting the first premium at a previous meeting." "Well, where is Mr. B——?" "Oh, he is cranky about something—can't say what." Finally, "Where is Mr. C——? He certainly could make a good exhibit." "So he could," was the reply, "but his head is sore." The question is now: How to grind all the axes at the same time and give each a first-class edge? (Premium.)

John Henderson, Esq., of Flushing, N. Y., was first in the exhibit of Roses, and his Cornelia Cooks, La France, Catharine Mermet, Duke of Connaught, Sunset and Countess of Pembroke were remarkably large, of good form and in fine condition.

John H. Saylor, Esq., of Bayside, showed as perfect Bon Silene, Catharine Mermet and Madame Cusin Roses as we have ever seen on exhibition; in all respects they were absolutely perfect. For the peculiar combination of color, for which Madame Cusin is noted, Mr. Saylor's exhibit far excelled any we have ever seen. The same exhibitor showed a vase of *Acacia pubescens*, arranged in the form of a tree, which showed this charming plant to the best possible advantage. The sprays were fully three feet long and completely furnished with bloom.

William Daniels, gardener to W. S. Gurnie, Esq., exhibited a magnificent specimen of *Euphorbia jacquina-flora*, one of the finest decorative plants in cultivation. Who is there who does not admire this splendid plant? With its wreath-like branches of bright orange-scarlet flowers, it is certainly one of the finest plants in cultivation. Mr. Daniels' plant was much branched, and the branches were fully two feet in length and completely covered with bloom. This exhibit was a wonder to many of our old florists who had known and grown it for years. Mr. Daniels also exhibited *Poinsettia pulcherrima*, nearly two feet in diameter; none could be finer.

Charles Bird, Esq., of Arlington, N. J., showed his remarkably fine strain of Mignonette. Some of the heads were one and a half inch in diameter and four inches long—the best we have seen.

W. C. Wilson, Esq., Astoria, N. Y., made a fine display of Orchids, prominent among which were *Cælogyne cristata*, a very fine specimen; Cattleyas in variety; also Catasetum; Mormodes, a very singular and interesting class of plants, though not one that is liable to become popular; Oncidiums, some very fine plants, among which was *O. tigrinum*, a remarkably handsome dwarf Orchid from Mexico,

Hallock & Thorpe took the first premium for the best three Orchids, with *Dendrobium Wardianum*, *Lycaster Skinneri*, and *Cypripedium Harrisianum*. They also showed several new Carnations of considerable merit, and some fine Swanley white Violets.

John H. Gardener, Esq., Jobtown, N. J., gardener to Pierre Lorillard, Esq., made a very interesting exhibit of Amaryllis, the best of which were, John Hoel, bright crimson petals tipped with white; Macduff, deep crimson, with white centre, large flower of good shape; Ovid, bright vermilion.

Charles Parnell, Esq., Queens, N. Y., exhibited some very long and well-furnished spikes of *Dendrobium nobile*, a magnificent old Orchid from India, one that has long been in cultivation, and one that has but few superiors.

There were many other exhibits of interest, but space will not permit further detail. We did notice, however, a marked increase of interest manifested, both by visitors and exhibitors, which can easily be kept up, if but a little interest is taken by our largest growers in bringing out such plants as they have without waiting for something startling. A large display of good flowers, even though they may not be particularly rare, is sure to be appreciated, even in New York.

* * *

Soil for Roses.—At a recent meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Joseph H. Bourn, Esq., read a paper on "Old and New Roses." In speaking of soils he said:

"The ground for Roses should be thoroughly drained and rendered as porous as possible, and fertilized. In clay soils the use of sand, lime, soot, burnt earth and loose, light vegetable matter, such as leaf-mould, will alter the texture and improve the quality. At the time of planting, strong fertilizers are not required, and should not be given until the bushes have become established; they then like rich soil, which should be made light for the delicate rooting kinds, and more tenacious for the robust and hardy, and it would be reasonable that the classes and varieties differing in their nature should have more than one soil, if all are to receive that which is the most suitable. A renewal of the surface soil with old pasture loam, every two or three years, will supply important elements unattainable by any other method. We should avoid the application of more fertilizers in a soluble state than the plants can consume. It is well that the earth should be filled with stimulants in different stages of decomposition, that the plant may in all condi-

tions of growth have plenty of food. When the plant is growing, and especially when flowering, weak liquid manure may be applied. Bone and potash act favorably early in the spring. A frequent sprinkling of water adds health to the foliage, and prevents injury by insects. The earth should be watered only when dry, and then thoroughly."

* * *

M. H. Lester, gardener to Professor Richardson, New Orleans, La., writes us as follows:

"If there be any part of my work that I like better than another it is handling ferns. *Adiantum capillus-veneris* used to be my favorite, but I think I have changed off to *A. Andreanum*, it is such a nice bushy little fellow, does not grow sideways, but covers up the pot nicely all around. I grow a great many *Adiantums* here. *A. macrophyllum*, *A. formosum* and *A. Farleyense* represent some of the larger growing varieties. A lady from Boston, on a visit to the Exposition, in going through the houses told me, the other day, that she had never seen a prettier plant than one of my *A. gracilis*. But the most delightful *Adiantum* of all (so the ladies say) is *A. lunulatum*; this variety makes a young plant on the end of every frond, and if it be planted in a basket, and the young plants attached to the outside with a hook-peg, or a hairpin, they will root in the moss and then form other plants until the basket is completely covered. I usually give this variety a rest, starting it again at this season. It is a very rapid grower and anyone unacquainted with the variety would be surprised to find how soon a beautiful specimen can be obtained.

The Horticultural Hall at the Exposition is about two blocks long (600 feet) and has a large fountain in the centre. A double row of tables, containing the fruit exhibit, is arranged from door to door through the main portion of the building, and plants fill the wings of the building at the right and left of the fruit exhibit. The ladies go into ecstasies over some work done by the Mexicans in one of these departments, with Cactus, Agave and rocks. The Mexican Government makes a large and very interesting exhibit including miscellaneous plants, Cactus, Agave, Orchids and *pulque*, which is nothing more nor less than the juice or sap of the *Agave americana* and is about the consistency of the average well prepared milk-wagon milk. To produce it in sufficient quantities to make it an object, the plant must be started for bloom; the flower stem is then cut out and thrown away, and the *pulque* collects in the stump sufficiently to be dipped out with a dipper. The Mexicans say this climate is too variable to do justice to their national beverage, but they have imported several large plants in the above condition and anyone is welcome to a glass of *pulque* at their exhibit table. I must say, however, that it tastes rather buttermilkish, particularly to anyone so near the borderline of Kentucky as the city of New Orleans happens to be."

* * *

Soils.—We are often requested to state what soils are the best for a given variety of plants. We say, in all cases, the best you have. The soil in which any garden or field vegetable will thrive, will answer equally as well

for a flowering plant. The condition of the soil when the seeds are put in, and the manner of cultivation afterward, are the essentials to floricultural success. For all crops, dig deep, enrich heavily, cultivate frequently, grow your weeds in a separate field from your flowers or vegetables, thin out your plants so that each can grow in its integrity; if a climbing plant furnish it support, if a tender-stemmed one, tie up carefully to suitable stakes, and you will have no occasion to say "flowers won't grow in my soil." Nature has fitted the earth for vegetable productions, with other conditions to suit, and there need be no excuses offered when failure comes, at least the soil should not be blamed. Charge the failure up to the firm of Ignorance & Laziness, and next year commence with intelligence and industry.

* * *

Gladiolus "Innocence."—Vicks' Monthly for February has a colored plate of their Seedling Gladiolus "Innocence." We quote what they say of it, but beg to differ with them as to the fact of its being the first pure white variety ever seen. It is probably the first *they* have ever seen, but had they visited one of the Long Island Gladioli farms during the flowering season of the past three years, they would have come to a very different conclusion.

* * *

Japanese *Boltonia*, *B. indica*.—A very graceful species, from Japan, with slender stems bearing pale green leaves. It grows about three feet in height, producing pretty flower-heads, with lilac-colored florets and a yellowish-brown disk. It is useful for the mixed border, and succeeds in ordinary soil.

Literary Notes.

The Orchids of New England: A Popular Monograph. By HENRY BALDWIN. 8 vo., pp. 159. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

The introduction to this charming book gives us to understand that it is the work of an amateur, but both illustrations and reading-matter show accurate knowledge and sympathetic appreciation, qualities too often divided in such works. It is very modestly styled a popular monograph, and popular it deserves to be, for it is a novelty in botanical literature, and should fill a long-felt want. In describing this as popular we do not mean that it is written in the penny-a-liner style affected by some of our would-be popular botanists—we have had a surfeit of such *ci-devant* botany of late—but it is popular, inasmuch as it tells us just what we want to know, in the pleasantest manner possible.

Though nominally dealing with New England Orchids only, it will be found a text-book of most North American genera, and deserves to take permanent rank as such. The introduction gives the leading characteristics of the family, their development, growth and habit, and contains much information relative to their fertilization, one of the most interesting studies in botanical science. A synopsis of the Orchid family in New England is arranged in scientific order, as in Gray's Manual, but in his descriptions Mr. Baldwin places the species according to time of flowering, a most convenient plan for the

student or collector. The local name is given with each plant figured; we learn from this that the Downy Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium pubescens*) is known in New England as "Whip-Poor-Will's Shoe," a name appropriated in many localities by the *Sarracenia*.

Mr. Baldwin's illustrations are charming from an artis-

tic standpoint, and most accurate botanically. A comparative list, giving localities of the species, a comprehensive bibliography, and a full index complete the book. The mechanical part of the work, printing, binding, etc., is excellent. It is impossible to praise the volume too highly in every respect.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Justicia—*F. A. Alling*.—This plant will thrive with the same treatment that the *Geranium* requires. The best method of cultivation is to insert cuttings of it in March, and grow them in a cold frame during the summer months. In early autumn, put them in five-inch pots, give them a good watering, and keep them in a partially shaded situation until they become well-established, then bring them into the house, and they will make handsome, free flowering plants, keeping in bloom the entire winter. The predominating colors are pink, or purplish pink. There is a species with yellow flowers, *J. calytricha*, a native of Brazil; we do not know of its having been introduced into this country.

Ficus—*Mrs. J. W. B.*—We cannot always give the cause of failure of any plant to thrive. We would infer that you had given yours too much water when at rest; that, and too much pot room, would produce the result you state. We do not know of a "Mammoth Calla," in distinction from the one commonly cultivated. If you mean what is sometimes termed a "double-flowering Calla," we would say that such a condition is simply accidental. If one of extraordinary size, then good treatment will give it to you. Plenty of heat, very rich soil, and liberal watering will bring flowers of an enormous size.

Palms—*Mrs. Robert Earl*.—Your *Chamærops excelsa*, is from some cause deficient in root-action; it may have had too much water, and not sufficient heat. It is easily grown; the plant should be potted in rich, strong loam, with a slight mixture of leaf-mould and sand. The pots should be well-drained, and water liberally supplied during summer.

Daphne—*Same*.—There is no reason why your *Daphne* should not flower this winter, unless it be that it has too much pot room; it should become root-bound to flower well, and does not require shifting oftener than once in three years.

Moss Rose—*Same*.—Your Rose has undoubtedly been killed to the stock, and the vigorous growth you mention is from the Dog-rose or manetti stock. If such is the case, we should advise throwing it away, and getting a new plant.

Olea Fragrans—*Subscriber*.—To succeed well with this plant it should be budded on the common Privet, and grown in rather a small-sized pot, one six inches in diameter is sufficiently large for a good flowering plant. It

needs a moderately rich, strong, or heavy soil, and it will thrive in almost any situation, one that suits the *Camellia*, is well adapted to it. Its season of rest is in early winter.

Lilium Harrisii—*J. E. E.*—Before this reaches you, your Lilies have undoubtedly made both root and leaf growth. The fact of their being a little backward in starting is a good sign, unless the bulbs have decayed. Your Polyanthus *Narcissi* will do well in the temperature you have given them. They will do well in even a higher temperature, but it must be as nearly even as possible.

Carnations—*James E. Bishop*.—The trouble with your Carnations is a parasite, the same as is troubling nearly all others. The remedy no one has yet discovered. The best soil for the Carnation is well-rotted turf from an old pasture. They should be evenly watered; never allow them to become dry, neither let the soil get soddened.

Turk's Head Cactus—*Mrs. A. E. Volker, N. H.*—This Cactus will bloom, but it will take its own time to do it. Give it all the heat and water that is possible when growing, and then absolute rest in a dry, warm room, and it will bloom freely enough, although the flowers are of no great consequence.

Bouvardias—*Subscriber*.—See Notes and Comments.

Tuberous Rooted Begonias—*Same*.—This class of plants can be successfully grown in a partially shaded border, or in pots which should be plunged in earth or moss. During the winter the bulbs or tubers should be kept in earth and perfectly dry. They are strictly summer-flowering plants.

Jasminum Gracilimum—*Same*.—This is an excellent plant for the "Window Garden," with the temperature as stated 65°. During summer plunge the pots in the open border, and bring in before frost. With a number of plants the season of bloom can be prolonged for several months, by keeping some back, cool and nearly dry. Stimulate growth as desired.

Begonia—*Same*.—Fumigate with tobacco if convenient; if not, dip the plant in strong soapsuds, warm, and rinse in clean water soon after. Repeat until the enemy disappears.

Pelargonium, Fred. Dorner—*Same*.—It is a mistake to call this a Monthly; it is a good bloomer, but by no means a perpetual.

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"Can you give me a definition of nothing?" inquired a number seventeen school teacher. "Yes, mum. It's a bunghole without a barrel around it," shouted little Ted Saunders, whose papa is a cooper.—Brooklyn Times.

AN ERROR CORRECTED.—An error occurred in the advertisement of MESSRS. COLE & BROTHERS, of Pella, Iowa, which appeared in our February issue; as the address reads "Pe la" instead of "Pella." Those wishing to purchase seeds would do well to address them on postal for one of their Garden Guides, which will be sent free, before making such purchases.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

In this issue of the FLORAL CABINET will be found the timely announcements of the following Florists, Seedsmen and Nurserymen, and we bespeak for each of them the favorable consideration of our readers:

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FAR GONE IN CONSUMPTION, AND WITH BUT FAINT HOPE OF A LONG SURVIVAL.

The following letter will be read with deep interest by all who are afflicted with pulmonary disease, especially where its progress has been steady and in spite of all that physicians could do to arrest its course. In this case there was a racking and painful cough; no perceptible action in the right lung; profuse night-sweats, a feeble circulation, great weakness and emaciation, and a depressing sense of rapidly failing vitality. After using the Compound Oxygen Home Treatment the sufferer was so far improved that she was able to do light work about the house and walk out nearly every day. There was an increase of flesh, a healthy circulation of the blood, a good appetite, and the right lung was restored so far that it could be filled measurably well in respiration. But we will let the writer tell her own gratifying story:

"RUSHFORD, N. Y., Nov. 22, 1884.

"DRS. STARKEY & PALEN:—As a subject of the Compound Oxygen Home Treatment, I desire to give a testimony to its results in my own case. I for many years I have been subject to a cough, with occasional attacks of congestion and inflammation of the lungs; but with constant care and a goodly amount of hard battling have been able to hold further development in check, until within the year previous to using your Oxygen remedy, when the

vital forces became so weak that resistance was only a thing of the past. Hot compresses, mustard plasters, etc., only gave short-time relief, while the disease proper seemed to gain new force from the slight obstructions it had thus to encounter.

"I had given up all hopes of recovery, deeming it only a question of time how long or short my stay might be, when a copy of your journal, Health and Life, came to me through the mail. Its perusal awakened a belief that I might be benefited, if not cured, by your Treatment. But so distant, vague and shadowy had life become that I could hardly persuade or compel myself to make any effort for recovery.

"I had a racking cough night and morning, and often during the day, accompanied with a tearing pain under the right shoulder-blade. The right lung had no perceptible action in respiration. Night-sweats profuse, great emaciation; circulation so weak that the blood would settle in the hands and under the nails, giving that purple hue peculiar to strangulation.

"When I ordered my first supply of your Oxygen Treatment, on the first of last March, I had but a faint expectation of remaining through the spring time. The first three weeks of treatment made no perceptible change for the better, but contrawise; cough was more continuous; expectoration of a more disagreeable character, and ulcerations following one after another in quick succession. The Treatment was faithfully followed, and the first evidence of benefit therefrom was the occasional feeling of helpfulness that would come like the bright flash from some beautiful, yet long-forgotten dream.

"Now, having nearly used the second supply, I find myself competent to do quite a little light work about the house, walk out on the street nearly every day, and do many things I had long been unable to do. I have increased in flesh, circulation is healthful, appetite is good, I sleep well, and can lie on the right side and fill the right lung measurably well. It is somewhat heavy and sore at times yet; cough continues, but very much lessened, and expectoration less objectionable. Shall send for another supply as soon as convenient, with full hope and confidence of wholly dispelling the cough and restoring the lung to a comparatively healthy condition."

"Mrs. M. Howser."

Our Treatise on Compound Oxygen is sent free of charge. It contains a history of the discovery, nature, and action of this new remedy, and a record of many of the remarkable results which have so far attended its use.

DRS. STARKEY & PALEN,

1109 Girard St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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LADIES'
FLORAL CABINET.

Volume XIV.

APRIL, 1885.

No. 4.

WHAT SHALL WE PLANT?

THE season for planting is upon us. In many sections of the country the work for the spring is already over, in other parts, but little thought has yet been given

in making preparations for the summer that is to come. For early spring flowers, we must plant our bulbs in the fall; for summer flowers, we must sow some seeds in the



MINIATURE SINGLE DAHLIAS. (See page 93.)

to the flower-garden; but there is yet plenty to do everywhere, for gardening is a work that is never done. Each day is a "New Year" to some plant, and there is not a day in the whole year that cannot be profitably employed

autumn, and for fall flowers, we must commence our work in the winter or early spring, in order to meet with the best success. That we must have flowers, is a fact perfectly well established. "The love of flowers," says Dr.

Linley, "is a holy feeling, inseparable from our very nature; it exists alike in savage and civilized society; and it speaks with the same powerful voice to the great and wealthy as to the poor and lowly," and the truth of these observations must be felt by everyone. We love flowers from our earliest childhood, and, in extreme old age, the sight of them recalls something of the glow and vigor of youth. The love of flowers invariably improves our best feelings, and, in a measure, subdues our bad ones; and we can hardly contemplate the beauty and richness of a flower-garden, without feeling our hearts dilate with gratitude to that Almighty Being who has made all these lovely blossoms and given them to us for our use.

But it is not the effect of flowers upon individual character of which we wish to speak. We take it for granted, that flowers are necessities in the development of moral character, and indispensable to refinement, culture and happiness of the household. The question for consideration is, What shall we plant? We shall not speak for those who can have all the flowers they wish, and a gardener to care for them, but for people of moderate incomes, and for such as can only spend, perhaps, less than one dollar annually to make home beautiful. In this class, men, as a rule, are excluded. The actual claims their attention so closely that they have but little time to enjoy the ideal that is fostered by the wife and daughters.

Of all kinds of flowers, the ornamental garden annuals are the most generally interesting; and, the easiness of their culture, renders it peculiarly suitable for feminine pursuit. The pruning and training of trees, and work in the vegetable garden requires too much strength and manual labor; but a lady, with a little assistance from husband or brother to put the ground in order, may turn, with her own hands, a barren waste into a flower-garden; sowing the seeds of annuals, watering them, transplanting them when necessary, training the plants in the way they should grow, whether climbers, creepers, or stocky-formed, cutting off the dead flowers or gathering the seeds for the next year's crop, are all agreeable and suitable occupations for ladies; besides having the additional advantage of inducing exercise in the open air, the only place where good health can be obtained.

It is astonishing how much beauty may be displayed in a little garden, only a few yards in extent, by a tasteful arrangement of annual flowers. All that is required is a knowledge of the colors, forms and habits of growth of the different kinds. Many of the common annuals we meet in the garden are not worth growing, but they are allowed to remain, year after year, simply because their cultivators have them and do not know of any that are better. Many very beautiful flowers have been introduced by our seedsmen, grown for a year or two, and then thrown out of cultivation, because there was no demand for them; and this want of demand has arisen from the fact that very few flower-growers knew of their existence. The sale of the seeds of annuals is not *pushed* in the same manner as bedding plants, bulbs or roses are pushed. The desire for a plant

that will cost a dollar is tempted by colored plates, while the beautiful annual, if shown at all, is only represented by a questionable cut.

The culture of annuals has two great advantages over the culture of all other flowers. In the first place, it is attended with less expense than any other branch of floriculture, which is an important consideration; and in the second, all the enjoyment of which it is susceptible is obtained within the compass of six or eight months. Bulbous or tuberous-rooted plants, like annuals, produce their flowers in the first year; but they are attended with an enormously increased expense, which prevents their general cultivation. Perennial herbaceous plants, are rarely in perfection until the second year after planting; and, like bulbs, can only be profitably employed by such as are owners of their homes, or have a lease of several years' duration. The seeds of annual flowers, on the other hand, cost a mere trifle; and the expense of stirring the soil, sowing seeds, and thinning the plants when they come up, is very little; while the effect produced is as great or greater than that of many bulbs or tubers, and most perennials. The flower of a choice hyacinth, the bulb of which will cost at least, a quarter of a dollar, is no more beautiful than that of a double rocket larkspur, which may be grown to perfection in three months, from a seed that will not cost the twentieth part of a cent. The new and rare hybrid clematis, that cost one dollar each, do not produce flowers that are anything like as beautiful as are those of the *Ipomœa's*, that can be had in almost every shade of color, for almost nothing. These comparisons can be carried to an almost unlimited extent; but these are quite sufficient. While annuals are, above all others, suitable for the gardens of those who only expect to use them for a single season, they are equally fit for decorating all other gardens, and peculiarly so for such as are defective in soil or situation, and thus are not adapted to bedding plants.

We would not, by any means, discourage the use of bulbs, tubers, herbaceous or bedding plants to an unlimited extent; on the contrary, we would most earnestly urge their very general cultivation by all persons whose circumstances will permit the necessary expenditure. We do not think there are any flowers more beautiful and showy than the lily, the gladiolus, or the iris; but every one cannot afford these, and to those who cannot, we would say, plant annuals, and make home beautiful. Five cents' worth of seeds planted and cared for by loving hands, will give the most humble cottage an air of taste and refinement, and afford more real pleasure than the millionaire gets from his vast outlay for plants grown for *show*. The late Sir Joseph Paxton, one of England's greatest gardeners, said:

"Annual plants have great claims to our attention, and should be very extensively cultivated in every pleasure garden. But the vast number and variety of sorts that are now known in our collections, the whole of which it is almost impossible to introduce into even the most extensive gardens, renders necessary a judicious selection of the best kinds, in order to compensate for any deficiency in number or variety, by the superior beauty of those which are admitted."

MINIATURE SINGLE DAHLIAS.

THE single dahlias, useful as they are for cut-flowers, for all floral decorations in the house, as well as for border plants, seem to have a hard time in winning popular favor. It is true that many regard them highly and pay due attention to their cultivation; in fact, the few that really appreciate them soon become enthusiasts, and we hope through their influence these flowers may become generally cultivated. And why should they not be? they are for all practical purposes greatly superior to the double forms. Much has been said against them, because in many instances their colors do not please. The popular taste is for dazzling colors, scarlet, white and yellow, but the most attractive colors are the delicate soft hues, the mauves, cerises, pinks and the rich margined maroons. And this should not be a serious objection to their cultivation, because there are sufficient varieties with positive colors to satisfy any reasonable desire, and the same can be purchased at moderate rates. Prominent in this class is *D. Juarezi*, one of the most valuable flowers of recent introduction, and it is more desirable, because of its easy culture, requiring no different treatment from that given to ordinary double dahlias. It is more popularly known as the Cactus Dahlia, and it is questionable whether it belongs to the single class, where it has been placed by common consent, although it is by no means a double flower in the strict sense of the term. It has a remarkably fine form, and its brilliant scarlet color makes it a conspicuous object in the garden, and the flowers are very useful in a cut state, for filling vases for table decoration.

D. coccinea is a tall-growing plant, with bright scarlet flowers that rarely vary. Nearly related to this and only differing in some slight points, is *D. Cervantesi*, also with showy scarlet flowers.

D. White Queen is one of the best and most useful of all plants. The flowers are of the purest white, from three to four inches in diameter. The great value of this acquisition will be better understood when it is known that it resembles the *Eucharis amazonica*, being similar in color, and almost as good in form and substance, flowering through the summer and fall months until cut down by the frost.

D. Yellow Gem has clear yellow flowers, extra fine, and the plant is a free bloomer.

D. Painted Lady is a beautiful pink-colored variety; of medium growth and a very fine bloomer.

D. paragon is one of the best; color dark rich velvety-maroon, with yellow centre, and a rainbow shade of purple round the edge of the petals. It grows fully four feet high, much branched, and is a prolific bloomer.

In addition to these is a limited number of varieties with miniature flowers, the subjects of our illustration. But there are sufficient to form a very good collection, and as our florists are devoting special attention to them, the number will doubtless rapidly increase, the same as with the carnation, the geranium or the gladiolus.

The most desirable varieties to grow, especially for

the supply of cut-flowers, are undoubtedly the following, being dwarf in growth, very free in flowering, and producing flowers of small or medium size, light and elegant in appearance and attractively colored: *Alma*, a very pleasing variety, the flowers below medium size, and delicately tinted with mauve on a white ground. *Bedding Gem*, one of the most valuable of its class, being profuse in flowering, and bearing small blooms of the most intense orange scarlet; they are borne on erect wiry stalks, and are not surpassed by any flowers of their color for both large and small epergnes and vases. *Bronzi* well merits attention, for it is very free, and the flowers, though small in size, are of a brilliant scarlet hue. *Buffalo* is useful for its distinct color, the flowers being of a pleasing shade of reddish buff. *Fernandez* affords a very desirable combination of color, and should be included in the smallest collection. The flowers are of medium size, rather stout in substance, and bright lemon yellow in the centre shading to delicate rose at the tips of the florets. For contrasting with the scarlet flowers, those of *Fernandez* are simply invaluable. This variety has a very pleasing appearance in the garden. *Freedom* is remarkable for the profuse manner in which it blooms and for its effective coloring. The flowers are rather small, of a rich lake color, and are very bright and pleasing when cut and associated with other subjects. *Glabrata* has a dwarf habit, is exceptionally free in blooming, and the flowers are very small and light in appearance, and of a pleasing rose-lilac color, with small centres.

The raising of dahlias from seed is one of the pleasures of gardening, and we cannot understand why the practice is not more common, since it is attended with so little difficulty in proportion to the success gained. Seed sown in a hot-bed, or in pans in the house, will make good flowering-plants by August; in fact, they come into flower nearly as quick as when the roots are planted out in May. The certainty of getting some remarkably fine varieties is well balanced by some that are not worth growing, but these are easily thrown away, giving the remaining plants a better opportunity. To get good seed, some growers consider it absolutely necessary to cross-fertilize; we do not, however, consider this essential, our experience having been that seed saved from good flowers is quite as sure to produce good plants without cross-fertilization as with it. Certain it is, however, that seed from poor or medium flowers should not be saved, and that for seed purposes but few flowers should be allowed to go to seed: these should be well defined as to form, color or markings, and in order to keep the plants true to the single form, the seed should be saved at the hottest part of the season, early in August being preferable. When the nights begin to get cool the plants are more likely to begin to assume the double form; the disks elongate in order to protect the infant plant, which they will not do in hot weather. It is impossible to keep the double form in hot climates, and it is nearly as difficult to retain the single forms in cool climates.



OCHNA MULTIFLORA.

WE are indebted to *The Garden* for the following history of this interesting greenhouse shrub, which has not yet been introduced into this country: "Several years ago (about 1878) Mr. B. S. Williams exhibited, among a miscellaneous group of plants at the summer show at South Kensington, a shrub which, from its beautiful flowers and fruits, elegance of growth, and altogether uncommon aspect, stood out prominently from all the rest, and on that account attracted a great deal of attention. The plant shown was about five feet high, and had a clean, straight stem, surmounted by a bushy, umbrella-like head three feet or more across. Every branch and twig was wreathed with fruits and flowers, the fruits being in various stages of ripening; the receptacles varied in color from green to a brilliant scarlet, while the fruits proper ranged from pea-green to the deepest and richest shade of violet-purple. These, contrasted with the clear yellow blossoms expanded at the same time, made a beautiful contrast, as regards color, seldom seen among plants. Indeed, there are few cultivated plants in which the fruits are so peculiarly formed and exhibit so much diversity of color. The most familiar example is in the spindle tree (*Euonymus*). This ochna seems to flower throughout the year more or less profusely, and consequently it has a perennial show of fruit. It is, however, during spring and early summer that it is in its greatest beauty. This plant appears to have been cultivated in botanical gardens years ago, but eventually lost; it must, therefore, be considered to be a most valuable reintroduction. Being a native of

Tropical Africa, this species, consequently, requires a stove (high) temperature and a moist atmosphere, and under these conditions it thrives admirably in Mr. Williams' nursery. It is, however, exceedingly difficult to propagate, hence no doubt the cause of its having been lost to cultivation. When, however, the young plants are well established, they seem to thrive under very ordinary treatment. It is naturally inclined to be rather a straggling grower, but with very little care with regard to pinching and cutting, it may be made to grow into a shapely and elegant bush."

Respecting this plant, Mr. Hemsley writes as follows "It is widely spread throughout South Africa, and varies in stature from a bush two or three feet high to a tree of thirty or forty feet high. Like all the other members of the genus, it has yellow petals, and after these and the stamens fall away, the sepals grow out and change to a deep glowing red, as well as the fleshy receptacle on which are seated the purple draplets. The latter vary in number from one to five, and sometimes not even one grows out. This depends upon the ovules being fertilized; so it is worth while taking the trouble to ensure this being effected by artificial means. Every traveler mentions the agreeable fragrance of its flowers, and Burchell says they have the smell of wallflowers. When unadorned with its flowers or fruits, it is rather scrubby and naked-looking. Still there is no doubt that a skillful gardener could improve its appearance as to leafage while losing nothing of its floral beauty."

FOR CHARITY'S SAKE.

IF I mistake not, charity owes a great deal to the Goddess Flora, taking my observations from the very fine exhibitions of plants, flowers and designs made by Mr. Klunder, March 9, 10 and 11. The wealth of the flowers, as well as their high quality, was truly astounding. The perfect and unique collection of plants and the very excellently made designs were worthy of the highest praise. Unfortunately, I cannot find room to say all I wish about the many groups, so must be satisfied in noting the more impressive features. The treatment of the walls of the hall was well handled, considering that the place of exhibition was not the very best to display flowers advantageously; yet the clothing of the walls with green branches and the draping of the windows with Southern moss provided quite a good background for color effect.

The roses, as might be expected, were in the greatest proportion, and to say there were thousands conveys no idea of the quantity; there were positively wagon-loads, the hybrid remontants being marvelous in size and perfect in shape, of such varieties as Magna Charta, Paul Neyron, Anna de Diesbach, General Jacqueminot, Achille Gonod, Baroness de Rothschild and Countess of Oxford. There were immense vases of each, containing from 150 to 250 flowers, forming masses of color over three feet in diameter. Of other hybrids in smaller quantities there were fine examples of Duchess de Vallambrosa, Xavier Olibo, Captain Christy, Mabel Morrison, Comtesse de Sereneye and Glory of Cheshunt; a single flower of the Pride of Kent, rich deep red or light crimson, of the most perfect shape and deliciously perfumed, was much admired.

The tender roses were not less abundant; corresponding groups of these in large vases vying with the brighter hybrids were formed of Cornelia Cooks, Catherine Mermetts, Perles des Jardin, Safranros, Maréchal Niels, La France, Bon Silene, Madame Cusin, Sunset and Niphetos. In smaller quantities were Souvenir d'un Ami, Douglass, Duke of Connaught, Madame Lambard, Reine Marie, Henriette and Souvenir de la Malmaison.

Among the new roses, William Francis Bennett, the most brilliant of all crimson tender roses; American Beauty, with its deliciously-scented reddish crimson flowers, and the Countess of Pembroke, a rich salmon rose of the same perfect shape as La France, divided the honors among

many admirers. These were the principal varieties shown, though others in small quantities and of less note were to be found.

The collection of orchids was rich in the extreme. A panel fifteen feet wide and twelve feet high was completely smothered with plants and flowers—lovely phalænopses, odontoglossums, dendrobiums, cattleyas, lycastes cœslognes, cyripeds, cymbidiums, lælias and oncidiums, in all their grace and delicate coloring, were draped over the green background—was a full page of delight in one's lifetime.

The hyacinths, tulips, narcissi, lilies-of-the-valley, and other bulbous spring flowering plants, were in masses by the thousand, besides many fine specimen plants. A group of choice plants composed of palms, crotons, ferns and dracænas, arranged as for a parlor decoration, was beautiful, as also a window group of lilacs and Easter lilies, banks of Baroness de Rothschild roses, amaryllis, carnations and primroses, plateaus of tulips, dells of snowdrops and patches of heather.

A very elaborate circular dinner-table arrangement, the centre being entirely composed of Anna de Diesbach roses, with lilies-of-the-valley and Jacqueminot roses for favors, received many words of praise. Perhaps the most effective draping ever seen was that where the *Asparagus tenuissimus* covered the columns. Several made-pieces were of exquisite arrangement, especially a font of nearly all-white flowers, a marriage bell and several shields and fans for wall decorations; a screen of smilax fringed with *Acacia pubescens*, and the top margined with narcissi, was one of the most beautiful conventional floral pieces ever seen; almost everywhere were vases of mignonette, lilacs, violets and heliotrope; though of modest coloring, they were redolent with fragrance. Was there ever such a gathering of fine flowers before, occurred to us many times, and as the exhibition was gotten up for the most laudable purpose, the promoters must be delighted, and Mr. Klunder deserves the thanks of all connected with floriculture for the admirable manner in which he carried it out. But few individuals would have attempted such a task, and scarcely one would have made such a complete picture.

JOHN THORPE.

KLUNDER'S SHOW AS SEEN BY A DYSPEPTIC.

I FELT on the bitter cold morning of March 9 that at least a few hours cheerfulness could be obtained by visiting one of the finest exhibitions of flowers ever held in New York. I was not disappointed, and for full three hours I roamed around drinking in all the beauties of color, shape and fragrance. After the feast I concluded to try and digest what I had feasted on, but with that chronic desire to find fault to which all dyspeptics are sub-

ject, I began to pry into the weaknesses of the fine display, and with a grim satisfaction found that the arrangement of the orchids, as shown in the wall panel, was too conventional and illusive. I could not entirely conform my ideas of arrangement to several species of flowers crowded together in one small holder, as were to be found in three flowers of *Cypripedium insigne*, and a spike of odontoglossum, cattleya and oncidium; *Odontoglossum Alexan-*

dræ springing from the immediate base of cattleya leaves; the single spathe of that fine *Anthurium Andreanum* sticking out from the wall like a piece of red leather and with no more expression; besides other combinations as unnatural. When I sat down to admire the very fine effect of the pyramid of lilies and lilacs my morbid dyspepsia had not been stayed, and I glanced around to find other faults, and at once came across a very classic pedestal and vase of a rich amber color, crowned with the Sunset rose: a deep pink bowl of fine texture traced with lotus flowers was surmounted with a dumpy group of Madame Cusin roses. The flowers in both these fine vases were flat and tame in effect. While I was regretting such an arrangement one of the assistants transposed the flowers, which was an improvement. I would say, that if I wanted to exhibit a very fine vase, so as to make the vase the objective feature, I would place on the top, if nothing better, a common brick, or something impossible to detract from it; but if I wanted to show a fine vase of flowers, then the flowers could not be too expressive or too effective. The flowers *should* be the crown, the crown *should* be the brightest. If the same amber vase had been filled with the largest and brightest golden flowers, such as some of the very fine golden chrysanthemums, the effect would have been delightful; or, again, if the pink vase had been filled with the brilliant carmine rose Anna de Diesbach, that would have been decidedly better. With the grim satisfaction of finding something to dispute, I followed up the vases to find a chrome vase filled with Maréchal Niels, a chestnut-colored one occupied by that prince of dark roses, the Bennett. The effect was entirely lost

(these I noticed were changed afterward). Two light-blue vases filled with La France were effective and beautiful, as was a brown vase with finely-colored Douglass roses. Then some of the shapes of the vases were not suited for fine floral effects. The simpler the forms for the purpose the better for the flowers.

The table decoration was elaborate and well intended. Here again I had food for fault-finding. That glorious group of roses was objectionable. As I casually sat down in a chair to look at my *vis-à-vis* three things were evident: either the table was too high, the chairs too low, or the stems of the roses too long; I could not possibly have seen my opposite friend any more than if a three-foot wall had intervened. Table decorators would do well to stick a pin here. Then the leaves of the flowers to be used as favors were lettered with gilding; the name "Mark Twain" on the foliage of a fine Jacqueminot was tawdry. If necessary, why didn't they print in silver "Mark's" name on a strip of crimson ribbon? I wandered into the spring garden to find the hyacinths in rigidly square boxes stacked on plain tables others hidden away under benches. Could not these most charming spring beauties have been arranged on low platforms, with some characteristic groupings? I thought so. By this time I felt I was becoming more and more dissatisfied; so, rather than to make any more remarks, which might be construed as disagreeable, I concluded to close my notes, stating that they were not set down in malice; and, after all, I had much for which to be thankful.

THE LATTICE-LEAF PLANT.

DOUBTLESS most of the readers of THE CABINET remember having seen in many households, a few years ago, beautiful ornaments made of "skeletonized leaves." Leaves of trees, shrubs, &c., of moderately firm texture were placed in water and allowed to remain until the fleshy portion was entirely decayed, leaving only the framework of the leaf. These were carefully cleaned and bleached, then made into fairy bouquets and kept under bell glasses. They seem to have gone out of fashion now.

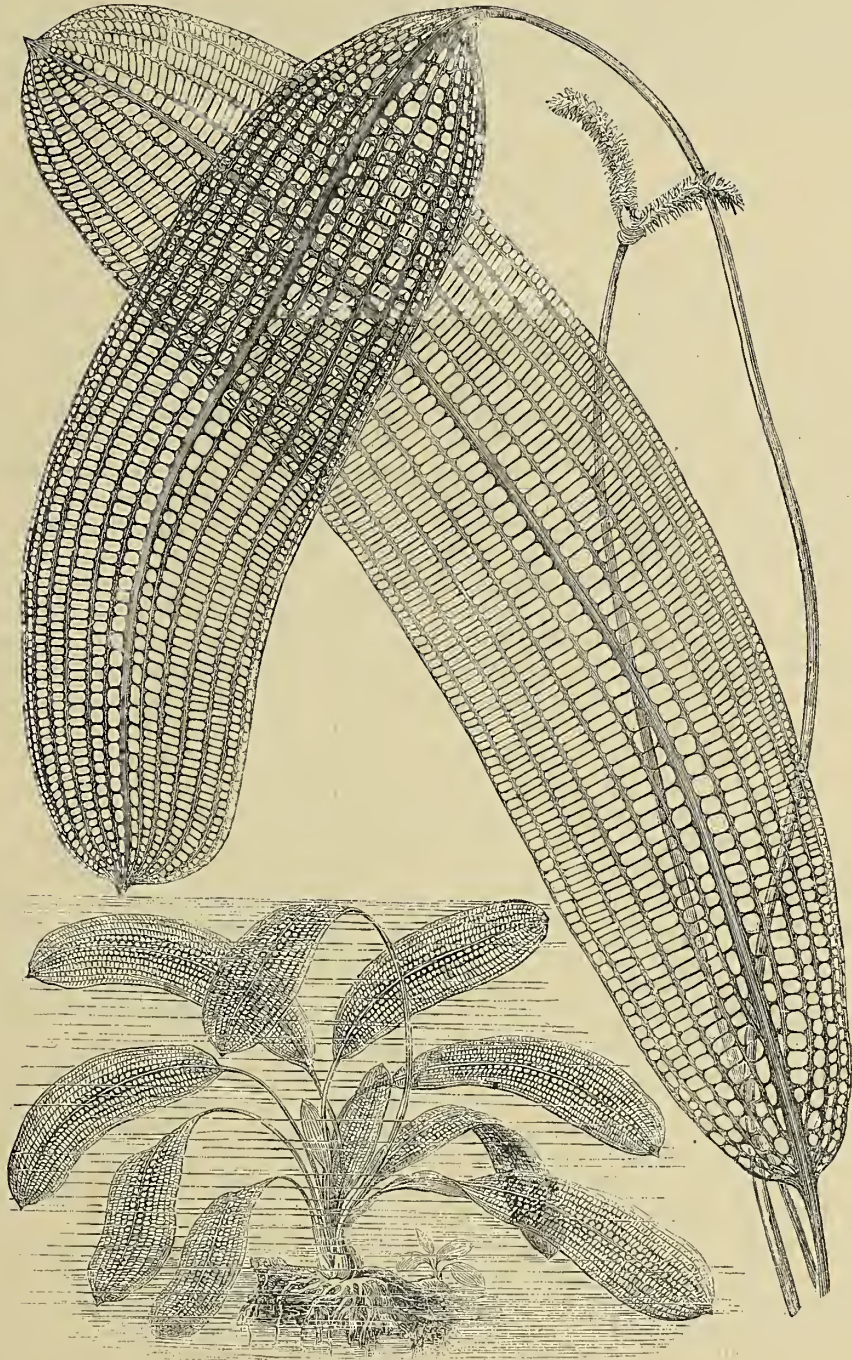
But here we have a veritable living skeletonized leaf—one of the gems of the vegetable world, called the Lattice-Leaf, or Lace-Leaf plant. Its botanical name is *Ouvirandra fenestralis*. It is an aquatic plant, growing with its leaves entirely under water, never floating on the surface, and when very young they are of a pale yellowish green color and appear to be whole, but as they grow, assume the form shown in the engraving, and present the appearance of delicate lace-work of an olive green color. Under ordinary culture the leaves are about two inches wide and from six to ten inches long, but in the hands of a skillful grower they are produced from twelve to fifteen inches long and three inches wide. The most perfect specimens we have seen in this country were grown by Mr. James Hill, who is in charge of one of the finest

gardens in Newport. The flowers of this plant are inconspicuous, of a whitish color, borne on forked spikes after the manner of the aponogeton. They are useful only for the production of seed, from which the plant may be increased; but this should not be attempted by amateurs, as the young seedlings require very careful management. The beauty of the leaves is best seen against a light background, which may be obtained by thrusting the hand or a piece of white earthenware into the water underneath them. This lovely plant is not often met with in greenhouses, owing partly, I think, to the fact that, generally where its culture has been attempted, it has been "coddled" too much in very warm glass-houses, especially in winter.

Some years ago, while on a visit to Chatsworth, the famous gardens of the Duke of Devonshire, I saw ouvirandras in fine condition, being wintered in a temperature suited to the growth of cinerarias. Mr. Speed, the head gardener, did not consider a high temperature necessary for the plant in winter. During the past winter our own plants have been kept in a greenhouse along with camellias and azaleas, where the temperature frequently fell to 40° or 45°. They are now in good health, and apparently none the worse for this cool treatment. A compost for growing the plant may be made of good turfy loam, with

the addition of some leaf-mold, and silver or river sand. Put the plant in the centre of a pan from six to twelve inches in diameter, according to its size, and keep it in a tub of pure soft water, in such a way that the top of the

water should be added every day, and occasionally the plants taken out and the tub thoroughly cleansed. One of the obstacles to the successful culture of the plant is the accumulation of "confervæ" or green slime upon the



THE LATTICE-LEAF PLANT.

pan will be about six inches under the surface of the water, allowing the leaves to spread out horizontally. During the growing season especial care should be taken to keep the water sweet and the leaves clean. A pot full of fresh

leaves. If the tub is covered so as to produce total darkness for a few days, this will disappear. Another plan which I have found successful, is to keep constantly growing on the surface of the water the beautiful "Floating

Moss" (*Azolla Caroliniana*), a plant the nature of our wild "Duck Meat." A small quantity of it will soon spread and cover the whole tub, and though it hides the lace-leaf from view, it is easily pushed aside when one wishes to see it. The ouvirandra is a native of Madagascar. A Mr. Ellis, in traveling through that country, saw it growing there in places which are dry at certain seasons of the year. The leaves then die down, but the root being buried in the mud, retains its vitality, and when the water returns the fresh leaves burst forth. It would seem that

a plant which will endure such rough treatment from the hand of "Dame Nature" ought not to be a difficult subject for cultivation.

O. Berneriana is another species from Madagascar, having larger and somewhat coarser leaves, but it is nevertheless a desirable plant. Possibly, these plants may prove amenable to culture in aquariums kept in dwelling-rooms. This is an experiment which might be worth the trial.

E. D. STURTEVANT.

SUBTROPICAL GARDENING.

PART II.

OUR choice of decorative plants is large and varied, even if we confine ourselves exclusively to hardy ones, but those who have room for winter protection in greenhouse or conservatory, will be glad to vary their effects with tender plants unable to bear our cold season. In the hardy section, nothing excels the yucca, or Adam's needle, in effectiveness. The best, perhaps, for general cultivation, is *Yucca pendula*, with its dark evergreen leaves and noble habit. Either isolated or in groups it is wonderfully handsome, and the whole plant is glorified by a tremendous spike of creamy, bell-like flowers, giving a most tropical effect. It is very hardy, standing out unprotected through our coldest winters. Healthy young plants should be set out in the full sun, and left undisturbed. They are increased by separating the rhizomes.

Yucca filamentosa is a pretty and unique variety, having bright green leaves fringed at the edges with gray filaments, whence its specific name. It throws up a much-branched flower panicle, from four to six feet high. It grows vigorously, and flowers profusely, either in a flower-bed or on rockwork. All the varieties flower best on a fine sandy soil.

Yucca filamentosa variegata is a delicately variegated form of the above.

Yucca gloriosa is a finely marked specimen of distinct habit, with stiff, pointed leaves. It throws up a fine pyramidal panicle of white flowers, often seven feet in height. It varies greatly when grown from seed. The soil required is a rich loam.

Yucca Trecculeana is a very noticeable member of the genus, remarkable for the beauty of its leaves. The young plant differs greatly in appearance from the mature specimen. In the former, the leaf is generally bent; in the full-grown plant it is rigid and erect. The leaves are about four feet long, very pointed; the serrated edge is dark-brown. The flower stalk is very stout, branched, bearing quantities of shining white flowers, with narrow petals. This is a very vigorous grower, making a fine specimen in any position. All of the above are natives of North America.

It is not generally known that the rheums, or rhubarbs, of which our culinary pie-plant is the most familiar, offer many handsome foliage plants. They are hardy herbaceous perennials; as they die down in the autumn, they should be placed in some position where their absence is

not very conspicuous. They are very effective on the edge of shrubbery or dotted among shrubs, but they should never be placed in the vicinity of delicate-looking plants, or their robust habit appears coarse.

Rheum Emodi is the handsomest variety in cultivation. The large spreading leaves have red veins; the flowers are small and yellowish white. It is very desirable in a semi-wild part of the garden, where luxuriant habit of growth is required. Native of Nepal.

The Himalayan rhubarb, *R. nobile*, is a handsome form, having its pyramidal flower spikes fringed with delicate pink bracts. It is not generally grown, but forms a most welcome addition to its class. Many of our common garden rhubarbs may be used ornamentally to much advantage, if the grower will look at them in their æsthetic rather than their culinary light.

An English writer on ornamental gardening pays enthusiastic tribute to our common upland sumach, *Rhus glabra*, and the dwarf form, *Rhus copallina*. They are frequently used in shrubberies or foliage gardening in England, though I doubt whether they attain their autumn beauty as fully there as here. They are very graceful in form and foliage; the panicles of small white flowers are charmingly fragrant and a strong attraction to innumerable insects, while the autumn tints are, as we know, gorgeous in the extreme. I have seen a graceful clump planted on a lawn where the adjacent trees were dark evergreens and the effect was very fine at all seasons. The sumachs require a sandy soil and plenty of sun; indeed, they seem to thrive in the pine barrens and on the barest rocks through New Jersey.

Have you ever noticed what a beautiful foliage plant we have in our common mullein, or "flannel-weed?" It is inaccurate, as well as cruel, to call it a weed, for it is certainly not a plant out of place, when adorning our high-ways and byways with its pyramid of soft gray leaves and bright yellow flowers, nor is it a plant whose virtues are undiscovered, for it is extensively grown in English gardens. A recent number of the *London Garden* contains a descriptive article on this family (*Verbascum*), from which we learn that there are about a hundred varieties and natural hybrids in cultivation, all useful garden plants. It is almost impossible to keep them to their typical forms

in cultivation, as they intercross and hybridize without any artificial aid. Either scattered or in groups, on the borders of shrubberies, or in the subtropical garden, they are very desirable, while some members of the genus are well adapted for bold effects in isolated positions.

Our common mullein (*Verbascum Thapsus*) is too well known to require extended description; two other common varieties are Moth Mullein (*V. blattaria*) and White Mullein (*V. lychnitis*); they are pretty biennials, suitable for rockwork, but their foliage is a secondary consideration.

V. crassifolium belongs to the *Thapsus* class; it has large yellow flowers, and woolly leaves with crenate edges. It is a native of Portugal.

V. Olympicum is a most beautiful variety, producing flower stems from six to eight feet high, branching, and covered with shining yellow flowers. The leaves are large, lanceolate and woolly. Its stately growth gives it a grand effect, when planted singly. It is a native of Asia Minor, and flowers in August and September.

V. Phanicum differs from the above in the color of its flowers, which vary from white to bronze and purple, the latter being the prevailing color. Its purplish green leaves are formed in a close rosette, lying flat on the ground. It is dwarf in habit, rarely exceeding two feet in height and a native of Siberia and the Caucasus. There is another common roadside plant I have always admired, and secretly wished to transfer to the subtropical garden; I mean *Phytolacca decandra*—it sounds so much better under that name than if we give it its common and unromantic title of "Pokeweed." Seriously, it is a handsome

thing, the tender green of the leaf contrasts so well with the crimson stem—the clusters of greenish white flowers are very pretty, and the ripened berries are really beautiful. It might be considerably improved by culture. But I doubt whether it will be extensively grown, unless the seed is offered by those gentry who sold in the city streets the "Alligator Tree of Florida," warranted to bear myriads of fragrant flowers, said "Alligator Tree" being the familiar liquidambar of our woods. Some years ago a glib-tongued agent visited a little New Jersey town, selling the seeds of the "Night-blooming Lily of California," a wonderful new plant, which was to bear large pure white fragrant flowers, opening at night. Many people bought them, cherishing them tenderly, until they found their flower-beds filled with a luxuriant growth of the vile Jimson-weed, or thorn-apple (*Datura stramonium*) one of the rankest, most ill-smelling vagabondish weeds with which one could be troubled. This little story offers a variety of morals, but I suppose as long as horticulture exists the agent for blue roses, shrub strawberries and like novelties, will perennially appear, to defraud the ignorant and credulous. The only advice we can offer would-be victims, is to deal only with reliable firms, and look upon peripatetic dealers in startling novelties with justifiable suspicion. The foregoing remarks are, I must admit, decidedly irrelevant; they certainly do not come under the head of subtropical plants, but they may be admitted as a salutary warning.

The tender class of subtropical plants, containing many beautiful things, cannot be mentioned in the limits of the present article.

E. L. TAPLIN.

SIBERIAN SQUILL.

Scilla sibirica.

A TINT of blue in field or garden exercises a mysterious influence. In the later days of spring, when along the margins of woods and coppices the woodland squill, *Scilla nutans*, also known as *Hyacinthus non-scriptus*, makes a fringe of heavenly blue, we experience a sort of celestial abandonment, either because the color has some spiritual purport that the soul understands, or because the assurance it gives of the constancy of the seasons re-establishes the confidence that late frosts and east winds had well-nigh shattered. But the influence, whatever its ultimate cause, can scarcely be the result of any special awakening peculiar to the season of the nodding squill, because, if we are not grievously mistaken, it comes upon us again as the summer opens and the blue speedwell appears on the banks; and again, later on, when the harebells appear, and perhaps is not altogether wanting when the blue of the wolf'sbane is seen upon the gravelly slopes, and the delphiniums and aconites appear in the gardens.

The Siberian squill is one of the hardiest of our choicest kinds of spring flowering bulbs. It has but to be planted in a well-drained sandy soil in the autumn, and in the early spring it will show its lovely blue flowers in profusion, a delight and surprise to all beholders. As a pot plant it is invaluable, and it requires as such only the

same treatment as crocuses, hyacinths and tulips, all of which should have a somewhat rich and very sandy soil. When planted in rings or clumps they may be left untouched for three years, and then it will be as well to lift, divide and replant them.

To make a lengthy essay on the outdoor cultivation of the Siberian squill would be to waste an opportunity. In the few words already before the reader the subject is practically disposed of. But now we may turn to a proposal of the plant itself, for we seem to hear it say, "Why not associate me with the other choice spring flowers that are grown under glass?" Ah! why not? Well, to dispose of that matter, the Siberian squill and the two-leaved squill (*Scilla bifolia*) are two of the sweetest spring flowers known.

One of the cheapest and least troublesome of delights for a lover of hardy plants is a proper "alpine house," in which a number of early flowering bulbous and fibrous-rooted plants, having all the proper alpine character, can be flowered in early spring. Such a structure should have a low span-roof, resting on brick walls, with side-lights opening as ventilators. A central walk through is a primary necessity, and on each side of this should be a solid bed of earth, supported by the outer walls and the walls on each side of the walk. The whole

thing may be on a small scale, but sufficient headroom for a tall man must be provided, sufficient breadth in the walk for a stout man, and the height of the side beds above the walk should be such that the plants can be seen and handled conveniently. As a rule, all stages and platforms are too high; and this may well be thought of in the first instance, for it is better to look down on flowers and see their faces, than look up to them and see less of their faces than of their stems. All the plants in such a house should be grown in pots, and when their flowering is over they should be put outside on a bed of coal ashes in a north aspect, and have careful attention. It is not necessary

to supply such houses with any kind of artificial heat. In the alpine house, with earth platforms and ample ventilation, we can have a display every spring of the most exquisitely beautiful flowers the earth produces. We can have drabas more beautiful than cushions of gold; reticulated irises that make figured velvet look ridiculous; saxifrages that steal snow from the mountains and make poetry of it that warms one at the very time, perhaps, when the snow that has not been stolen chills one to the core; primulas all dusted with the efflorescence of the granite they delight in; and epimediums that mock all art in the coloring of their simple but delicious leafage.—*Familiar Garden Flowers.*

EASTER DECORATIONS.

THERE is nothing more beautiful in the church than the sincerity and fervor of the spiritual worship offered within it; at the same time there is no reason why it should not, on special occasions or at all times, be adorned with physical beauty, and perfumed with the fragrance and draped with the graceful drapery of flowers. Flowers are about the only offerings that are appropriate on all occasions, and the growing taste for their use in decorating the church is one of the most cheering signs of the times. The love of the beautiful in the plant and flower is generic, it pervades all classes of society, it manifests itself on all occasions, and tends to unite in bonds of brotherly love all who possess it.

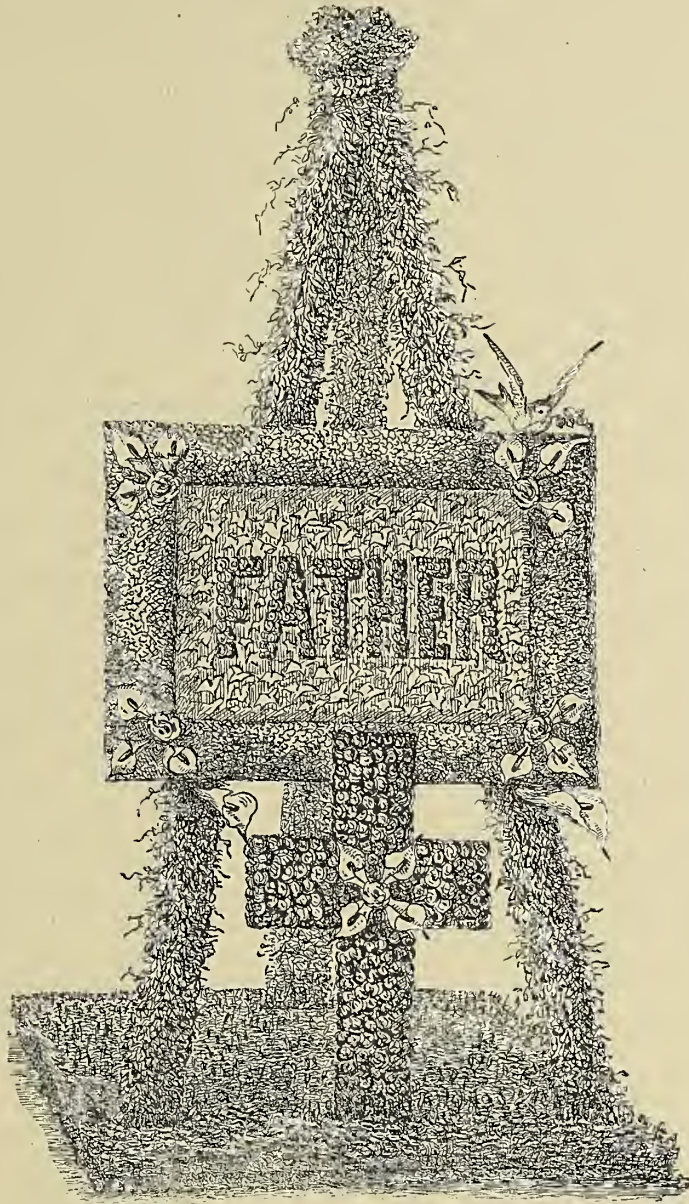
Flowers have long been regarded as typical of the Resurrection, and are therefore most appropriate, and in greater demand than ever before for Easter decoration, not only in the church but in the home. Why should not flowers be found, and in the greatest profusion, in the church, where man has the noblest and purest aspirations. Certainly the most beautiful and pure creations are none too good to offer Him who gave them.

And now that flowers are being so freely used in connection with, or, in fact, form a part of the Easter service, we are pleased to notice a marked improvement in their arrangement. Each and every flower formerly represented some specific character; the beautiful in the plant found its analogy in our own lives. The *Fern* represented sincerity; the *Ivy*, close friendship; the *Lily*, purity. In selecting flowers for Easter we should, therefore, select such as are the most appropriate for the time and place, such as will teach us the most beautiful lessons, as they blend with those which are most sacred and important.

In the accomplishment of this purpose, we are indebted to an amateur florist for our beautiful design of a "memorial offering" prepared for a young lady and placed in a little country church, in memory of a loving father. While the design and execution was very beautiful, showing great artistic taste, the study was infinitely more beautiful. In the foreground stood the cross, which is emblematical of the vicarious suffering and atonement, the foundation of the Christian's hope. This was made chiefly of roses, lilies, callas and carnations. The artist's idea

was that the cross should not represent sorrow, or always be found in dreary and desolate places, but should be cheerfully borne, in view of the happiness it is to give; it should therefore be associated with the most beautiful things of earth, and to carry out this idea, it was placed in a bed of ferns, and flowers, either white or of neutral tints, which indicated a beautiful sincerity. Above this groundwork of ferns and plants (four feet square) arose an easel, upon which was a panel of ivy leaves with a heavy frame made of flowers, the corners composed of lilies and roses, the rest of the frame of an outer and inner row of scarlet geraniums, and the centre of white azaleas; the white and scarlet being appropriate Easter colors. "Father" on the panel of ivy, in letters six inches long and four inches wide, was formed of white roses, carnations and forget-me-nots, with delicate branches of ivy running through the letters. This, to those familiar with the symbolic language of flowers, would read, "I cling to Thee, Father; forget-me-not." Over the frame hovered the Dove, the emblem of the Holy Spirit, having in its beak a spray of forget-me-nots. Above all, the Crown, the consummation of the Christian's life, hope and faith.

The combination of the rare flowers and equally beautiful plants with the emblems of the Christian's hope, was in this instance a most happy one. We do not remember of ever seeing a more elaborate or tasteful arrangement, or one that combined more true feeling and sentiment. The simplicity of the design and the ease with which it can be executed should make it a subject often imitated. It is not to be expected that such flowers as were used in this design could always be obtained, as they were gleanings from several of the best florists' establishments in this country, collected expressly to carry out the design in the best possible manner, and to accomplish this, besides the flowers named, there were many orchids and other rare flowers used. These, however much they added to the beauty of the design, are not absolutely necessary in making the study. More common flowers could be used to carry out the design and produce a beautiful effect. In this, as in all other works of art, the more beautiful the material used the more beautiful will be the effect.



FLORAL DESIGN FOR EASTER.

A DOZEN PRETTY FLOWERING SHRUBS.

AMONG this dozen I have not included deutzias, spireas, lilacs, Japan quince, altheas, double flowering almond, diervillas, and some other of our most charming and showy bushes, but have confined myself to a few, which are not so common unless it be the golden bell and hydrangea; nevertheless, they are of sterling merit and among the choicest of garden plants. We have all of them in our garden here, and before now I have grown and flowered every one of them year after year.

Deciduous ornamental shrubs, as a rule, prefer open sunny places; very few of them thrive and flower freely when grown under the shade of trees or other shrubs. But some evergreens, on the other hand, for instance, kalmias and andromedas, do not object to a little shade. Shelter from frosty winds is of primary importance in the cultivation of handsome garden shrubs, and a mulching over their roots in summer is of great importance in preserving the moisture in the soil. If we would have good

things in our gardens we should be prepared to take care of them.

Deciduous Azaleas.—Very choice shrubs with gay flowers, white, yellow, flame or pink colored. They come into bloom, according to variety, in May or June, are quite hardy if protected against veering winds, and adapt themselves to common garden soil and cultivation. A mulching in summer helps them greatly. The smallest plant will bloom.

Daphne Mezereum.—Quite a small shrub, usually from two to three feet high, and not uncommon in cultivation. It is hardy, and enjoys an open sunny exposure; in a shady place it will pine away or die. In early spring, and before its leaves appear, its branches are covered with purple-rose-colored flowers; these are succeeded in summer by bright red berries.

Exochorda grandiflora.—A vigorous-growing handsome shrub, of the *spiraea* kind, with showy white flowers borne on last year's wood. It likes good ground and a sunny place. In order to maintain a broad, bushy form, we should keep it low by pruning and thinning, but do not prune in fall or spring; instead, do so after the exochorda has ceased blooming, which will be early in June. And after the plant gets to be a fair-sized bush, do not prune any more than you can help.

Forsythia or *Golden Bell*.—Very common, but exceedingly floriferous shrubs, that bloom in early spring before they put forth their leaves, and in their season the most showy and copious of yellow-flowered shrubs. I like *F. suspensa* best, because I can use it as a compact bush on the lawn, or as a vine over the porch of my door, or train it as a standard when its long, slender shoots droop more gracefully than do those of any weeping cherry or willow. Moreover, for seaside planting, as an ornamental windbreak, I know of nothing better.

Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora.—A very showy late summer and fall-blooming shrub. Some people object to it as a coarse-looking flower, others again place it in the first rank among shrubs. Anyhow, in its season, we have very few other shrubs in bloom, and that alone is a high recommendation for it. It is hardy and vigorous, and likes an open sunny position and rich moist soil. A summer mulching is of much benefit to it. Prune in winter or spring, and cut back the stout shoots to one or two eyes, and the small shoots out altogether. Better have a few strong shoots with heads nearly as big as a peck measure, than a lot of slender sprouts with heads no larger than quart measures.

Japanese Weeping Cherry.—An elegant weeper at any time of the year. Its long, slender shoots depend almost straight down. We have two large specimens and they are very attractive all through the summer; their leaves are clean, plentiful and not apt to be injured by insects. But when they are in bloom in May, they are like immense rose-colored umbrellas. In pruning I shorten back to the flower-buds.

Magnolia, Soulange's Hybrid.—In early summer I

know of no more conspicuous lawn shrub or small tree than this; its large white flowers among the mass of rich green leaves of a broad, dense bush are very effective. It is somewhat difficult to transplant with certainty of success; but small plants that have been two or three times transplanted while in the nursery, and that have a good bunch of short roots, if set out carefully in spring and mulched in summer, are apt to grow all right.

Tree Paonies.—When in bloom, are very showy; their large double white, pink or red flowers brighten up a garden considerably. They are small bushes, but copious beyond expectation from their appearance. They look best when alone, and, once planted, should afterward be let alone. They are expensive to begin with, but once secured, we have something that will last "forever," never grow too big, and bloom gaily every year.

Japanese Silver Bell (Styrax Japonica).—In summer, when the mass of early shrubs have done blooming, this stranger displays its myriads of silver bells. It is a little tree and near relative of our native snowdrop tree, but it blossoms full when only a few feet high. Its branches are twiggy, flat and horizontally disposed, and when in bloom the white bells—very like those of large snowdrops, hang from each leaf-axil on every twig. When in bloom it is one of the prettiest plants of which I know. Give it a warm, sheltered, sunny place. If it is inclined to grow tall, shorten the leading shoot, but prune as little as possible. Injudicious pruning has a woeful effect on this shrub.

Chinese Tamarisk.—Has glaucous green foliage and long slender spray-like wands, pretty enough in themselves alone, but when in July and August they are a feathery mass of pink flowers, this shrub is one of the most charming in the garden. It is very hardy. Left alone, it is apt to assume tall fishing-rod proportions; every year, in late fall or winter, we should head it down toward the ground, but this treatment would ruin the spring-blooming tamarisks; these should be cut back in May or June, when they have done blooming, and then only.

Viburnum plicatum.—Is the handsomest and best of our snowballs. True *V. rotundifolium*, *V. macrocephalum*, and some others, have extraordinary claims upon our favor; still, as an everybody's shrub, *V. plicatum* is hard to beat. Its foliage is of the freshest and greenest, the snowballs the most numerous and whitest; the habit of the bush is broad and stocky; the plant is a ready grower and makes itself at home in any garden, and no part of it is subject to the ravages of insects.

Xanthoceras sorbifolia.—Is a new and rare shrub from Central Asia, and which has proved to be perfectly hardy in our gardens as far north as Boston. Its leaves are not unlike those of a mountain ash, and its flowers are borne in upright spikes, large and white, blotched inside with red; at first glance they remind us of horse-chestnut flowers. It blossoms when only two to three feet high. Give it a warm, sunny, sheltered place.

WILLIAM FALCONER.

Our homes are like instruments of music. The strings that give melody or discord, are the members. If each

is rightly attuned, they will all vibrate in harmony; but a single discordant string destroys the sweetness.

ROSE SOUVENIR DE LA MALMAISON.

THE following from the *Gardener's Magazine*, should be read by every one that wants a good rose for autumn flowering. This rose does equally as well in this country as in England, and is without exception the most valuable of all our autumn-blooming varieties :

"The fact that a good many of our best roses have their season of flowering is not always so fully recognized as it should be when making selections for different purposes. This remark is especially applicable to the rose placed at the head of this note. It is a true autumn-flowering variety, and therefore altogether unsuitable in a collection of roses required to be at their best when summer shows are held. As an autumn-flowering variety, *Souvenir de la Malmaison* certainly has no equal in the production of flowers, and as roses at that season are more valuable than in the summer, the form of the individual blooms is not of so much consequence ; therefore there is no necessity for making comparisons. After giving the above caution my next business is to call the attention to its excellent blooming qualities in the autumn. Many of us have no doubt been long aware of this, in fact, its late flowering has been many times noticed, but I question if its merits in this respect have been sufficiently appreciated. Speaking for myself, I know it has not, and it was not until I met with it a few weeks ago in a market garden near Bristol, where it is largely grown, that I was made fully aware of its great value.

"As will readily be understood, the number of flowers required by the grower is considerable, and suitable provision has, therefore, been made by providing a sufficient number of plants. These were obtained on their own

roots, and planted out in a well-prepared piece of ground where they are sheltered from the cold east winds by a high wood-fence. The plants stood six feet apart each way, and, as they have been planted twelve years, they have grown into large bushes, nearly meeting each other, each producing an immense quantity of flowers. These are cut just as the bud begins to open, and on the day on which I saw them I counted on several plants nearly thirty that would be ready for market the following morning. This was at the beginning of September, and by the number of buds remaining to open, anyone could see that the supply would continue for some time longer. As will be supposed, the price realized for the flowers at that season of the year is very satisfactory. The only drawback to this rose is the tinge of pink in the opening flowers. But this appears to be readily overlooked in the absence of a plentiful supply of pure white roses.

"It must not be supposed that the above results have been obtained without due care and forethought. No one knows better than growers for market what classes of plants pay best, and when they have settled down to a good thing they are sure to make it pay. They use every care to find out the conditions which suit it best. For instance, the roses under notice receive every year a good dressing of stable manure, which is forked in about the roots. Also, about the end of June, a thick mulch of long stable litter is laid on the surface of the soil. All this, of course, keeps the plants in vigorous health, and from what I saw of their condition, it is quite plain that if any one wishes to obtain equally good results, they must do likewise." J. C. CLARKE.

LAWN DECORATION.

FOR the best effect in the decoration of a lawn, not many plants should be used. The principal object of admiration in a well managed lawn is the evenness of the ground, and its thickly set covering of grass. If this is attained, the finishing touches in decorating with ornamental plants is easily done. The foreground should always remain free from the intrusion of plants, at least in the central part, and the grass should be kept closely and evenly clipped; only one walk should pass through it, unless it is large enough for a nicely curved drive to be laid out.

When planting, keep in view the future size of the plants; set them in relation to each other, so their beauty will increase with each passing year. If planted too closely together, they will in a few years crowd each other and lose their vigor and symmetrical shape. Single specimens of tall plants and clumps of small species have the most pleasing effect upon the cultured eye; these should

be so arranged as to give the impression that nature had done the work in planting them. The following named, when properly scattered over the borders of the lawn and on the background, give a very pleasing effect.

Perennial phlox, plant in groups of half-dozen different colors in a cluster; *Eulalia zebrina*; a few hardy roses, such as General Washington, General Jacqueminot, Mer-ville de Lyon, Hermosa, Coquette des Alps, and Antoine Monton; hydrangea, Thomas Hogg and Lindlii. These are all hardy and grow bushy. They can be kept in nice shape by fixing a few light wire hoops around them, tying them to the branches at the proper places. In addition to the above, and other hardy shrubs, if more are desired, plant a few lilies, a *Yucca filamentosa*, a *Tritoma uvaria*, and a few early-flowering bulbs in clusters of a foot in diameter,

But it is principally of the exotic plants I wish to write, urging their introduction into our finest lawns, and point-

ing out the easy management of them during our cold winters, where the conveniences for their protection are at hand as they are in many places. These plants can be kept in a moderately warm cellar having sufficient light to keep the leaves from turning yellow. Many cellars having heaters to warm the house are in as good condition as a greenhouse for storing many of the exotic plants, and they are wintered with much less labor. They do not require much water, and should be kept in nearly a dormant state. They must remain in the pots or boxes during the summer and winter, and this affords convenience to move them from place to place, as occasion requires. When shifting into larger pots or boxes becomes necessary, always do it in the spring, when they are taken out of the cellar; this should be in March, when the plants are taken from their winter quarters, and set into a room not heated direct by a flue or stove, as in such a room the air becomes too dry. Water must now be given them, so they will be nicely started when the time comes to set them out into the lawn.

When the weather becomes quite warm, and all danger of frost is over, carry these plants to the places on the lawn where you have decided to set them, and plunge the pots so their tops will be a few inches below the surface of the lawn; the sod necessarily removed should be neatly laid over again to within an inch or two of the stem of the plant. The plants will appear as if they were per-

manently planted. In dry spells water must be supplied by hand, to keep them in growing condition. In the fall when in danger of frost, they should be lifted and placed in sheltered situations, until cold weather comes, then carried into the cellar. The holes left in the lawn can be filled with earth, and the sod laid over again.

Several plants of a variety can be used with good effect in a large lawn. Large plants of many of the exotics are too costly, though they make the finest show; but if we consider the item of expense, we feel willing to wait a few years for size, and purchase small plants. The following should not be overlooked in procuring this class of plants.

For a description of each examine some of the many different catalogues now issued. Palms in two or three varieties, not forgetting *Pandanus utilis*; the india-rubber tree, *Ficus elastica*; the flax-lily, *Phormium tenax*; dwarf pomegranates; varieties of the agave; a few of the tall cactuses; a double-flowering oleander; a lemon-tree; a few caladiums, and an amorphopallus, *A. Rivieri*; the last two are bulbs, and can be kept through the winter in a warm place, not far from the stove or heater. Other fine plants can be added to these where the size of the lawn demands a more extended list. Every tree and plant should be trained to grow in the finest possible shape into which it can be brought.

HENRY S. RUPP.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Lettuce.

I DO not know of any vegetable that presents such an inviting and appetizing appearance during our early spring and summer months as crisp and tender lettuce, and it is quite a wonder that a vegetable so easily grown and so highly prized is so seldom seen upon the tables of our amateur cultivators. Early lettuce is by many considered to be very difficult to cultivate successfully, but such is not the case, and I think any person can easily raise enough for his own use, if the following directions are carefully observed.

The quality of lettuce depends most essentially upon its vigorous growth, and it should be borne in mind that in order to have crisp and tender lettuce it should be given a mellow and well enriched soil, together with an abundant supply of water at all times, and every available means should be employed to secure a rapid uninterrupted growth. For the early crop, the seed should be sown about the middle of September, very thin on a nicely prepared border, and as soon as the young plants are strong enough to handle, they should be transplanted into a cold frame, about two inches apart each way, for the winter, or until they are wanted in the spring; or the seed can be sown in a well-drained pot or pan filled with light loamy soil in February or March, and as soon as they are strong enough to handle transferred into shallow boxes similarly prepared. Let them be placed an inch apart

each way and grown on in any light warm situation until they commence to crowd each other, when they should be planted out, about six inches apart (where they are to head), in a gentle hot-bed. These young plants should be kept close and moist until they start into growth, when air should be given on all favorable occasions, not forgetting to water thoroughly whenever it is necessary to do so.

At the same time the remainder of the plants can be planted out in a similar manner in a nicely prepared cold frame, and if properly cared for will produce excellent successive crops.

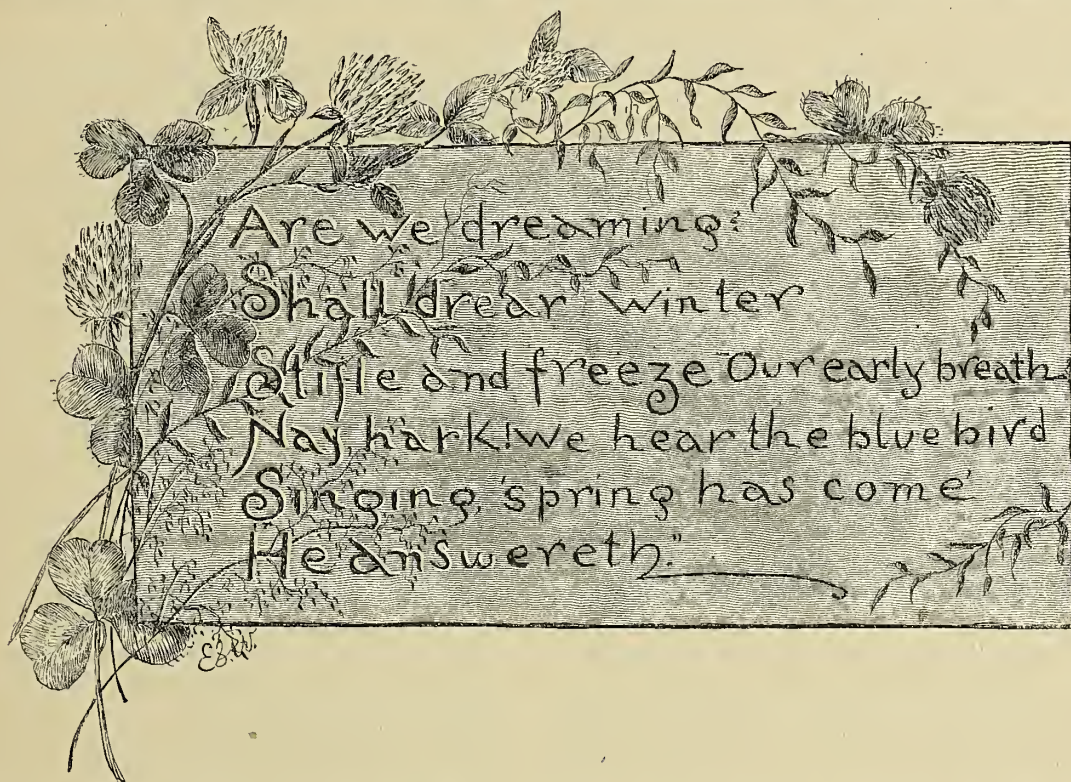
For early spring the cold-frame plants are the most preferable, as from them lettuce can be obtained from three to four weeks earlier than from seed sown in the spring, so that to gain this advantage in time it may be found advisable to purchase a few hundred plants from some neighboring gardener or seed store. For the earlier crops to be cultivated under glass, the best varieties are the Early Curled Simpson, and the Early Tennis Ball. The former does not head, but forms a mass of leaves. It is the earliest and leading market variety. The latter is a favorite market sort and a desirable forcing variety. It forms a close, hard head with but few outer leaves. As it is quite hardy, it can be easily wintered over in a cold frame.

CHARLES E. PARNELL.

THE WILD-FLOWERS OF SPRING.

IT is not at all strange that among us the spring-tide should be the theme of frequent and enamored references by our poets and imaginative writers. Its coming gives new life to all the dormant powers of nature. And in the presence of this universal quickening, it is easy to fancy the "rosy-footed" genius of the season winding her mellow horn adown the hillsides and through the valleys, awakening the sleeping flowers and leading back the forest songsters to their accustomed haunts. The suddenness with which some of these "eldest daughters of the spring" leap into life and into bloom is remarkable,

Yonder, under those spreading oaks, where the ground is covered with dry leaves and grass, half buried in the soil, perhaps, or covered with its own or other leaves, the rarest favorite of the early spring, the trailing arbutus, lifts up its white and pink cups of incense and sends out its greeting: "Spring is come." In favorable seasons these can be gathered early in April and sometimes even in March. How early do you suppose the Pilgrim Fathers found it? How glad they must have been to welcome it, the very first flower in their new home! No wonder that, from their gratefulness, they gave it the name of May-



indicating, indeed, that all winter long their sleep had been very light—a half-waking—so that the first and faintest breath of spring sufficed to call them forth.

The first-born children of the year, the earliest wild-flowers—how welcome they are! Some of these flowers are so shy that nobody ever knows when they appear. They open stealthily in the warm sun, under the snow, and only the very adventurous will be the first discoverers. Before the winter is fairly gone pussy willow has climbed with her small silky catkins—a very fit name the botanists have found for her attempt at a blossom—up the slender wands of the shrub where she belongs, and stays there safely wrapped from the cold, looking out for spring, watching for the first flower that will bear her company. She does not wait long.

flower, after the ship that had been the vessel of their hopes and that brought them to the New World.

The botanists call it *Epigaea repens*, which indicates exactly its manner of growing closely to the earth. It is an evergreen vine creeping upon the ground and hiding itself under whatever may lie upon its surface. Its rose-colored flowers grow in clusters, with a salver-formed corolla of delicate petals resting in a calyx. I have heard it called ground-laurel and wild lilac, as well as arbutus and Mayflower. It smells as sweetly and looks as freshly with either name.

While the snow still lingers in our garden border and banks of white are visible along the edges of the fields, here on the border of the wood where the ground slopes southward, we shall find the modest and exquisitely deli-

cate liver-leaf, *Hepatica triloba*. Such a soft, tender, slight flower as it is! One would hardly expect it to be the first to venture out. It has not had the warm shelter of the earth as the Mayflower did, but it ventured to send its delicate hairy stem up into the spring air just the same. A close inspection of the plant, even in winter, will discover buds already formed and apparently ready to respond to the first breathings of spring. These large dusky-green, heart-shaped leaves, last through the winter, and the new ones do not usually appear till after the flowers.

The hepatica is classed with the crowfoot family (*Ranunculaceæ*), where also are found a large number of our early spring favorites. Besides this broad-leaved variety there is still another—*H. acutiloba*—with more erect and sharp-pointed leaves; but the difference between the two species is neither wide nor constant. Long before anything in the garden is seen save a few delicate snow-drops and possibly now and then a purple or yellow crocus that have come out in the sunny borders, these lovely light-blue and purplish flowers wrapped in their fur-lined silken cloaks can be found in profusion on our country hillsides.

Did you ever read the old Greek fable of Anemone? She was a nymph in Flora's train, and was beloved by Zephyr. The queen of flowers, being jealous, banished the unfortunate maiden from her court and changed her into a flower, which always opened at the return of spring. Zephyr very ungallantly abandoned the former beauty to the rude caresses of Boreas, who, unable to gain her love, agitates her until her blossoms are half open, and then causes her immediately to fade. The story always comes to me with the first glimpse of the beautiful wind-flower, *Anemone nemorosa*. The smooth and slender stems five or six inches high, three-lobed leaves, in a whorl near the head of the plant, above which is the cluster of pale pink or white star-like flowers, are unmistakable evidences that it belongs to the crowfoot family. They last but a short time. The motto "*Brevis est usus*"—"Her reign is short"—admirably expresses the rapid decline of beauty.

Another favorite flower among us in New England, less common indeed through the Middle States, is the beautiful little star-flower, *Trientalis Americana*, with its dainty white blossoms rising from the stem above a whorl of emerald lanceolated leaves. It is usually found in damp, cool woods, and in rather high altitudes; and yet it prefers a southern exposure. This is one of the very few wild plants which is improved by cultivation.

In these upland woods is found some of the fine wood sorrels, among which the violet-colored species, *Oxalis violacæ*, is usually the most valued. There is a large family of these sorrels, but the several species have a close resemblance only in the color of the flowers. The leaves are trefoil shaped, and the plant has much the appearance of white clover. The flowers rise higher than the leaves with bright scarlet, yellow, or white petals.

Here, too, we shall find in some sunny nook by the side of a great rock, or near the roots of some ancient oak, in a bed of mould, the accumulation of successive generations of decayed leaves, lovely specimens of the showy *Orchis*

spectabilis. It has two oblong, shining green leaves, three to five inches long, from between which rises the flower-stalk, about six inches high, bearing a few handsome white and pinkish flowerets. The plant somewhat resembles the lily-of-the-valley, is of rare beauty and takes kindly to cultivation.

Many of the earliest of the northern wild-flowers are almost vestal in their purity. They have a chilliness of aspect compared with the fervid dyes of southern flowers. Most of our early favorites are pale little maidens; later on, come bright yellow, purple and scarlet, the predominant colors of autumn. The smiling wakerobin has a bluish cast. The mitrewort is like frosted silver. The petals, of the gold-thread, are of creamy richness. The hobblebush is dead white, the chokeberry, roseat. Trailing arbutus is of the purest flesh tones, like the clear, fair complexion of a sweet young girl. But the "blueets" have, as the word denotes, a hue of brightest azure.

Not many are the flowers so favored with names as this golden-eyed darling of the pastures and fields. In botanical nomenclature, it is *Houstonia cærulea*, to honor Dr. Houston, a well-known English botanist, and because it is of such heavenly blue when it opens. With the staid people of Pennsylvania, it is "Quaker-bonnet;" they could think of nothing else so coy and so bewitching to call it by. Again it is "Venus-pride," and "Dwarf pink." It is "Innocence" for reasons that need no comments. And finally it is "Fairy-flax," fit for elfin spinning and daintiest fabric for the queen of the fairies to wear.

To the early spring belongs the blood-root—*Sanguinaria Canadensis*, with its broad leaves and white flowers, both leaves and flowers springing from creeping roots, and each smooth flower-stem supporting a pure white blossom with a broad disk, made up of narrow, ray-like petals, but apparently quite too delicate to brave the chill air of the season in which it appears. When any part of the plant is broken, leaves, flowers or root, a rich juice exudes, which is an ominous red, of dye as deep as that gory spot on the "little hand" of Lady Macbeth which would "not out." From the ensanguined color of this juice the plant takes its name. It is highly valued in medicine.

After May has fairly come, and the days begin to grow warmer, how fast the flowers press along. One must go often to their haunts, or some will have bloomed and passed away. We had been many times to the swamp where grows the fever bush before we ever saw it in blossom. And then we did not recognize it till we had bitten the aromatic bark and tasted the pungent flavor, which gives it its other names of spicewood and benzoin—making one think of the Orient and the Old Testament days, when caravans went laden with odoriferous things whereof incense for the temples was made. For years we failed to see the cassandra or leather-leaf in bloom. It is one of the Andromeda family, and comes on late in April or early in May, when the small egg-shaped white flowers appear in a row, like lilies-of-the-valley. They are slightly fragrant, and as pretty as they can be. They are so young and the bush so hoary, that it is like the contrast of a child's face on the bent, decrepit figure of an old man.

Going down toward the wet land we may expect to find

the delicate little spring beauty, *Claytonia Virginica*, nestling in the dead grass and weeds, with its pale red flowers, its tender and half-prostrate stem with two long lance-shaped leaves, all rising together from its bulbous roots. It belongs to the portulaca family, and is not dissimilar to the best-known species of that plant found in our gardens, whether as cultivated flowers or weeds.

There are other spring beauties that we cannot speak of at this time—the snow-white saxifrage, the *Azalea viscosa*, with its large white flowers; the adder's-tongue or dog-tooth violet, with its lily-like flower of bright golden yellow and sometimes slightly purple; the blue

violets which peer out everywhere in the thickets and among the grass. We pass by all these, which, with the others we have named, are the real hamadryads, the children of the groves, that may be moved only in their native wilds. Like Persephone, when torn from the flowery meads of Enna, they pine and wither removed from their places. They are true children of the sunshine and the spirits of the air, and, though but the harbingers of the coming hosts that accompany the flower-bearing May, who themselves give place to those of June, they hold a place in Nature's casket that no other jewels can replace.

CLINTON MONTAGNE.

A LITTLE TALK.

WHEN I see a woman in the spring, poking among some mounds sadly the worse for the winter's storms, uncovering a favored shrub only to find it broken by having been stepped on, a pruning much better done by a sharp instrument, I wonder were her beginnings small ones, as were mine. A dollar's worth of seed, a shrub from one neighbor, a rosebush from another, and all the plants so carefully tended, so tenderly watched until the blossoms filled the air with fragrance. One day morning-glories for breakfast, pansies for tea; then the next, sweet peas, mignonette and roses.

Isn't a woman to be envied, who has her flower-bed in summer, her window-garden in winter, and successfully combats bugs and insects, and doesn't awake some cold morning in the dead of winter, to find her pets black instead of blooming?

Years ago house plants were a rarity. Such a thing as a plant growing in winter, when I was a child, I never saw, but mother always had her long flower-bed in the garden; her round mounds each side of the front gate; morning-glories to run up the lattice-work, and make a cool shade where afternoons of the long summer day she could sit with her sewing and look out on the masses of old-fashioned pinks, sweet-williams, great double poppies, marigolds, and hollyhocks. I remember how we used to gather apronsful of poppies and tie them down, and play they were dolls in silk gowns, and running a stick through the hollyhocks, make believe they were parasols, and mother never interdicted picking her flowers, but always smiled, as though she thought them civilizers of our wild natures.

I have a conservatory now, and it all grew out of a rose geranium, and a fuchsia. That fuchsia (*Speciosa*), is now sixteen years old, and a slip taken from it is nearly the same age the two, in twelve-inch pots, are put in the cellar, when it is too cool for them out-doors. This spring, for the first time, I shook off the old earth and gave them entirely new quarters. I have always been afraid to disturb them heretofore, but they are coming out finely. I cut them back each spring, and they then afford a large quantity of blossoms during summer.

My conservatory was nearly all paid for from the sale of cut-flowers, from my garden. Remember, the whole thing started from one dollar's worth of seed. The first flowers I sold July 4, 1876 (I had always given them away by the basketful). The whole town was enthusiastic over decorations that day. My garden was a mass of bloom. I only charged ten cents for a large bouquet, and that was my regular price until I built my conservatory.

People were glad to buy, being ashamed to beg at those small figures. There is always a class in a community who do not seem to think that flowers cost time, labor and money, and continue to be beggars; yet spin street-yarn enough to put in good time on a small flower-garden. Then there is another class always coming in the spring, after "slips." So I started the sale of plants, and these same persons now inquire "Do you sell or give away slips?" It has been almost impossible for a lady to be a successful window-gardener, for her plants were "slipped" to death.

I like to see a woman paid as much for her work as a man if she does it equally as well. She does not, as a general thing, stop to take a chew of tobacco, or, with a pipe in her mouth, go about a task as though what she had to do was of the last importance and the pipe the first.

One spring I hired a newly-arrived sturdy Dutchman to spade up my flower-beds. He came in the morning and spaded awhile, but spent most of the time smoking and running around the corner for beer. When he went away at noon he said, "Mein frau she come'd." She "come'd," and how nicely she forked over the ground—how much more she accomplished in the same amount of time. He came around at night to collect the wages and go home with her; but I put fifty cents into his hand and gave her the dollar. I thought, as she had done the lion's share, she should have the lion's pay. Then I pointed to his work and to hers. She laughed and nodded, and put the money in her pocket, and his merry "yaw, yaw, she goot," told me that he appreciated the point.

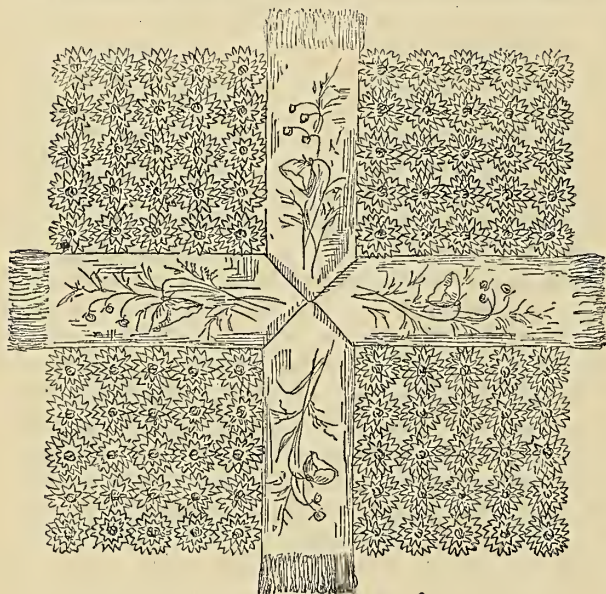
M. LOU MEDLOR.

HOME DECORATIONS.

Marguerite Tidy.

THESE pretty tidies are made of blue satin, yellow embroidery silk, and rick-rack braid; if one pleases, a little painting in water-colors may be added, but the tidy will be complete, and very pleasing, without it.

White daisies are made of rick-rack braid by sewing row after row around a circle made of white cotton cloth



MARGUERITE TIDY.

or muslin. The entire surface of the cloth, except a small space in the middle for the centre of the daisy, is covered, beginning with the outside row, and filling in till all is covered but the space named. Then cut the braid, and fasten the end securely to the cloth. The centre should now be worked with the yellow embroidery silk, filling the whole of the small space with knot-stitch; or, instead of embroidery, crochet may be used. Make a small circle of plain crochet-stitch and sew it with the same colored silk into the space in the flower. The number of daisies and quantity of satin required will of course depend upon the size of the tidy. Therefore, when a sufficient number of daisies has been made for the four square blocks, the flowers are to be sewed together in four groups, with strong cotton.

The satin strips are then prepared, and for these broad satin ribbon may be used. Fringe out one end of each strip, the other end of each piece is turned in to a point, which point forms the middle of the tidy. Sew it on the wrong side at the middle, where the points join, and at each corner just above the point. Thus no stitching will appear on the right side.

The flower-blocks are then sewed on the ribbon, filling

in the four spaces. The ribbon should be cut long enough to allow the fringe to extend beyond the blocks and for the points to be formed in the middle.

Satin can be used just as described for the ribbon, but it must be turned in about half an inch to keep it in place, and pressed with a moderately hot iron. Do not stitch or catch it, as the sewing would show on the right side, and thus spoil the effect.

Sprays of buttercups and grasses painted with water-colors upon the satin strips give an exceedingly pretty finish, or embroidery can be used instead.

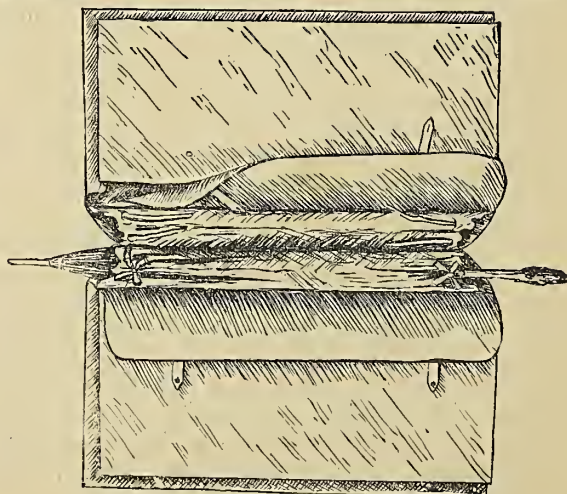
Different colored satins may also be used if preferred, although the blue is rather prettier than any other shade.

M. E. WHITTEMORE.

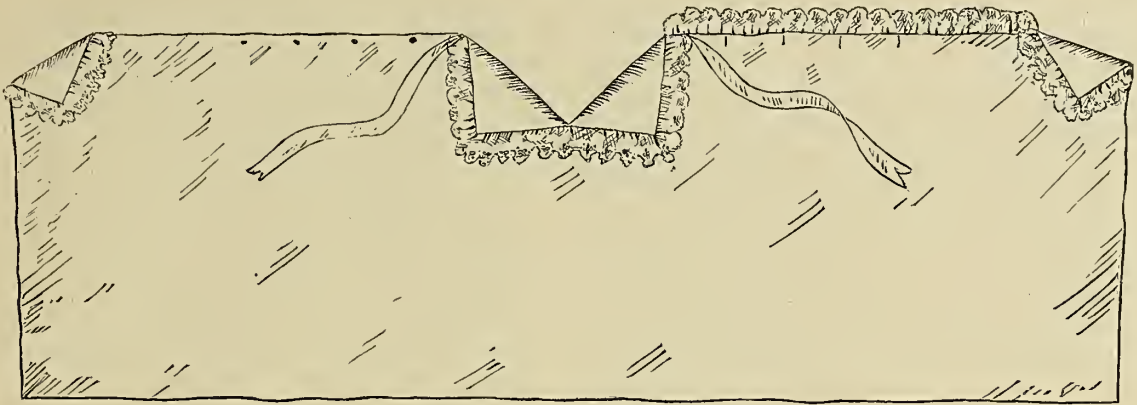
Home-made Traveling Bag.

BROWN canvas and heavy gray linen are suitable materials for this traveling bag, and the quantity required will be a strip three quarters of a yard long and half a yard wide, whichever material is chosen. Fold the strip together and turn the corners of the folded side, as seen at the top of the closed bag in the illustration.

Make the pockets the width of the outside and ten inches deep; bind the top of each with dark-brown dress braid, and join them to the outside with a straight piece of the material four inches wide, and long enough to fit around the pocket; bind the raw edges also with the braid. For the flaps cut pieces five inches deep, and the width of the pockets; round the corners slightly and bind them; do not sew them on until the umbrella case is ready to be fastened. For this case you will need a piece of the canvas or linen eighteen inches long and four wide; bind the ends and work a couple of eyelet-holes in each, through which to draw a piece of braid to tie the umbrella in place. At the top of the bag where the fold was made



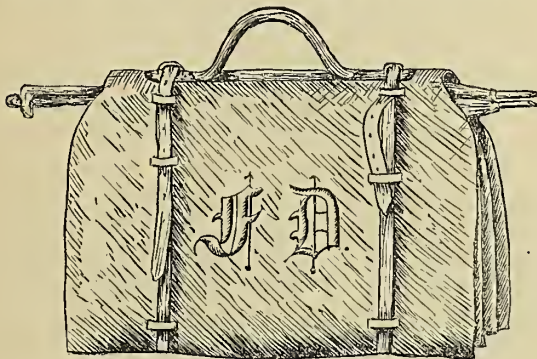
TRAVELING BAG OPEN.



DESIGN FOR AN INVALID'S WRAP.

stitch a facing wide enough to form a case in which an inch-wide stick can be slipped to give the bag stiffness and support the handle; fasten the umbrella case on one side of this casing; the other side is sewed on with the pocket flaps, so that the raw edges come underneath. Buttons and loops are used to fasten the flaps down to the pockets. Make the loops of pieces of the braid folded together and stitched. The initials should be worked with brown filosele before the bag is put together. A

of each front to make the cuffs; cat-stitch a narrow hem around them and down the fronts; trim the collar and cuffs, also one side of the front, with white lace. Place four buttons and button-holes on the front, and pink satin ribbon at the neck, to tie in a bow. Fasten it together around the person at the neck and have buttons and button-holes in the cuffs to fasten them around the wrist and draw the wrap in shape, so the arms can be freely moved without exposing them. E. W.



TRAVELING BAG CLOSED.

nically finished leather shawl strap serves as handle to the bag as well as to hold it firmly together. Small loops of braid are sewed on the bag to keep the straps in place. E. S. WELCH.

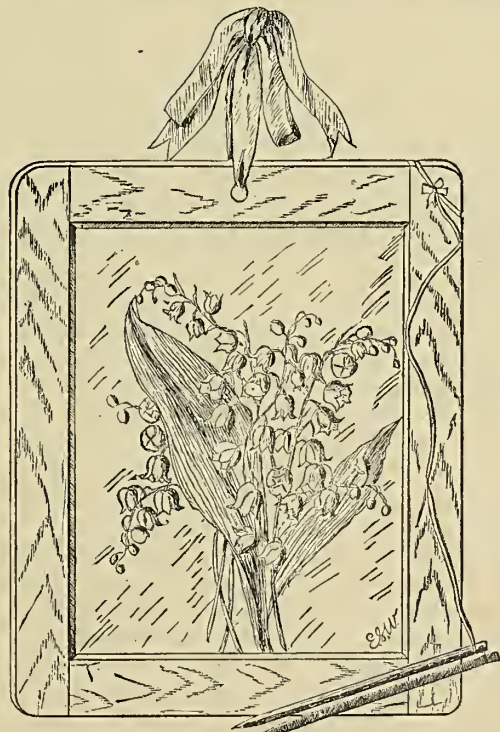
Invalid's Wrap.

EVERYONE knows how difficult it is to keep sick persons protected when they want the use of their arms, either when lying down or sitting up in bed. It is so hard to get off and on anything made with sleeves, and this wrap answers the purpose of a sacque, and is so easily slipped around a person it cannot be of the least inconvenience. To make the wrap you will require two yards of single width flannel; the one we are describing is made of pink basket flannel trimmed with white lace; cashmere would, perhaps, be better for use in warm weather; gray or dark-blue flannel, made perfectly plain, is the most suitable for a gentleman. Fold the flannel together and cut a slit in the middle of it six inches deep; turn the corners back to form the collar, and the corner

Decorated Slate.

SLATES are generally more useful than ornamental, but there is no reason why they cannot be both, especially when designed for memorandum purposes, when one side is all that is really needed for use.

Select a medium-sized slate with a smooth frame from



DECORATED SLATE.

three-quarters to one inch in width. Bore a hole in the top of the frame to run the ribbon through by which you should suspend it, and cut notches in one of the upper corners around which a narrow ribbon to hold the pencil should be tied. Gild the frame with liquid gilding and paste a handsome birthday card on one side of the slate, if it is intended for a birthday gift. Where one can paint it is much handsomer to paint a bunch of flowers instead of using the card decoration; such wayside beauties as golden-rods and asters are very prettily grouped together, or lilies-of-the-valley, as shown in our illustration. On the useful side of the slate paste a strip of white paper about one-third the width and the entire length if needed; on this paper should be plainly written or printed a list of such articles as are generally sent to the laundry, so that all one has to do in making up their wash-list is to mark the number on the slate opposite the enumerations.

Where it is not needed for this purpose, it will be found very convenient for jotting down engagements or keeping a memorandum. It also makes a nice present for a young physician who is not likely to have use for more than one side of a slate.

The Children's Room.

AFTER the woodwork had received the final coat of delicate blue-gray paint, the dainty pale pink wall-paper was hung; the gilded rose-strewn borders were added, and a starry airy ceiling hung above. But such a very little bit of money remained to be devoted to new furnishings! and, how commonplace seemed the old yellow set which had done faithful service in the old house! But fertile brains solved the problem of its renovation, and busy skillful hands effected a wonderful transformation. Four inches sawed from the legs of the bedstead made it low enough to suit the childish occupants. Bedstead, bureau and washstand were then thoroughly sandpapered and given two coats of paint, like that used on the woodwork of the room. When dry, they were decorated with graceful sprays and vines of wild-roses (painted in oils). The carpet was a well-worn, darned and patched ingrain, of dark maroon, but its transparency was visible only on the line at the annual spring cleaning. The curtains, counterpanes and pillow-shams for the little beds were made of open-striped, creamy scrim. The open work in this material strongly resembles drawn work, and shows the color laid underneath prettily—it is wide, washes well, and costs but twenty cents a yard.

The cherry rods on which the curtains were hung, harmonized nicely with the rest of the furnishings, and deserve a special notice of all home decorators of taste and small means. These poles, with others of ebony, walnut, ash and mahogany, were secured at the absurdly small cost of twenty-five cents per window. This for a pole five feet in length, rings, brackets and ends complete.

Aside from the artistic effect secured by using them for curtain-hanging, they are a comfort and convenience at all times to the housekeeper, on account of their easy adjustment.

Two low book-cases were cheaply constructed by a neighboring carpenter; stories of "Little Women," "Little Men," and histories adapted to little people found places on the shelves. A low table was made of a dry-goods box (shelved, to hold stories of juvenile literature also), and draped prettily with cretonne. Two box ottomans were achieved in a like manner for the reception of tiny books and slippers. A microscope, a magic lantern, and a colony of dolls had to be provided for in this establishment; and after the small owners had arranged their "card collections" to their entire satisfaction, and stowed their respective belongings into their closets and drawers, they were a very contented pair indeed.

LUCIA M. HARVEY.

Brush and Comb Case.

ONE skein of blue and one-quarter of a skin of pink saxony will furnish sufficient material from which to crochet the case. Begin with two stitches, single crochet, taking up the back of each stitch to give a ribbed appearance, and widen one stitch on each end until you have eighty stitches, or the width the same as the length of your brush; then crochet the case, without widening, sixteen inches long. Turn up the square end to the depth of five inches and sew the sides together. One inch above this fasten a crocheted strip deep enough to form a pocket for the comb, and the same distance above this another for the tooth-brush. Crochet, all around the case and across the tops of the pockets, shells composed of seven stitches, and border them with the pink saxony. Line the pockets with thin rubber cloth or oiled silk. Ribbons are fastened to the point of the case to tie around it when rolled up.

These cases are especially adapted for traveling uses, and will be found to be very pretty and convenient.

M.

MANTLES AND BONNETS FOR EARLY SPRING.

MANTLES are generally made quite short in the back, reaching only a little distance below the waist line, the sleeves square, as in many of the small winter wraps; dolman sleeves are also used, or the wrap may be cut to simply fold over the arm. The fronts are rather long, and may be either square or terminate in a point. The new wool laces gathered in full frills are a suitable trimming, and doubtless will prove more durable than the

popular chenille fringes. New fringes are composed of chenille loops interspersed with silk tassels or jets. The wraps should be cut high in the neck with slight fullness at the shoulder-tips and the garniture extend up each side of the front, pass around the neck, and when square sleeves are made these only need be trimmed; a simple facing is deemed sufficient for the bottom of velvet or heavy satin wraps.

New cloth jackets are made to fit the figure closely in the back, but with loose fronts. Very little trimming is used on these garments; a row of braid or several rows of machine-stitching are considered most suitable. When figured velvet or frisé wool goods is combined with the costume a loose vest of the figured material is added to the jacket.

For spring bonnets dark straws in colors to match costumes are shown; they come with peaked brims or the well-known capote, and are trimmed with gay-colored scarfs of étamine, a material with large meshes resembling canvas, combined with velvet and flowers. Soft crowns made of a material composed of wool and gilt are in many instances used with straw brims for

dressy bonnets. Feathers are seldom seen on new hats, the preference being for odd-looking flowers and grasses.

Round hats have moderately high crowns and narrow brims, and are very simply trimmed with a gay silk handkerchief or an étamine scarf arranged in full loose loops in front, through which an ornamental pin is thrust—not the little plain pins so popular last season, but those having ball heads in filigree work studded with turquoises or garnets.

Undressed kid gloves in the tan shades will remain in fashion for spring and summer; loose-wristed mousquetaire gloves are still preferred, but gloves fastened by four or six buttons are also worn.

HOUSEKEEPING.

Stewed Pie-Plant.

Skin the stalks and cut in inch lengths. It should be cooked in granite ironware. Pour on more than enough boiling water to cover the pie-plant and let it stand on the stove till it is just ready to boil and the pie-plant has changed color, then drain off the water and add sufficient fresh water to make the sauce liquid; add what sugar will be required, and let it simmer slowly till tender; then cool and put in the dish in which it is to be served, being careful not to break the pieces. It is a very cheap and appetizing dish in early spring.

Pie-Plant Pies.

Make a nice crust; be careful to avoid thin places where the juice will find its way out. Cut the pie-plant in small pieces and sprinkle over it one teacup of white sugar; dredge some flour over it before you put on the top crust; moisten the outer edge of the bottom crust with a little water, so the two crusts will stick together; make plenty of openings in the top crust for the steam to escape and bake slowly three-quarters of an hour or until the juice has become jelly. If baked properly it will be delicious.

Orange Pie.

Grate half the rind of a lemon and half the rind of an orange, and squeeze out all the juice from both. Beat thoroughly the yolks of three eggs, add one cup of sugar and one tablespoon of flour, then the juice and grated rind, and last milk enough to fill the pie-plate. Bake in a hot oven to prevent curdling. When the pie is baked, have the whites of the eggs beaten with a little sugar, spread it over the top and return to the oven a moment to stiffen. It is done when the meringue is a faint straw color.

Custard Pie.

Always select a deep plate for custard pies; line it with a nice tender crust and put a rim around the edge. Beat four eggs with three-fourths of a cup of sugar, a pinch of salt and gradually add a scant quart of rich milk. Fill the plate nearly full, then set it in the oven and fill up to the rim. The secret of a good custard pie is in the

baking, and it requires careful watching. It should be tested often with a knife-blade, and not cooked an instant after the custard is set. It requires an oven that will cook good on the bottom, and it should not be very hot.

Old-Fashioned Connecticut Doughnuts.

Two and a half cups sugar; one and a half cups butter; two cups of yeast or one small compressed yeast-cake; two cups of milk; four or five eggs; two nutmegs; one teaspoon soda, and flour enough to make almost as stiff as biscuits.

Put all the ingredients together at night and let it rise till morning. When it is light, roll out and let it rise again, then shape into cakes and fry in hot lard. When done, sprinkle pulverized sugar over them. If fresh suet is mixed with the lard half and half it is much better than all lard.

Molasses Cake—Without Eggs.

One cup of molasses, one-fourth of a cup of butter, one-half cup sour milk, two scant cups of flour, one teaspoon of ginger sifted, one and a half teaspoons of soda. Measure the molasses first, then stir in the ginger, then the butter melted. Dissolve the soda in the milk and add that, putting in the flour last. Bake in a shallow pan about thirty minutes.

Escalloped Fish.

Boil two pounds of cod, either fresh or salt. If fresh, add one tablespoon of salt and one of vinegar to the water in which it is boiled. When done, remove skin and bones and flake it very fine. Make a sauce of one pint of milk, a piece of butter the size of an egg, two tablespoons of flour, a sprig of parsley, a pinch of red pepper and a half teaspoon of salt. The sauce should be about the consistency of very thick cream. Butter a quart pudding-dish and put in alternate layers of fish and sauce till the dish is nearly full; then cover with bread or cracker crumbs and put little pieces of butter over the top. Bake twenty-five minutes in a hot oven. An onion can be used instead of parsley, but it should be boiled in the milk and strained out before the flour is put in.

MRS. C. G. HERBERT.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Our Premiums.—The premium seeds have been forwarded to all who have requested them, and the premium bulbs to all except those resident in the most Northerly States and Territories. To the latter we shall mail bulbs as soon as the weather will permit.

To correct misapprehension regarding our offer of the *Floral Kingdom* for clubs of four new subscribers at \$1.25 each, we would say that the time is unlimited in which such clubs may be formed.

* * *

Society of American Florists.—A meeting of the Executive Committee of this society was held at Pittsburgh, February 17, 1885, to make arrangements for the first regular exhibition, to be held at Cincinnati, August 19 to 21, inclusive. The report of the committee must be very satisfactory to the members, as a lively interest in the welfare of the society, together with a determination to make it a success, by making it useful, is manifest in every part of the country. The following programme is arranged for the August meeting :

- 1st, an exhibition of plants, novelties and standard sorts.
- 2d, “ “ “ cut-flowers.
- 3d, “ “ “ florists' supplies.
- 4th, “ “ “ greenhouse structures, heating apparatus and appliances.
- 5th, an exhibition of any appliances applicable to the florists' trade.

Each day is to be divided into three sessions, at which one or more practical papers will be read and discussed, provision having been made to insure discussion. The papers selected are from the best sources of information on the object treated. Programmes will be ready for distribution soon, and will be sent to all persons interested, by the secretary, E. G. Hill, Esq., Richmond, Ind.

* * *

The New York Horticultural Society.—The March meeting stands out prominently as one of the very best, and as for the exhibits, they have never been equaled. Without giving undue prominence to any contributor, we may say there was a general attack of spring fever. Our hopes are that this pleasant and very recently awakened interest may continue. To show how much could be done if this interest was continued, we need only say that the March meeting has been the talk of the town. The press has always something to say for the society, and, with such an excellent exhibition as the last one proved to be, good words regarding it will be merited. When the general display of orchids had been examined, admired and commented on, we felt that there had been something to live for during this winter of ice, snow and storm. We have always hoped to see this multiplication of exhibitors, but was not prepared to see as many as half a dozen orchid growers represented at this early season. There were grand plants of fine cattleyas, especially *C. Trianaea*, *C. Percivaliana* and *C. labiata*.

The variety among this class is widely different. Then the lovely dendrobiums, *D. Pierardi*, *D. Wardianum*, *D. Devonianum*, *D. Crassinode*, *D. macrophyllum* and *D. nobile*. Several plants, each of lycastes, with much variation in markings; oncidiums in variety; odontoglossums, especially a glorious specimen of the variety, *O. Alexandræ*; phælenopsis, saccolabiums, and two plants of the brilliant scarlet *Saphronites grandiflora*. Of cut-flowers of orchids from the garden of W. B. Dinsmore, Esq., came a group of *Phalænopsis Schilleriana*, unsurpassed for effect; there were not less than fifteen spikes, some of which were three feet long with laterals spreading twenty inches, and with more than seventy flowers. *P. Amabilis*, *P. grandiflora*, *P. rosea*, *P. Stuartiana*, *P. Lüdemanniana*, were represented in fine condition, as were finely marked forms of *Cattleya trianaea*, dendrobiums and oncidiums. The bletias were equally well shown. Altogether, this was a chaste, elegant and beautiful display. Among other orchids in the cut-flower class, many seasonable species were to be seen, proving that their cultivation is being extended, a sure indication of a development in the popular taste.

Choice specimens of rare flowers were to be seen in the lapagerias, *Bignonia venusta*, clerodendrons, anthuriums, many old camellias, azalias, finely formed and in the most chaste and delicate colors. The roses, which are usually the most prominent feature of the exhibition, were superb in size, fragrance, color and freshness, and, as far as we have been educated, we may say they were perfection. We may note particularly among the hardy or hybrid section Jacqueminot, Camille de Rohan, Diesbach, Paul Neyron, Magna Charta, Countess of Oxford and Duchess de Vallambrosa in quantities. Then, in the tender classes, there were hosts of Mermets, Perles, Bon Silenes, Cooks, Niphetos, Sunsets, and that lovely, queenly La France—what a pronounced piece of inspired coloring it had! The Marie Henrietta, with a wealth of blue-green foliage and rich long, deep carmine-red flowers, had many admirers. The two new comers, American Beauty and William Francis Bennett, had the greatest share of the criticism. The American Beauty is from Washington, D. C., and without a pedigree, but from general appearances, we should call it a hybrid Noisette, of perpetual flowering habit. We have representations of this class in “Coquette des Alps,” “Perle des Blanches” and “Boule de Neige.” Its perfume is decidedly Noisette in flavor; the spines have the same family impress. The color is a very distinct lake, a rarity in this class, and on that account is an acquisition.

The judges compared the color to H. P. Countess of Oxford, which is light crimson, shaded to rosy pink, with darker tints. The color to us seemed rather a dull shade of red, with that unfortunate flatness so often found in several other red-tinted roses after being cut a short time. The size of the flower is quite large, and if (as we have been informed) the color is brighter on plants not sub-

jected to too much heat. This variety was awarded a first-class certificate, to which it was justly entitled.

The William Francis Bennett is a most valuable acquisition, and undoubtedly the finest of all continuous flowering red roses. The color is brilliant, solid and lasting; the flower is large, lengthy and full; the perfume is agreeable and well marked; the habit of growth is robust, and free to flower. This rose is sure to become a great favorite.

We must conclude our notice without mentioning the very good displays of hyacinths, tulips and cinerarias, which were shown in excellent condition, and the many other very interesting exhibits which were made in single entries. If we were sure of such exhibitions regularly, there would be no occasion to complain of a lack of interest in or appreciation of the society.

* * *

American Horticultural Society.—From a careful reading of their volume of "Transactions," we consider this the leading society of its class in this country, and one that should have the support of all true horticulturists. In the interests of the society, a recent circular recommends "that each member constitute himself a *committee of one*, to secure at least one additional member, and as an incentive to those who could do more, the secretary was directed to issue three certificates for \$5, thus giving the getter up of the club \$1 for his trouble." The society depends wholly upon the fees of members for meeting its necessary expenses. Until the edition of transactions of 1884 is exhausted the secretary will continue to present a copy of that valuable volume to each new member.

* * *

The Spring Exhibition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society was exceedingly fine. The display of orchids by F. L. Ames, H. H. Hunniwell, R. M. Pratt and E. W. Gilmore, surpassed all former exhibitions. Messrs. Ames and Hunniwell divided the first prizes and their gardeners together with R. M. Pratt's, were awarded silver medals for skillful culture. Spring bulbs in collection were shown by C. H. Storey & Co., C. M. Storey, John L. Gardner, E. L. Beard and James O'Brien; the competition was very close. E. L. Beard exhibited a large number of choice narcissi, among which was the Tenby Daffodil, a great English favorite, and Sir Watkins, both new here. I cannot enumerate the numerous spring bulbs, for every sort that can be flowered was represented. E. L. Beard showed some remarkably large flowered and finely grown cyclamens and took all the first prizes. Azaleas were well represented, but the plants were necessarily small, on account of the severe weather; several who intended to exhibit large plants being obliged to leave them at home. Pansies of enormous size were shown, both in pots and on plates. The exhibit of cut-flowers was exceedingly fine.

The collections of cut camellias shown by C. M. Hovey and Mrs. Francis B. Hayes were large and extremely fine; hybrid perpetual and tea roses in great variety were shown. The hybrid perpetuals in pots were finely grown. Some fine plants of the new white hybrid perpetual *Merveille de Lyon*, exhibited by W. H. Spooner, were greatly

admired and attracted general attention. Jackson Dawson, of the Arnold arboretum, showed finely grown roses on Japanese stock, which promises well but remains to be tested. John B. Moore & Son exhibited the new rose, Col. Felix Breton, an extremely rich dark variety; they were awarded first-class certificate of merit. Also another new dark rose, *Souvenir de Reine Leveyne*. The display from the Botanical Gardens, Cambridge, was very interesting. Besides the exhibits already mentioned, there were a great many plants and flowers worthy of notice, but want of space prevents their special mention.

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Spring Exhibition of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.—The claim is made for this exhibition, held March 24, 25 and 26, in the Horticultural Hall, Broad street, Philadelphia, that it excelled any recent exhibition in the city of Brotherly Love or New York. Among notable features was the display by A. Warne, gardener to Clarence H. Clark, of West Philadelphia, who exhibited in his collection nineteen azaleas, twelve rhododendrons, some rare tulips, amaryllis and hyacinths, for which he was awarded first premium. Edward Banyard showed a new white carnation—a cross between the old Scotch pink and the Peter Henderson. It is quite prolific, there being over one hundred buds on a single plant. Lonsdale & Burton carried off the honors for cut-roses; Craig & Brother had the awards for carnations, roses in pots, and ferns; D. Ferguson & Son for acacias and palms; Joseph Kift & Son for a collection of fifty plants; J. H. Campbell & Son, for cinerarias and *Spiræa Japonica*; John Dick, Jr., for geraniums and camellias. The awards for floral designs were given to Charles Fox, H. C. Shaefer, Kift & Son, also Heron & Nisbit.

* * *

Henry Balser, M.D., one of the oldest members of the New York Horticultural Society, and one of the best-known German physicians on the East side of New York, died of pneumonia, at his home on Avenue B, Sunday, March 22, at the age of seventy-two.

He retired from active practice fifteen years ago, but since that time has daily devoted several hours to the poor, gladly and kindly giving advice, without money and without price. A devoted horticulturist, his love for flowers was genuine, none being too insignificant to find an admirer in him.

Of late years, he has been an exponent of city gardening and was wonderfully successful in bringing to perfection many plants difficult to manage under more favorable conditions than those which surround a city lot.

His face portrayed his soul, always bore a cheery look, and was rarely missed from the exhibitions of the Horticultural Society.

* * *

Nelumbium Speciosum.—"I am much pleased," says our New Orleans correspondent, "to see attention called through your advertising columns to the lotus *Nelumbium speciosum*. I am sure it will give pleasure and delight to many. We obtained our plant from Mr. Sturtevant two years ago, and when I unpacked it from the damp spagnum it looked like a piece of rotten wood more than anything

else, and I stuck it in a pot of muck in the greenhouse, as the water was cold yet outside.

"However, it did not do anything there, and about April 1st I filled a box two feet square with rich soil and manure and changed the plant into that; and, with a few rocks on top to keep the soil in place, I plunged the whole thing in the pond; from this time it commenced to grow rapidly, and at the end of two weeks had several floating leaves and two shoots started from the surface of the box and commenced to make the circuit of the pond in different directions. I thought I would cut them off, but better counsel prevailed, and about June 30 these shoots bloomed. In the meantime the plant in the box had made several round floating leaves from fifteen to thirty inches in diameter, slightly-cupped in the middle. After a shower about a wine-glass of water remains in the centre, and when that is broken up and scattered through the leaf by a breeze, it is the most gorgeous thing imaginable; no description can do it justice; it must be seen.

"About July 10 their second set of leaves commenced to appear and rise out of the box about two feet above the water, and with the exception of being a little larger are the same in every respect as the floating leaves; about July 15, the first flower-bud appeared above the surface of the water in the "cluster." I mention this to distinguish them from the flowers on the shoots which bloom on the surface: the flower stems in the cluster grow six or eight inches in twenty-four hours, and rise about two and a half feet or six inches above the foliage; the flowers open about ten o'clock at night and remain open until between ten and eleven next day. They close and fall to pieces on the third morning; the color is as near to a La France rose as anything you can get, and I fail to see white in it at any stage, although Mr. Sturtevant so describes it in his catalogue. To secure vigorous growth a space from four to five feet in diameter, and about three feet deep should be prepared by covering the bottom with manure; put rather more in the centre around the plant. Above this twelve inches of good soil will be needed and some rocks or broken brick to keep everything snug and in place. With six or seven flowers from five to six inches across, open every morning from July to October or later, I doubt if there be a more delightful object in nature; if so, I have never seen it.

"There is another lotus, *Nelumbium luteum*, peculiar to the swamps and bayous of this State and elsewhere, with the same habit of growth as the foregoing. The flowers, however, are smaller and buff colored, and carry but one row of petals; so far at least, as any specimens have come under my observation."

* * *

Tulips as Cut-Flowers.—For the past three years millions of tulips have been grown annually in this country for the cut-flower trade, a single grower in Astoria, N. Y., having grown this season 100,000, and many others have exceeded this amount. This is an important item for the Dutch bulb growers, as the plant when in flower is sent entire, flower, leaf and bulb, and this is the proper way to use the flowers, wherever it can be done, as they last fully twice as long as when they are cut from the bulbs.

Catalogues Received.

The number of really useful and beautiful catalogues that are sent us annually is rapidly increasing, showing a corresponding increase in business, which is indicative of culture and refinement, the great stimulants of floriculture. The vegetable garden, we are pleased to say, is receiving more attention than formerly; so that now, in villages, it is not an uncommon thing to see well-kept vegetable gardens.

C. E. Allen, Brattleboro, Vt., has improved his catalogue, not only as regards size, but in the selection of such varieties as will, with good culture, be most likely to please his customers. Roses, verbenas, geraniums and carnations are specialties.

The Paragon Seed and Plant Company, Newtown, Pa., have issued a neat and finely illustrated catalogue of the most useful vegetable and flower seeds.

John R. & A. Murdoch, 508 Smithfield street, Pittsburgh, Pa. This old and reliable firm always favors us with a good catalogue. It is well illustrated and complete in cultural instructions, that cannot but assist in making gardening a success.

Irving Allen, Springfield, Mass., sends us an illustrated catalogue of small fruit plants, Mr. Allen confines himself to this one line of trade.

F. Walker & Co., New Albany, Ind., have a descriptive floral and nursery catalogue, with useful hints on transplanting and managing fruit-trees, vines, shrubs and flowers. Trees and plants are quite useless, unless their requirements are understood, therefore cultural instructions are the most important part of a catalogue.

Alfred Bridgeman, 37 East Nineteenth street, New York city. Annual catalogue of vegetable, grass and flower seeds. This is one of the oldest establishments in the country, having been in existence more than fifty years. Trade, like plants, will *run out* in much less time than this house has been in business, unless it deserves success, which it can only do by keeping every kind of seed up to the highest standard of excellence.

The annual catalogue of the Michigan Seed Company, Detroit, Mich., is a useful publication.

Paul Butz & Son, New Castle, Pa. Illustrated catalogue of greenhouse and bedding plants, ornamental shrubs and small fruit plants. The motto of this firm is "cheap plants," and they wish it distinctly understood that low-priced plants are not always *cheap* plants; on the contrary, such only as will produce the most satisfactory flowers and fruits are entitled to this distinctive name.

A. E. Spalding, Ainsworth, Ia. Annual catalogue of seeds, plants and bulbs. A specialty is made of collections by mail, and it is surprising to see how many plants can be had at your post-office for one dollar by sending to parties who make the mailing of plants a leading feature of their business.

The catalogue of Geo. S. Wales, Rochester, N. Y., is a modest, plain and practical publication, giving a useful list of every plant and seed required for the general ornamental garden, with sufficient hints on the general care

and cultivation of plants to insure success. It is strongly recommended.

Lewis Roesch, Fredonia, N. Y. Price list of small fruit plants.

William Parry, Parry P. O., N. J. Catalogue of the Pomona Nurseries.

B. F. Smith, Lawrence, Kan. *Smith's Strawberry World*. A catalogue and guide to small fruit culture.

E. B. Underhill, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Catalogue of small fruit plants, grown on the Strawberry Hill Farm.

Wm. E. Bowditch, 645 Warren street, Boston, Mass. Annual illustrated catalogue of vegetable and flower seeds, bulbs and plants.

W. S. Little, Rochester, N. Y. Wholesale price list of the Rochester Commercial Nurseries.

Harry Chaapel, Williamsport, Pa. "Book of Flowers" is a neat illustrated little work, full of suggestions regarding choice things in the floral world, in which Mr. Chaapel has marked success in introducing to an enlarging circle of patrons.

E. H. Ricker & Co., Elgin, Ill. Annual catalogue and price list of the Elgin Nurseries.

A. M. Purdy, Palmyra, N. Y. Annual descriptive catalogue of small fruit plants, vegetable and flower seeds.

Isaac F. Tillinghast, La Plume, Pa. Annual descriptive catalogue of vegetable and flower seeds.

Delos Staples, West Sebewa, Mich. Descriptive price list of blueberries. This fruit is particularly recommended for northern latitudes, because of its hardiness. It will thrive where most other fruits winter kill.

Jacob W. Manning, Reading, Mass. Descriptive catalogue of large and small fruits, shade and ornamental trees, evergreen trees, trailing vines, roses and hardy shrubs in great variety, with a large collection of herbaceous plants; more than one thousand varieties are minutely described in the two catalogues of over sixty pages each, and many practical suggestions are given to enable those interested to select and successfully cultivate the plants.

Robert Scott & Son, Nineteenth and Catharine streets,

Philadelphia, Pa. Catalogue of roses for 1885. This firm make the rose a specialty, consequently they are enabled to produce first-class stock at moderate rates. So confident are they of their ability to please, that they guarantee satisfaction in all cases, or a return of the money.

John S. Collins, Moorestown, N. J. Wholesale trade list of the Pleasant Valley Nurseries. Mr. Collins deals exclusively in fruits, large and small, and has a large and well-selected stock of the best varieties under cultivation. He makes a specialty of the "Comet" pear, a new variety that has an enviable reputation.

Green's Nursery Company, Rochester, N. Y. Spring catalogue, fruit trees, small fruit plants, vegetable and flower seeds. Mr. Green is author of "Green's Fruit Guide," a standard work of value to all interested in fruit culture, and, as the book is a record of his theory and practice, it may be inferred that his is a good establishment to patronize.

Hance & Borden, Red Bank, N. J., office 31 Fulton street, New York city. Wholesale catalogue of the Rummen Nurseries.

Robert C. Reeves, New York city. Descriptive catalogue of garden, field and flower seeds.

A. D. Huson, Sheboygan Falls, Wis. Catalogue and price list of seeds for the garden, field and farm.

Springfield Seed Company, Springfield, Ohio. Annual catalogue of roses, greenhouse and bedding plants, vegetable and flower seeds.

J. Sells & Sons, Bloomington, Ill. Price list of roses, flowers, bulbs and plants.

D. C. McGraw's abridged catalogue of seeds, greenhouse and bedding plants, Binghamton, N. Y.

Wm. B. Reed, Chambersburg, Pa. Catalogue of new, rare and beautiful roses, hardy shrubs and small fruit plants.

Matthew Crawford, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Catalogue of small fruit plants.

A. Whitcomb, Lawrence, Kan. Descriptive catalogue of new and popular greenhouse plants.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Chrysanthemums.—*S. Wisconsin.*—Chrysanthemums after flowering should remain dormant; they may be kept in the cellar, or any cool room until spring. As yours have been growing all winter, as soon as your garden is ready for planting, divide your plants, leaving but a single shoot, and plant in the open border. We shall give particular cultural instructions in our May number.

Hyacinths.—*Mrs. Jennie Ladd, Brooklyn.*—Hyacinths that have been in florists' hands, and forced into winter blooming, will, as a rule, be worth but little after they are through flowering. To preserve them, give them full opportunity to develop their bulbs; they must have the best

place in the greenhouse, and, when gardening operations commence, plant them in the open border. With the best possible attention you will get but indifferent spikes of bloom after this year's forcing. The most economical plan with hyacinths is to throw them away after they have been forced.

Alocacias—*Dr. S. McClure.*—The alocacias are all plants of great beauty, and easily grown into large specimens, providing the proper treatment is given them, which consists in supplying them with strong moist heat, and an abundance of water at the roots. The ordinary greenhouse, suitable for growing bedding-plants, or car-

nations, will not at all suit them. The soil should be of a peaty nature, and made very rich with well-decomposed manure, that from the cow stable being preferable, and a liberal sprinkling of very fine sand. They are readily increased by division, and also by seeds.

Gazania—*Same*.—This plant does well during the summer in the open ground; it should have the sunniest place in the garden. It will also do well in pots, but must have the full benefit of the sun to thrive well. Propagation by cuttings, which should be taken off in autumn, as plants from cuttings taken off in the spring do not get sufficiently strong to make good flowering plants that season.

Plants for a Glass Case.—*Maggie S. Swain, Ind.*—If your case is such as we suppose it to be, we would suggest planting nothing but ferns and lycopodiums; they invariably do well, while nearly all other plants fail.

Passiflora—*T. R. T.*—You made a mistake in cutting your plant back. It should flower freely this year, if the wood is well ripened. Cut in, say, to six feet, and trim off the small branches, and do not shift it; on the contrary, let it get pot-bound and it will flower freely enough.

Hoya—*Same*.—This plant will need age before it will bloom freely, stimulate growth as much as possible, and let it rest when it stops growing. Water sparingly during this period, and it will probably flower the coming season.

Seeds—*O. C. Pape*.—You cannot obtain the seeds you want in this country; consult the best florists' catalogues for the plants.

Stephanotis.—*Mrs. A. J. Allen, Iowa*.—It is simply an impossibility to make a stephanotis flower well in the dwelling-house. Its requirements are great heat and moisture, with a humid atmosphere. It must withal be planted out in a bed in the greenhouse, in very rich soil, and have an abundance of root-room. Your success with the "Night-blooming Cereus" has been very satisfactory.

Geraniums.—*S. B.*—Your plants were attacked with some form of blight, the cause of which it is impossible to give. You may never be troubled again in the same manner.

W. J. P. Foote.—Thanks for your kind letter. The editors will gladly accept your proffered kindness.

H. P. Clossen, Esq.—Seeds received. They shall have our best attention, and we will give them a kindly word if their merits warrant it.

One of our correspondents writes us a complimentary letter, in which he says: "Keep THE CABINET free from business, and don't get into ruts; put it in the front rank and make it an authority; go for frauds, and help the right; be independent and hear both sides." This is precisely what THE CABINET is doing. It knows a good thing when it sees it, and will speak of it as it deserves,

without fear or favor. It has no special friends or business relations with the "trade," other than to offer them the best possible advertising medium.

Amaryllis Johnsoni.—*J. E. E.*—Keep your plant growing vigorously as long as it will grow, and when growth ceases, allow it to gradually dry off, and let it remain dormant until it shows signs of growth again; the first sign will undoubtedly be a flower spike.

Salvias.—*Mrs. J. E. Goodser, Jr.*—We cannot say definitely where you can obtain the seeds for which you ask, but think it quite likely they can be obtained from Peter Henderson & Co., New York.

Air Plants.—*T. R. F.*—The subject is too long for this column of our paper, but by referring to the August, 1884, number of THE CABINET, you can get the desired information.

Our Premiums for 1885.

WE would call attention to the unusual variety placed at the disposal of our subscribers to select from, and also to the decided value of each number.

We send, post free, to any subscriber *who requests it at the time of subscribing*, any one of the premiums enumerated below. Thus, if you want the ten packets of flower seeds, request "Premium No. 1;" if you want the beautiful novelty, *Tigridia Grandiflora Alba*, request "Premium No. 4," &c.

FLOWER SEEDS.

PREMIUM NO. 1.—*New Golden Mignonette*.—The best variety of this popular annual.

Hyacinthus Candicans.—New, hardy bulb; flowers the second year from seed.

New Dwarf Petunia.—Last season's novelty, well adapted for ribbon borders.

Prize Balsams.—The best strain under cultivation.

Prize Asters.—Mixed forms and colors.

Improved Zinnia.—A remarkably fine strain.

Gaillardia Picta Lorenziana.—The best hardy annual under cultivation.

Pansy.—Odeir, or Five Blotched and fancy mixed.

Fine Mixed Cannas.—Fine for sub-tropical gardens.

Delphinium.—The perennial flowered or Bee Larkspur.

BULBS.

PREMIUM NO. 2.—Fifty *Gladiolus bulblets*.—Which will flower the second year—all from fine seedlings.

PREMIUM NO. 3.—Ten *Summer-flowering Oxalis*.—Very fine border plants.

PREMIUM NO. 4.—One *Tigridia Grandiflora Alba*.—Pure white, spotted with crimson in centre, gold banded petals. This is one of the most showy and beautiful of all the summer-flowering bulbs.

PREMIUM NO. 5.—One *Bulb* each of *Tigridia Grandiflora* (red) and *Tigridia Conchiflora* (yellow).

PREMIUM NO. 6.—Three *Pearl Tuberoses*.—Flowering bulbs. Remittances to be at our risk must be in post-office orders, bank drafts or registered letter.

NEWSPAPER WAIFS.

—"Your age?" asked the judge. "Thirty-five, your honor," replied the woman. Judge—"But you were thirty-five the last time you were here, three years ago. She—"And does your honor think I'm the woman to say one thing one day and another thing another?"

—A scientific has found that a woman's ear can perceive higher notes than a man's. This is the reason why the woman always wakes up first when the baby cries in the night.—*Burlington Free Press.*

—A hat manufacturer says the size of a man's head is always increased by excitement. We have noticed this, too. It generally occurs, however, the morning after the excitement.—*New York Graphic.*

FRANK SIDDALL'S OPINION.

Frank Siddall's name has become a household word wherever purity in soap is prized and washing-day is robbed of its old-fashioned terrors. By the introduction of the soap which bears his name, he has won a place in the grateful hearts of the women of America. The opinions of a man as shrewd and observant as Mr. Siddall is known to be are well worthy of consideration in forming judgment on a matter into which he has examined. Desiring to learn his views concerning an important question of health, a reporter for the press called upon him at his pleasant home in Philadelphia, and passed an hour with him and his family. To look at Mr. and Mrs. Siddall and their son, nobody would suppose that they had ever been invalids. Yet they have, and all three of them owe their present health to—

Well, let them tell the story.

"No," said Mr. Siddall, "you would hardly think my wife an invalid. Certainly she has not an emaciated or feeble appearance. But some time ago there appeared on her side something which seemed to be a tumor. Two of her relatives had died of cancer, and she feared she was to be a victim of that terrible malady. The tumor, or whatever it was, increased in size and painfulness, and we feared the necessity of a surgeon's knife as a last resort.

"But we tried another method. I had long known of Compound Oxygen. It had never made any impression on my mind until, after a good deal of disbelief, I had tried it for my sick headaches. With close application to a largely increasing business which took my whole time and thought, I had become a martyr to this distressing complaint. It seems strange that such an invisible agent as the gas which is inhaled through a tube could make its impression on that condition of the system which produces sick headache. But it did. After taking the Office Treatment, I found complete rest from brain weariness and entire exemption from the nausea and the harrowing pains which make up that very unpleasant combination known as sick headache. I became an entirely renovated man in my ability to attend to daily business. I had also, for a long series of years, suffered severely from constipation. The Compound Oxygen Treatment completely removed this trouble.

"So we concluded to try Compound Oxygen for Mrs. Siddall. In even the short space of a few days the effect was perceptible. Compound Oxygen was doing its work on the blood. The poison in the circulation, or whatever it was that had caused the growth of the lump, was soon driven out of the system. Most of the hard growth was absorbed into the circulation, and thus carried away. Within four weeks from the time she began to take Compound Oxygen, the lump was gone, and the flesh had healed and become natural and healthy."

"And how as to your son, Mr. Siddall?"

"Well, he is now as hearty as need be, thanks to Compound Oxygen. His blood was impure. For years he was my cashier, with constant duty and heavy responsibility. It wore on him. His appetite was irregular and capricious. There were pimples and blotches on his face, indicative of the condition of his blood. There were dark spots under his eyes, and his general state was such that although he was not laid up in bed as a chronic invalid, there was danger that he would be. We tried him with the

Treatment. Compound Oxygen soon did for him what it had done for his mother and myself. It renewed his blood and gave him a heartier vitality. His skin became soft and natural. His appetite became regular, and his digestion, which of course had been impaired, was restored to its proper condition."

"Then, Mr. Siddall, you have no objection to be quoted as a believer, firm, thorough, and constant, in Compound Oxygen?"

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—"Ah, captain!" said a fresh young man on an ocean steamer; "When you board a vessel where do you get the timber?" "Ugh!" replied the captain, looking him over critically, "we get it out of the log, of course." The f. y. m. went below.—*Merchant Traveler.*

—In all policies of insurance these, among a host of other questions, occur: "Age of father, if living?" "Age of mother, if living?" A man in the country who filled up an application made his father's age, "if living," one hundred and twelve years and his mother's one hundred and two. The agent was amazed at this, and fancied he had secured an excellent customer; but feeling somewhat dubious, he remarked that the applicant came of a very long-lived family. "Oh, you see, sir," replied he, "my parents died many years ago, but, 'if living,' would be aged as there put down." "Exactly—I understand, said the agent.—*San Francisco Argonaut.*

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PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

In this issue of the FLORAL CABINET will be found the timely announcements of the following Florists, Seedsmen and Nurserymen, and we bespeak for each of them the favorable consideration of our readers:

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TO CLUB RAISERS.

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—It was not an Irishman who wrote, "Mr. Blank was a great sufferer, but he never was married." He had the idea, but he didn't express it just as the friends of the deceased would care to have it expressed.

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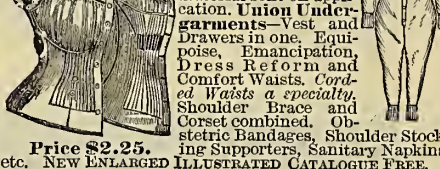
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LADIES'
FLORAL CABINET.

Volume XIV.

MAY, 1885.

No. 5.



BEGONIA LUBBERSI. (See page 141.)

CHOICE HARDY ANNUALS.

THE craze for "bedding plants" has nearly driven from our gardens our old favorites, the hardy annuals, which is to be regretted. We put in a plea for their restoration in our last number. We now give the following list of a few of the most desirable, and would urge their cultivation in preference to more costly and less desirable plants.

Acroclinium.—These "everlastings" are capital border plants. The flowers are extremely useful for winter bouquets, and should be cut just before expanding. Tie them together carefully in small bunches, and hang up in the seed-room or some other dry place. It is a good plan to sow a patch in the reserve ground for cutting purposes. The two most useful are *A. album*, with white flowers, and *A. roseum*, pink.

Calandrinia.—Very beautiful dwarf-growing plants. They need not be restricted to the border, but should be seen on the rockery, and in the small beds in the gardens of amateurs, which are generally spoiled through the want of a little touching up in the way of a bright edging. They flower splendidly in spring if the seed is sown in August, but when wanted for the embellishment of the garden in summer, sow in May. *C. grandiflora*, sometimes known as *discolor*, is the most suitable for small beds, edgings and the rockery. It grows from nine to twelve inches in height, and in summer is smothered with rosy pink flowers. Two other useful kinds, dwarf in habit, are *C. speciosa* and *C. speciosa alba*. The former has purplish flowers and the latter white. It may be useful to mention that they thrive best in a warm, dry position.

Calendula.—The famous old Cape marigolds need no praise, for the showy flowers tell their own tale. It is scarcely necessary to dwell at any length upon their merits, because they are known and appreciated by every one who takes interest in floriculture. *C. officinalis* still sways his sceptre as king of the group, but *C. meteor* is a worthy kind, with brilliant orange flowers: *C. superba* has flowers of the same color as the last-mentioned, but of a deeper shade, and *C. pluvialis* large white blooms. They are not very fastidious, growing in semi-wild places and shrubberies. But of course they attain a higher degree of perfection when sown in open beds. Their floriferous character, combined with a neat habit of growth, adapts them for massing. When this is done they make a striking display.

Calliopsis.—Strong-growing annuals most useful for wide borders. They are very floriferous, and continue a long time in bloom. Sow the seed in May. The most suitable are *C. bicolor grandiflora* and *C. atro-sanguinea*, and they should be sown in patches. The former has yellow flowers with a crimson centre, and the latter maroon. For bedding purposes, *C. nana*, crimson yellow, and *C. nigra nana* are the best. This selection will suffice for a small garden, but those who require more may choose *C. coronatum*, excellent for the border, with flowers remark-

able for their rich colors; *C. Drummondii*, splendid for beds, and *C. Engelmanni*, a real gem, graceful and effective.

Callirhoe.—Very attractive annuals making a blaze of color when sown in patches. The best time to sow the seed is in May, and thin the seedlings out to about four or six inches apart, when they make their appearance. The two most valuable are *C. pedata*, purplish crimson flowers, and *C. nana*, with blooms of a very similar shade to the latter.

Candytuft.—Who does not know the candytufts, which have held the sway longer than almost any annuals under the sun? It is almost superfluous to speak about them, because they are as well known as the old geranium on the window sill. Do not sow the seed thickly, and so spoil the effect, but sow thinly, and have the plants about four inches apart. The most showy are the white, rose and carmine varieties.

Chrysanthemums.—The annual varieties are extremely useful, and should be represented in every garden. The most suitable place for them is the border, but they can have a place in beds. These chrysanthemums thrive best on rather poor soils, and the seed should be sown during this month, thinning the plants out to about six inches apart, but the distance will depend to a great extent upon the character of the soil whether rich or poor. They associate well with the majority of herbaceous plants, and should have a position in the second row of the border. There are several good varieties, but those that have the strongest claims upon the cultivator are *Burridgeanum*, crimson, with white centre; *Atrococcineum*, dazzling scarlet; *Dunnetti*, white, with double flowers of large size; *The Sultan*, maroon, and *Lord Beaconsfield*, also maroon edged with a golden yellow color.

Clarkia.—Make a point of having some of these annuals, for they are pretty, floriferous, and characterized by a fine habit of growth. Those who appreciate double flowers may choose *Purple King* and *Salmon Queen*, two excellent varieties of recent introduction. *C. elegans* and its innumerable varieties offer the cultivator all the colors of the rainbow, and the seed can be readily procured at a cheap rate. The *Tom Thumb* varieties must not be left out, and the varieties of *C. integripetala* are also attractive. The best time to sow is in May, and thin out to about nine inches apart.

Convolvulus.—These are perhaps the most popular of all hardy annuals. The bold highly-finished flowers, made bright by colors of great brilliancy and richness, are seen to great advantage in almost any position in the garden, showing up especially well in the second row of the border. They are not very hardy, so it is advisable to wait until June for sowing the seed. Thin out about four inches apart when sown in beds. There are many fine varieties, but the forms of *C. major* and *C. tricolor* will be found most useful. It will always pay to raise plants of major convolvulus under glass for planting out.

Eschscholtzia.—The bright colors and floriferous character of the "Extinguisher flowers" have brought them well to the front among subjects for the embellishment of the garden. They are most effective associated with other flowers and in masses. Sow the seed early in May, and thin to six inches apart. The most suitable kinds are *E. crocea* and its varieties. A very pretty kind for the rockery is *E. tenuifolia*, with flowers of a light yellow color.

Godetia.—Every garden, even the smallest, should boast of some of the representatives of this lovely group. Sow the seed this month, and thin out the plants to about one foot apart. *G. Duchess of Albany* is exquisitely beautiful, and most effective in beds. Equally valuable is *G. Lady Albemarle*, with brilliant crimson flowers. These two are undoubtedly the finest, but the following are also meritorious: *G. Lady Satin Rose*, of a deep rosy pink, very floriferous; *G. The Bride*, white and carmine; and *G. Princess of Wales*, rich crimson. All the above are of good habit, and should be grown in the border, flower-beds, or in masses.

Gypsophila.—Charming annuals; flowers attractive and very easily grown. Sow the seed in beds, and thin the plants out slightly, but take care not to overdo it, as they are not very vigorous. The best are *G. elegans*, remarkable for its graceful habit, and *G. muralis*, which forms a capital edging subject.

Kaulfussia.—Lovely annuals, neat in habit, and most valuable in small clumps in the front row of the border. Sow the seed early in May, and thin out well, leaving about six plants to a clump. *K. amelloides atrovioleacea* and *K. kermesina* are the best. The former has violet and the latter crimson flowers.

Larkspur.—The famous old delphiniums are so well known as to scarcely need mention. They possess a good habit, and the colors are of the richest description. Some recommend sowing the seed in pans in March, and transplanting when sufficiently large, but if the seed is sown in May the plants will be quite as strong, and flower as early as those sown previously in the pans. The dwarf growing kinds, such as *Stock-flowered*, *Hyacinth-flowered* and *Candelabrum-shaped*, are the most suitable. The tall growing varieties make stately border plants, and their lovely racemes of flowers are of great value for filling vases and indoor decorations generally.

Mignonette.—Sow this in plenty, for the flowers are always appreciable, especially by the ladies. The seed

should be sown in rich soil, and the plants thinned out to about six inches apart. When this is done the plants will be robust and produce sturdy spikes of flowers all through the summer and autumn. *Golden Queen* mignonette is an excellent variety for the open ground.

Nasturtium.—These produce such a blaze of color that they cannot be left out. If sown in masses the effect is gorgeous in the extreme, but they look best perhaps as edgings to borders and beds. Sow the seed at the end of April, and the young plants should be thinned out to about six inches apart. The *Empress of India*, scarlet, and the *Yellow King* and *Tom Thumb* varieties are the best.

Nemophila.—The floriferous character and neat habit of these annuals adapt them for the front lines of borders. Give them a rich friable soil, and they will produce a very pleasing display. For the embellishment of the garden during the summer sow the seed early, and for spring decoration in August. The various forms of *N. insignis* are the most attractive, the blue color of their flowers rivaling those of the gentian.

Peas.—The sweet-peas are so valuable for cut-flowers that they should be grown rather extensively in large gardens. They grow in ordinary soil, and should be sown in rows as early in spring as possible, and supported with sticks as soon as it is necessary. Never allow them to fall out through want of support, as they are sure to be considerably injured, and often their tender stems snap off. It is a good plan to remove the seed-pods as soon as they make an appearance if a long continuance of bloom is the object of the gardener. The *Invincible* varieties are the best, but a good assortment of colors can be obtained from mixed seed saved from a choice strain.

Poppy.—These claim attention for the gorgeous hues of their flowers, and on that account are most effective in masses. They thrive in any soil, and in almost any position. The seed should be sown in April and May, and the young plants thinned out well, as they come up like weeds. The *Double Pæony-flowered* and *Double Carnation* are very desirable. *Papaver umbrosum* is a very showy variety with deep red flowers, marked at the base of each petal with a rich black blotch.

Sanvitalia.—Charming annuals, blooming for a very long time in moderately rich soil. Their neat and dwarf habit adapts them for planting on the rockery, filling flower beds, or edging purposes. The most suitable varieties are *S. procumbens* and *S. procumbens fl. pl.*

FLOWERS FOR A SHADY LAWN.

I GO into a great many front-yards belonging to flower-lovers, who regret that they cannot grow plants successfully on their lawns, or in borders that are shaded by trees. They do not wish to cut down the pleasant shade that secludes them from the passers-by, but, oh! if they only *could* make a few flowers thrive, just enough to brighten the lawn and have now and then a button-hole bouquet without going to the florist for it! If I say a word I am told that they have *tried* all possible ways, have had

fresh earth brought in, and often manure. Well, the soil is no doubt much weakened by the roots of the trees, and because there was no wonderful result the first year, everything was given up in despair. Perhaps the soil is sour and requires to be dug in autumn, and exposed to a winter fallow of frost and wind when the trees are leafless. At any rate, have it deeply dug in spring, not just scratched on the surface, and give it a good dressing of manure to turn in with it. Then you can have a bed of

pansies, that grow large and velvety in the shade, but which wither in too much sunlight. You can plant some bulbs of the Japan lilies, only you must be careful not to let fresh manure touch their roots, as it causes them to decay. A border of nemophila grows well without full sunlight; so does "forget-me-not" and "London pride." Of the latter I remember once seeing a thick border along a shaded walk in a city garden, perfectly pinky white with blossom, in hard, unyielding soil. A bed of fuschias will also do well in the shade, and if one is careful to plant the tall sorts in the centre, and grade down to the edge with the fairy or dwarf sorts, they will certainly have a beautiful and graceful arrangement.

In autumn, when these plants have to be removed to the house, the bed can be filled with spring-blooming bulbs—the centre with hyacinths and tulips, the border with crocuses, and here and there a clump of snowdrops and scillas.

Along the borders can be planted primroses (not "Chinese," but the hardy variety), polyanthus, auriculas, daffodils and violets. In one city garden I know, there is a bed of ferns bordered by curious stones in the middle of the little lawn, and in corner beds there are some of the flowers I have mentioned and a bush of "sweetbriar" and clump of lily-of-the-valley to help make summer fragrant. In a home where children brighten the hours it is worth while giving each one a certain bed or plant to care for. Perhaps at first they may pull them up to find out where the "grow" comes from, but after awhile they will learn to be careful and can be taught to give regular watering and intelligent care. No matter how small the lawn or how bare, it is possible, by enriching the land and giving it a little attention, to bring some beauty into growth and make it amply repay for the outlay of time and money.

ANNIE L. JACK.

HALF-HARDY FOLIAGE PLANTS.

WE may include under this heading all those exotics which, while they flourish out of doors with us during the summer, require the protection of a greenhouse during the winter.

The dracænas are among the very best of this class in beauty and variety. They offer to amateurs the additional advantage of being excellent house-plants, and the specimens with red or bronze leaves contrast most beautifully with the bright green of palms or ferns.

Dracæna draco, or dragon-tree, is a vigorous species from the Canary Islands. In our greenhouses, it is usually seen forming a graceful cluster of glaucous-green leaves, but, as it grows older, it assumes a tree-like form, branched, with a tuft of leaves crowning each division. It is not so graceful in this form as in the younger state. In its native place, this plant attains great height and age: a famous dragon-tree at Teneriffe—now dead—is described by one traveler as "seventy feet high and forty-eight feet in circumference, with an antiquity which must, at least, be greater than that of the Pyramids." The small pale-green flowers form a terminal panicle. It is easily cultivated in sandy loam and requires plenty of pot-room. The resinous gum of this tree was one of the sources of "dragon's blood," so called, a medicament of high repute in olden times, though I believe it is entirely dropped from the modern materia medica.

Dracæna indivisa is another robust and easily grown form. It is a graceful plant, with pendent leaves from two to four feet long, one to two inches broad, pointed, and dark-green in color. Placed outside in the summer the pot may be plunged in the earth, or it may be placed in a vase, where it will be found most effective. *D. indivisa atro-purpurea* is a variety with the midrib and under side of the leaf dark purple. *D. indivisa Veitchii* is shaded with dark red. This plant stands the winter in the South of England and Ireland, but I fear in our climate its days would soon be numbered.

Dracæna terminalis is a stately and beautiful plant,

with richly colored leaves, shading from clear bright-red to bronze. It is tenderer than the foregoing varieties, but is of easy culture, and does well in the garden through the warm weather; it is very desirable as a house-plant, too, but we must warn the cultivator to beware of the greedy and insidious slug, which at the first opportunity will not fail to nibble the edges of the leaves in a very unsightly fashion.

Dracæna Australis is a strong grower, of easy culture, with branching stem and lance-shaped bright-green leaves. It is very robust, growing to a height of from ten to forty feet, though it must be of patriarchal age before it attains the latter figure.

A very graceful thing for the summer garden is the *Papyrus antiquorum*, or Egyptian paper-plant, a reed-like plant which yielded the paper used by the ancient Egyptians. Its rhizomes spread under the mud in which it grows, throwing up stems as it advances. These stems are erect and triangular, from three to eight feet high, leafless except at the top, where there is a spreading umbrella-like tuft of slender filaments. This plant does best in shallow pieces of water in a warm position. When planted in soil it must be constantly watered. It is propagated by dividing the root-stocks.

Phormium tenax, the New Zealand flax, is a large plant, in habit similar to the iris, with shining leathery leaves from three to six feet long. The lemon-colored flowers are borne in loose spikes above the foliage. The variegated form is the handsomer, its great sword-like leaves being thickly striped with yellow. It is a very noticeable plant, impressing one with its distinct character wherever it may be placed. This plant furnishes the textile fibre used by the native New Zealanders in woven mats and cordage, a fibre of extraordinary strength and durability.

The palms offer us a varied choice. Of course we leave out of the question the tender conservatory palms from equatorial regions, but the hardier sorts are equally

graceful after their kind. Perhaps the best known of the hardy palms is *Latania Borbonica*, with large fan-shaped leaves of a lively green, with drooping marginal segments. A plant about two feet high, with its broad, spreading habit, affords a charming spectacle, whether planted in a vase or with its pot plunged into the earth. This plant is admirable for house-culture; the dry air of an ordinary parlor, fatal to so many flowering plants, seems to suit the palm exactly. Under favorable circumstances it attains a height of twenty-five feet. Native of the Isle of Bourbon.

Phœnix dactylifera (date palm) is a handsome palm with a rugged stem and pinnate dark-green leaves, the divisions very pointed, and standing out straight. It is a native of Africa and India.

Seaforthia elegans is as elegant in habit as its name implies. It is a native of Australia, where it grows to a height of thirty feet, but in cultivation it rarely attains its full size. The leaves are from two to ten feet long, divided into numerous narrow leaflets. The whole plant is perfectly smooth and destitute of spines. The young plants are extremely beautiful for table decoration.

The chamædoreas are a family of Mexican palms, having smooth, slender stems like the bamboos, surmounted by tufts of pinnate leaves. They are well fitted for placing among masses of medium-sized plants, above which their graceful heads appear to much advantage. Some of the most ornamental species are *C. elegans*, *C. elatior* and *C. Ernesti-Augusti*.

Chamærops Palmetto is the well-known Palmetto palm of our Southern States. It is a slow grower, but picturesque and hardy. Grown in a tub, like a century plant, it may stand out during the summer, and placed in a cool greenhouse for the winter. It grows to a height of fifteen feet, and has fan-shaped sea-green leaves, divided into long narrow segments. The stem is without prickles.

Chamærops Fortunei is the Chusan palm. It is of short, stout habit, with a profuse network of fibre, like coarsely woven canvas around the bases of the leaves and crown. The segments of the fan-like leaves are broad, the stems short and thick, without spines.

Chamærops excelsa is a handsome species similar to the

above, but taller and more slender; the leaf-stalks are armed with tooth-like spines.

Corypha Australis is a beautiful Australian palm, forming an attractive subject for the subtropical garden from May to October. The leaves are nearly round, of a shining dark green, divided round the edge into narrow segments, and supported by spiny leaf-stalks, from two to ten feet long. It requires abundance of water, and a warm, sunny position.

Areca sapida is a New Zealand palm, with a beautiful crown of bright-green pinnate leaves, which are tinged with bronze when young; the young leaf-stalks are grayish red. It is of easy culture, requiring plenty of water.

We cannot take leave of the palms without mentioning the caryotas, *C. urens* and *C. sobolifera*, which are of light and graceful growth, having a slender stem crowned by a spreading tuft of shining light green bipinnate leaves. They are natives of the East Indies, and require to be potted in a mixture of loam and leaf-mould, with a little sand; water to be supplied liberally during the growing season. They will stand outside from June to October.

Ficus elastica, the india-rubber plant, is too familiar to need description; its simple culture renders it a favorite with amateur gardeners. Its shining leathery leaves and robust growth make it very suitable for mixing with bright-colored masses of flowers or foliage. But the handsomest of all the fine-leaved plants for garden use is the great Abyssinian banana, *Musa ensete*. It attains a height of twenty feet with a stem three feet in diameter. The huge oblong leaves are bright green, with a red midrib; they are nearly erect, and often grow to be ten feet long and two wide. The fruit of this species is not edible like the banana, *Musa paradisiaca*, or plantain, *Musa sapientum*, but its appearance is grand, and the leaves stand the winds with but little laceration, when the foliage of other varieties is often split into shreds. It may be housed through the winter in any greenhouse affording the requisite room, and will bear well the heat and draught of a hall, though its size renders it more suitable for the apartments of Gog and Magog than those of ordinary mortals.

E. L. TAPLIN.

THE IRIS.

"Strowe mee the grounde with Daffadown-Dillies,
And Cowslips and Kingcups, and loved Lillies :

The prettie pawnee,
And the chevisaunce,

Small match with the fayre Flowre Delice."—*Spenser*.

THE iris or fleur-de-lis is one of the commonest and showiest of garden plants, and, fortunately, one of the easiest to grow. As most of us know, it is the emblem of France. Irises are widely distributed throughout the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere, and particularly abound in Mediterranean Europe, the Caucasus, mountains of Turkey and Persia, in Siberia, Japan, Northern China and Northern Africa; and our own

country North and South, East and West, adds considerably to the list of species.

The genus comprises many species, and some of these numerous varieties. Most of the species, for instance the German irises, have fleshy prostrate rhizomes; some, as Kæmpfer's, grow in dense tufts; others, as the Spanish iris, have bulbous roots, and *tuberosa* has small digitate tubers.

The bulbous irises are exceedingly pretty, and some of them, as the Persian and *reticulata*, deliciously fragrant. They also include the earliest bloomers of the genus. In my diary I find *Iris Histrio* came into bloom April 9; *I. Kolpakowskiana*, April 12, and *I. reticulata* and its

variety *Krelagei*, April 16; the Spanish iris (*I. Xiphion*), June 13, and the English iris (*I. xiphoides*), June 23. These I have found to be hardy, but some others of this class the Persian for instance, cannot be recognized as safely hardy. All, with the exception of the last three, namely, Spanish, English, and Persian, hold their own, year after year, as sturdily as the crocus or snow-drop; but the others are apt to deteriorate. All bulbous irises, however, love a sheltered warm, sunny situation,

and a well-drained, light, rich, sandy soil, with a mulching in summer.

Among the irises that grow in tufts, *sanguinea* and the several varieties of *Sibirica* are quite common. They are very hardy, free growers, copious bloomers, have long narrow leaves in sheaf-like bunches and comparatively small flowers. They blossom in June and are in their perfection about the 10th. The clumps should be lifted and divided into two or more parts, every second or



SEEDLING JAPAN IRIS (*I. Kämpferi*.)

third year. Feed them well. The flowers of *sanguinea* do not rise so high above the foliage as do those of the Siberian irises.

Iris lævigata, indigenous to Eastern Siberia, China and Japan, is another strong-growing, tufted species, and the parent of Kæmpfer's irises. It has handsome deep plum-purple flowers that appear about the middle or end of June, some two weeks sooner than its magnificent varieties.

Kæmpfer's irises are the most gorgeous of the iris family, and fortunately hardy, robust and copious bloomers. Their flowers are flat, fully four to six inches across, some single and others double, and of many shades of color from the purest white to the deepest purple, violet and plum, and pencilled, striped and marbled. It revels in rich, moist ground. Although the plants thrive well in sunny places, warm sunshine destroys the flowers, and it is best to grow them where they can be shaded a little on the south and west sides. If they are in vigorous growth and forming large clumps, lift, divide and replant them every second or third year; but do not do so to all of them in one season; rather lift some this year and some next year, and thus keep up a stock of young plants and vigorous blooming clumps. Kæmpfer's irises grow readily from seeds, and seedlings should bear some flowers when two years old.

Among the other commoner irises we have many beautiful garden flowers. *Iris pumila* is the little one we find in bloom from the first to the middle of May, and there are many varieties of it; some have blue, and others violet, purple, yellow, straw or white colored flowers. The ground iris (*I. chamæiris*), dark purple; our crested iris (*I. cristata*), from the Alleghanies, blue; and slender dwarf iris (*I. verna*), violet blue, from the hillsides of the South, are likewise very small species, and come into blossom about the middle of May. These little plants are well suited for clumps in the borders or edgings to beds or borders. They spread by surface rhizomes, and the crested iris, especially, spreads widely. The dingy iris (*I. lurida*), brownish flowers, is not so pretty as some of the

others, but worthy of a place in our gardens, because of its earliness, the middle of May. Thunberg's iris (*I. ensata*), pale blue, blossomed with me about the 20th of May, and *I. tenax*, lilac flowers and slender leaves, May 25.

About the end of May and first of June the beautiful and fragrant white Florentine iris is in perfection; so, too, are *I. nudicaulis*, with violet-purple flowers; Gueldentædt's iris, white and yellow; variegated iris, yellowish, and the numerous varieties of German irises so common in most all gardens. At the same time, our larger blue flag is becoming abundant in our swamps and meadows.

Immediately succeeding these, and in perfection during the second and third weeks of June, are a great many vigorous, showy irises that will grow and blossom freely in any common garden soil. These include: *I. pallida*, pale violet-purple, grand; *I. plicata*, streaked, white and purple; *I. neglecta*, purple-blue, veined with purple-red; *I. sambucina*, smoky purple and yellowish; *I. squalens* not unlike the last; *I. Sibirica*, in variety from lilac blue to whitish, and *I. sanguinea*, deep plum-purple; *I. flavescens*, pale yellow; *I. graminea*, lilac-purple, with grass-like leaves; *I. setosa*, resembles *I. Sibirica*, but is more showy; *I. tenax*, lilac-purple, keeps in bloom a long time, rather scarce; *I. Virginica*, our wild slender blue iris; *I. lacustris*, Lake Michigan blue iris.

From early in June and lasting into July the common yellow flag (*I. pseud-acorus*, of Europe blooms with equal freedom in our borders or on the sides of ponds, but it is apt to become a pest, as seedlings from it come up so freely.

Toward the end of June we have the tall *I. Monnieri*, with lemon-colored flowers; *I. ochroleuca*, yellow and white; *I. spuria*, lilac; the Spanish iris; *I. lævigata*; and the English iris. Although they may have been in bloom some weeks, on the first of July we will yet find the slender blue and larger blue-flags blooming in our swamps. The English iris and Kæmpfer's gorgeous varieties usher in July.

I have grown all of the above, and know them to be well suited for cultivation in our gardens.

WILLIAM FALCONER.

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM.

IN our childhood days chrysanthemums, then known as artemisias, were grown in every garden. We greatly admired those old plants because they prolonged the season of flowers, and their dull, dusky colors were a cheerful contrast to surrounding nature in a country where at that time the golden rod had no habitation. Humble as were the chrysanthemums of that day, they kept alive the love of the beautiful until progress and development have given us the chrysanthemum of to-day, a flower that has kept pace with the improvements in the arts, sciences and intellectual development of the past forty years. The chrysanthemum is no longer simply tolerated and admired, it has become a necessity in nearly every garden.

We promised in our last number to give full cultural instructions for the chrysanthemum, and we do not know

of any better way of keeping our promise than by quoting the following from an admirable lecture on this subject by John Thorpe. In all gardening operations the wisest plan is to closely imitate those who are the most successful, and the instruction here given is particularly valuable just now, as the time for selection and planting is at hand.

"Many are desirous of having large flowers, and would be glad to have such as are often seen on the exhibition table. With this end in view, time and attention *must* be given, and there must be a sacrifice in quantity—the plants must not be pinched as often, consequently there will not be as many shoots, and they will be taller and not nearly as bushy. Some of our plants have been five feet high, with eight shoots and not more than twenty flowers on each plant, this being a very liberal number. Where the

very largest flowers are obtained, only *one flower to each shoot* is allowed; all side shoots and buds are rubbed or pinched out with thumb and finger, except those selected for flowering; the side shoots are pinched out from time to time, and the small flower buds are removed as soon as they are as large as radish seed, which is during the latter part of August and September. The plants are watered with manure water, and always well cared for, protected, and treated as the standards.

"For out-door culture, set out during May, in a good open spot, on rich ground, as many plants as you desire. Put them not less than from two and a half to three feet apart, giving the treatment just described. There is no better place than a good vegetable garden to plant them. Don't let them lack for nourishment. At any time before the end of September decide on some spot, according to the quantity of plants, where a bed can be planned; carefully dig up the tallest plants first, placing them in line, so that there is just room for daylight between them, and dividing the number of plants into equal parts so that they may be arranged about four feet deep, with the tallest at the back, the shortest ones in front. Of course all the soil must be kept on, as far as possible, and they must be firmly planted and well watered. Four posts are to be set in the ground, two at each end. Let each post be two feet taller than the plants—this will give you the tallest at the back. Nail an inch board, four to six inches wide, edgewise all around, the edges to be flush with the pitch of the posts. A board should also be nailed on edge at bottom on surface of the ground. If the bed is longer than ten feet, more posts will be required as supports. On the side and at both ends, tack a roll of canvas, cloth, muslin or any material that will simply protect the flowers from cutting winds. Cover the top, which will be on a slope, with the same material, nailing it at the upper side and attaching it to a roller, so that it can be easily let down and taken up. This should be let down on the approach of the first cold snap—which is generally early in October, and which lasts only one or two nights—and on cold nights and very stormy days afterward the plants should be kept covered. As a matter of course, provision will be made to securely tie the canvas in case of high winds. We have not given any dimensions as to the size; that can best be determined according to the number of plants. We can, however, tell our friends that they will be delighted with the experiment; that the flowers

will be nearly equal to those opened in the greenhouses, and that the canvas cover will be sufficient to keep them from being injured by the frost, and will serve the same purpose many years.

WHAT CHRYSANTHEMUMS DO LIKE:

To be planted firmly, in rich soil;
Plenty to eat, and
Plenty to drink;
To have at least four or five hours' sunshine a day;
To be mulched after July 1, with grass or manure;
To be well soaked with water or weak manure-water often from August to October;
To be divided every year;
To be tied up so as not to be broken by the wind;
To be protected from severe frosts when in flower.

WHAT CHRYSANTHEMUMS DON'T LIKE:

To be planted loosely, in poor soil;
To be planted beneath the shade of trees, where there is no nourishment;
To be starved;
To be dry;
To be smothered all summer by vines or other plants;
To be left for years without dividing;
To be placed where the sun never shines on them;
To be blown over by the wind;
To be severely frozen when coming in flower;
To be in hot, dry and gassy rooms.

"We regret to know that, with all the information so easily obtained, there are yet many people who do not understand even that plants of all kinds *must* have some consideration and have at least a chance to live before they can be expected to flower. We frequently—almost daily—hear the following: 'Well, I am disappointed! I bought so many of this and so many of that, but they did not do well—how is it?' During our late home exhibition of chrysanthemums, a lady from a long distance went into ecstasies over them, but sadly remarked that she had obtained nearly all of our expensive and new varieties last spring, and had scarcely had a single one blossom. On inquiry, we found they had all been planted in a bed immediately under some large peach-trees where the ground was already too much occupied, where the sun never smiled on them, and where they never had a drop of water during the very dry August and September. In truth, they were actually starved to death."

SOME CAPE BULBS.

THE interest taken in the cultivation of freesias during the past three or four years has brought about the collection of other Cape bulbs, among which there are many desirable varieties. Comparing with and perhaps surpassing the freesias in beauty are babianas, ixias and sparaxis.

The treatment required for all varieties is so simple that it is strange that they are not more frequently grown as window plants, for which they are well adapted. They should be potted early in the fall, October at the latest, in

soil that is light and sandy. A pot four inches in diameter is large enough for six bulbs; good drainage should be provided and care taken that the bulbs are not kept too wet before they are well rooted, or they will decay. This applies to nearly all Cape bulbs, especially to the corm-like, or, for comparison, bulbs having the same form as the gladiolus. A temperature of sixty degrees is warm enough for them; they are not subject to insect depredations and can be easily kept over from spring to autumn in a dry cupboard or closet. Every year they form new bulbs.

The freesias scarcely require any further description, as they were illustrated and described in a recent number of THE FLORAL CABINET.

The babianas have slightly woolly foliage and showy spikes of brilliant sweet-scented flowers. The ixias, with their erect wire-like stems, are most elegant; the flowers, being one inch in diameter, are star-shaped, with very symmetrical outlines; six petals formed exactly alike, widely opened, displaying a very marked centre or ring. The colors are of all shades of yellow, pink, red and pure white. The most remarkable of all in the group is *I. veridiflora*, with brilliant metallic green flowers, and should be in every collection. The sparaxis have cup or

salver-shaped flowers in spreading racemes, often six or more flowers opening at the same time; the deep maroon shades, with gold centres, are among the most beautiful. Other combinations are red-margined petals with blotches of pure white in each petal and white centres. There are also white-mottled flowers of distinct character. The enjoyment afforded by these beautiful plants will surely repay the little trouble that is required to cultivate them, and every lover of flowers should not neglect having some of these little gems in his collection of house-plants, and if they are grown according to the instructions given, they will be fully appreciated.

M. THORPE.

GOOD WINDOW PLANTS.

THERE is a great similarity in plant-windows. If you visit a friend who keeps plants, she has about the same collection that another friend has, and so on. If you pass along the street and look at the windows where plants are kept, you see almost the same variety over and over again, geraniums, petunias, heliotropes, fuchsias, callas lilies, an oxalis, now and then a carnation pink, a few begonias, a coleus or two, and sometimes an abutilon, or primrose make up the general variety.

Now, these plants are all good, and if rightly managed will be a source of pleasure all winter; but there are other plants just as easily managed, that are not as frequently seen as those just mentioned. The genista is a small bushy plant, with neat foliage and small pea-shaped bright yellow flowers, that are fragrant; it will bloom nearly all winter; likes a warm sunny window and moderately rich compost; can be started in the spring and grown through the summer, or bought already grown in the fall. A pretty contrast in color to this plant, is an ageratum called John Douglass; a pretty dwarf plant, with lavender blue flowers; and if grown from a cutting started in July, it will make a good-sized plant, and bloom profusely all winter; every shoot that comes out being crowned with clusters of blossoms; it can be grown from seed very easily, but cuttings make the best shaped plants.

Habrothamnus elegans makes a fine window-plant if prepared the summer before; it needs to be set in the ground, or have the pot containing the plant sunk in the ground, and grown through the summer; the ends of the branches should be pinched back to make them bushy; bring in when the nights grow cool and place in a warm window. It is a native of South America, so it needs heat and sun. The flowers grow in clusters, and are light crimson in color.

The bouvardias do well with the same treatment, only they need a little more pinching to make them grow bushy, for the more branches you have the more flowers can be obtained. The browallia makes a nice window

plant, if started from seed or cuttings in July; pinch the top when six inches high to induce it to throw out side shoots, and it will bloom most of the winter; the small flowers are "true blue," a rare color in winter-flowering plants.

The calendula, "Meteor," although an annual, makes a gay window plant. The true "Meteor" has very double flowers of orange regularly striped with creamy yellow, or the other way; sometimes I am at a loss to tell which is the color and which is the stripe, as they vary on different plants. They can be propagated by cuttings, which root easily in wet sand and should be started in August; or seeds can be sown at that time; in the latter case, they may prove like the parent plant and they may not. Out of a dozen plants which I have raised from seed, no two are just alike; some are the most intense orange, some of palest yellow; some are double to the centre, others show centres of dark-brown, medium-orange and light. They have been full of bloom all winter, and show no sign of stopping. Each plant should have a six-inch pot, and a good compost to grow in. *Chrysanthemum frutescens*, or French Marguerite, as it is sometimes called, makes a good window plant. It is a profuse bloomer all winter, has pretty foliage, and the snow-white flowers look like refined daisies. It can be grown from a cutting in July and makes a good-sized plant by cold weather. In the spring it can be turned out of the pot into the garden to grow through the summer; and when taken into the house again it will be a large bush, with a hard, woody stem and a great many flowers.

The cyclamen make the finest of window plants. The foliage of all varieties is pretty, and some have very handsome leaves; the flowers are very odd-looking, of different shades of crimson and white.

A good-sized plant will have from thirty to fifty flowers, and they retain their beauty a long time. They are easily grown from seed, and if well grown will bloom in a year or less from the time of sowing. M. J. PLUMSTEAD.

How much on woman does the world depend
To gain at length a blest, a glorious end;
All dear in love, in friendship and in home,
In woman's heart find a most sacred throne.

'Tis hers to plant along life's pathway flowers,
Restore the long-lost charms of Eden's bowers,
Entice to virtue, all temptation spurn,
And make earth's first and holiest scenes return. H. F.

A FEW NOTES ABOUT WINDOW PLANTS.

IN determining the probable relation of house plants to health, we must consider (1) Is the plant itself healthy?—not necessarily growing or casting leaves, but is it either sickly in part or the whole? If it be, it is unhealthy. Only thoroughly healthy plants contribute oxygen and take up carbon gases. (2) Are the plants infested with insects? If so, this is an indication of disease in the plant. Besides, although the bugs are scavengers, and in the long-run will destroy vegetable poison, yet, while at their work they make disease more deathly. A plant infested with scale bugs or aphids is not capable of performing natural functions. (3) Is the soil in which the plants grow composed of poisonous materials? Clean sand, old sod, well-decayed muck or peat, with charcoal, or ordinary garden soil will do no damage. But I have seen pots filled with half-decayed swamp soil or vegetable refuse that was as poisonous as a swamp, and the alternation of drying and wetting brings out to the fullest the injurious exhalations. (4) Are the plants, or a part of them, standing in water that is allowed to accumulate or remain until putrid, and thus breed damaging spores of mildew? From working with my head often in a large Waltonian case I was attacked with vegetable parasites on my cheek. Water should not stand in saucers for any

length of time. (5) There are plants that bear an injurious relation to us under all circumstances as others naturally are our family doctors. I am inclined to think the sense of smell is our best guide in this matter. I don't want any of the solanums in my conservatory. Hyacinths, just as soon as they begin to decay, are better cut and removed. A rose is always sweet and healthy in death or in life. Heliotropes are our friends. We have undoubtedly individual idiosyncrasies in this matter; to me a plant or flower may be very helpful, when to my wife it is not. Balsams are generally injurious, while the little *gilia* will cure a headache for me. Plants have atmospheres about them, and so have we; and these sometimes accord and sometimes do not. Some people kill plants by their presence as much as some plants kill people.

On the whole, good, healthy plants that are agreeable to us are advantageous to us. They are really a winter necessity, not only to cheer and enliven us, but to furnish ozone. As plants are generally grown, however, not much can be said for them, poor things! Put them out of their misery! I prefer to have my conservatory given up largely to forcing such shrubs as *deutzias* and *lilacs*. These in midwinter, brought on in succession, are far better than *hyacinths* and *callas*. E. P. POWELL.

THE 'CINERARIA.

THIS gay and interesting spring flowering plant, so long a favorite in the Old World, is now becoming quite popular in this country, and from the specimens shown at the various horticultural societies, we should think perfection in cultivation had been reached. It is but a few years since the first really good plants were shown at our exhibitions, and not until the last year have we seen such magnificent specimens as Mr. Barr, of Orange, N. J., is now producing, and exhibiting at the meeting of the New York Horticultural Society. Ten years ago, trusses of flowers six inches in diameter were considered something extraordinary; now, we frequently see trusses eighteen inches in diameter, absolutely perfect in outline. There has also been quite as great an improvement in the colors as in the size of the flowers. And it is their intense colors and markings that make them so valuable for cut-flowers. We are indebted to the *cineraria* for a color that is exceedingly rare—that is, blue in its various shades, from the lightest to the darkest. Besides blue there are reds in all shades, selfs of blue and red, and white grounds tipped with red, blue or crimson, and some which are nearly white. From their diversity of color and free flowering habit, the *cinerarias* may be justly classed among the most useful flowering plants that we possess.

The *cineraria* is an easy subject to manage, and can be successfully and profitably grown where many other plants

would entirely fail. The very conditions that are necessary for success with this would be fatal to many of our popular flowering plants. Its requirements are low temperature, a moist atmosphere, and but little sun. In a light, dry situation it is subject to attacks from aphids, which, if left undisturbed, soon do irreparable injury. So liable is it to attacks from these insects that, unless continuous watchfulness is exercised, the aphides are sure to get established upon them, after which the leaves never have a healthy appearance, and without clean foliage to contrast with the flowers, the plant has really no beauty.

Cinerarias differ materially from most plants in not being able to bear anything approaching a dry atmosphere; if submitted to such a condition, the influences are even worse than when soft-wooded plants are kept in the opposite condition, too wet; consequently, *cinerarias* should never be introduced into the living-room—or, in fact, into the dwelling-house at all; neither should they have a dry place in the greenhouse, especially in houses where much air is admitted near the plants. They like plenty of air, but it should not be given in a way to come in a current directly through them. Neither should they be subjected to so much sun as most plants enjoy, for their soft, watery growth is not able to bear the consequent evaporation, which in a short time gives them a rusty brown appearance. They will flower more or less all the year, but it is in the winter and through the spring



DOUBLE-FLOWERING CINERARIA.

months that they are in season, and in the latter they are capable of being bloomed in the greatest profusion. Their exceedingly bright colors make them useful conservatory decorative plants, and for natural arrangement of cut-flowers, they have but few equals. At one time good forms of pleasing colors were comparatively scarce, and the best kinds were named and propagated from root-suckers taken off and placed singly in small pots; these, when shaded, well supplied with moisture and kept a little close, soon got established. Now, when there is so much general improvement, the usual method is to raise the plants annually from seeds and to throw away, as soon as they are done flowering, all except the very best specimens, which should be allowed to mature their seed.

The cineraria is not easily forced, therefore the seeds should be sown sufficiently early for the plants to get large enough and well matured, so that they may flower naturally, without being hurried. The seeds should be sown from the first of April to the first of June, in order to keep up a succession of good flowering plants. Sow in well-drained pans. The soil should be good free loam and leaf-mould, of which these plants are particularly fond, with a slight mixture of fine sand; fill the pans within an inch of the rim, pressing it moderately firm; water with a rose so as to settle the whole, and sow the

seeds thinly, in order that the young plants may have sufficient room to prevent their roots from getting crowded, in which case they are liable to injury in transplanting; cover the seeds thinly with light soil, and press the surface firm. Place the pans where the sun will not come upon them, and do not water more than is requisite before the plants are up. After they have vegetated keep moderately moist and put them where they will get plenty of light but little sun; when large enough to handle, prick them out in pans or pots filled with soil similar to that in which they were sown, excepting that now sand may be dispensed with. When the seedlings have grown so as to touch each other they should be placed singly in four-inch pots, using such soil as that in which they were pricked out, as there is none more suitable to the succeeding stages of their growth. They should now be moved into shallow frames facing the north, and if on the shady side of a building, so much the better. If the frames are so situated that the sun in the middle of the day shines upon the plants, they must be slightly shaded. Give plenty of air, and from their first appearance above ground never allow them to get dry. When the pots get filled with roots, larger ones must at once be substituted; if this is delayed until the plants are at all stunted, or form flower-stems, very little good will be effected by giving more room, as they will not increase much in size afterward. For most purposes six-inch pots are large enough, if the plants are well attended to and liberally supplied with manure-water as their blooming-pots get filled with roots. Pot moderately firm, place them again in a similar situation, and all they will require during the remainder of the summer will be to keep them regularly attended to with water, air, and, as heretofore, shaded slightly from the mid-day sun, the bed of ashes on



PERFECTION CINERARIA IN FULL FLOWER.

which they should stand being in hot weather always kept damp, the moisture thus provided just suits their special requirements. As the autumn advances, and there is danger from frost, remove the plants to a partially shaded house where they can have a little heat, when there is any risk of their being frozen. They should even, when the weather begins to get cool, remain on a moist bottom. If set on shelves, an inch of sphagnum placed under them and kept damp will be beneficial. As soon as they show signs of forming their flower-stems give manure-water at every alternate watering, but do not allow it to touch the leaves; this will give strength and much increase the quantity of flowers they produce. The first sown will come into flower nicely by Christmas in a temperature of from 40° to 45° at night, with a little more warmth in the day.

The double-flowering cineraria is a novelty of recent introduction. The blossoms are about one inch across, perfectly double, and form quite a rosette. The colors represent bright magenta, bluish-purple shaded with violet, white tipped with violet, deep purple, and white heavily tipped with purple. The same improvement that is noticed in the single varieties is strongly marked in the double forms. One of the peculiarities of the double cineraria is its long continuance in bloom, the individual flowers lasting much longer than the single ones. This fact, together with their great attractiveness, must make them general favorites. The double cinerarias were first raised by Messrs. Haage & Schmidt, Erfurt, Prussia, more than fifteen years ago, showing that really good things are not always appreciated.

ROSE GOSSIP.

HOW to keep monthly roses in a dormant condition over winter is an interesting question, and may be answered in various ways. I can offer the following experience, and have reason to be well pleased with the plan: A few years ago I procured from our village tinsmith a dozen baskets made of strips of sheet-iron about one and a half inches wide. When finished, they had the appearance of rough hanging baskets, and cost very little—not more than ten cents each. They were then sunk in the rose-bed, filled with rich earth, and in each one a monthly rose was planted. The roses grew as vigorously as if in open ground, and in the fall I was able to take them up without disturbing the roots to any injurious extent. To keep them over the winter was then the question, and having no suitable place, I decided to have a pit dug in the garden for them. A dry spot was chosen on which water would not be likely to lie, and a pit four and a half feet deep was made. In November the roses were taken up and placed in the bottom of the pit, and the space above them filled with evergreen branches, and over all was placed a covering of boards. I then waited until winter gave certain evidences of setting in, when a foot or so of earth as a finishing touch was thrown over the boards. As it was an experiment, I removed the covering the following spring with many misgivings, but to my great gratification found my roses in excellent condition, safe and sound, with tender shoots already starting. I have since tried the same method each succeeding winter, and now have plants four and five years old, large and bushy—in fact, equal in size to many of my hybrid remontants. With such plants one is sure of having beautiful roses in profusion continuously throughout the summer, instead of the fitful, uncertain bloom and scraggy flowers of the young plants of one season's growth.

The new roses of 1884-85 do not quite equal in number those of the preceding year, about seventy-five being offered, the French growers, as usual, furnishing the major portion of the novelties. The experience gained from former years assures us that a rigid application of the

famous doctrine, "the survival of the fittest," will eventually reduce the number to very modest proportions. Could implicit faith be placed in the glowing descriptions given, we might then congratulate ourselves that at least a few stars of the first magnitude had made their appearance; such, for instance, as Gloire Lyonnaise, a yellow hybrid remontant, a color in that class which rosarians have struggled for years to produce, and for whose advent longing amateurs have sighed in vain. Another novelty in the most complete sense of the word, should its marvelous qualities bear out the description, is Lusiadas, a wonderful hybrid noisette, grown by Da Costa, of Lisbon. The flower is said to be large and full, of perfect form and superb bearing, the color chrome or golden yellow spotted with crimson, plant bushy, very vigorous and remarkably free blooming. The coloring is certainly unique, and I think the same may be said of the price, which is \$10 per plant. A new class is inaugurated by the production of Pride of Reigate, the first striped hybrid remontant. The three foregoing roses are the most strikingly original of the new sorts, and it is devoutly to be hoped that the bright anticipations to which their promises give rise may be fully realized, but time alone will tell.

Among the new French roses a very promising sort may be noted, Madame Massicault, a seedling from Baronne de Rothschild, raised by Schwartz, of Lyons. If it resembles the plate given in the October number of the *Journal des Roses*, it is a lovely flower indeed, and will prove a dangerous rival to the well-nigh peerless Baronne, to which it bears considerable resemblance in form, color and habit. It is a true perpetual, producing solitary flowers.

Levegne sends out six hybrid remontants, one of which, Princess Amélie d'Orléans, is a lovely clear flesh-colored flower—large, globular, and of exquisite form. Pernet, the producer of Merveille de Lyon, offers two novelties, a Bourbon, Mlle. Berger, and Baronne Nathaniel de Rothschild, a hybrid remontant. It is unfortunate that he should have chosen a name for the latter so closely resembling that of the well-known Baronne de Rothschild,

for confusion will inevitably follow, particularly as both are light-colored roses; so that in future confiding amateurs may expect to receive the former whenever they order and are extremely anxious to procure the last-mentioned rose.

Nabonnaud, of Golfe-Juan, a most prolific rosarian, has confined himself to eight varieties this year—seven teas and a noisette; the latter medium in size, very full, bright rose centre margined with pale rose, and of climbing habit. Dubreuil sends out two sorts, both of which received first-class premiums at the Lyons Exhibition in June last. A hybrid remontant, Admiral Courbet, bright carmine with magenta shadings, extremely fragrant; Madame Jean Sisley, a Bengal, flower large and very double, clear white, and the buds long and finely shaped—a plant valuable for pot-culture and for cutting, on account of its beautiful buds.

Souper & Notting, of Luxembourg, offer three novelties. Princesse Julie d'Arenburg, a tea, seems full of promise and may take high rank among yellow roses. The flower is cup-shaped, clear yellow, shaded with deeper yellow. Eugène Verdier presents eight varieties, all hybrid remontants, and Charles Verdier four in the same class. Nearly all the leading growers are represented by one or more new flowers, but space will not permit mention in detail.

Of new English roses, Laxton, of Bedford, offers two hybrid remontants: Gipsy, a vigorous free-blooming plant, with medium-sized, full, light-red flowers; Bedford Belle, a tea, having for parents Gloire de Dijon and Souvenir du Comte de Cavour. The flower is very double, of good form and opening well. It blooms continuously throughout the season, producing very lovely flowers somewhat resembling La France—color, marbled rose. Writing of the rose, Madame Oswald de Kerchove, Mr. Frettingham, an English rosarian, says that it is the most thoroughly perpetual white rose we have, blooming, as it does, at every point. It is even much freer than the well-known La France, to which it is similar in growth, not more than two feet in height, and literally a sheet of snow, owing to the freedom with which its lovely white blooms are produced. This rose is usually classed as a hybrid remontant, though in reality it is a hybrid noisette.

The delicious odor of the damask and other old-fashioned roses has accustomed us to expect and exact this admirable quality from all the descendants of this ancient and royal family. Therefore, to many persons, especially the older generation, a scentless rose loses all power of attraction, no matter how lovely its form or how brilliant its coloring may be. For those to whom fragrance is indispensable, we can recommend Ulrich Brunner, a hybrid remontant of last year, as being one of the most highly scented roses of its class. In addition to this may be noted that, like its parent Paul Neyron, it produces enormous flowers of magnificent petal and pleasing color, a cherry red. It was awarded a certificate from the Royal Botanic Society of London in May last.

"Etendard de Jeanne d'Arc" has won golden opinions the past season in England, and is remarkable for its freedom of bloom and perpetual flowering character. The flowers are finely shaped and extremely handsome when

well expanded. It received a first-class certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society and a similar distinction from the Royal Botanic. The color is creamy white, slightly tinged with pink.

Messrs. Veitch & Sons have introduced "Rose Button," a charming novelty, in the shape of a diminutive rose of the species *Rosa lucida*, now quite rare. The flowers are described as being small and very double like those of a miniature balsam, the color deep rose inclining to purple; very fine and effective.

As the pretensions of Gloire Lyonnaise have been disputed, there may be doubts as to our having a decidedly genuine yellow hybrid remontant, yet it seems sufficiently clear that, at least, we have a striped rose of that class. Messrs. Paul & Sons, of the Cheshunt Nurseries, announce the advent of the "Pride of Reigate," the first striped hybrid remontant.

It is a sport from Comtesse d'Oxford, color light crimson, charmingly striped with white, and is said to be constant, novel and of as good shape as its parent. The same firm announces two others in the same class, "Longfellow," rich violet crimson, form of Charles Lefebvre; indeed, it may be called a violet form of this rose, but of strong, vigorous habit. The other is called "Madame Norman Nevada," a new flower of the Beauty of Waltham class, but a lighter cherry carmine, perfect form, very vigorous, and a good autumnal blossomer. The *Gardener's Magazine* recommends Blanche Moreau, white, and Madame Moreau, red, as two of the most useful moss hybrid remontants, being really perpetual in habit, a quality that can be ascribed to few that are classed with them.

The *Rosarians' Year Book* contains a very entertaining account of a trip to Madeira and the Azores. The writer, A. H. Gray, is evidently an ardent lover of the rose, and a laudable desire to note the bearing of his favorite in those genial climes was the motive of the voyage. His curiosity was well rewarded, for he saw marvelous sights in the way of rose-trees; veritable trees, both at the Azores and at Lisbon. Touching at the latter place on his way out, he was there shown a Chromatella twenty years old and thirty feet high, with a trunk of the thickness of a man's thigh, and a specimen of Marie Van Houtte twenty-seven feet in height.

A valuable publication, attractive and full of interest to all rose amateurs, has been issued by the National Rose Society of England. It is a second and revised edition of its descriptive catalogue of exhibition roses, to which is appended a catalogue of garden roses. The list is a tabulated one, and gives the name, date, raisers' name, form, color, habit, and remarks on each admitted sort; and when any two or more varieties are considered identical their names are bracketed together. A similar work has been published by Ketten Frères, of Luxembourg, but with more ample details and a different classification, which is by colors. A complete alphabetical list enumerating all the varieties described, about 1,400, is added to the catalogue. Still another work of the same nature is in preparation by French rosarians, which is to surpass in scope and comprehensiveness all preceding publications. It is to be a complete dictionary of the rose, and, in ad-

dition to the information furnished by similar works, will give an exact description of the plant, the color of the flower, its tendency to bloom early or late, its forcing qualities, and precise details of the origin of each variety. A novel feature, showing how thoroughly the work is to be done, is in the fact that biographical sketches of the

persons in whose honor the roses have been named are to be given, and the motives which led rosarians to bestow other names than those of individuals upon their flowers. A list of all known roses, about 6,000, will be described. Such a work cannot fail to meet a warm welcome on its appearance.

F. LANCE.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

The Beet.

THE beet is generally considered to be one of the principal and most desirable of our garden vegetables, and is perhaps the most valued when grown as an early crop; for the young plants can be prepared for the table in a manner similar to spinach, as soon as they reach a few inches in height, and this use can be continued until the roots are as large as radishes; but after this the roots only should be used. The beet does best in a light loamy soil, although any other will answer almost as well if properly prepared, but for the earliest crop one should choose the warmest and most sheltered situation at command.

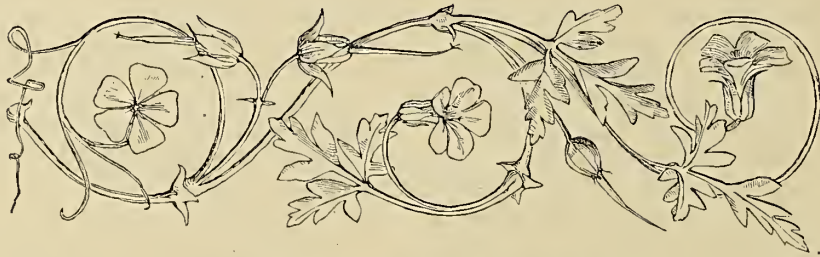
The ground should be prepared by giving it a good dressing of well decayed stable manure, and this should be thoroughly and deeply incorporated with the soil, and then a thorough harrowing given, until the ground is as finely pulverized as possible. On a limited scale all of this preparatory work can be performed by means of the fork and rake.

All preparatory work should be done as early in the season as possible. The seed can be sown in drills about two inches in depth, the rows being from twelve to fifteen

inches apart. As soon as the plants are well up and large enough to use for greens they should be gradually thinned out until they stand from four to six inches apart. But where the roots only are desired for use, a portion should be well thinned out as soon as they are large enough to handle. Keeping the crop well hoed and free from weeds at all times will prevent the plants from becoming checked in growth, and thus prevent the roots from becoming tough and inferior in quality. In order to maintain a succession of tender roots, several successive sowings are necessary, the first being made about the first week in April and after this every three weeks until the first of July.

The best varieties for amateur cultivators are the Egyptian Turnip, Blood Turnip and Bassano, the Egyptian being the earliest. The roots of this variety are of a deep crimson color, and it has a very small top. The Bassano is quite a favorite with many on account of its roots being so tender and juicy; in color it is white and rose. The tops of this variety are superior to all others for greens. The Blood Turnip is too well known to require a description, and is some ten or twelve days later than the Bassano.

CHAS. E. PARNELL.



A SUDDEN CURE.

WHEN Mrs. Deming bought a pretty cottage in the quiet academical village of St. Botolph's, and established herself there with her only child, Kitty, it was with the avowed purpose of educating that young lady, who was then in her sixteenth year. But when they were well settled in their new home and Kitty had entered the Academy, the loneliness of the situation became apparent. Mrs. Deming in her husband's lifetime had been accustomed to many household cares and to the diversions and excitements of city life. Kitty was merry, wide-awake, and mischievous. A household of two furnished little

vent for the energies of either; but in a small village whose only centre of business is an academy, one's household can only be increased by taking lodgers or boarders. So Mrs. Deming received into her family two students, to whom, besides mere board and lodging, she gave all the privileges of a genuine home.

Of these students one was a Southerner, Ralph Mortimer by name. He had dark hair and eyes, a dark mustache, and a sallow complexion; he was not handsome, but had a distinguished look which gained for him a certain prestige among the young ladies. The Northern

climate was unfavorable to him, and he was afflicted with rheumatism, which caused him to limp painfully and to require the assistance of a cane. The other boarder, Charlie Edgars, was a Vermont boy; a good-tempered, good-looking young fellow, whom the fun-loving Kitty delighted in introducing on every possible occasion as "a Vermont young man," in much the same tone as if she had been recommending Vermont butter or Vermont maple sugar, until the poor fellow was tempted to anathematize his native State for the boasted superiority of its productions.

Miss Kitty found it very convenient to have young gentlemen in the house by whom she could send an excuse when her lessons were so poorly prepared that she dared not trust herself in the recitation-room, and who would bring the mail on stormy nights when she could not go to the post-office; and if in her leisure moments—which were many—she made use of the same young gentlemen as a sort of intellectual grindstone on which she sharpened her youthful wits, or as dummies on which she tried her immature coquetries, it is to be hoped she will not be too severely blamed.

But Kitty was not yet satisfied with their family arrangements; in her opinion another inmate was still needed. The ruling desire of Kitty's heart had always been for a sister, but, having found that unattainable, she now decided that she must have a room-mate. To this, however, her mother would not consent; having given up her chambers to the two students, she had but one sleeping-room left besides the one which she and Kitty occupied together.

"Where could you put her?" she asked, as Kitty persisted in her entreaties.

"She and I would sleep in the spare-room, of course," replied Kitty.

"But there is no way of warming it and she could not study there," replied Mrs. Deming.

"She could get her lessons in the sitting-room, as I do," insisted Kitty.

"No girl would wish to pay for such accommodations," declared her mother, "so you need not mention it again."

Kitty labored under the delusion that she learned her lessons in the sitting-room; but the truth was that she studied them, if at all, all over the house. She came to the breakfast table repeating glibly, "*amo, amas, amat,* amamus, amatis, *amant,*" until Ralph would clap his hands over his ears in distress, while Charlie would say laughingly:

"Do mend your accent, Kitty; it is *amo, amas, amat.*"

"That is just what I said, *amo, amas, amat;* I may not be doing much in French, but I am making remarkable progress in Latin," would be Kitty's brisk reply.

She would wipe the dishes for her mother and, at the same time, sing at the top of her voice, to the tune of Yankee Doodle, stray bits of physiology, like—

"The trachea like a tree appears,
The bronchia are two branches,
Whose subdivisions are the twigs
And the air-cells are the buds."

She would appear in the pantry, where her mother was preparing dessert for dinner, and announce:

"Relatives must agree with their antecedents; do you hear that, mamma? relatives must agree; do you agree with your relatives? I heard you say the other day that you disagreed with Uncle James; now, you musn't do so any more, it is very ungrammatical; I'm afraid your education was sadly neglected when you were young." And Mrs. Deming would say:

"Oh, Kitty! do run away with your nonsense; go into the sitting-room and study your lessons properly."

But Kitty would answer: "I can't study in there alone; when my room-mate comes, I will study there."

"Don't let me hear anything more about a room-mate," exclaimed her mother; "I don't want another young butterfly to look after."

But a day or two before the spring term opened, Mrs. Deming, answering a ring at the door, was confronted by an elderly gentleman, who, after inquiring if he addressed Mrs. Deming, introduced a young lady by his side as "my daughter Serena, who is to board with you this term." Mrs. Deming in the surprise and bewilderment of the moment, knew not what to say, but stammered out, "I did not expect her."

"No, madam," replied Serena's father, "I suppose you were not expecting her until to-morrow, but as I have business engagements for to-morrow, I was obliged to bring her to-day. I hope it will not seriously incommode you to receive her a day earlier."

Mrs. Deming had by this time regained her wits, and was about to assure him that he had come to the wrong place, when Kitty, who had followed her mother to the door, interposed, saying:

"It is my new room-mate, mamma, Miss Hoyt," and she proceeded to shake hands with the daughter and direct the father as to the disposal of the trunk.

Mrs. Deming's consternation can only be imagined, but she discreetly reserved all expression of it for Kitty's private ear, and outwardly made the best of the situation: so that Serena Hoyt never knew that her advent in that house was wholly a surprise to its mistress, and that Kitty was without authority when she engaged her as boarder. When Serena appeared at the tea-table that night Kitty introduced the young gentlemen to her, after her own lawless fashion, to which the students were by this time well accustomed.

"Miss Hoyt, allow me to introduce you to Mr. Mortimer, whom you will find both aristocratic and rheumatic, also, when offended very emphatic. Mr. Edgars, a Vermont gentleman, who, I'm sorry to admit, is not always as sweet as the maple sugar of his native State or as well-flavored as the widely-known Vermont butter, but you will find him as sharp as Vermont cider."

Miss Hoyt and the two students thus introduced exchanged bows, and Charley Edgars remarked, "You'll find, Miss Hoyt, that sharpness is the only quality in demand here; we have need of sharpness to hold our own against Miss Kitty."

Serena Hoyt proved to be an agreeable accession to the small household, and came to be liked by them all. Mrs. Deming found her a safe and desirable companion for Kitty, and therefore became much attached to her; Serena was tall, well-formed, dignified in her bearing, fair,

with blond hair and honest blue eyes, and presented a fine contrast to the pretty, petite, dark-haired and dark-eyed Kitty.

She was older by two or three years than Kitty, rather grave and contemplative and very fond of study. Unlike as the two girls were, they soon became close friends. The grave Serena was attracted and amused by the vivacity and rollicking freedom of Kitty's actions and conversation, while that wayward maiden admired and respected Serena for the staid dignity of manners and solid worth of character so conspicuous in her.

The rules in St. Botolph's Academy were somewhat rigid, particularly those having reference to study hours and communication between the two sexes. It was the custom for the rules to be read to the assembled school some morning early in each term. It so happened that a severe headache prevented Serena from being present on the morning when this custom was observed, and she had but a vague and indefinite idea of their nature. She was a girl to whom few rules were needful, as she always tried to conduct herself with scrupulous propriety, and she devoted herself to her books of her own accord. Being in a private family, and in daily association with her fellow boarders, it never occurred to her that she could be in danger of breaking important rules by concurring in plans proposed by them and sanctioned by Mrs. Deming.

So when Kitty one day proposed that the four young people of the family should spend the evening with the Atwood girls, Serena made no objection, but simply studied the harder that afternoon to prepare her lessons earlier. The Atwood girls were residents of the village, but their home was in a lonely side street leading off from the main street at some distance from Mrs. Deming's. They were older than the present generation of students having graduated several years before, but they still retained sufficient interest in school life to enjoy initiating the innocent and unsuspecting into certain reprehensible practices forbidden by the rules and frowned upon by the faculty. The Misses Atwood had called on Serena and had urged her to come to them informally with Kitty, of whom they professed to be very fond. So when evening came Kitty and Serena wended their way to the Atwoods', where they were soon joined by Ralph Mortimer and Charlie Edgars. The Atwood girls being quite as lively as Kitty, no time was lost, and the evening was opened with a dance, for which the younger Miss Atwood played the piano. Then they sang a number of merry songs and rounds. Being a warm spring evening, the windows were open, although the blinds were closed, and, just as the gay little company had made an end of singing "Johnny Smoker" in full chorus, voices were heard on the street near by. Instantly there was perfect silence in the room, which was broken in a minute by the elder Miss Atwood, who exclaimed, "I hear Professor Ryder's voice, and his wife and the Misses Slater are probably with him, for he told me yesterday that they should come down here some evening this week."

The words were no sooner out of her mouth than Kitty, Ralph, Charlie, and the younger Miss Atwood left the room with a rush, not by the hall-door at which they had entered, but by one at the back of the room. Serena had

risen when the others rose, but remained in the parlor with an expression of entire amazement on her face.

"Where have they gone? what does this mean?" she asked.

"Follow them quickly, before the door-bell rings," commanded Miss Atwood, in a low but decided tone.

Surprised and offended Serena obeyed and soon found herself in the kitchen, where Kitty was putting on her wraps and laughing with the others as if something exceptionally funny had happened.

"We began to think you were going to stay and surrender to the powers that be, Miss Hoyt," began Ralph.

"I don't understand what all this means," replied Serena, stiffly.

"It means that our evening visit has come to an untimely end, and that we are, to express the situation in poetical language, 'nipped in the bud,'" replied Charlie.

Serena still stood in motionless bewilderment, and Kitty interposed: "It means that we are breaking rules, and must not be caught by the teachers; we are out of our rooms in study hours, and, worse yet, in company with gentlemen. Now put on your duds lively, or we shall leave you here to be caught."

Serena donned her wraps in dignified silence, and in a minute more the younger Miss Atwood had let them noiselessly out at the back-kitchen door, and returned to the parlor to meet the new-comers, whom her sister had already admitted.

The little group of transgressors so unceremoniously dismissed were unacquainted with the dimensions or possible eccentricities of the Atwood backyard, and the darkness of the night increased their perplexity as they groped their way slowly along the unexplored country.

"I never was turned out of doors before!" said Serena, indignantly, but as the words left her lips she stumbled against an unseen hen-coop and fell, upsetting the coop and liberating a whole brood of spring chickens with their maternal relative! Serena sprang hastily to her feet again; the frightened hen clucked noisily to her scattered brood, who were rushing about in every direction to escape the avalanche.

"Well!" exclaimed Kitty, in answer to Serena's remark, "you have turned a whole family out of doors now, I should say—out of their own house, too. How do you suppose they like it?" and Kitty laughed till she choked, and Charlie joined in until he was unable to stand, and sat down on what looked like a milking stool, but found himself doubled up in a pail of rain-water! Even the indignant Serena had to laugh then, and they were all nearly choked by their efforts to smother their laughter. It was fortunate that the parlor was on the other side of the house. The unlucky Charlie found it a matter of much greater difficulty to get out of a pail than to get into one, but, after much wriggling and squirming on his part and much pulling on the part of Ralph, he was at last freed from the undesirable incumbrance, and the little company proceeded on their way.

"Isn't there any end to this backyard, or farmyard, or whatever it is?" asked Ralph in a tone of disgust.

"Ask me a little later," replied Charlie.

But at that moment another splash was heard.

"There's another pail of water somewhere, I should say," observed Kitty, with a muffled explosion of laughter.

"Pail of water! It's the ocean!" ejaculated Ralph, who, being in advance of the others, had occasioned the splash by inadvertently plunging into a large mud- puddle, "and there's a whale in it, too. I haven't got so far as his stomach yet, but I'm stuck fast enough in his mouth," and Ralph struggled out of the "ocean" and displayed an old tin fruit can into which his foot was stuck. Its ragged edges had cut into his boot and it was not easy to remove it.

"We can't complain of having had a dry time this evening, at any rate!" observed Kitty.

After more laughter and more choking Ralph was extricated from the clutches of the "whale," and the four pleasure-seekers were soon in the street.

Charlie and Kitty now started off arm in arm, and Ralph, falling back where the astonished Serena brought up the rear, offered her his arm.

"Thank you," replied Serena, coldly, "I will walk alone, if you please. I was not aware that I was breaking the rules of the school, but now that I do know it, I shall break them no further."

Ralph bowed and left her without another word.

"What have you done with Serena?" demanded Kitty, as Ralph hurriedly passed them and strode rapidly toward home. But he made no reply.

"Do look at him!" exclaimed Charlie; "he carries his cane as if it were a club and he was about to knock somebody down with it, and he doesn't limp any more than I do! Where's his rheumatism?"

"Perhaps Serena can tell," suggested Kitty. They waited for her to come up with them, but she refused to join them, or to answer any questions.

But when the two girls had retired to their room for the night, Serena told Kitty what had passed between herself and Ralph.

"No wonder he was offended," cried Kitty; "no young man likes to get the mitten!"

But Serena declared that she could not do otherwise; that she had ignorantly broken the rules of school, and the least she could do was to stop at once when she found it out.

It was a curious fact, that from that night Ralph Mortimer never limped or manifested the slightest symptom of rheumatism. He maintained a persistent silence on the subject, but the others chaffed him unmercifully about it. Charlie insisted that it was the "mitten" which cured him, and that in the cause of philanthropy the matter ought to be made public, like any other valuable discovery.

Kitty suggested that, although the mitten might have cured rheumatism if seated in the sufferer's arm, it was very doubtful if it could have affected his walking apparatus, and therefore she was of opinion that it was a clear case of cold-water cure!

But Serena insisted that the credit of the cure doubtless belonged to the "whale," and that it was not the first instance in which a whale had proved a benefactor to the disobedient!

The jury never agreed in the case, but the fact of the cure remained.

MRS. SUSIE A. BISBEE.

COMPENSATION.

SHE folded up the worn and mended frock,
And smoothed it tenderly upon her knee,
Then through the soft web of a wee red sock
She wove the bright wool, musing thoughtfully:
"Can this be all? The great world is so fair,
I hunger for its green and pleasant ways."
A cripple prisoned in her restless chair
Looks from her window with a wistful gaze.

"I can but weave a faint thread to and fro,
Making a frail woof in a baby's sock;
Into the world's sweet tumult I would go,
At its strong gates my trembling hands would knock."
Just then the children came, the father too;
Their eager faces lit the twilight gloom.
"Dear heart," he whispered, as he nearer drew,
"How sweet it is within this little room!"

The mother drew the baby to her knee
And, smiling, said, "The stars shine soft to-
night;
My world is fair; its edges sweet to me.
And whatsoever is, dear Lord, is right!"

—May Riley Smith.

"God puts my strongest comfort here to draw
When thirst is great and common wells are dry.
Your pure desire is my unerring law;
Tell me, dear one, who is so safe as I?
Home is the pasture where my soul may feed,
This room a paradise has grown to be;
And only where these patient feet shall lead
Can it be home for these dear ones and me."

He touched with reverent hand the helpless feet,
The children crowded close and kissed her hair.
"Our mother is so good and kind and sweet,
There's not another like her anywhere!"
The baby in her low bed opened wide
The soft blue flowers of her timid eyes,
And viewed the group about the cradle side
With smiles of glad and innocent surprise.

HOME DECORATIONS.



DESIGN FOR KENSINGTON PAINTING.

PAINTED SPRAY.

KENSINGTON PEN.

Kensington Painting.

THE effect given by Kensington painting is that of rich embroidery, but, as the name implies, is painting with brush and colors, and the only materials which can be used for the purpose are velvet or a fine quality of velveteen. Therefore a few hints as to the method of mixing and applying the colors will, perhaps, be acceptable to those who do not understand painting.

The paints are already prepared for use—Winsor & Newton's, or Devoe's colors—and there is no danger of marring the material with the oil of the paints, for each color must be mixed with sugar of lead, which is also prepared in tubes, and this prevents the spreading of the oil.

The colors for ordinary use will be a double tube of flake-white, a single tube of each of the following colors: chrome-yellow, chrome-orange, burnt sienna, Vandyke brown, Prussian blue, chrome-green, rose madder, crimson lake, vermilion, Naples yellow, ivory black, also sugar of lead, megilp, a bottle of turpentine for cleansing the brushes, and three brushes, artist's red sable, Nos. 10, 14, 16, and one superfine bristle brush No. 8. A large china palette, which is less difficult to keep clean than those of wood, will be needed; also a palette-knife and a large sheet of tracing-paper, which may be purchased or can be prepared by thoroughly rubbing benzine over a sheet of thin brown, or white tissue-paper, which, after drying, is ready for use.

By experimenting a little, the knowledge of mixing colors can soon be obtained. For pink, the most beautiful shades can be produced by mixing rose madder and flake-white together, adding more or less of the rose madder, according to the depth of color required. For violet and purple, crimson lake and Prussian blue will give rich tints, using more of the crimson lake if a warm color is desired, or for a cooler shade more of the blue; by adding to these purples flake-white, in greater or less degrees, the lovely violet shades are obtained. The green is already prepared which is the chrome-green, but if a yellow shade is required add a little chrome-yellow, or if it should be lighter, add flake-white; for a darker green, Vandyke brown, and, should a warmer tint be needed, add burnt sienna. For white flowers, the gray tints will be produced by adding a trifle of ivory black.

Remember always, in all shades and colors, the sugar of lead must be mixed, and if the colors become a little too hard or dry for convenient use, add a slight particle of megilp, which will soften them sufficiently.

To trace a design, carefully lay the tracing-paper over it, and pin both securely to a drawing-board by means of thumb-tacks, and with a Faber's pencil—HB is a very good number to use—go over every portion of the design.

Remove the tracing-paper and design; place on your drawing-board a piece of flannel, or some soft, thick material; over this place a piece of strong brown wrapping paper, which must be perfectly smooth, or, if the design is not large, a sheet of very stiff letter or foolscap paper will answer the purpose. The tracing-paper upon which the design has been sketched is put over this, and the

whole pinned securely to the drawing-board with thumb-tacks, or any small tacks or pins.

Small wheels for pricking patterns can be purchased, and, if one of these is used, run it carefully over every part of the design, so that it will prick through to the wrapping or letter paper; or if a wheel cannot conveniently be procured, use a large pin, and carefully prick or punch it through the paper, making the holes almost touch each other.

The soft cloth beneath the papers causes the pricking to be a little more open, which is an advantage, for the powder will pass through the holes much more freely, and it also prevents tearing of the paper. When the pricking is finished, remove the tracing-paper, and a perforated design will be perfectly transferred to the paper beneath. Remove this and the soft material under it, and lay the velvet smoothly on the drawing-board, face upward. Over it place a damp cloth; do not, on any account, let it be wet; gently press it with the hands against the velvet; then remove it and place over the velvet the perforated pattern, and pin both it and the velvet securely to the board. Then rub every line with a soft white crayon, or with starch tied in a thin muslin bag. After having gone over the whole design in this way, very carefully remove the perforated pattern, and, with a fine camel's-hair brush and Chinese white, which is a water-color in small pans, the brush dipped in water and then filled with the paint by rubbing it over two or three times, all the crayon lines are very delicately traced with the paint-brush, as the crayon would rub, and the design thus be so defaced before the painting was finished that it could not be used. The water-color dries and will last as stamping does. When the painted outline is thoroughly dry, dust off the crayon marks, and the design is ready for painting.

If, instead of tracing, the design should be stamped, it must be done very lightly.

Still another method for transferring is to place over the design to be copied a piece of fine white tarlatan, and with an HB pencil lightly sketch every portion. When this is finished, place your velvet on the drawing-board and over it the tarlatan, the pencil sketch turned upward. Both tarlatan and velvet must be pinned securely to the board that they may not slip; then, with a sharply-pointed white crayon, or chalk, draw over every part of the pencil outline. When this has been done, remove the pins and carefully lift the tarlatan from the velvet, and on it will be found an exact transfer of the design. These lines must also be sketched in with Chinese white, as described in the previous directions.

Should a tracing be desired on light instead of dark velvet, a soft lead-pencil can be used to make the transfer; but do not, on any account, let the lines be heavy. In this case it will not be necessary to use the Chinese white, as the pencil marks will remain until the painting is finished, but will not be seen then, for the paint must exactly cover them. This is a simpler and surer plan than perforating the design. Should it be desirable at any time to enlarge a design before transferring it, a very convenient method will be found for doing so in THE FLORAL CABINET, Vol. XII., No. 9. The velvet should be again pinned

smoothly on the drawing-board. and then it is ready for painting.

The illustration given of honeysuckle is pretty, on cardinal velvet or velveteen, as a border for a table scarf. The colors necessary will be flake-white, chrome-yellow, chrome-orange, chrome-green, burnt sienna, Vandyke brown and sugar of lead. Squeeze from the tubes to the palette a small quantity of each of these, then mix four shades of each color. Begin with the chrome-yellow, which is for the flowers. For the first tint take a small portion of the yellow and mix with it two parts of flake-white with a very little sugar of lead. Mix these thoroughly with the palette-knife. A second shade is made in the same manner, with a little more of the chrome-yellow and less white; a third one still deeper by adding a very little chrome-orange, and the fourth still deeper with more of the orange and a little of the sugar of lead in each shade. This is for the flowers. Sienna is also used for the deepest shadows, where a petal may be turned over. A slight particle of this is taken in the brush and softened and blended in on the flowers where the light and shade meet.

The leaves are executed in the same manner. Four shades of green are first mixed on the palette with the knife, the lightest shades made by mixing in flake-white, adding less white for the deeper shades, and for those still darker a little Vandyke brown may be added, and, as in the yellow, sugar of lead in each tint.

The painting may now be undertaken; fill the brush well with the lightest shade of yellow—a No. 4 brush is good for a medium-sized flower—and draw it over the petals, covering, or rather painting and shading one petal at a time. Do not let the paint form a ridge on the edge of the flowers or leaves. This must be avoided all through the work, as a heavy outline is not to be desired. After having covered a petal with the light color shade it gradually to the centre with the darker tints, or follow the copy as closely as possible should it be a colored one.

When applying the deeper shades, do not lay them on thickly as the first coat has been given, but only in sufficient quantities to blend in with the lighter shades to produce the required depth of color. Shade as if selecting and working with the different shades of embroidery silks.

The green leaves are painted in the same manner, applying the lightest shades first, the deeper ones as already described.

The stamens are but one line done with a fine brush, and these do not require to be stroked with the pen.

When laying on the colors, the brush should follow the lines of the flower or leaf, as this also helps to produce a better effect when it is stroked with the pen. The leaves should not be veined until after the pen has been used. Too large a portion of the design must not be attempted at once, for the paint may dry too rapidly, thus preventing the stroking, which is a peculiar feature of the work, and for this the Kensington pen is used. It is composed of four steel points set in a metal frame and mounted on a handle. They can be obtained for twenty-five cents from any of the art embroidery or needlework shops.

When one flower or leaf has been painted and shaded, stroke it with the pen, which is held as an ordinary pen or

pencil, drawing in broad spaces the four points over the work, and in narrow ones the side, which will bring but one point upon it. Draw it from the centre of each flower, or the middle of every leaf toward its edge, always bearing in mind that the strokes should follow the texture of leaves and flowers, and thus be in the same direction that stitches would be taken if the design were embroidered. If the first stroking does not sufficiently give the appearance of embroidery, go over the design a second time, and let the pen sink through the paint and slightly touch the surface of the velvet, taking care to keep from dragging the colors so that they form a ridge around the edges of either leaves or flowers.

The pen is also used on the thick stems to give them the appearance of stitches in embroidery, therefore draw it over the painting to give this effect.

When the painting and stroking are finished, lay the work aside to dry, and, when it has become perfectly so, the leaves should be veined. For this a darker shade is used and one line of the brush is only required for each vein.

Should more light or shade be wished, when the design is dry a bristle brush is used, and with it the desired tint is lightly drawn over the place where it is required.

A little practice with the pen is the most important part of Kensington painting, and it would be well to begin with a small design. The work is interesting, and when well done is very beautiful, for it closely resembles an exquisite piece of embroidery. M. E. WHITTEMORE.

Coffee-Pot Holder.

THE materials required are two rather small steel needles and half an ounce each of two harmonizing shades of single zephyr; pink and blue are very pretty.

Cast on seventy-nine stitches of blue, and knit across plain; then knit back seventeen stitches of blue, then nine of pink, nine of blue, nine of pink, nine of blue, nine of pink, and the remaining seventeen of blue. Continue this back and forth till you have six ribs on the right side; then change and put the pink where the blue is, always having the seventeen stitches on the edge, blue. As you carry the wool from one block to another underside you will naturally hold it a little tight, and this gives the blocks the raised appearance, and when changing the colors be sure to do so while knitting across on the *right* side, that the loops may come on the wrong side. Continue this till you have eight blocks, then bind off and double the ends and gather as close as possible as far as the blocks are, and put on each end two small tassels of the wool or of ribbon. M. W.

STRIPS of eider down flannel, four inches wide, crocheted together with fine saxony wool, of the same color, in open-work pattern, through which satin ribbons can be run, makes a very pretty blanket for a baby's carriage. A border of full shells should be crocheted around the edges.

PERFUME sachets are made to resemble soda crackers. Perfumed cotton is covered with cream-colored silk and caught together where the dents in the cracker would occur; a faint brownish tint is given to the edges with water-colors.



MARKING LETTERS. No. 2.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

IN walking up Sixth avenue from Macy's to Twenty-third street, one sees such a variety of costumes, hats, wraps and dress materials that, unless a lady knows what she wants to look for, she may return home, after a whole morning spent in the stores that line these nine blocks, as puzzled in her mind and as plethoric in her pocket-book as when she started out.

In the matter of hats and bonnets, for instance. Bonnets are mostly small; some of them fit so closely to the head that, from the front, it is hard to see any foundation for the enormous bunch of roses or gilded wheat that decorate the tops of many heads. Some, again, tower up in front so much that one is reminded of an old-fashioned book which says somewhere, "Set not up your horn on high." The peak of this remarkable structure, which rises over the forehead of the wearer, is usually filled in with flowers or bright ribbons.

If a lady can get a lot of gold tinsel, gold lace, gold braid or jonquil yellow flowers on her bonnet, she is a made woman. But let her be careful of the shade of yellow, the quantity of gold lace or tinsel, and also see that it accords with her style of face and general appearance; for if the face has marked features, the yellow is one shade too deep or the gold lace too profuse, or the shape unbecoming, the whole effect will be bizarre in the extreme, and what was intended for style degenerate into vulgarity.

Therefore we say to our fair friends: Be careful in your choice of a milliner; either have a first-rate artist or be more simple in your taste; have no milliner, and make your bonnet yourself.

But if a lady wants a hat, the variety is overwhelming. High crowns, low crowns, no crowns; wide brims, narrow brims, cleft brims. Hats made of gold lace, of black lace and of white lace. Brims twisted high on one side of the front, and drooping low on the other side behind; trimmed with enormous Alsatian bows that almost hide the hat. Scarfs of gay colors with gold stripes twisted around the crown, with the ends arranged to stand up in front like the wings of an enormous butterfly. Feathers, tips, aigrettes, and jeweled pins. Can any woman fail to find among all these something suited to her peculiar style?

In dress goods the prevailing fashion for street wear is plain materials for one part of the dress, and figured or

striped goods for the other. Some ladies prefer to use the plain for the underskirt, and the figured for the basque and overskirt, or the polonaise. By the way, we are glad to note the reappearance of our old friend, the polonaise. It is made in most graceful and becoming shapes this spring, and is vastly improved by its temporary retirement.

We would advise our fair readers, if they are inclined to embonpoint, to take the plain goods for the upper part of their dresses, as the tendency of figures always is to make a person look larger. If the plain goods is used for the underskirt, it is usually laid in plaitings of one of the many varieties, and the draperies are long, that is, long on one side, and very high on the other, always long in the back. If the underskirt is made of the figured material, it may be almost plain—for instance: cut in deep squares, opening over a plaiting of the plain goods. Then with a Greek drapery, or even the simple round apron overskirt, one has something very stylish and pretty.

Almost all basques have vests of the companion material. For stout figures everything is flat and tight to the form; but for slender ladies vests are laid in plaits or puffed; and the jackets are either laced across with cords below the bust, or fastened by several pairs of the ornamental clasps that are the caprice of the hour.

For evening wear and dress occasions nothing is prettier than the lace dresses. Black lace, made up over black, or, for a lady of gayer taste, scarlet or yellow, and trimmed with a profusion of ribbons to match. Ecu lace with seal brown threads outlining the designs, made up over brown silk. White or cream lace, made up over pink or blue. These will all be worn at places of summer resort.

Dresses for evening and party wear are made with very bouffante draperies, very long waists, pointed back and front, very low necks, no sleeves at all, a mere strap over the shoulder, and often no lace either on neck or armhole. We do not recommend this style, but, as faithful chroniclers, we must notice it. The styles seem to look back about a hundred years for their models, especially in coiffures and evening dresses. Are we, in 1885, going to celebrate their centennial? Who knows!

MELUZINA.

HOUSEKEEPING.

DIFFERENT WAYS OF COOKING EGGS.

Baked Eggs.

BUTTER muffin rings and lay them on a tin or dish having the bottom buttered. Break the eggs carefully and put one into each muffin ring, sprinkle salt and pepper and put a bit of butter on the top of each and then bake them in a moderately hot oven until the whites are set. They are more delicate than fried eggs, and can be served on toast or otherwise. If it is not convenient to use muffin rings, the eggs must be broken into the buttered dish with great care, so that the yolks will not be disturbed and too many must not be crowded in at once. When done, separate them with a knife and lift them into a platter with a pancake turner, or they can be served in the dish in which they were baked.

Escalloped Eggs.

For this dish there will be required a number of hard-boiled eggs, some bread or cracker crumbs, chopped meat, chicken, veal or ham, and some thick drawn butter (a half tea-cup will be sufficient for five eggs), to which must be added a well-beaten egg. Butter a pudding dish and put a layer of crumbs on the bottom; moisten them with milk or weak stock or even water in which is a little melted butter; cut the eggs in slices and dip each one in the drawn butter; make a layer of eggs, season with salt and pepper, then add a layer of chopped meat; if it is very dry add a little stock and continue with alternate layers until the dish is full. The last layer should be crumbs dotted with little bits of butter. Bake until thoroughly cooked through.

Boiled Eggs.

Pour boiling water into a pail or pan in sufficient quantity to cover the eggs and set it where it will keep an even temperature not quite up to the boiling point. Put the eggs in carefully so as not to crack the shells, cover the pan or pail and allow eight minutes for *very* soft, or

twenty for hard-boiled eggs. When done the whites will be soft and much more digestible than if the eggs were cooked in boiling water.

Poached Eggs.

Butter the bottom of a frying-pan and fill it nearly full of boiling water slightly salted. The water should not boil, only simmer, and the eggs must be put in carefully one at a time lest the yolks should break. When the whites are thoroughly set, take them up with a small flat skimmer so the water will drain off, and serve on toast or alone.

Fairy Omelet.

The first thing to remember is to have a clean, smooth pan in which to make the omelet. A short-handled iron spider is best, as it is to be put into the oven. Omelet should be eaten as soon as cooked or it will become tough. The omelet must not be too large—four eggs will make as large an omelet as can be well cooked. Beat four fresh eggs separately; there will also be needed one cup of rich milk, one tablespoon of flour, and a pinch of salt. Beat the yolks with an egg-beater, moisten the flour in a little of the milk and stir it till smooth, then add it to the yolks and stir in very gently the whites beaten very stiff. Do not beat it, but turn it over with a spoon until the whites are mixed evenly with the yolks; then add slowly the remainder of the milk. Have ready a deep spider well buttered and just hot enough not to brown the butter; pour in the omelet and cover it. Let it cook on the top of the stove until it is set around the edges and you think it is browned sufficiently on the bottom, then place it in the oven about five minutes to cook the top. If cooked just right it will, with the aid of a knife, easily slip on a platter, and should be folded together with the top inside.

MRS. C. G. HERBERT.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Gladiolus "Innocence."—In noticing this new aspirant for public favor, in the March number of *THE CABINET*, we took occasion to say that "We beg to differ with Messrs. Vick as to its being the first pure white variety ever seen. It is probably the first *they* have ever seen, but had they visited one of the Long Island gladiolus farms during the flowering season of the past three years, they would have come to a different conclusion."

This does not seem to please our friends Vick, whom we had intended to compliment by a favorable notice of their seedling. They reply as follows: "Doubtless, we should not have arrived at a different conclusion. We expressly stated that 'for a long time it has been understood that the term white applies to those varieties of the gladiolus that have but light pencilings of color at the

lower part of the flowers.' Many such varieties have been produced in numerous places, and it is unnecessary to inform the public that they have been raised on Long Island. We also distinctly stated in our description that 'by looking directly down into the flower some dark spots may be perceived at the base.' These spots will not be noticed except by making a special effort to see them; as ordinarily viewed no color can be seen, and as was stated, 'practically, this flower is a pure white.' It is too late to make the claim now for Long Island; there is little doubt that the world would have heard of it if any variety equal to "Innocence" could have been shown."

Now, the facts of the case are that the writer produced a gladiolus from seed that is actually pure white—not "practically pure white," but *white* its entire length. No

scrutiny of its throat would reveal any other color. In form and size of its flowers, and in their arrangement on the spike, it resembles Meyerbeer, which is a form vastly superior to "Innocence," as figured in *Vick's Magazine*.

Because the grower is not ready to send this variety out does not prove that such a flower does not exist. Besides, a great many persons have seen and admired it, and many more will probably do so the coming summer.

* * *

A New Begonia.—*Begonia Lubbersi*, a new variety, having olive-green leaves with white blotches, flowers creamy white, with rich yellow centres, has been accidentally introduced to the State Garden of Brussels from Brazil, in 1880, by M. Pedro Binot, of Petropolis. The excellent head gardener of that establishment, M. Louis Lubbers, noticed a little twig entangled in the stipules of a tree fern (an *Alsophila elegans*). He planted it, and by skillful treatment induced it to live and develop some leaves, succeeding in flowering it in October, 1881. This begonia is certainly unknown in commerce, and probably new to science. To this beautiful species has been given the name of M. Lubbers, who has rendered such great service to horticulture in his double capacity of chief of the Botanic Gardens of Brussels and secretary of the Royal Floral Society. This dedication will no doubt be received with favor.

Begonia Lubbersi shows a certain affinity with *Begonia maculata*, but it differs principally in its bare stem. The form of the upper lobe of the leaf, the persistent stipules, the disposition of the veins and spots, and the form and size of the flowers.

The general aspect of the plant, the sombre colors of the foliage, which show out the pearl-like spots, offer many beauties, so that *Begonia Lubbersi* will occupy a foremost place in collections of ornamental-leaved plants. The flowers are more remarkable for their size than for extreme beauty (see illustration page 119.) It is a plant of the future, and will be of great use to the horticulturist. It is vigorous, and its culture offers no difficulties.

* * *

New York Horticultural Society.—The April exhibition was a general surprise; first, because of a limited display; second, because of a lack of interest on the part of members and friends; third, because of the rare quality of the flowers exhibited. We have often seen double the amount of flowers on exhibition, but seldom so many rare and beautiful ones. Orchids were in splendid array. Among them was a well-grown plant of *Cattleya trianae superba*, with nine perfect-flowers; *C. Harrisoniae*, with six flowers of a beautiful rose-color, with a slight tinge of yellow on the lip; a magnificent plant of *Dendrobium thyrsiflorum*, with eleven racemes of golden and white flowers; *D. Farmerii*, a beautiful compact evergreen species from India, well furnished with its beautiful pink flowers, with a lip of rich yellow in the centre; three fine specimens of phalænopsis in variety; odontoglossums *Rossi*, *Majus*, *Gloriosum*, *Alexandrea*, *Pescatorea* and *Cirrhosum*; *Vanda suavis*—all remarkably fine plants. These, together with four plants of *Cymbidium eburneum*, were from William Barr's collection, Orange, N. J.; the latter species is one of the best for an amateur collection.

A novel feature of the exhibition was a rare collection of orchids from Sanders & Co., of London, which arrived in full flower and in the best possible condition on the steamer "Umbria" on the morning of the exhibition. The collection consisted of those peculiar masdevallias, *Harryana* and *Shuttleworthii*, a new dendrobium of the *Nobile* type, and some fine pieces of rare odontoglossums.

W. H. Clements exhibited a "new plant," the *Anthurium Rothschildianum*, very distinct and curious, white ground speckled all over the spathe with bright scarlet irregular dots—the spadix being scarlet. This is claimed to be a hybrid from *Scherzerianum*, which it resembles in leafage and shape of flowers.

A certificate of merit was awarded to what is known as Banyard's Pink, a hybrid from the white Scotch pink and carnation *Peter Henderson*. The flower has the true clove fragrance, is pure white, of smooth outline, and of good shape. This, we think, will prove a very valuable plant. A certificate of merit was also awarded to carnation *James Y. Murkland*, a perfectly shaped, large flower of the most brilliant scarlet; this is without doubt a very great strike. Another seedling, *Columbia*, of distinct characteristics, salmon-buff ground flaked with vermilion, was greatly admired.

William Barr's exhibit of cinerarias, grown from offsets, was very fine, showing good cultivation. The cultivation of cinerarias from offsets is not much practised in this country, the fascinating uncertainty of getting extra choice and new strains from seeds seems to be the more popular method.

As every one knows the rose, and but few relatively have much knowledge of other and more rare flowers, it claimed the largest share of attention, and the hybrid perpetual varieties merited all they received. Such examples of Magna Charta, Marquise de Castellane, Paul Neyron, Merveille de Lyon, and Baroness Rothschild, perhaps have never been seen before. The show of tender roses was not as large as usual; there were, however, fine La France, Niphetos and Cooks. R. B. Parsons & Co., of Flushing, showed, in good order, fifty varieties of camellias, and it was indeed a treat to see this grand old flower have the position on the exhibition tables that its excellence deserves.

In miscellaneous cut-flowers there were many objects of interest, conspicuous among which were *Nymphæa cærulea*, *Lapageria rosea*, *Imatophyllum mineatum*, many old and curious orchids, mignonette of marvelous size, and many other objects that we cannot mention.

In vegetables there was a creditable display of beans spinach, cauliflowers, tomatoes and cucumbers. A remarkably fine specimen of cauliflower from Florida was entitled to special mention; it was nearly fifteen inches in diameter, perfectly solid and pure white, and was, in fact, one of the finest specimens we have ever seen on an exhibition table, without regard to season or the locality in which it was grown.

* * *

Seed and Bulb Premiums.—Our seed and bulb premiums cannot be supplied after May 15, as the season will be too far advanced for their successful growth.



A FRIENDLY TURN.

One evening while the Brownies played
In merry troops through forest shade,
The more sedate or sober kind
To graver matters turned their mind.
Said one: "The people who reside
Around us in the country wide,
Both old and young, are in distress,
As one may see by face and dress;
Their skin defaced by chaps and cracks,
Their garments eaten from their backs,
Besmeared with scurf, bereft of hair,
While yet the bloom of youth is there,
They mope along their joyless way
With heavy hearts, from day to day.
You ask the cause? I tell you plain:
The sort of water they obtain
Is like the granite whence it springs,
And they must use those noxious things
Of which they chance to hear or read,
To soften water to their need.
The sad effects of such a mean,
Destructive compound soon are seen:
The home, where peace and joy should
reign,

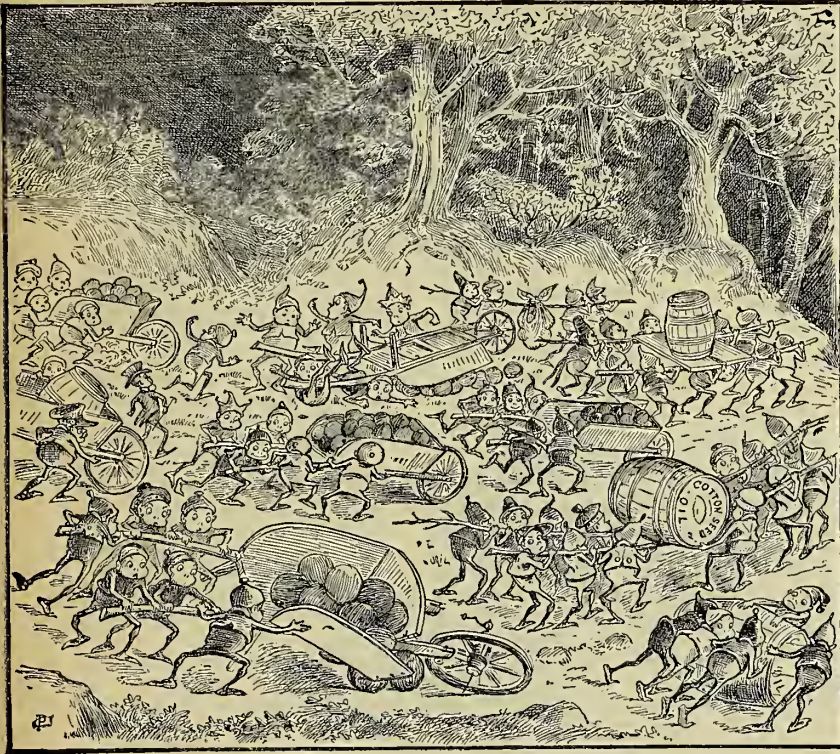
Becomes a lazar-house of pain.
The baby creeps about the floor
With scabby head and body sore.
Through slavish toil the parent goes
With chappy hands and pimpled nose,
While garments of the richest style
Are eaten through with acids vile,
As if the rats ran short of bread,
And turned to gnaw the cloth instead."
Another spoke: "Our course is clear,
No other kind of soap is here,
And while these notions people try
They'll suffer from the alkali.
Their sole relief and only hope

Is found in using IVORY SOAP;
That millions through nation claim—
In water soft and hard the same—
From deepest well or shallow rill,
Performs its cleansing wonders still;
This famous kind we should convey
To every home without delay."
"I know a place," a listener cried,
"Where all may soon be well supplied.
Then round the country, high and low,
Distribute cakes where'er we go."
Another promptly made reply:
"We'll neither borrow, steal, nor buy;
I have the secret of the trade,
And know how IVORY SOAP is made.
From cotton-seed of Southern lands
They take the oil with skilful hands.
And care must guide the action, too,
For only purest kind will do.



Nor trusting all to cotton fields,
The tropic fruit its portion yields.
The cocoa-nut they break or boil,
And from it draw the richest oil.
And thus peculiar, as you see,
In all its parts and purity,
No rotting 'free,' or 'uncombined,'
Injurious alkali you find.
Now independent let us play
A friendly part, as best we may;
Our mystic power at once apply,
And not on other hands rely,
While some make cotton-seed their care.
Let some to tropic groves repair.
The cocoa-nuts and kegs of oil
We'll bring, however hard the toil,
And where the men in forest shade
Prepare the potash for the trade
A caldron rests in arch of stone,
And there we'll meet ere night hath flown,
And making IVORY SOAP pursue,
In every way, the method true."

Well pleased with this, away they fly
To find at once a large supply.
While some to cotton fields depart,
To distant forests others start,



Thus all the secrets of the trade
 Were carried out, till nicely made
 The IVORY SOAP upon the ground
 On every side was piled around,
 For scarce one batch aside they threw
 Before the pot was filled anew,
 Until the whole supply they brought
 In pure and perfect soap was wrought.
 Nor even then from work withdrew,
 By halves the Brownies nothing do,
 For round the country far and wide,
 The people were that night supplied ;
 They found it laid on window sills,
 In tubs, and sinks, and bureau tills ;
 Through broken pane, or splintered wall,
 The cakes were shoved by fingers small.
 And soon a change was noticed there
 In cleaner clothes and faces fair.
 No longer compounds were employed,
 For water hard no more annoyed ;
 No more were seen the scabby heads,
 Or finest garments all in shreds ;
 No more unsightly pimples rose
 To mar the grace of cheek or nose ;
 No more the chaps or scaly crust
 Made people wish themselves in dust.
 For, from the infant on the breast
 To those who neared their final rest—
 For rich and poor, the great and small,
 Found IVORY SOAP had cleansed them
 all.

And thus the Brownies of the wood
 Maintained their reputation good.

That no excess of 'uncombined,'
 Or 'free' alkali we leave behind,
 Which quickly rots or burns its sign
 On human skin and garments fine."

And up the trees for many feet
 They clamber at a fever heat,
 Each striving hard with might and main
 The choicest kinds of nuts to gain.
 Then miles around them, east and west,
 The barrows were in service pressed,
 Along the dusty road to reel,
 With creaking frame and groaning
 wheel,

And when some old concern gave out,
 Still undismayed, with spirit stout,
 And mystic strength, like giants strong,
 They rolled their heavy loads along.
 By hook and crook, as best they could,
 In time they reached their native wood,
 When casks were found to serve their
 need,
 The oil was pressed from nuts with
 speed,
 And then within the forest shade
 A crackling fire was quickly made,
 That forking round the caldron rose
 To startle birds from deep repose,
 And smoke them out of leafy bowers,
 To fill with cries the midnight hours.
 Then none had need to idle stand,
 As work was there for every hand.
 While some their loads of fuel bring,
 Some watch the caldron in a ring,
 To guide against an over-boil,
 Or add a fresh supply of oil.
 While others still, with thoughtful mind,
 Their wisdom and their skill combined,
 Preparing molds wherein to run
 The snowy cakes when all was done.
 Said one, who kept the mold in sight
 Of how to manufacture right :
 "Let no essential be forgot,
 But wash the soap with water hot,



ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Turk's-Head Cactus.—*May Fox.*—The requirements for this cactus are the same as for nearly all the family—a season of active growth and a season of perfect rest. When in growth water liberally, and during its period of rest withhold water almost entirely, and keep in a dry situation. Then when growth commences again it will quite likely flower. Its blossoms, however, are unattractive and have but little beauty. It is not necessary to remove the offsets.

Plant for Name.—*John P. Phillips.*—We cannot undertake to name a plant without seeing it or its flowers. Yours is probably a medinilla.

Dielytra Spectabilis.—*Daney McDonald, Miss.*—Your climate is decidedly too hot and dry for this plant. Give it shade, and keep it cool and wet as possible.]

Beans.—*F. M. Adams.*—We “don't know beans” unless we see them, and not always then. Send us one, and possibly we may be able to give you its correct name.

EDITOR OF FLORAL CABINET:

Allow a new subscriber to join the circle of inquiring ones—who loves flowers, but is not sure of the proper way to treat them. 1. Will it secure me succession of tuberoses flowers to plant one bulb now in a pot and turn it out into the bed later, and others say a couple of weeks later, until time for out-door planting? 2. Can I grow any kind of flowers in the shade of evergreens? 3. I have a fir, a pine and a larch forming a triangle—of two sides twenty feet and one fifteen. They are trimmed up to a height of five feet. Other evergreens have been removed from this triangle, leaving a chance for the sunlight to strike through. 4. What will thrive on the northern side of a house where the sun will shine for two or three hours in the morning? 5. Would a climbing rose? 6. Also, please suggest plants for a bed in the same situation?
MRS. B. R. McCLELLAN.

ANSWERS.—1. You can get flowers from your tuberoses much earlier if they are started in pots before the weather is warm enough to plant in the open border, but care must be used not to allow a check to their growth after starting, in which case an early start will only retard, if not destroy, their bloom. As a general rule, if a dozen bulbs are planted at any given time in the open border, a succession of bloom will be had, as they are not at all likely to flower at the same time. Do not plant before the first of June, and do not cover the bulb more than one inch with soil. 2. Not successfully. 3. Begonias and ferns would do in the situation you name, if left in the pots, which should be plunged in peat or leaves, and not allowed to suffer for want of water. 4. On the house or trellis a *Cobaea scandens* would do splendidly. 5. No. 6. Fuchsias would be perfectly at home in this situation as would also begonias, ferns, fancy caladiums or pansies. But the soil must be made very rich, and water must not be allowed to stand on the bed. In such a situation the plants named will not only grow, but will thrive and give you very great pleasure.

VIEWS OF HON. WM. PENN NIXON.

MR. NIXON is widely known as the editor of *The Chicago Inter-Ocean*, one of the most outspoken and spirited dailies of the present age. Like many other busy editors, Mr. Nixon overworked himself, and about six years ago found that his health was gradually running down. His business associates and his family felt that he was in a perilous condition, and urged him to take rest—giving up, for a while, all editorial labor. His natural ambition and his long habits of diligent work were against this. Declining the suggestion of a vacation, he kept at his desk. At last, after fighting for some months with the condition of his system, which was gradually undermining his vitality, Mr. Nixon concluded to take a few weeks of rest. Of that rest and what followed it we will let him tell, in his own words, as communicated to one of our correspondents, who recently visited him at his editorial rooms in Chicago.

Mr. Nixon, who now appears in the prime of life, and in the full vigor of bodily and mental vitality, said, substantially: “It was in February, 1878, that I took a severe cold. My system had become much worked down, and, driven with constant editorial duty, I had neglected it. After long consideration I concluded to take needed rest. I went to Florida and Cuba for a few weeks. On the way I had several hemorrhages from the lungs. I was quite sick and returned in no better condition than before. My wife was much alarmed about me. The physician who attended me on my return gave me inhalations, tonics, alteratives and pills; after taking which, for about two weeks, I was weaker. I kept at my work, which was exacting. By September my state had become critical. I lost flesh and suffered from a severe soreness in the upper part of my right lung. My wife's sister, who was in Boston, wrote about a treatment which was novel to me—Compound Oxygen. A relative of hers who had been in such poor health that he had been compelled to spend several winters in Florida, had been restored by this Compound Oxygen to such an extent that he was able to endure the climate of Boston in winter. The little book issued by Starkey & Palen on Compound Oxygen was sent me, and after reading it I concluded that even if their method of treating my ailments could do me no good, there was reason to suppose that it would do me no harm.

“I procured a ‘Home Treatment’ from the office of Messrs. Starkey & Palen, in Philadelphia, determining to give it a fair trial, and abide the result. For four or five months I took the inhalations at regular intervals, twice a day; continuing my work steadily. At first no marked effect was observed; in fact, not until three or four weeks. Then I began to feel that it was doing me good. I found that when I was exposed to the cold, and to chilling drafts, my power of resistance was far greater than it had been. There was no exhilaration, but there was a constant increase of strength. I still coughed considerably, and, in fact, did so for some months. The sore spot on my right lung gave me much annoyance. I rubbed my chest with various liniments, and I wore a chest-protector. But gradually the soreness went away as the lung gained strength. And the cough, which had so long clung to me, at last went off in an unexpected manner. One of the last coughing spells I had was almost as severe and extended as any I had ever experienced. It seemed to be the going out of the cough-habit. There probably was some extraneous matter in the way, and this severe spell of coughing got rid of it.

“I gained flesh very slowly, but gradually came back to my original weight, and now weigh more than before my illness. I am more able to resist cold, and, though I now take cold occasionally, I am far less subject to it than I was of old. My digestion, which was, of course, disordered, is now all that I can desire, and I am able to do my customary work without inconvenience or serious fatigue. I have never given a testimonial to any patent medicine, and I would not; but I do not consider Starkey & Palen's Compound Oxygen a patent medicine. It is a vitalizer and a restorer, and to it I owe my life.”

“Mr. Nixon, did you ever take any other ‘Oxygen Treatment’ than that of Messrs. Starkey & Palen?”

“No; I had no use for any other. This served the purpose perfectly, and did even more than I could have expected of it.”

“Do you ever have occasion to return to the use of the Compound Oxygen Treatment since your restoration to health?”

“Only occasionally; for instance, if I had been exposed, and have taken cold. But I keep a ‘Home Treatment’ in my family, for we set a high value on its efficiency in cases of need, and several of my friends have found the advantage of it. You may put me on record as being a hearty and thorough believer in it.”

Mr. Nixon's case is not a peculiar one. Thousands have been benefited by the use of Compound Oxygen. Among those who have experienced its wonderful curative properties are Judge Flanders, of New York; Edward L. Wilson, the popular lecturer and photographer, and Judge Kelley, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, the eminent lecturer, and many others equally prominent.

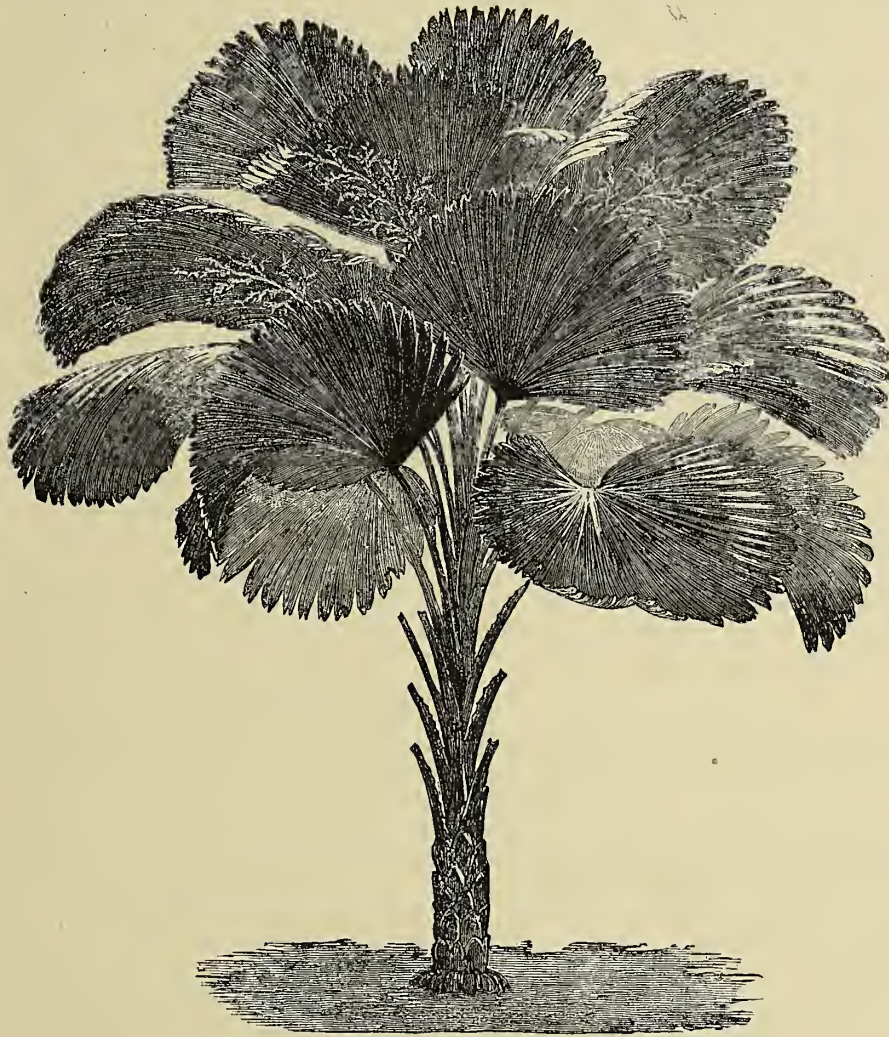
If you are interested to know what it has done for others, and what it can do for you, send to Drs. Starkey & Palen, 1109 Girard street, Philadelphia, who will send you free a treatise on this remarkable vitalizer—its discovery, nature, action and cures.

LADIES'
FLORAL CABINET.

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ROUND-LEAVED PALM (*Licuala grandis*.)

PALMS.

THE chaste, elegant and beautiful ferns, so deservedly popular and commonly grown, have their rivals in many species of the palm. Indeed, young palms, grown in small pots quickly and well, are so graceful and pleasing as to make them second to none for decorative purposes; and especially are they adapted for dinner-table

decoration, for which all rare and beautiful plants of proper size are now eagerly sought.

Palms have, however, other merits. They are the most useful of all plants for the living-room. Many species of this genus are the best possible for indoor decoration, and, in a small state, particularly so. No plants

are more easily grown and none are more tenacious of life than the palm, enduring alike dust and the many hard knocks that house plants are apt to receive, the cold from open windows and the unnatural heat from furnaces and from gas. Who will not say that a small palm of any species, with the top of the pot covered with *Lycopodium denticulatum*, is not a beautiful object to look upon in whatever situation it may be placed?

Our purpose at this time is, however, rather to direct attention to one or two graceful forms suited to such decorative purposes, than to enter into any exhaustive treatise in regard to them.

Perhaps the most graceful and elegant genus that makes up this noble family of plants is the

COCOS,

many species of which grow to majestic proportions; and one yields that well-known fruit the cocoa-nut of commerce, which may be called one of the chief necessities of life to the inhabitants of the tropics. Of this genus many very interesting species are to be met in our greenhouses, and are becoming very generally cultivated for ornamental and decorative purposes. Although for the living-room and window garden they are not so well adapted as some of the other genera, requiring, as they do, more heat and moisture to grow them well than some others of this class. There is one species, *C. Weddelliana*, that is entitled to a place in any collection, for it is undoubtedly the most elegant palm in cultivation. The stem of this *cocos* is slender and clothed with a quantity of black nettle fibres. The leaves are from one to four feet in length, or more, and beautifully arched, the leaflets which reach nearly to the base of the petioles, are long, narrow and pendent, dark-green on the upper side, glaucous underneath, where they are furnished with a few black hairs. At the reasonable price for which these beautiful plants can now be obtained they should be found in every collection.

THE LICUALA

is a genus of elegant fan-leaved palms, belonging to the section *Coryphea*. They are of somewhat slow growth, and seldom exceed twenty feet in height, exclusive of their crown of fronds. *Licuala acutifida* is the plant which, in Pulo-Penang, yields the much-esteemed walking canes known as "Penang Lawyers." To grow these well they should have a liberal supply of heat and moisture, that furnished by the ordinary greenhouse not being sufficient for their perfect development. When in an active growing state this plant would not do for the window garden, but it is beautiful for lawn decoration in summer. It is usually increased from seeds, though sometimes a few side shoots are made from the base, which, if carefully taken off with roots and given a humid situation, will soon become fine specimens.

The most beautiful of this genus is *L. grandis* (see illustration), of which the *Gardener's Magazine* says:

"Among palms of recent introduction the plant here figured stands alone for distinct expression and fine character. It is crowned with green leaves of a roundish form delicately plaited and doubly cut round the edges, unlike any other palm, and as beautiful as it is unique. It was presented by Mr. Bull at the Brussels

International Show, 1876, and from his hands passed to those of Mr. Wills, and thence to the Royal Gardens, Kew, where, when it flowered, it furnished a subject for B.M. 6,704. The genus *Licuala* prevails in the hotter parts of Eastern Asia; there are about thirty species known, and all of them are of smallish growth and elegant habit. The present species is a native of New Britain."

For the window garden there are no plants more beautiful and useful than the

LATANIA,

a handsome family of palms, with large fan-like leaves. They form splendid objects for the greenhouse, the living-room or sub-tropical garden in summer, and in a young state they form beautiful window plants, and are exceedingly useful for table decoration. There are several species included in this genus, all of which are easily grown into noble specimens. They require a strong, rich soil and liberal supplies of water. The pots should have good drainage, for although these plants enjoy an abundant supply of water, if it be allowed to stagnate in the soil the result will be fatal. The species are all natives of the African Islands, and are easily multiplied by seeds.

THE CHAMÆDOREA

is an exceedingly elegant genus of palms, and comprises many species, all slender, small-growing plants, which are admirably adapted for the decoration of apartments or the dinner-table; their hardiness of constitution and their rich shining green and elegant pinnate leaves render them charming objects in such situations. Among the most desirable species we notice *C. glaucifolia*, an elegant slender-growing species; the leaves are long and pinnate; leaflets narrow, long and slender, giving them the appearance of beautiful plumes; the ground-color is dark green suffused with a glaucous hue. It is one of the most elegant for the window-garden or for table decoration. Native of Gautemala. *C. graminifolia*, is perhaps the most graceful species of the whole genus. Its stem is reed-like, leaves pinnate, from two to four feet in length, rich dark glaucous green, and beautifully arched; leaflets upward of a foot in length and less than half an inch in breadth, the whole plant presenting the appearance of a plume of feathers. For a window plant or table decoration it is simply superb. Native of Costa Rica. *C. microphylla*, is an elegant pigmy palm, in fact, one of the most beautiful of the whole genus. The stem is slender, dark green mottled with white dots, which give it a very peculiar appearance; and the branching flower-spikes are produced from below the leaves, where the stem is only some two inches in height. It carries a good crown of leaves, which are pinnate, from six to twelve inches long, and prettily arched; leaflets ovate-caudate, about four inches long, an inch and a half wide and of a dark green color. This plant is truly a gem.

PHŒNIX.

This genus of palms is very interesting and useful. *P. dactylifera*, the well-known date-palm, is an erect handsome plant, with long pinnate dark-green leaves. It is a superb plant for house culture when young, and for the sub-tropical garden when large. Although one of the most graceful of palms, the leaves are strong and flexible, and are but little injured by summer sun or wind.

HARDY PLANTS FOR EDGINGS.

PLANTS fit for use as edgings should be neat, compact and lasting—that is, they should continue green, dense and healthy from spring till fall—and perennials are more desirable than biennials or annuals. We have many such plants, and among them some are adapted for open, sunny places and others delight in partial shade.

Far be it from me to bewilder your readers with a long list of plants suitable for edgings. Instead, I shall confine myself to the edging plants I now have here, and which are reliably hardy, easily obtained and easily raised.

Grass Sod.—For flower-bed, border or walk, there is no edging prettier or more becoming than sod. But in the case of beds or borders an edging inside of the sod imparts a neat, finished appearance.

Moss Pink (*Phlox subulata*)—Forms the densest kind of an evergreen sod or mat, which in April and May is hidden by purple-pink or snowy-white flowers. It loves an open, sunny place and pines or dies in shady quarters.

Sea Thrift (*Armeria vulgaris*)—Forms dense tufts or solid lines, which in May and June are dotted over thickly with pale to deep pink flowers. It loves an open place, dislikes the shade, and will die if grosser plants spread over it. Divide and replant it in April, or raise it from seeds sown in spring or late summer.

White Rock Cress (*Arabis albida*).—Very close but rather spreading. As an edging, needs lifting, dividing and replanting every third year. April into May, a snowy mass of fragrant flowers. Loves an open place. Propagate by division, cuttings or seeds.

Russian Daisy (*Chrysanthemum Tschihatchewi*).—A flat, very dense but wide-spreading little plant, with finely-divided leaves, and in May and June bears large white daisy-like flowers. Needs cutting to keep within bounds. Raise from seeds or increase by division. Does very well either in sunshine or shade.

Globularia trichosantha.—A neat little plant, with button-heads of deep-blue flowers appearing in May and June. Rare, distinct, easily grown and a little beauty. Likes a moist, free soil and open situation, but will also thrive in partial shade. Raise from seeds or by division.

Creeping Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*).—A close-growing, persistent little plant, that will grow anywhere. I use it extensively and provisionally; that is, as soon as I get up stock of another edging-plant, I remove a row of the bugle to make room for it. May be increased immensely by division. *A. Genevensis*.—A handsomer plant; always proved hardy with me till this winter. The variegated *A. alpina*, a little gem, was also killed, but the common green form has proved the winter well.

Veronica rupestris.—In June is a sod of blue; a neat, dense little spreading plant, that roots along its branches as it moves along. Multiply by division. Grows anywhere. *V. repens* is a dense and rapid spreading plant, only an inch high. *V. pectinata*, a silvery, woolly little

plant; also makes a neat edging. *V. gentianoides* likewise makes a good edging. But one of the best of edgings is *V. incana*, with its silvery leaves and hardy growth. From seeds or division it is easily and rapidly increased. It also makes a neat-blooming plant.

The Stonecrops (*Sedum*)—Are excellent for open, sunny places. They are very dense and spreading, and when in bloom, an unbroken mat of yellow, white, pink or purple. Unless in very dry ground, they are apt to become too thick, and rot in patches. They can be propagated by seeds or division, or you may shear over a mat of *acre, sexangulare* and others of that set, break the stems into little pieces and scatter them on the ground. Most of them will take root and grow.

Thyme, Golden-variegated (*Thymus vulgaris*).—A compact, pretty little plant, yellow in spring, but becoming green in summer; barely evergreen; much better when cut over as it begins to grow. By division and cuttings. Prefers an open place.

Garden Pinks.—Most all kinds of close-growing cushion pinks, no matter of what species, *Dianthus cæsius*, *D. plumarius* or others, are good. I have a hundred yards of the double white *plumarius*. I lift, divide and relay it every year. It forms a neat, close row, and blossoms abundantly. By cuttings and division.

Lychnis Viscaria, Double-flowered.—Is a handsome June-flowering plant and makes a pretty border, but when in bloom seems a little too rank for this purpose; at other times it is appropriate enough. Division. An open place.

Crested Iris (*I. cristata*)—One of our smallest and prettiest American irises, spreads a little too much perhaps, and often after midsummer loses a good many leaves; but where it does well it forms a pretty belt. Although indigenous along the Alleghanies it is uncommon in gardens.

Grigor's Columbine.—This is a small form of *Aquilegia glandulosa* and that sold in the trade as the true *Aquilegia glandulosa*, also *Aquilegia glandulosa vera* and *Aquilegia glandulosa jucunda*; but call it what you may it is not the true species *glandulosa*, which is not, so far as I know, in cultivation in America or Europe either. No matter about the name, the plant when in bloom is one of the loveliest gems of the garden and well fitted for a belt or border. Grow from seed and sow some every year.

Other Plants.—The reason I have omitted the evergreen candytufts is because they often get considerably winter-killed; when they escape, few plants make a better edging. Santolina gets cut to the ground most every winter. The larger of the houseleeks blossom and die, leaving the border rather ragged. Few plants are better than *Silene maritima* if we could only get enough of it. Spring Adonis would be very pretty, but see what the plants would cost. Aubrietias form dense mats and blossom abundantly, but they are not to be depended on.

Campanula turbinata would do and we could raise any quantity of it from seed, but *garganica*, *pulla* and others of that class are too "miffy." Funkias are sometimes used, but after midsummer behold the misery of their foliage. *Erysimum rupestre* forms the densest kind of a mat, but it is only a biennial. And in this way there is something in favor of, or against many other plants.

For Shady Places.—The lesser periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), commonly known as "Myrtle," makes a capital border in a shady place. Wild violets, especially the variegated-flowered *V. cucullata*, *Sedum ternatum*, the barren worts (*Epimedium*), some of the dwarf phloxes—for instance, *P. amana* and *P. reptans*—and hepaticas, will grow freely in slightly shady places, and are easily obtained.

Among Shrubs.—The creeping euonymus (*E. radicans*) and its variegated form are perhaps the most appropriate of all. True, we have small-leaved rhododendrons, *Azalea amana*, ledums, sand myrtles, vaccineums, *Daphne Cneorum*, and some of the very dwarf conifers that would make pretty edgings, but their expensiveness renders them unpopular. Because some plants are natives of our woods and mountains is no reason why you should expect to get them from our nurserymen for ten cents each. They cannot grow them for less than a great deal more than that. The retinosporas can be kept small for many years; they are easily raised from cuttings. Young plants make fine edgings.

WILLIAM FALCONER.

CLIMBERS: INDOORS AND OUT.

EITHER the garden or the greenhouse is shorn of half its glory without a few climbing or trailing plants, and here, at the head of the list, we must give first place to one of the loveliest plants of recent introduction, *Asparagus tenuissimus*. The name asparagus usually suggests to us the vegetable with which we are all familiar, but the plant in question sends up graceful, twining sprays of feathery green, light and delicate as the maiden-hair, and possessing the added advantage of durability. It will last for two weeks after being cut, and keeps its freshness a long time without being in water, making it very desirable for corsage or hand bouquets. It might be expected to supplant smilax to a considerable extent for decorative purposes, but it is heavily handicapped by one circumstance—its name. It is very well for the poet of all time to say, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet;" it certainly would, only the world at large would not think so. So it is with the asparagus; everyone acknowledges its beauty and its grace, which recalls Mrs. Hale's description of the jasmine:

"The fashion of her gracefulness was not a followed rule,
And her effervescent sprightliness was never learned at school."

But still the name seems to outweigh all its attractions. It should be, however, easy enough to remedy this disadvantage. Smilax is not really smilax, for that name correctly belongs to the sarsaparilla; our smilax is *Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*, so, following this precedent, we might feloniously abstract some other and prettier name for our asparagus. Taking the specific name of a similar member of the same family, and changing it to the feminine form, we have *Plumosa*, which is graceful, appropriate, and might readily become popular.

I cannot too highly recommend this plant for house decoration; it may be trained in an infinity of ways, and grows very rapidly. It seems to prefer plenty of light, which renders it an admirable window plant. It requires considerable water, but should have good drainage. Its small greenish-white flowers are pretty and fragrant, though inconspicuous. It is a native of Nepal.

The smilax is too familiar to need description; we see its glossy, myrtle-like leaves on every occasion when green

drapery is required. It is a most desirable basket plant, requiring a rich sandy soil and plenty of water during the growing season. It may be allowed to hang loosely from the pot or basket, or be trained on some slight support into any form required. It has a bulbous root, and may be propagated by offsets, or from seed. During the summer it should lie dormant, receiving but little water; in the early autumn it may be re-potted and started afresh.

The passion-flowers are a charming family of climbers for indoor culture. They require light rich soil, but little water and abundant sunlight. *Passiflora cœrulea* has, as its name implies, sky-blue flowers of distinctly characteristic form. It is excellent for conservatory or house culture, but, if planted outside, requires protection during the winter. It should be cut back every summer close to the main stem, as it will flower from the new shoots the following season. *P. racemosa* is a free-blooming variety with red flowers. *P. quadrangularis*, so called from its angular stem, produces the fruit known to West Indians as the granadilla. It resembles a large lime, and has a cooling, agreeable acid flavor. Several other varieties bear edible fruits, which are freely produced in a warm conservatory. *P. quadrangularis variegata* is a handsomer plant than the plain green form, being richly marked with yellow. *P. princeps* is a strong-growing red-flowered variety.

The tacsonias, a family belonging to the same order as the Passifloras, may be grown in a similar manner. *Tacsonia Van Volxemi*, with delicately cut, dark-green leaves and star-rayed red and purple flowers, though following the main characteristics of the passion-flowers, it is much more delicate and patrician in its style of beauty. *T. peduncularis*, also called *Passiflora peduncularis*, bears rose-colored flowers. It is indigenous to Peru, where it is called *tacso*, this forming the derivative of its botanical name.

Among tender vines having brilliant flowers the tro-pæolums must be given high rank. *T. tricolorum* is very noticeable, having leaves of tender green and small, oddly-shaped, bright scarlet and black flowers. It has tuberous roots, which should be planted in September, so that they

may have a good start before winter. The soil should be light, but rich, and though it must not be allowed to become dry, it must not be watered too freely before the leaves appear. The branches must be trained over some little trellis. *T. Lobbianum* is a good window plant; it is a vigorous grower, with bright orange and scarlet flowers. The tropæolums are allowed to die down, when they begin to fade, and are treated like the smilax.

The maurandya is a very pretty indoor climber. It flowers profusely, its pink, white or purple flowers resembling a foxglove in shape. It is of very easy culture, growing from seed or cuttings. It grows riotously out of doors during the warm weather, but will not stand our winters. The thunbergia is another climber which may be raised from seed, though it is really a greenhouse perennial, and is best increased by cuttings. *T. Harrisii* has beautiful sky-blue flowers; other varieties are scarlet, pale yellow and orange. They are mostly natives of Africa and the East Indies. *Cobæa scandens* is an old favorite, and can hardly be surpassed as a basket plant or climber, for its clinging tendrils catch at anything they can reach. It has large, gloxinia-shaped flowers, rich purple in color; they are produced very abundantly. A newer variety of this is *Cobæa scandens fol. var.*, with handsomely variegated leaves. It is a native of Mexico, and is named in honor of Father Cobo, a Spanish priest, who discovered it.

An oddity among climbers is *Phaseolus caracalla*, or snail plant. Its dark purple flower is an unpleasantly realistic imitation of a snail shell. It has pretty leaves and numerous tendrils, clinging to all the adjacent objects like the cobæa.

Many of the clematis do well indoors, especially hybrid sorts.

But the ivy stands pre-eminent among climbers. It is easy to grow and easy to train, stands all temperatures, save below freezing, seldom requires moving, and gives added attractiveness to any group.

The English ivy, *Hedera helix*, is called a rooted climber, as its sprays are fringed with tiny roots, which

catch hold of any support, so that it requires no special training. It needs rich soil—

“Of right choice food are its meals, I ween”—

and must have mixed with it a good supply of leaf-mould and well-decayed manure. They must be placed in large, well-drained pots, with an inch or two of charcoal at the bottom. As the roots increase they must be transferred to larger vessels. They like plenty of moisture, and soon suffer if allowed to dry up, and they should occasionally have the leaves well sponged. It is well to train them in some portable form, so that they may be moved from one room to another. The English ivy is of slow growth, rarely increasing more than two feet in a year. It may be propagated by rooting the slips in water, and afterward transferring them to sand.

Hedera canariensis is the Irish ivy; it is larger than the others, with five-lobed leaves. It thrives in a cool, shady room. Too much sun spoils the leaves, but it will not blossom without sunlight. However, the flower has little beauty; the plant is grown entirely for its beautiful light-green leaves.

The German ivy, *Senecio scandens*, is a misnomer, not being an ivy at all. It grows much more rapidly than the real ivies, has light-green leaves, and is very clean and thrifty. It may be left to hang over its pot or be trained to climb in any imaginable shape.

Linaria cymbalaria is called Coliseum or Kenilworth ivy, though it also is not really an ivy. Its tiny green leaves and minute lilac flowers completely cover many old walls and ruins in Europe. It is very useful as a window plant.

Among the true ivies are many elegant variegated forms, all margined with contrasting colors. The silver edge ivy, *H. argentea*, is frequently used as an edging plant. Other varieties are margined with yellow, rose, white and purple; while some are rendered attractive by their large golden berries. Our title of “Climbers Indoors and Out” seems a misnomer, since only indoor sorts are mentioned, but the latter class must wait for another month.

E. L. TAPLIN.

THE TUBEROSE.

DURING the last fifteen or twenty years no other flower has risen to such prominence nor assumed as great a commercial value as the tuberose. Formerly a florist was content to possess fifty or one hundred bulbs. Now each of the leading firms grows as many thousands. When the excitement for cut-flowers began to develop, this was selected among the first, on account of easy culture, pure white color, delightful fragrance and favorable keeping properties after cutting. To some people the odor is overpowering, especially in closed rooms, but the demand for the bulbs appears to suffer no diminution, but has increased, if anything, within two or three years.

The tuberose delights in a deep, rich, light soil, with a southern exposure to lengthen the season as much as possible at the North. The occasional early frosts of au-

•tumn frequently destroy the flower-buds, or the bloom before it arrives at maturity; hence any assistance we can render our plants to hasten the flowering season is a great point gained. This is partially accomplished by potting the bulbs and slightly forcing them before planting in the open ground, a measure feasible in a limited way, but rather expensive for culture on a large scale. Such plants, it is thought, are rendered weakly, and do not, as a rule, yield so large a percentage of bloom as those grown in the usual way. Beginning with the small bulblet or offset, it takes about two seasons to form a first-class or flowering bulb—the third summer usually finds it in perfection, after which it deteriorates somewhat after the manner of many bulbous plants, as, for instance, the hyacinth.

It seems to be pretty generally conceived that the tube-

rose will bloom but once. This is certainly erroneous, as I have tested bulbs with special care to ascertain their capacity to bloom continuously for a succession of years, and the spikes were produced regularly. However, a marked diminution in quality was plainly perceptible. For open-air culture, the old double-flowering variety, or, as it is sometimes known, the Double Italian, is perhaps

unsurpassed for general cultivation in open air. The Pearl, introduced a few years since, is not so tall, but with larger flowers, and is better adapted for house culture. The single form is pretty for cut-flower work, reminding one of orange blossoms both in appearance and fragrance.—*Josiah Hoopes, in New York Tribune.*

THE TROPÆOLUM.

THIS plant is one of the many exceedingly useful yet sadly neglected old garden favorites. We cannot see why it should not be more generally cultivated, unless it is that so much real beauty can be obtained at so little cost, the general impression being that anything to be valuable must be expensive. We are pleased to note that within the past few years a new impulse has been given to the cultivation of this favorite flower by the production of hybrid varieties, of a dwarf, free-blooming habit, which are well adapted for bedding plants, while the climbing sorts are admirably adapted for covering trellises, or for any purpose where climbing vines are required. This genus comprises about forty species, nearly all of which are confined to the mountainous regions of the western side of South America, from New Grenada to Chili.

The tropæolum seems naturally to divide into several classes. First, we have the tuberous-rooted species, which are only adapted for greenhouse culture. Prominent in this class are *T. azureum* and *T. tricolorum*.

Next we find those with large, round leaves and showy flowers, often coarse growers, but very ornamental, mostly varieties of *T. majus*. Again, those with small, rounded leaves and delicate, symmetrical flowers, the habit of the plant being rather climbing than trailing; and lastly, a class of bushy, erect habit, with regular flowers, and generally profuse bloomers.

These classes, except the first, often run into each other, and in individual plants it is frequently difficult to tell where they belong; nor have the numerous seedling varieties of the last few years tended to remove the difficulty, for they are so confused by hybridization that it is almost impossible to determine their true position. It is, however, of but little consequence what their position may be botanically, so long as they accomplish the purpose for which flowering plants are grown.

The general cultivation of the tropæolum is very simple. The tuberous-rooted species, which are greenhouse plants and winter bloomers, require a light friable soil, with a liberal mixture of fine sand. They should be potted in the autumn in well-drained pots, placing the tuber on the top of the soil, or pressing it but partly under the surface. Water thoroughly, and then place in a moderately warm situation. The crown will soon send out a stem, often as fine as a hair, which, as it grows, must be carefully trained to a trellis. In a few weeks flowers will appear, and the plant will soon become a mass of bloom. The blossoms do not resemble in the least the garden species, but are delicate, curious and beautiful.

Those of *T. azureum* are of a beautiful blue, resembling double violets, and are delightfully fragrant. The discovery of this species in 1844 overturned a pet botanical theory. It had, with some show of reason, been asserted that no genus, where the general color was yellow or red, could have a blue flower, but this species of tropæolum is a striking exception to the rule.

The general treatment of all the tuberous varieties is plenty of air, light and water, with frequent syringings when in growth, to keep down red spider, and the withholding of water when the plants are at rest. They are increased by cuttings, which root readily in pure sand; also by seed, which vegetates freely if the hard outer shell is carefully removed.

The large growing tropæolums, or, as they are commonly called, nasturtiums, are varieties of *T. majus*. They are very showy; and as they are very democratic in their habits, succeeding everywhere, they should be very generally planted. The colors are various and the species occur under a variety of names. The flowers are found of every shade of yellow, orange and red, and of all combinations of these colors, in spots, blotches, shading or bands, upon both light and dark grounds. As in case with all the garden tropæolums, the plants succeed



NASTURTIIUM "EMPERESS OF INDIA."



TROPÆOLUM POLYPHYLLUM.

best in a poor soil, for, in a rich loam, they run all to foliage and give but little bloom. These varieties are well adapted for covering unsightly objects, as they produce a profusion of bright foliage and showy flowers. Seed is freely produced, from which the plants are commonly raised; any fine variety may, however, be increased by cuttings, which root freely.

We next come to perhaps the most useful class for general cultivation, *T. minus* and its numerous varieties. These may be readily distinguished from the varieties of *T. majus* by the leaves, in the former the nerves of the leaves always end in a point, which is never the case with those of the latter. These varieties are now very popular for greenhouse culture; they are free-flowering, of rapid growth and of easy culture. They are also admirably adapted for large vases, trellises or for bedding-plants, covering the ground with a mass of dark-green foliage, and, toward autumn giving a profusion of gorgeous bloom. *T. Lobbianum*, with small bright orange-

scarlet flowers, was one of the first of this class to attract attention; but there are now large numbers of varieties that take the lead, although it is doubtful if they are any improvement, either in the color or productiveness of bloom.

We lastly notice the upright bedding varieties, of which there are many in cultivation, and are popularly known as the Tom Thumb section. They form miniature bushes, profusely studded with showy flowers in all shades of color, from clear yellow to the richest maroon. They are most desirable bedding-plants, as they form striking masses of color. This has now attained the dignity of a florist's flower, new hybrid varieties having received distinctive names, which enables one to select a particular color for a specific purpose. Prominent in this class is the Empress of India (see illustration), of which the *Gardener's Chronicle* speaks as follows:

"The plant is of dwarf, compact habit, like King of Tom Thumbs, with dark-tinted foliage and flowers of a deep but brilliant crimson, many degrees deeper and richer than in the variety just named. We know of nothing which comes so closely to it in color as some of the brighter crimson forms of *Phlox Drummondii*. We have no hesitation in saying that, as seen by us, *Tropæolum Empress of India* will rank far ahead of anything of the kind which has previously been known."

Among other varieties of recent introduction is *T. polyphyllum*, which is said to be one of the most valuable hardy plants ever introduced, not only for its freedom of growth and flower and the readiness with which it may be grown, but also for its picturesque way of growth; for while its foliage may form a dense carpet over a bank, the wreaths of flowers usually throw themselves into irregular windings and groupings. It is a very distinct-looking subject whether in or out of flower. When planted on a warm, sunny rockwork the stems creep about, snake-like, through the vegetation around, sometimes to the extent of three or four feet. The flowers are of a deep yellow, and produced as freely as the leaves. It is a tuberous-rooted kind, although entirely distinct from those first described, quite hardy in dry situations on rockwork and dry sunny banks, where it should not often be disturbed. It springs up early and dies down at the end of summer. Our illustration gives a fair idea of the habit of this plant.

BEAUTIFYING THE CEMETERY.

IT is a rare sight to find in rural cemeteries anything bordering on neatness even, much less floral decorations. Yet there is no place where flowers are more appropriate, or have a more beautiful significance. Those who have money to spend upon the last habitation of their friends and relatives, and who heartily desire to show their love and sorrow by some outward sign, will act more wisely by giving small sums annually to the sexton to keep the cemetery in order than to pay vast sums to the marble cutter for poorly executed monuments, that are not infrequently neglected if not forgotten. We do not, in the least, object to, on the contrary most heartily approve of, suitable monuments in memory of loving friends; but we think it poor taste to pay \$500 for a monument and allow it to be overgrown with briars and thorns, so that in a few years the grave cannot be approached, because of the brambles. If money is to be freely used in marking the spot where the remains of our loved ones repose, let a suitable amount be paid to keep it beautiful, but it is more fitting that the flowers around the graves of our friends should be planted and cared for by our own hands.

There is, too, a symbolism in the introduction of flowers and plants here, which makes them specially appropriate. The plants have come up from roots which were buried in the earth in order that the flowers which we admire might bloom. They were put into the ground in the form of seeds or bulbs with no beauty about them to win our admiration, but they came up in due time arrayed in such beauty and sweetness as to fill us with admiration. The annual death and resurrection of the flowers teach us a most beautiful and impressive lesson. We remember of visiting, years ago, an old friend, eighty-five years of age; while engaged in planting tulips in his garden he took up one, and after looking at it with tearful eyes for some minutes, said, "This is a seedling of my own raising, one that I have cultivated and guarded tenderly for many years; it bears the name of my dear wife, long since buried; we will now bury it, and, like her, it will in good time arise and live again."

Moreover, the flowers we plant and cultivate over the graves of our loved ones, suggest, at least, a certain continued supervision, a daily tending and care, which favors the idea that those to whose memory they are sacred are still held in recollection by their friends.

For the benefit of those who are especially interested in the adornment of cemetery grounds we copy from the *Country Gentleman* the following, from the pen of our esteemed friend and contributor, William Falconer, Esq. It is a paper complete in suggestions and information:

"A substantial and neat fence should surround the whole enclosure, and it should be kept in good repair. The gates should be strong, ample and conveniently situated. Well-made roads, wide, of easy grade and graceful curves, should lead as directly as possible to the several sections of the cemetery. Long straight roads, serpentine wiggles, meaningless curves, steep grades and

roundabout ways should be avoided, and no more roads than are necessary made. Gravel roads, run wild with weeds, are a wretched sight; if the roads cannot be kept clean and in good repair, better far allow the land to stay in sod. Gravel pathways may lead here and there where avenues would be impracticable or unseemly, but have no more of them than can be kept in order.

Shelter is as absolutely necessary in a cemetery as in a garden, if we would have happy trees or shrubs, pretty flowers and pleasing effects. The fence alone cannot afford the needed shelter which, if not given by contiguous higher grounds and trees, must be supplied from within. Therefore, places unfitted for burial lots, and alongside the avenues and fences, should be planted with trees.

No matter how undulating the land may be, its surface should be smooth and even. A smooth surface is easily cared for; an uneven one, with difficulty. Always accustomed to the little mounds that designate where burials have been made, it may appear sacrilegious to remove or level them, but that is what cemetery officials recommend, what many lot owners do, and without doing so it is barely possible to keep the grass in good order. During the summer time the grass upon the mounds "burns" out, and the plants suffer severely by drouth; whereas, when the surface of the plot is smooth and level, a good grass sod may be maintained there as easily as in our gardens at home. Without good soil we cannot reasonably expect good grass. If the ground is poor it is only a small matter to the several lot owners to remove some of the poor soil and replace with six or more inches deep of good loam. Artificial manures are excellent in their way, starting the grass in spring or reinvigorating it in summer, but the best results are obtained from top-dressings of farmyard manure, or, better still, from farm manure and good loam in equal parts and which had been composted for several months before being used.

Preserve all natural trees which are upon the grounds and do not interfere with burial lots. Rocky places, steep declivities, ravines and such other parts as are unfitted for burial lots, should be devoted to trees. Such deciduous trees as are known to thrive well in the vicinity, as the oak, maple, sweet gum, tulip-tree, beech and the like should be used in the wooded places. Elms, lindens and others often subject to insect ravages, should be well considered before planted. Nut-trees, as hickory, walnut and chestnut, are an inducement to trespass. Handsome flowering trees, as yellow wood, catalpa, redbud, hawthorn, flowering logwood, silver bell, magnolia and *Kalreuteria*, and those of graceful form like the birch, can be introduced in the neighborhood of lots. Deciduous trees are better adapted than evergreens for exposed places; but where practicable evergreens should be used freely. Norway, white and black spruces, Scotch, Austrian, red and white pines are among the best of their kind; and red cedar planted closely has a telling effect,

Do not mix up the trees in planting, but group them—beeches here, oaks there, and so on. The most favorable places, as regards shelter and soil, should be assigned to the new, rare and choice trees. Pendulous trees, as the birch, beech and oak, are graceful and beautiful, but a multiplicity of such formal types as the weeping Kilmarnock willow, sophora, elm, mountain ash, Japanese cherry, ash, and the trailing dwarf cherry “worked” on tall naked stems, should be avoided. Columnar or fastigiata forms, as the Irish juniper, Irish yew, fastigiata oak, should also be used only in limited numbers. The weeping forms of the silver fir and Norway spruce, among evergreens, when “worked” low and trimmed to grow upward, and lap after lap of branches droop over each other, as in the case of the weeping beech, are graceful and beautiful.

Shrubs of all beautiful kinds may be used, but rank-growing sorts like the mock oranges and lilacs should not be planted in small lots. In large cemeteries, masses of shrubs are planted here and there in clumps and belts for gardenesque effect, used as a support to shelter-belts, or a fringe to groves and wooden knolls. In rural churchyards, however, the shrubs are used mostly by the individual lot-owners in their lots. If they are prepared to give strict attention to their plants they may use almost anything that is hardy; if not, they had better confine themselves to what will get along fairly well with but little attention. In the event of a sheltered lot and good soil, I should advise evergreens; in the case of an exposed situation, deciduous shrubs only. Best among evergreens are *Retinospora obtusa*, weeping Norway spruce, weeping silver fir (of type before mentioned), golden yew, Japanese juniper, *Taxus cuspidata*, the finer arbor vitæ, as Golden, Siberian, George Peabody, Vervæne's, pendulous and Hovey's, the broad-leaved hemlock spruce kept in bush form, Japanese hemlock, Lawson cypress (South of New York), the glaucous variety of red cedar (kept low by annual trimming), dwarf Corsican, Mugho, Masson's dwarf Scotch, Swiss stone, and Dawson's dwarf white pine; umbrella pine (but medium-sized plants are very expensive), *Rhododendron everestianum*. Japanese euonymus, and *Yucca filamentosa*. Many lovely evergreens, as Nordman's, Pinsapo, and Cephalonian silver firs, may with care be kept in handsome form, and no larger than a bush, for twenty-five or thirty years.

“Among deciduous shrubs for lots avoid all having variegated leaves, as the kerria, Japanese diervilla and althæa; those with insignificant or inconspicuous flowers, as the barberry, amorpha and sea buckthorn; berried bushes like the Indian currant, tartarian honeysuckles and snowberry, or coarse growing shrubs like the elder, buckthorn and ninebark. Use the most beautiful among spiræas, and snowballs, deutzias, double-flowering almonds, *Xanthoceras sorbifolia*, Chinese tamarix, golden bell, daphne and the like.

“Among vines use periwinkle (myrtle), to form belts or mats; Irish ivy in somewhat shady places to cling to stone or wood; *Euonymus radicans* (evergreen), three to six feet high, to grow against the stones or trees; the climbing hydrangea to attach itself to rough surfaces, as the trunks of trees; the Japanese ivy (*Ampelopsis tricuspidata*), to clothe stone walls or other surfaces with

the densest leafy covering of green in summer and crimson in fall, clematises, Virginian creeper, wistaria and the like, festooning trees or draping walls, are known to all of us.

“For hardy flowers plant crocuses, snowdrops, Siberian squills and daffodils among the grass; get a clump of the single-flowering, fragrant violet and lily-of-the-valley, and let them both run wild together. Clumps of Florentine iris, white lilies and white plantain lilies are appropriate and pretty, but the last named must have shade. In the open sunny places have stonecrop, perennial pinks (*Dianthus plumarius*), cæsius and the like, moss pink (*Phlox subulata*), rock cress (*Arabis albidia*), and others of evergreen mat-forming nature. These will take care of themselves. From among our garden plants many may be chosen, but I should dislike to see used tall phloxes, larkspurs or hollyhocks, gaudy Oriental poppies or other coarse-growing subjects. Select plants that are neat, hardy, and last a good while in freshness and beauty.

“We usually crowd into our grave lots most everything in the way of a greenhouse or window plant we possess. Geraniums love the light; fuchsias and begonias prefer a little shade, and so on. It is more a question of situation than variety. While with drummond phlox, mignonne, sweet alyssum and petunias we may make a showy mass, we should guard against confusion and coarseness. Zinnias, French marigolds, annual chrysanthemums and the like, though showy, are very rank and coarse.

“In pretentious cemeteries a special effort is made in flower-garden display. Some plats are specially reserved for flower gardening alone, and the beds and borders are planted in the most elaborate style. Some people object to these gay gardens in cemeteries, but I do not. The public demands them and the public shall have them. Spring Grove Cemetery may be possible in every city, but it is not at all probable; were it so, I should favor it. It was my dear lamented friend, the late Adolphe Strausch, who made and kept Spring Grove what it is; but there is not a Strausch in every city. But, considering the spacious dimensions, the hills and dales, the woods and water and the resources in the way of plants, help and the like, of our large cemeteries, I should certainly advise a modification of the present system of garniture. We want charming landscape effects, intelligent grouping of trees, shrubs and lesser plants, the colonization of our showiest hardy plants where they shall seem happy and at home, and appear to the best advantage. We want variety, and at the same time harmony—something fresh at every step and without recurrence—a pleasant bit of color here and there, without that perpetual dotting on every hand, so objectionable to good taste. We want to make the wildest places the most enchanting, and yet not rob them of their wildness. We want the mill hand and the foundry worker to pause in admiration before a cedar draped with blue wistaria and carpeted about with star-flowers, trilliums, spring beauty and poets' narcissus, or other combinations equally beautiful and practical. We have hundreds upon hundreds of lovely plants, native and exotic, that will contribute nobly, sweetly, appropriately to the embellishment of our cemeteries, if the geranium gardener will deign to recognize them.”



BELL-FLOWERED IRIS (*Sisyrinchium grandiflorum*). Flowers Purple.

THE SISYRINCHIUM.

THIS is a small genus of very pretty, hardy, herbaceous plants, confined wholly to the United States and the British Provinces. *S. Bermudianum*, blue-eyed grass, is very common in the Northern and Eastern States. When out of flower the plant resembles a tuft of low-growing coarse grass. The flowers are small, of a delicate blue, changing to purplish, and occasionally pure white. This genus makes a beautiful clump in the garden. It is in its greatest perfection of flower in June, but will flower sparingly during the whole summer.

S. grandiflorum, the subject of our illustration, is well

worthy of cultivation in every collection of hardy plants. The foliage is narrow and grass-like; the flowers, which are produced on slender stems, six inches to twelve inches high, are bell-shaped and drooping, of a rich dark purple in the typical plant and of a pure transparent whiteness in the variety *album*. Both are exceedingly graceful and pretty plants, charming for the rock garden or borders. They prefer a light, peaty or sandy soil, and a warm situation. They are readily increased by division in autumn. This species is indigenous to Northern California, British Columbia, Idaho and Nevada.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

WHERE plenty of garden vegetables are required, frequent sowings or plantings should be made. The "spring fever" of vegetable gardening is generally of short duration, and is at its height when the attack first comes on. The owner of a small garden is apt to have it so seriously that undue haste is made in all the operations; plowing or spading is not half done, the surface is barely stirred up enough to show that some one has been over the whole ground; fertilizers are improperly supplied, and plantings are made with hands unguided by experience or judgment. All the seeds are put in on the same day, and the work finished up as rapidly as possible. The result is, in some cases, a surplus of vegetables for a short period, and none thereafter; in other cases, at no time does the garden afford vegetables worthy of the name.

For the best success a series of plantings should be made, commencing with radishes and lettuce; plant as early in the season as the weather will permit, always bearing in mind that it is folly to put seeds in the ground when it is cold and wet. A planting of radishes should be made every ten days until the first of June, after which time do not plant again until September, as in this climate radishes in midsummer are worthless. Peas should also be sown in succession until the first of June. Plant a few at a time, in order that the whole crop may be consumed when in the best possible condition; it is far better to eat canned peas than half-ripened ones from the vines. A planting of peas can be made to advantage after early potatoes, if the proper kinds are selected, and for this purpose "Henderson's First of All," or others of that class are best. It is folly to plant so late the large, wrinkled varieties, as a crop of mildew would be secured in September instead of a delicious vegetable. Two plantings of beets in spring and one in August will keep up a succession of this vegetable, tender and sweet. Sweet-corn should be planted every week, say twenty hills at a time, from the first of May until the middle of July; this will afford an ample supply for nearly three months. Beans should be planted at intervals of three weeks, the last planting to be made about the middle of July. This crop, if not wanted for snap-beans, can be used to good advantage for pickling.

A small planting of strap-leaf turnips should be made as early as possible in the season, and another on the ground where the early peas were grown. A later planting can be made, as well as one of ruta-bagas, where the early potatoes were grown. In any vacant places, if such there are in the garden, a small patch of spinach should be cultivated, if for no other purpose than to turn under as a vegetable manure. It is of the greatest importance to make an early and late planting of tomatoes. For the first, put out strong, stocky plants; for the second, drop a seed or two in each hill of early corn, and as soon as the corn is done cut the stalks to the ground, and a splendid crop of tomatoes will be secured, which will be very useful after the first has ripened its best fruits.

By this method of planting, the garden will yield more than double its usual crop, and the vegetables will be far better than the straggling, tough, indigestible things usually gathered. Besides, it will add greatly to the pleasures of gardening to have everything look fresh and healthy the whole season.

C. L. A.

The Egg Plant.

When well grown and properly cooked, the egg-plant is one of the most delicious of garden vegetables, although its cultivation is attended with more difficulty than any other.

As it is a native of Tropical America, it at all times requires a high temperature, and at no season of its growth should it be kept in a temperature of less than 70°. Like all other tropical plants, it is of the greatest importance to secure a rapid and uninterrupted growth from the start, as the plants never do well if they are severely checked when young, and there is nothing to be gained by starting them very early.

The seed should be sown rather thickly in a well drained pot or pan filled with light loamy soil, and covered to the depth of a quarter of an inch; the pot or pan should then be placed in a warm, moist situation, as close to the glass as possible, and as soon as the plants are well up and strong enough to handle they should be transplanted, some two or three inches apart each way, into shallow boxes filled with the compost above referred to. As the plants increase in size they will commence to crowd each other, and in this event it is well to carefully remove every other plant and transfer them to other boxes, or else place them in three or four-inch pots; if this is done they can be grown inside to a much larger size.

The plants can be very gradually exposed to the open air about the last week in May, and planted out about the 10th of June. It is well to give the egg-plant one of the warmest and most sheltered situations at command, and the soil in which they are grown can hardly be made too rich and deep. The plants should be set about two and a half feet apart each way. Well decayed stable manure is the most suitable, and clean, thorough cultivation is also indispensable to success. In seasons of drought a good mulch of coarse littery manure can be used with decided benefit to the crop. Of the several varieties in cultivation the New York Improved, with its large round purple fruit, is the most popular sort. The Long Purple is much earlier and by some claimed to be the most hardy of all; it certainly is the most productive. The Black Pekin is one of the latest additions to the list, and is by some much esteemed.

The Scarlet Chinese, White Fruited and one or two other varieties are grown more for curiosity and ornament than for use, and are generally classed among ornamental fruit and gourd-bearing plants, where I think they very appropriately belong.

CHARLES E. PARNELL.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE COCOA-NUT PALM.

A CHINESE proverb says that "there are as many useful properties in the cocoa-nut palm as there are days in the year;" and a Polynesian saying tells us that "the man who plants a cocoa-nut plants meat and drink, hearth and home, vessels and clothing for himself and his children after him."

The solid part of the nut almost alone supplies food to thousands and the milk serves them for drink. From the dry nut you get cocoa-nut oil, which, when fresh, may be used as lard or butter.

Under the name of *copra* it forms the main or only export of many Oceanic islands. The thicker portion of it is called stearine, and is used for candles, while the clear oil is burned in lamps. In process of purification it yields glycerine, and enters largely into the manufacture of the better class soaps.

The fibre that surrounds the nut is known in commerce as *coir*, and is used to make ropes, matting and mats. Brushes and brooms are also made of it, and it is sometimes used in stuffing cushions.

The leaves serve as an excellent thatch—on the flat blades prepared like papyrus the most famous Buddhist manuscripts are written; the long midribs or branches (strictly speaking the leaf-stalks) answer for rafters, posts or fencing; the fibrous sheath at the base is a remarkable natural imitation of cloth employed for strainers, wrappers and hats; while the trunk or stem passes in carpentry under the name of porcupine wood, and produces beautiful effects as a wonderfully-colored cabinet-maker's material. These are only a few of the innumerable uses of the cocoa-nut palm.

In the early green stage at which cocoa-nuts are generally picked in the tropics, the shell can be easily cut through with a sharp table-knife. Then the nutty part is soft and jelly-like and can be readily eaten with a spoon.

The office of the cocoa-nut water or milk is the deposition of the nutty part around the side of the shell; it is,

so to speak, the mother-liquid, from which the harder edible portion is afterward derived.

To understand the formation of the cocoa-nut, it is necessary to examine a "grower," one that has sprouted on shipboard. An examination of a "grower" very soon convinces one of the use of the milk in the cocoa-nut.

It must be duly borne in mind that the nut is not originally grown for food for man and animals, but solely to reproduce its kind. If you look at the sharp end of the cocoa-nut, you will see three little brown pits or depressions on its surface. Two of these are firmly stopped up, but the third is only closed by a slight film or very thin shell. Just opposite this soft hole lies a small, roundish knob, imbedded in the edible portion, which is the embryo palm, for whose benefit the meat and drink are grown. As it is difficult for the seed or embryo to get much water from the outside, it has a good supply furnished it in the inside of the shell. Hence, you perceive, there is good reason for the milk in the cocoa-nut.

The nutty portion, composed of oil and starch, furnishes food for the young plant until it is able to procure nutriment from the earth, air and moisture, as other plants.

The cocoa-nut is really not a nut, but "a drupaceous fruit with a fibrous mesocarp." It has the largest and most richly stored seed of any known plant, and the hardest and most unmanageable of any known shell.

The cocoa-nut loves the sea, and only on the sandy levels or alluvial flats of the seashore does it bring its nuts to perfection. On the coast line of Southern India immense groves of the cocoa-nut palm fringe the shore for miles and miles together.

A good tree in full bearing should produce one hundred and twenty cocoa-nuts in one season, and, under favorable circumstances, sometimes attains the height of ninety feet.

I am indebted to Prof. Grant Allen, of England, for many facts regarding the cocoa-nut. LOUISE DUDLEY.

FAVORITE FLOWERS.

"FLOWERS have their language," says an able writer. "Theirs is an oratory that speaks in perfumed silence," and some flowers almost bear written upon their upturned faces the thoughts of which they are living representatives.

"In Eastern lands they talk of flowers,
And they tell in garlands their loves and cares;
Each blossom that blooms in their garden bowers,
On its leaves a mystic language bears."

The edelweiss is the Swiss flower, a dwarf plant of the same family as our white "everlasting" of the fields, but having a larger blossom.

"Once there was a maiden"—so the legend runs—"so

fair, so pure, so heavenly-minded, that no suitor was found worthy to win her; and so, though all men vainly sighed for her, at last she was metamorphosed into a white, star-like flower, and placed high up on the loftiest mountain top, close to the snow she resembled, to be forever a type of the womanhood that is purest and most lovely." And because the flower was only found through peril and toil and an upward struggle, it became a saying through all the cantons that to win the love that was highest and noblest was "to pluck the edelweiss," and no higher honor could any lady merit than to have the little white flower placed, as her own emblem, within her gentle hand. So at length it grew to be sacred to betrothals, as

the orange-blossom is sacred to marriage, and no maiden might be won till her lover had scaled the perilous heights himself to seek the priceless edelweiss and lay it at her feet. Like the Scotch white heather, it told in itself the old, sweet tale; for, if the maiden took his offering, the happy lover might hope, and if she placed it in her girdle or on her bosom, then he knew that she was his.

Flowers are all lovely "after their kind," and many have a national signification.

The rose is the national flower of England, from the time of the York and Lancaster factions.

The blue cornflower, which we know as bachelor's buttons (*Centaurea cyanus*), is the favorite in Germany, because the good old Emperor William loves it for the sake of his mother, by whose side he used to gather it in the meadows when a child. The Germans call it "Kaiser Blume" or "king's flower," and nosegays of it are sold in the markets of Berlin, as daisy sheaves are sold in our cities. The leek is the national emblem of Wales as the thistle is of Scotland.

The field or Paris daisy (the marguerite) is now the royal flower of Italy, in compliment to the Queen Margherita, who has adopted her name-flower as her own device, having her pearls set in such starry shapes, and her belongings impressed with it in every manner. The marguerite, by the way, is own cousin to our ox-eye daisy and very much like it, only slenderer of stem and of thinner petals, and both are species of chrysanthemums, the true daisies being the little pink and white button-like flowers, of which Burns's poetry and old Scottish songs are full: "The wee modest crimson-tipped flower" is dear to every Scottish heart. The Bourbon lily, the Napoleonic violet of France, the Castilian rose of Spain, will suggest themselves as historic flowers, as they were the emblems of reigning houses. The lemon blossom is a favorite in Portugal.

"Some flowers enjoy a sacred fame; among them is the passion-flower, whose stem and petals represent the cross and thorny crown of the Saviour of mankind. It is a native of Brazil, where it attains a luxuriance of growth unknown to our temperate regions. The legend connected with it has given it an interest almost sacred, even when viewed by other eyes than those of superstitious devotees. It is said that certain Jews, bewailing in Jerusalem the death of Christ, saw for the first time this flower, by some said to have sprung up wherever drops of His blood had fallen, and with the scene of the wondrous passion and death still fresh in their memory, gave to this beautiful blossom a symbolic meaning, indicative of His sufferings and the manner of His death.

"The stigmas are supposed to represent the three nails used at the crucifixion; the five anthers indicate the five wounds; the rays represent the glory of our Lord; the purple fringe, sometimes found with red spots upon it, is a type of the crown of thorns; the petals, ten in number, are the representatives of those apostles who were faithful to their Heavenly Master; the three sepals, forming the calyx, are emblematic of the Trinity. This poetical conception has caused the passion-flower to be held in esteem almost amounting to veneration in Catholic countries; and the blossom is found entwined in many cases with

emblazoned inscriptions on borders of old manuscripts of the sacred writings."

The history of the rose of Jericho is legendary and romantic in the highest degree. In the East, throughout Syria, Judea and Arabia, it is regarded with the profoundest reverence. The leaves that encircle the round blossoms, dry and close together when the season of blossoms is over, and the stalk, withering away at last from the bush on which it grew, having dried in the shape of a ball, is carried by the breeze to great distances. In this way it is borne over the wastes and sandy deserts, until, at last, touching some moist place, it clings to the soil, and immediately takes root and springs to life and beauty. For this reason the Orientals have adopted it as the emblem of resurrection.

A superstitious tale tells us that it first bloomed on Christmas eve, to salute the birth of the Redeemer, and paid homage to his resurrection by remaining open till Easter. These plants may be bought in a dry state, and will thus remain any length of time, but will expand when placed in water.

M. de Lesseps, the famous canal builder, whose mental force, physical strength and moral courage might well be the envy of men half his years, is now on the verge of eighty, but, in spite of his great age, he retains the hopefulness and freshness of youth, and he has been compared in this respect to Pythagoras, Titian and Alexander von Humboldt, and even to those heroes of Indian legend who enjoy their life thrice over. At the age of sixty-eight M. de Lesseps was left a widower. Some few years after it was reported, to the amazement of the world, that the lively septuagenarian had married a young maiden of astonishing beauty.

In a certain Parisian family, where M. de Lesseps often visited, there was a bevy of five sisters. De Lesseps delighted to gather them around him and relate stirring episodes from his travels. One day, while speaking of his experiences in Palestine, he said that he had undergone great dangers and difficulties among the Arabs, because they could not conceive how a man could live without a wife. The prettiest of the sisters innocently asked: "Why, then, do you not marry again?" "Because I am too old," replied M. de Lesseps. "Besides," he added, "if I were to fall in love with a young girl, it would be absurd to think that she would fall in love with me." "Who knows?" observed the questioner.

M. de Lesseps told his young listeners about the rose of Jericho, which, after being dried and placed in water, again bursts out into bloom. Soon afterward he obtained one of these roses, and presented it to the young girl. In a few days she appeared with the reblossomed rose in her hand, which she gave to the honored guest, saying at the same time: "See what a miracle the water has effected upon the rose; it is the blossoming of love in old age."

Their eyes met, and M. de Lesseps believing that his Desdemona had a meaning in what she did, quietly said: "If you really think that you dare venture to share the remaining years of an old man, here is my hand."

But for his marriage it is very uncertain whether the bold projector would have undertaken his laborious task

at Panama. She is always at his side, and has been his chief help and support throughout his arduous conflicts with the politicians, money-lenders, inquirers and laborers.

All over the world do homes of comfort and poverty alike contain hearts that smile into the hearts of the flowers. This thought winds in and out among humanity, a flowery chain, connecting all nations and taking into its circle many a rough mortal unsuspected of tenderness.

The modest little violet found an ardent admirer in the person of Napoleon Bonaparte; he often presented Josephine with bouquets of violets, which she greatly admired; and when misfortune had compelled her to return to Malmaison, gardening was her favorite employment, the vio-

let her favorite flower, and when she died violets were planted on her grave. When Napoleon was banished to St. Helena, he planted and cultivated the violet, and when his remains were returned to France his coffin was literally covered with bouquets of his favorite flower.

Flowers have been appropriately associated with the most touching epoch of our existence. In olden times roses were employed to decorate churches, and hence the expression *sub rosa*, meaning "under the rose," applied to an avowal as secret as the confessional. It originated in the rose being among the ancients as a symbol of secrecy; hence it was their custom to hang it up at entertainments as a token that nothing which was said there should be divulged.

ZENAIDA.

A DAY OF JUNE.

I could write such a beautiful poem
About this summer day,
If my pen could catch the beauty
On every leaf and spray,
And the music all about me
Of brook and breeze and birds—
But the greatest poet living
Cannot put them into words.

So I may not write down the poem
As it came from the hand of God
In the wonderful wordless language
He writes on sky and sod.
In words that we tell *our* thoughts in,
That will make you feel and see
The beautiful, beautiful poem
This day has been to me.

If I might, you would hear all through it
The melody of the breeze,
Like a fine and far-off echo
Of the ocean harmonies;

You would hear the song of the robins
Aswing in the apple-tree,
And the voices of running waters
In their search for the great gray sea.

You would breathe the fragrance of clover
In the words of every line,
And incense out of the censers
Of hillside larch and pine;
You would see through the words the roses,
With, deep in their hearts of gold,
The sweets of a thousand summers,—
But words are so weak, so cold!

If I only could write the color
Of the lilac's tossing plumes,
And make you feel, in a sentence,
The spell of its sweet perfumes;
If my pen could paint the glory
Of the blue and tender sky,
And the peace that crowns the mountains,
My poem would never die!

EBEN E. REXFORD.

SALLY EARLE'S THIRD.

SALLY EARLE was a born coquette. She could not so much as lift her eyes to a young man's face without setting his nerves to tingling and his heart to beating like a trip-hammer. Her great beseeching gray eyes seemed drawing his heart straight out of his immaculate linen and unimpeachable pepper-and-salt or diagonal. Even the careless rings of her naturally curly hair, as they rippled over her forehead or clung about her small ears, seemed like the coils of a serpent, ready to unfold its victim. Her very lips, whether they pouted or smiled, said pretty nothings or were silent, tempted the beholder to kiss them; her graceful movements invited admiration.

Surely, Sally could not help it. Even her voice was against her; for, though she was a charming singer, no sooner did she lift up her voice in song than straightway each young man present, though there were fifty of them, was certain she was singing to him alone. If she talked, the one who was at the moment her companion was shown that only to him could she express her real sentiments and her most sacred feelings.

Among the moths who hovered about this luminary, to the great detriment of their wings, were three who were scorched beyond hope of recovery. From these three it was evident to all observers that Sally would choose her

husband, but which would be the favored one was as little known to that coquettish damsel as to anyone else. The truth was that Sally was not in love with any of them; if she had been the fact would have simplified matters at once. There were those among Sally's intimate friends who asserted that the girl was incapable of an exclusive affection; she was amiable, she loved to please, she was fond of the society of gentlemen, but their individuality was of little or no consequence to her. If one went, another came—and it was all the same to Sally! But this assertion obtained credence only among the female portion of the community; the gentlemen regarded it as unfounded libel.

Of the three, to whom it has been hinted the fates were most likely to prove propitious, the one whom many would have placed first was Albert Clemens. He was a young merchant with good business prospects; his character was irreproachable. He had a tall fine figure with a manly bearing and a handsome face, curly black hair and dark expressive eyes. He was in all respects an eligible match, and probably no girl in town, except Sally, would have hesitated a moment had he placed himself at her disposal.

The next was Ralph Colfax, only son of Judge Colfax, whose family was one of the oldest and most aristocratic in the State. Ralph had the name of being quite a man of the world, and had been expelled from one college on account of certain mysterious misdemeanors, and succeeded in getting a diploma from another only through his father's influence with the faculty. Ralph dressed faultlessly and had pleasing manners, but he was short of stature and inferior looking. The last of the trio was a young farmer by the name of Ira Benton, a stout, burly-looking fellow with a round, good-natured, freckled face and crop of close-cut red hair. He was upright and honorable. He owned a large and valuable farm, about a mile out of the village, with a comfortable house and ample outbuildings. He was the only son of a widow and his mother kept house for him; he kept fast horses and handsome carriages—and Sally was fond of riding!

One lovely summer evening he drove up to Mr. Earle's cottage unobserved by its inmates, intending to invite Sally to ride. He hitched his horses to the post outside the gate and then walked leisurely up the path to the front door and pulled the bell. It did not ring, however, and the door being open, Ira could hear the voices of Sally and her mother in conversation. It would be pleasant to record that he had a soul above eavesdropping; but truth must prevail, and Ira Benton, under the delusion that he was waiting for the servant to answer the bell, did stand on the steps and listen—and this is what he heard:

"But, Sally, you cannot dally so forever; you are twenty-one now, and I was married at twenty; you must choose between them."

"How can I choose, mamma, when I don't know which I want. I would take Albert if he only came of a better family, but his people are poor and insignificant. I would marry Ralph to-morrow if he wasn't so small and inferior looking. His family is worth marrying into. Why couldn't he have had Albert's fine figure and handsome face? I *can't* choose!"

"You don't speak of Ira Benton. He is better than either of them, in my opinion."

"That red-headed, freckle-faced fellow!" exclaimed Sally, scornfully.

"That good-hearted, upright young man," retorted her mother, "who would make the kindest of husbands, as he has been the best of sons to his widowed mother."

"I adore his horse and am in love with his phaeton, but I abominate red hair and freckles," said Sally, laughing merrily as she spoke; "but as you are so fond of him I will promise to take him for my third."

That was enough for Ira. Two strides took him to the door of the back parlor, where Sally and her mother sat.

"I shall hold you to that promise, Sally. Your mother is my witness. You won't ever try to go back on that, will you, Sally?" he asked, gravely and anxiously.

Sally, who had at first started to her feet in surprise, fell back in her chair with a merry peal of laughter.

"You speak as if it were settled that I am to marry and bury two husbands, and then go for another!" she said.

"I think it was you who intimated as much," he retorted, "and I shall hold you to it. I would hold you to it if you had said I should be the sixth!"

"I wish I had!" said Sally, with another peal of laughter.

"But you didn't—you said the third," he asserted triumphantly. "In the meantime, the horse you adore and the phaeton you are in love with, stand at the gate. Will you go for a ride?"

And Sally went. During the ride she lifted her lovely gray eyes to his honest, freckled face in the most irresistible way, and said, in her most confidential tones:

"I didn't say that I abominated *your* red hair and *your* freckles. Of course, I couldn't let mamma think that I care more for you than for the others."

"But do you, Sally?" asked the honest fellow, his heart giving such a thump at the mere thought of such a favorable state of mind on the part of this elusive Sally, that it is a wonder it did not knock him over.

But Sally was looking straight ahead, with a comical little pucker of real or feigned anxiety on her forehead, and now gave a little scream.

"What is the matter, Sally?" asked Ira, scanning the innocent face of nature far and near for the cause of Sally's alarm.

"I thought the horse was going to shy at something," replied Sally, and then she commenced a sprightly account of an adventure she once enjoyed with a runaway horse, who left her in the middle of the road in a mud-puddle, from which she was rescued in such an indescribable condition that her mother was in a pitiable state of uncertainty as to whether she was her Sally or somebody else's little girl, and not a serious word could he get from her during the rest of the ride!

Ira Benton had no idea of being Sally's third husband if he could be her first or even her second, so he continued to be as attentive as ever, but in vain, for before long Sally accepted Ralph Colfax, and in due time he married her and took her home to his father's. But Sally's mar-

riage could not efface her charms or diminish her coquetry. She and Ralph went much into society, and as ever, Sally was the belle of every gathering where she was to be found. But she was far from being a happy wife. Ralph proved to be a hard drinker and when drunk was brutal in the extreme. And whether drunk or sober he was jealous and watched Sally's every move when in society, and accused and upbraided her in unstinted terms in private. In vain Sally assured him that she never said a word that the whole world might not hear.

"But you looked a thousand of them!" he would declare; "confound it all, I know how you used to come it over me, and you're at it with every fellow you meet." And poor Sally could not say that there was no truth in such a statement, for many a time when she was chatting innocently to some former lover about the weather or the last magazine, her eyes would be saying to him, "You know I am unhappy and you are sorry for me; you would not have treated me so, would you? You and I might have been happy together; no one understands me as you do."

The second year of Sally's marriage a little girl was born, and the same year Sally's father died and her mother came to live with her. Ira, who since Sally became a wife had held aloof from her, now fell into a habit of calling occasionally to see Mrs. Earle, with whom he was still a favorite, and Baby Irene took a great liking to him, which touched the great honest fellow's heart and reconciled him to his loss. But when Irene was little more than a year old her father was accidentally killed in a drunken brawl. It so happened that Ira, passing at the time in his carriage, was asked to carry Ralph to his home. It was a terrible shock to poor Sally, and, as Ira laid on the sofa the bruised body of the dissolute husband, whom she had never loved, but who was yet the father of her child, she fainted; but as she did so she reached her hands toward Ira for help, and when she opened her eyes again it was to Ira that they turned for sympathy.

After the funeral Sally and her mother went back to their old cottage to live, for Judge Colfax and his wife had never approved of Sally, and soon made her feel that their house could no longer be her home. Sally wore the deepest of mourning and was more irresistible in her widowhood than she had been in girlhood; her voice took on a plaintive minor tone that was very touching and her face a sorrowful look, but not too sorrowful, and her beautiful eyes were always asking for sympathy. As for her old lovers, they were running over with sympathy that their hearts burned to bestow upon the lovely young widow, and they availed themselves of every opportunity to do so. And all agreed that her sad experiences and sudden affliction had only made her more charming than ever.

Of course, Ira lost no opportunity of serving Sally, and by no means despaired of being her second, though there were times when her open encouragement of others drove him nearly frantic. One day an old lover of hers who had paid her as much attention as her still recent bereavement would properly allow, and had been led on by her coquettish wiles until he felt sure of her favor, remarked to Ira:

"There is a good deal more to Sally than there used to be."

"Yes, there's a child and a mother-in-law," dryly assented the practical young farmer.

"Good heavens! you don't suppose a fellow who marries her has got to take the three, do you?"

"I hope a fellow would not be brute enough to separate them," returned Ira.

But perhaps Ira's goodness and generosity hindered rather than helped his cause, for often instead of taking Sally to ride in the phaeton, which she preferred, he would bring the carryall and take Mrs. Earle and little Irene with them; and somehow the presence of these two was not favorable to the indulgence of the coquettish wiles that were as the breath of life to Sally.

Sally enjoyed a brief year of widowhood, and then her engagement to Albert Clemens was announced. Albert was handsome as ever and was prospering in business, and Sally thought it would be as agreeable to live with him as with anyone of her acquaintance. So they were married, and Albert took his wife to a good home, and with her took little Irene and Mrs. Earle.

Ira bore up under this second disappointment with unflagging courage and cheerfulness; it was only "hope deferred" with him, and though it made his "heart sick" for awhile, he consoled himself with the recollection of Sally's promise! But he groaned when Albert brought home his widowed mother and old-maid sister as permanent members of the household, and he groaned again when a year later twins were given to Sally.

"Confound it!" he grumbled, "if things go on in this way, I shall have a bigger family to start with than most men leave off with. I shall have to build an addition to the old house."

And he actually went about it the very day after he heard of the advent of the twins! The Benton house was already a large one, but it seemed to Ira that a fellow who took a wife and two mothers-in-law and an old-maid sister and three children, and nobody knows how many more, would need considerable house-room, and he did not rest until he had built an addition which made the Benton homestead the largest and handsomest place in town.

It made quite a stir among his townspeople, and, although his past devotion to Sally was well known, it was considered highly improbable that any sane man would build such a substantial addition to an already large house, unless he was about to marry. His friends began to chaff him about his preparations for a bride, and he admitted that he expected to marry, not quite at present, to be sure, but he was engaged and had been for some time.

When this report found its way to Sally's ears she was at first much surprised at the seeming dejection of one who had been such a persistent and ardent lover, but on meeting her mother's eyes she burst into a merry peal of laughter, which seemed to her husband quite uncalled for, and which she did not explain.

Soon after this the civil war broke out, and Albert, who was a whole-souled, patriotic fellow, sold out his partnership in the store for a sum, the interest of which

would support his family in economical comfort, and enlisted in the army. Sally, who was really quite fond of her fine-looking husband, pleaded in vain that he would stay at home. His mother, who fairly worshipped him, was proud to have him go, and his sister only wished herself a man that she might go with him. Before he left town he went to Ira and said :

"See here, Benton, I know what a good fellow you are ; if I never come back, you'll look after Sally, won't you ?"

"That I will," replied Ira, greatly touched by this unexpected confidence on the part of Sally's husband ; "I'll take care of every soul of them, as well as Sally ; and look here, old fellow, if you're feeling badly about leaving, now it comes to the point, I'll go in your place."

"Thank you from my heart, Benton, I didn't expect that from you—my own brother, if I had one, could do no more ; but I am eager to go, only I don't want Sally ever to suffer."

"She never shall, if I can prevent it, or any other member of your family," replied the generous owner of the enlarged house.

And the two men parted with a warm hand-clasp and feelings of mutual confidence and gratitude.

Two years passed away, and following the news of a severe battle came a list of killed and wounded, and among the former was the name of Albert Clemens. It was Ira who went to the seat of war, found and identified the body and brought it back to his family. It was Ira who took charge of all the funeral arrangements, and looked after the comfort of the family. It was Ira—not as Sally's lover, but as Albert's trusted friend—who tried to comfort the stricken mother and sister. And when all was over, and things resumed their usual routine, it was Ira, who, mindful of the dead man's trust in him and of Sally's innate coquetry, kept away from the house that held his long-coveted treasure, going there only when sent for. He had assumed the management of their small property, much to their benefit, and Albert's mother and sister, having learned that their dead soldier had trusted them to Ira's care, came to lean on him and appreciate his rugged honesty and unlimited kindness and generosity. But nothing could tone down Sally's infirmity, and before the first year of mourning had expired it was evident she needed a master ; for years and sorrows only made Sally more charming than ever, and, in spite of widow's weeds, she dimpled and smiled and blushed and coquetted in a way that would have driven Albert back to the war, had he been alive to see her. So Ira came to the rescue, and reminded Sally of her long engagement (!) to him, and insisted that it should be fulfilled as soon as a decent regard for appearances would allow. Mrs. Earle warmly supported him, and even Albert's mother and sister agreed that it was the best way to dispose of this troublesome widow.

And in little more than seven years from the time Sally married her first husband Ira Benton became her third. The wedding was a very quiet one ; besides the family, no one was present but Ira's mother and the minister. There was to be no journey, but the whole family was to be transferred to Ira's large house after the ceremony. How this was to be managed no one had thought to ask,

but Mrs. Earle, happening to look from the window just after congratulating the newly-married pair, noticed a line of carriages along the street nearly as far as she could see, and exclaimed :

"What can be going on in the neighborhood ? There seems to be a procession of some sort."

It proved to be Ira's equipages for conveying home his new family and their possessions, and with a dry humor characteristic of himself, he proceeded to explain :

"You see, I have married a woman who amounts to something—none of your nobodies for me !—and it's going to take several horses and conveyances to get her home."

There was the pretty phaeton which had always been Sally's favorite, and which was now to take her and her third husband home ; there was the top-buggy for Mrs. Earle and Ira's mother, and the carryall for Albert's mother and sister, little Irene and the twins ; there was an express wagon for the trunks and two large teams for the household goods. Several men were in attendance, and Ira soon had them at work, and before long the "procession" was ready to start. The whole neighborhood turned out to see them off and to throw old shoes and jokes after them.

After all had been made comfortable in their new home, and the children were quiet and the three mothers-in-law in the parlor were waxing eloquent in praise of Ira, that long-suffering individual called Sally aside and in a tone of decision said to her :

"Now, Sally, let us understand each other. You have reached the end of your rope ; there's isn't to be any fourth husband. If I die before you do, you will either make me a solemn promise never to marry again, or I shall leave you in an insane asylum. I mean exactly what I say—I'm your last !"

Poor Sally looked as if she were being swept away by a cyclone.

"Furthermore," continued her third, "your flirting days are over ; if you ever lift your eyes to another man with a spark of coquetry in them, I will tell the whole town how you have been engaged to me all the while you were wife and widow to two other men !"

And Sally has never flirted with anyone since. Perhaps she has had no time for such diversion, for five sturdy, red-haired, freckled-faced boys call her mother, and one by one the three mothers-in-law have succumbed to age and disease and claimed her filial care until they passed away.

But if ever a man was coddled, and petted, and watched over, and cared for with untiring devotion, that man is Ira Benton. If he sneezes he is dosed with Jamaica ginger, composition tea, hot lemonade and camphor. If he coughs he is mustard-plastered, soaked, steamed, par-boiled and packed. If he has an ache anywhere he is poulticed, bandaged and rubbed with arnica and all sorts of linaments. For Sally lives in mortal dread of losing her third, in which case she knows she could no more resist taking a fourth than she could set aside the laws of gravitation. And visions of the insane asylum with all its attendant horrors are perpetually before her eyes !

MRS. SUSIE A. BISBEE.

HOME DECORATIONS.



TERRALINE AND TERRA-COTTA VASES.

Painting Terraline and Terra-Cotta Ware.

THE terraline and terra-cotta vases which are ornamented with raised flowers, truthfully and exquisitely molded, are very beautiful when colored.

The terraline, however, has perhaps the advantage over other wares, as it is tougher; therefore less apt to chip, and this is greatly to be desired, as the edges of the leaves and flowers are very thin, and consequently break easily. This ware is sold by most of the dealers in artists' materials, and will at once be known by each article having stamped upon the bottom the word "Terraline." It is prepared by J. J. West, Chicago, Ill., and is ready to receive the oil-colors at once, as canvas or any other material especially prepared for the purpose.

Devoe's, Winsor & Newton's or Schoenfeld's Nile paints are all suitable for the work, and the following list of colors and articles will be necessary: Ivory black, Vandyke brown, crimson lake, rose-madder, chrome-yellow, chrome-orange, vermilion, burnt sienna, Naples yellow, silver white, cobalt blue, emerald green, French ultramarine, Antwerp blue, light-green zinnober, yellow-green zinnober, dark-green zinnober, carmine, one bottle of West's siccativ, one bottle of Pratt & Lambert's amber

enamel, one badger-hair blender, and artists' flat bristle brushes Nos. 8 and 12. An artist's superfine red sable brush, however, should be used for both painting and glazing, so that a perfectly smooth finish can be obtained. An artist's half-inch wide red sable brush is a convenient size for painting the background and glazing.

A china or wooden palette, a palette-knife, a bottle of turpentine and some pieces of soft cotton cloth, on which to wipe and cleanse the brushes, and these must be always carefully washed first in turpentine, to free them from the paint, and then in hot water with soap; but care must be taken that the bristles are not injured, for it is necessary that they should be kept in perfect order to do good work.

Before beginning the painting, mix thoroughly in a small saucer half a teaspoonful of amber enamel and the same quantity of West's siccativ. This must be used with all the colors, when painting, as it helps to produce a higher glaze. The flowers may be tinted in their natural colors, or to represent the Royal Worcester china with fancy colors, regardless of nature, or the lustra colors, bronzes or gold, whichever may be desired.

When the flowers and leaves are finished, the background is painted either a solid tint or a shaded ground.

Pale turquoise green or blue are very pretty for plain colors. Should carmine be used at any time, add a little ivory black, to give body to it, and some of the amber enamel, but no siccativ.

For painting the leaves and flowers an artist's flat red sable brush No. 12 is a suitable size, and a half-inch wide red sable for applying the background. The badger blender is used to remove the traces of brush strokes, that they may not show after the enamel is applied.

Great care must be observed when painting this ware that it is kept perfectly free from dust, and when the flowers and background are finished, place the vase safely away until the paint becomes thoroughly hard and dry; then glaze with one coat of amber enamel. Should the vases be ornamented with gilt or metal handles, wrap them with paper that they may not become defaced while painting the vase.

If painting a uniform tint for a background, a sufficient quantity of color should be mixed to cover the entire vase, the flowers and leaves, of course, excepted. To make a turquoise-green background, use white, a little Naples yellow and cobalt blue; for turquoise blue, use white, cobalt blue and a little emerald green; or for crown derby blue, mix together French ultramarine and a little rose-madder. A vase with roses is very beautiful with a shaded background, the dark shade at the bottom, gradually blending to a lighter tint at the top. Begin with Vandyke brown, then blend from this to burnt sienna, adding, as a lighter tint still is desired, Naples yellow, and as the top of the vase is reached, Naples yellow only.

This background may be mottled from one shade to the other, giving a mossy effect, or softly blended that the changing from one shade to the other shall not be perceptible. The roses and leaves are then painted in their natural colors, using rose-madder, and white for the flowers, adding more or less of the madder as a deep or light shade may be required, and for the leaves use the three shades of zinniber green. The result, when finished, is beautiful.

The enamel, of course, cannot be applied until the colors are hard and dry. The lustra colors or bronzes are powders and should be mixed with a varnish especially prepared for them.

The bronzes are ten cents an ounce; the varnish or preparation fifteen cents a bottle.

If gold is preferred, West's gold paint, which comes in a powder, with liquid for mixing, can be procured at fifty cents a package.

The same directions will also apply to the terra-cotta vases, but before painting them it is necessary to give this ware one or two coats of shellac, as it is so porous, and a smooth surface is thus obtained upon which to paint. Shellac can be purchased ready for use, and is applied to the interior as well as the exterior of the vase. The shellac must be dry before beginning the painting.

The interior of the vases is painted with some solid color that will contrast prettily with the outward ground coloring and flowers, and should also be glazed with the enamel.

These are also very handsome, and do not seem so frail after the painting and glazing are finished. The work is very pleasing, and the articles, whether plaques or vases, make very beautiful ornaments.

M. E. WHITTEMORE.

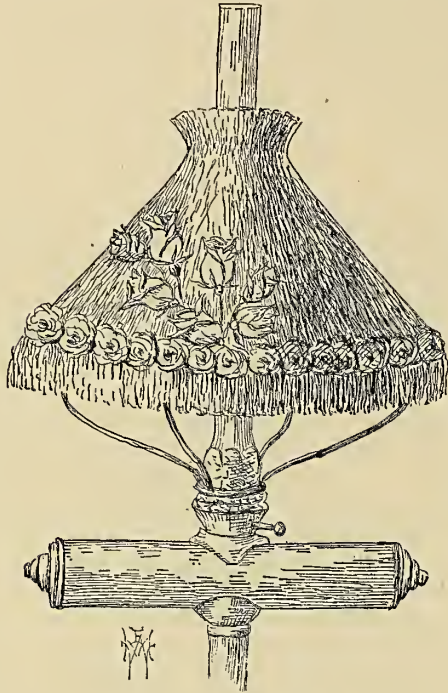
Decorative Notes.

A STAND with square top can be tastefully covered with olive-green satine ornamented with an all-over conventional design embroidered with gold and pale pink silks in stem-stitch. The stand top should first be covered with cotton flannel and then the embroidered satine placed over this, drawn tightly and tacked on the edges. A border of the satine four inches deep should then be fastened around the sides with brass tacks, which have broad fancy heads, and the lower edge of the border finished with triple plush balls the same shade of green as the satine. Such stands are very helpful in furnishing a room and can be gotten up with very little expense. If the plain stands cannot readily be obtained at a furniture store they can easily be made by any carpenter; the square top consists of common boards and is supported by three plain legs fastened together after the manner of a tripod and can be made to resemble mahogany, black walnut or ebony by staining with the preparations which come especially for such uses, and which can be obtained for a small sum at most paint shops.

Pansies serve as models for many fancy articles, but for none more suitably than for a blotter-cover. Tinted bristol-board is cut in shape of an immense pansy (four inches across), and then painted with water-colors to resemble perfectly a light lavender-blue pansy; several pieces of gray blotting-paper are cut the same size and shape as the cover, and are tied to it with a narrow lavender ribbon.

Small tin cans, in which prepared cocoa is sold, can be made into very pretty match-receivers by crocheting with medium-sized crochet cotton a cover to exactly fit the box; the stitch most appropriate is a shell composed of four double-crochet stitches, separated in the centre by two chain stitches; around the top, just above the tin, should be a row of full shells for a border. After drawing the cover on the tin, coat the outside first with shellac, and when that has dried with gilding, and suspend with bright ribbons. They resemble very closely a handsome basket, for the tin takes the gilding as well as the crocheted cover.

Among the many pretty articles exhibited at the Woman's Exchange are some very delicate hand-screens, made of the Japanese fans that do not fold. All the portion covered with the fancy paper, except the outside rim, having been removed, a covering of transparent canvas or bolting-cloth, which resembles fine Swiss muslin, is substituted; the outside edge is bound with narrow white ribbon, and a strip is also used to finish the portion of the cover which curves across where the little reeds or sticks are tied. A branch of white alder, with its delicate blossoms, is painted on the bolting-cloth with water-colors, and a double bow of white watered ribbon, two inches in width, is tied where the handle joins the main



TISSUE-PAPER LAMP SHADE.

portion of the fan. The effect of the white blossoms upon the almost transparent material, no color having been used except for the pale-green leaves and faint yellow tints on the stamens, is very beautiful. A similar screen was coated with silver, and the flowers used for the design were buttercups and daisies.

Worsted balls three inches in diameter form very convenient receivers for invisible hair-pins. They are made in a similar manner as ball tassels, sheared to the right size and shape, and hung on the side of the dressing table by satin ribbons the same color as the worsted used.

A very large palm-leaf fan makes a pretty wall-pocket. Arrange a crescent-shaped pasteboard from handle to apex on one side of the face of the fan for the pocket; coat the whole with silver, bronze or gilding, and either paint a floral design on the pocket or fasten on it a scrap-picture of a handsome bunch of flowers; tie a large ribbon bow where the side of the pocket and the handle join, and tack the fan to the wall with a fancy brass nail.

C.

A Rose Lamp Shade.

THESE pretty shades are very inexpensive and not at all difficult to make. The first requisite is a wire framework, or a foundation can be made of the paper from which the roses are to be cut by shaping a piece smoothly over the sloping shade, and fastening it together with strong paste or mucilage. A strip of the tissue-paper is then cut a trifle deeper than the plain piece, which has already been fitted over the shade as a foundation, and long enough to fit twice around it, to allow for the

crimping, which is done with the back of a knife, just as a ruffle is crimped.

This is placed over the wire or paper shade, and as the crimping stretches, it can easily be drawn round the bottom, but will cling closely at the top.

Cut several strips of the paper about an eighth of a yard wide, and long enough to fit twice round the bottom of the shade. Fringe these strips quite finely; several thicknesses may be cut together. Then crimp them, after which unfold and shake them out a little, to give them a soft, light appearance. Sew the two rows round the bottom of the shade, thus giving it a pretty finish.

As a heading to the fringe a border of roses is placed just above it, and a bunch of larger roses, or half-open buds, also of paper, at one side.

The flowers are made as follows: A wire for the stem and a bit of soft wax on the end as a foundation for the flower. Cut a strip of the tissue-paper about nine or ten inches long and an inch and a quarter deep. Scallop this strip, making each one an inch wide and an inch deep. Carefully curl each side of every scallop with the back of a knife, shaping them like the petals of a rose.

The stem must be covered before placing the rose upon it; therefore, cut a narrow strip of green tissue-paper, begin at the bottom of the stem and roll as if making a lamplighter till the top is reached, then fasten by pressing against the wax. The rose, or rosebud, is made by wrapping the curled scallops round and round the wax-ball, and fastening by sewing it through several times with strong cotton. The calyx is a strip cut in five points and placed round the stem, allowing the points to extend up over the petals of the rose. The seed-cup is made by carefully wrapping a strip of green paper several times round the stem just where the calyx of the rose should be. The flower is then completed.

Five or any number of these larger roses may be arranged in a bunch on one side of the shade, sewing them to it with strong cotton. The smaller roses are made in



DESIGN FOR PINE PILLOW.

the same way, and placed as directed for a border or heading to the fringe.

The colors used can be varied as one pleases, as, for instance, pink ground with pink roses, or a crimson shade with buff or yellow roses. A light-blue ground with pink and white roses.

With a little practice skill is soon acquired and the flowers can be made quite rapidly.

The shades are so very pretty that it is worth while attempting them, and if directions are carefully followed the result will be very satisfactory. M. E. W.

Pine Pillows.

MANY people like the sweet odor of the pines, and it is also thought that it contains a healing property which is beneficial to invalids; but, though it is not always possible to live in or near a pine grove, it is possible to carry a part of its sweetness to one's home. Therefore the dry needles of the pines, or the balsam fir, are gathered in sufficient quantities to make the pillows of whatever size may be desired.

The one which we describe was half a yard square, and pongee the material used for the purpose. It is made, as already stated, square, and should not be stuffed so full as to be hard. On the upper side a small branch of pine or fir is embroidered, or a few stitches only, if one pleases to indicate the needles. Then embroider with etching silks the words

“Give me thy balm, O fir!”

On the under side of the pillow may be only a branch of the pine, or the embroidery can be dispensed with and the material left plain, which is perhaps more convenient for comfort, as no roughness is then felt when the face rests against it.

The edge can be trimmed or plain; if trimmed, chenille worsted cord of variegated green is pretty, as it somewhat resembles moss, thus still further carrying out the idea of a bit from the woods.

They are pretty gifts to send to a sick friend, and those who have the good-fortune to live near a pine grove can find in this way a very pleasing use for the needles which fall from the trees.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

MANY ladies who have lace shawls, so fashionable a few years ago, are rejoicing in the prospect of again making them useful, as many handsome dresses of lace are seen for summer wear.

In an evening dress of black satin, a large llama lace shawl is used for the front drapery, caught higher on one side than the other, the ends crossing on the basque in the back, and falling in a full, graceful line half way to the floor, over the usual bouffant back drapery. A plain waist of satin, cut square in the neck, a Bernhardt collar, composed of satin, and transparent lace sleeves complete this elegant evening costume.

Some ladies of gayer taste prefer colored silk or satin for the foundation, and many pretty toilets are made from a last summer's silk, with lace waist and drapery.

White is still fashion's favorite, and many summer wardrobes contain but one or two colored dresses. White, pink, blue and lavender mull bonnets are worn with these costumes, and the sash should match them. If you have a laundress, persuade her that she had better save all the available starch for her own garments; for very little is ever put into white dresses, and especially into the pretty embroidered robes which are so popular.

A pretty way to make these embroidered robes is with one gathered flounce on the bottom of the skirt, if the embroidery is very wide; a plain short drapery in front edged with the wide embroidery, which should be narrower toward the back, for it both looks and sets better to be narrower there than in the front; a French drapery for the back, which consists of a perfectly plain piece of goods, as long as the skirt, and all the fulness pleated in at the waist-line, with one tacking in the middle of the

back. The waist is either a plain-fitting basque or a “baby” waist, and in the former case cuffs and collar of the narrow embroidery, and a trimming all around the bottom; also sometimes there is enough to trim both fronts, from the neck down. A “baby” waist is made with a tucked yoke, and full gathered or pleated piece set to the yoke.

A very pretty style in which to make a cloth dress is to have a triple box-pleating ten inches deep around the skirt, and horizontal bias folds on the front and side breadths as wide or narrow as the fancy dictates. On the right side, next the back drapery, a plain panel, six inches wide, falls from the waist to within three inches of the bottom of the skirt, with small buttons an inch and a half apart on the side next the front. These are caught through to the skirt every third or fourth button to hold it in position, while the other side is put on and fastened with the back drapery. The front of this skirt is a Greek apron, which is straight and plain on the right side, and draped high with many pleats on the left hip. The right side should be trimmed with buttons to match the panel, and should reach within three inches of the bottom of the skirt. The basques to cloth dresses are always plain and tight-fitting, and finished in the back with either pleats pressed flatly or a bouffant drapery. The collar must be high, and the sleeves, with very little fulness on the shoulders, perfectly plain or finished with a little cuff.

On all dresses one sees the collars very high, a feature which is especially appreciated by ladies who have long necks. The collars sometimes measure at least two inches.

MELUZINA.

HOUSEKEEPING.

Potato Croquettes.

Fresh mashed potatoes are best, though cold ones will answer. For a half-dozen potatoes allow one egg beaten very light. Mash them fine, season with white pepper and salt, add enough sweet milk and butter to make them just soft enough to shape into rolls or balls. Be careful to have the surface of the rolls very smooth. Dip them in egg, then in crumbs and fry in hot lard or suet. Drain on brown paper and serve very hot.

Escalloped Potatoes.

Take medium-sized potatoes, pare them and cut them in slices a little thicker than for Saratoga potatoes; let them lie in cold water an hour or more, then dry them. Butter a pudding-dish and put a layer of potatoes in the bottom, season them with salt and pepper and put bits of butter over them, then put in another layer and continue in this way till the dish is full. Make a sauce, using half cream and half milk, thicken to the consistency of ordinary sauces and pour over the potatoes till the dish is almost full. Finish the top with bread-crumbs and bake in a moderate oven from one to two hours.

Potato Salad.

Four large cold boiled potatoes, sliced, and two raw onions. Season with salt and pepper. Make a dressing of one cup of vinegar, the yolks of two eggs and one tablespoon of butter. Boil till thick, and then add half a teaspoon of made mustard, and pour it over the potatoes and onions.

Salad Dressing without Oil.

One small cup of butter, the yolks of three eggs, one teaspoon of mustard, one-half teaspoon of salt and a pinch of cayenne pepper, one cup of cream, the juice of one lemon, and half a cup of vinegar. Cream the butter and stir it into the beaten yolks of the eggs. Then add

the mustard, salt and pepper, then the cream slowly, and last the lemon and vinegar.

Spanish Cream.

One quart of milk, three eggs, one cup of sugar, one-third of a box of gelatine, one teaspoon of vanilla. Put the gelatine in a bowl with half a cup of cold water. When it has stood an hour, add to it a pint and a half of the milk and put it into a saucepan which will hold two quarts, and set this into a kettle or pan of boiling water. Beat the yolks of the eggs with the sugar and a quarter of a teaspoon of salt. Beat the whites to a stiff froth. Add the half-pint of milk reserved from the quart to the yolks and sugar, and stir all into the saucepan of scalding milk. Cook five minutes, stirring all the time. Then add the whites, and remove from the fire; add vanilla, and pour into molds. Place on the ice to harden.

Pineapple Cake.

One cup of butter, one cup of milk, three cups of flour, whites of six eggs and yolks of four, three teaspoons of baking powder sifted with the flour, or three scant teaspoons of cream-tartar and one level teaspoon of soda mashed fine. Cream the butter, gradually stir in the sugar, add the yolks well beaten, then the milk a little at a time. The cake can now stand until the whites are beaten; then the flour should be added and the cake thoroughly beaten; last, gently stir in the whites. Bake in layers. For the filling, grate a small pineapple, sprinkle it with sugar, and spread between the layers. Reserve two tablespoons of the pineapple to stir in the frosting for the top.

MRS. C. G. HERBERT.

On another page is an announcement of the "Triumph Soap," of which a good judge of soap has said: "Dobbin's 'Electric' was best, 'Triumph' is better than Dobbin's—therefore 'Triumph' is better than the best."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Flower Market is in a very unsatisfactory condition for the florist, or rather for the flower growers. The term "florist," by common consent, means the one who sells the flowers to the consumers. The low price of flowers is to him a boon, providing there is sufficient demand to keep him partially busy, for the first-class florist does not materially change his prices as the wholesale prices fluctuate. Good flowers were never before so cheap in the wholesale market. At the present writing, such roses as Mermets, Cooks, Sunset, Pearl of the Garden, and others equally good, and all as fine as ever grew, are selling as low as \$2 per 100—prices that do not begin to pay the cost of production. Like all other kinds of merchandise, flowers must submit to the inevitable law of supply and demand for the regulation of prices. Stimu-

lated by the large profits of the past few years, the rose-growers have increased their productions to such an extent as to make their business a losing instead of a profitable one. The depression that is so marked in all business operations is doubly strong in the cut-flower trade. Flowers are luxuries, and their uses depend largely upon the caprice of fashion, and fashion can easily regulate expenditures, so as to make them conform to necessities.

* * *

The Garden.—Activity is now the order of the day in all farming and gardening operations. Every vegetable form is striving to surpland every other form; each is at war with the other for the best place, and the worm has declared war against them all; and the gardener, in turn, has or must declare war against insects, winged and

creeping, and against weeds as well, or his garden will be a dreary waste. The question now to be answered is, which will come out ahead in the race, the man, the weed or the worm? This month will decide the question, for a neglected garden in June will not show a smile later in the season, and he who outwits the enemy now will be so liberally rewarded for his labor that his garden will be a continual feast until after frost, and then the dried grasses and flowers that ornament the house during winter will be memories of the pleasures of the past summer's work. And the seeds, carefully saved and stored away, will be prophecies of another year's joy and happiness in the garden.

* * *

The New York Horticultural Society.—The May exhibition was another of those agreeable surprises that we sometimes meet in Horticultural Hall. Not for its vastness was this exhibition conspicuous, but for the rare and beautiful objects that presented themselves at every point. The casual observer would not have been particularly impressed with the general appearance of the room—in fact, at first sight the display seemed meager. But careful examination revealed some of the rarest of the rare subjects to be found on the exhibition tables. At every step something of interest was to be seen, either plants particularly well grown and well shown, or some old favorites whose absence from exhibition halls for so long a period has entitled them to positions as *novelties*. We could not understand the coming together of so many lovely forms, unless it was from the fact of foreclosure of the hall and its sale at public auction; the flowers may have been sent in as memorials by loving friends. Not that the society is dead; it is only homeless and destitute. It is the interest that should be felt in the society that is dead; its head is slightly congested, and if necessary must be taken off and supplanted with a more active, vigorous growth. The health of societies is analogous to the health of plants; when the head is dead the branches soon wither and decay, the flow of sap ceases, and the structure begins to show signs of dissolution. But all weakness is not death by any means; it is only a temporary depression of spirits; the body corporate needs a tonic, perhaps a nervine, possibly amputation. Then there will be found sufficient vitality in the *body* to awaken it to new life and vigor. We are fully convinced that there is sufficient taste and love for the beautiful in and around New York, not only to sustain but to build up a society beautiful in itself, and one whose refining influences will be felt in the building up of human character. We wish to speak plainly in this matter, so as not to be misunderstood: there is no sympathy between the head and the other members of the body, and until all parts can work in the most perfect harmony this listless, lifeless existence the society now has will continue. We fervently hope some day to see the New York Horticultural Society have a head that will act with the heart; then it will occupy the position to which its natural advantages entitle it.

* * *

Trailing Arbutus.—It is our good fortune now to live where the trailing arbutus (*Epigæa repens*), one of the

most exquisite of all Nature's fondlings, grows in the greatest profusion and luxuriance, and where we can pick again and again until we have more than satisfied our own desires and those of our friends, and we are very greedy when the arbutus is in bloom. We have just returned from the woods, heavily laden with pink flowers, and pure white, and white suffused with pink. What a treat is a day in the woods, wandering up and down with pleasant associates, searching, plucking and arranging these most beautiful of all blossoms! The past winter has been a trying one on these delicate though hardy forms. In many places the leaves are browned to a crisp, without the least signs of life; in other places they are not much hurt, and every branch bears a cluster of these delicious flowers, whose beauty we dare not attempt to describe, so we will borrow from "Eyes and Ears," where H. W. Beecher speaks of the arbutus as follows:

"Who would suspect by the *leaf* what rare delicacy was to be in the blossom? Like some people of plain and hard exterior, but of sweet disposition, it was all the more pleasant by surprise of contrast. All winter long this little thing must have slumbered with *dreams*, at least of spring. It has waited for no pioneer or guide, but started of its ownself, and led the way for all the flowers on the hillside.

"Its little viny stem creeps close to the ground, humble, faithful, and showing how the purest white may lay its cheek on the very dirt, without soil or taint.

"The odor of the arbutus is exquisite, and as delicate as the plant is modest. Some flowers seem determined to make an impression on you. They stare at you; they dazzle your eyes. If you smell them, they overflow your sense with their fragrance. They leave nothing for your gentleness and generosity, but do everything themselves. But this sweet nestler of the spring hills is so secluded, half-covered with russet leaves, that you would not suspect its graces did you not stop to uncover the vine, to lift it up, and then you espy its secluded beauty. If you smell it, at first it seems hardly to have an odor; but there steals out of it at length the finest, rarest scent, that rather excites than satisfies your sense. It is coy, without designing to be so, and its reserve plays on the imagination far more than could a more positive way."

* * *

EDITOR LADIES' FLORAL CABINET:

I believe the persimmon fruit is popular in America; have seen the *Diospyros Kaki* of Japan. We have fruited it in a cold orchard house; the fruit becomes apparently ripe, but is then astringent; when allowed to go a stage farther it becomes sweet and luscious. The fruit was lately figured in the *Garden*, and spoken of enthusiastically.

We have recently flowered a gorgeous orchid, *Pharis tuberculosus*, which, it is said, has only once or twice before bloomed in this country; it comes from Madagascar, I believe. I quote the description from the *Journal of Horticulture*: "The spike sent had ten flowers and buds, the expanded flowers being three inches in diameter [hardly this, G. F. W.], the sepals and petals pure white and wax-like in substance, the lip is scoop-shaped, with revolute sides, which are yellow with numerous

small reddish-brown irregular dots; the centre is white, with three small yellow ridges in the middle, and an undulated purplish apex, a slight tinge of this color also running up the lip as a margin to the white centre. It has a peculiarly rich and handsome appearance, and was greatly admired." Your most obedient servant,

GEORGE F. WILSON.

Weybridge Heath, England.

* * *

Gladioli should not, like many other bulbs or seeds, be put into the ground simply to get them out of the way and to finish up spring work. Small bulbs and bulblets should have been planted early in May, and the larger ones might have been planted then, but it is far better to keep a portion of your large bulbs back until the middle of July, in order to have them in flower about the first of October. In localities where there are September frosts early plantings may be necessary, but in all cases by far the finer spikes of bloom will be secured by having them in time to escape the frost. For fine blooms, plant in an airy, exposed situation, and cultivate the ground as for a farm crop, deep and often. Plant the bulbs close together; then, if the weather is hot and dry, when they come into bloom, screen them with canvas or lattice.

* * *

Caltha (*Marsh Marigold*).—This native plant, that "shines like fire in swamps and hollows gray," so common in the swamps on Long Island and New Jersey, is now one of the popular flowers for corsage bouquets. During the early part of May the bouquet peddlers that infest all the popular thoroughfares of New York city, gave their almost undivided attention to this flower, and thousands of bouquets made exclusively of it were sold daily. It is a pleasing sign to see flowers that have not had the sanction of the "committee" so eagerly sought after and worn.

* * *

Lilies.—The question is often asked us by those who have neglected planting at the supposed proper time, if lilies can be safely taken up after they have started growth in the spring. We answer yes, most decidedly. The fact is, that lilies are growing nearly all the time, and that the only danger in planting is when the bulbs have been a long time out of ground and have had too much rest. We have taken lilies up at all seasons and under all circumstances, and have never known one to be injured in the least by being taken up when in active, growing state. The first *Lilium lancifolium* we ever had was taken up when in bloom, and we never had one do better; its unopened buds all fully developed, and the bulb made a good growth and a plentiful supply of offsets. The only danger may arise from getting the stem broken, but that will not injure the bulb for another season's bloom.

* * *

Moles in Gardens.—The following simple plan of exterminating moles we take from one of our foreign exchanges. Its simplicity would warrant giving it a trial; if successful, the discoverer may be classed with the long list of public benefactors:

"In previous years I have been much troubled with moles. Several I trapped, but a few "cunning" ones

made their escape at the side or under the traps. Failing to catch these, I placed in the runs, where they came into the garden, a little deal sawdust, sprinkled with paraffin and tar. From that time—about nine months—not a mole has put in an appearance, although busy in the field adjoining.

* * *

"The Little Scrubber" is the name of a much-needed machine for washing flower-pots. If it will do one-half that is claimed for it—and we see no reason why it should not—it will be of great importance to the florist and a source of profit to its inventor, G. H. Burnham.

Books, &c., Received.

The A B C of Potato Culture. By T. B. TERRY, Esq., Hudson, Ohio. Published by A. I. Root & Co., Medina, Ohio. Price, 40 cents.

This publication of forty-two pages is just what it purports to be—a guide to potato culture, telling how to grow them in the largest quantity and of the finest quality with the least expenditure of time and labor, carefully considering all the latest improvements in this branch of agriculture up to the present date. We have given this publication a careful reading and consider the information obtained from it of the greatest importance.

Horticultural Directory of the United States. Vol. I. Florists and Nurserymen. Philadelphia. ISAAC D. SAILER. Price, \$6.

There has existed for several years "an aching void" in the directory world—*i. e.*, an accurate directory of florists and nurserymen doing business in the United States. Former attempts at furnishing the information have been very weak, and the trade will welcome this new candidate for honors and profit because it is nearer to accuracy and because it furnishes information in an attractive manner, free from advertising matter in the body of the book. The publisher frankly says in his preface that he does not claim perfection, but invites criticism and correction from every quarter. To aid individual purchasers of the directory in keeping their copy corrected, so far as omissions come to their knowledge, there are ruled interleaves. We bespeak for this work the favorable consideration of our readers, and their hearty co-operation in making future editions more complete. We can supply the book, post-free, on receipt of price.

The Lawn, published by the Chadborn & Caldwell Manufacturing Company, Newburg, N. Y.

Nothing is more essential to the adornment of home grounds than a well-kept lawn, and this publication gives directions for the preparation and requirements necessary to keep the lawn in perfect order through the season. Lawn owners will find it especially adapted to their needs.

The Report of the Missouri State Horticultural Society contains an account of the transactions during the year 1884, together with a number of interesting essays and discussions, reported from their twenty-seventh annual meeting held at St. Joseph last December. The society is an active one, and, judging from its list of members and the topics discussed, there seems to be no difficulty

to keep it in a flourishing condition. A copy of the Report can doubtless be obtained from the secretary, L. A. Goodman, Westport, Mo.

How to Propagate and Grow Small Fruit.—A book of sixty-four pages of closely printed matter, with fifty illustrations of fruits and fruit culture, containing besides a considerable amount of amusing and entertaining reading matter. Address Charles A. Green, box 562, Rochester, N. Y. Price, 50 cents.

Messrs. Ant. Roozen & Son, of Overveen, near Haarlem, Holland, send us their new "Catalogue of Dutch and Cape Bulbs for Fall Planting," through their general agency for the United States, Messrs. De Veer & Boomkamp, 19 Broadway, New York city, successors to Mr. J. A. De Veer, formerly at 318 Broadway. The firm's announcement in another column sets forth their plan of serving their patrons in this country.

C. W. Dorr & Co., Des Moines, Ia. Illustrated catalogue of vegetable and flower seeds, greenhouse and bed-

ding plants, small fruit plants, &c. This publication comes from a section where seed-growing is an important industry. Northern grown seeds everywhere have a good reputation, and they are particularly desirable for southern latitudes.

Hovey & Co., 19 South Market street, Boston, Mass. Annual illustrated catalogue of vegetable and flower seeds, bulbs, roses, &c. This is one of the old and well-known firms whose annual catalogues are always welcome, as so many new and useful varieties are correctly named and truthfully described. Those who procure seeds of this firm will not be likely to regret it.

Charles A. Reeser, Springfield, Ohio. Catalogue of the Innisfallen greenhouses. This is a well-known house, whose specialty has formerly been, and whose business now is, largely roses. In addition to this class of plants there is a general assortment of greenhouse and bedding plants, bulbs, vegetable and flower seeds—all that is required for the most extensive plan of gardening.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Tigridia Alba—*Hattie L. Neal, Texas.*—This bulb can be grown in pots, but it will do better with you to plant it in the flower border and let it remain undisturbed. In your locality the bulbs should be planted in autumn. We should advise your growing it in a pot during the present summer, and plant out in the fall, after its season of bloom is over and the bulb has had sufficient time to ripen. If grown in a pot it will require very liberal waterings.

Nerine Sarniensis—*Same.*—Your plant now needs rest; withhold water until there are new signs of life, which will quite likely be a flower spike. The place for this bulb is in the open ground, where it will bloom and make its new growth during your cool, wet season, and remain dormant through the summer.

Amaryllis Formosissima—*Same.*—Plant out of doors and await results. Give it as moist and rich a soil as possible. Treat your arum in the same manner.

Agapanthus Umbellatus—*Same.*—The principal requirement of the agapanthus is water. During its period of growth, which is nearly the whole season, set the pot in a tub of water, and you will get the desired flowers.

Plant for Name—*H. C. Gordon, Texas.*—The plant known with you as "kisses" is *Phacelia congesta*. The flowers of the ivy geraniums are liable to sport, and when semi-double to return to the original single type. We still hold to the opinion that your climate is too hot for the arum, not necessarily at the time of flowering, but when the plant is at rest. The tuber gets all dried out—at least the flower bud is killed.

Allamanda Neriifolia—*M. E. H. Putnam, Connecticut.*—As you say your plant "has been budded all winter, but after the buds grow to a certain size they wither

and drop," it probably does not have sufficient heat and moisture to develop the flower.

Rose La France—*New Subscriber.*—The La France rose is forced into bloom during winter, but does not bloom but once in a season, to any extent. Unless the flowers bring \$40 per 100 it will not pay to grow.

Tuberose—*Same.*—A practised eye can usually select such bulbs as are sure to flower under favorable circumstances; it is easy to point out flowering bulbs, but difficult to lay down a rule for their selection.

Watering Plants—*Same.*—Nature rarely waters plants when the sun shines; imitate her example. Frequent syringing of the foliage is desirable, if done at night or early in the morning.

Marie Louise Violets—*Same.*—Violets want all the light possible, but must be grown cool, a temperature but little above the freezing at night is the proper one.

Pansies—*Same.*—Winter them in a cold frame, and give them plenty of air on sunny days.

Pæonies.—*Mrs. M. E. Earnest, Nevada.*—If planted last fall, blooms may be expected this season.

Plant for Name—*Mrs. C. H. La Ballister, Washington Territory.*—From the leaf which you send with your inquiry we should judge your plant to be *Euonymus variegata*.

Plant Lice.—*E. K., St. Johns.*—Your plants are infested with aphides; your best plan for their extermination will be to syringe them every morning with tobacco water made very strong. An hour after using rinse off with clean water.

NEWSPAPER WAIFS.

—"I wish I was an owl," said the young lawyer, as he gently felt the dimensions of her alligator belt. "Why?" she asked. "Because I could stay up all night, you know, dear," he replied. "What would you want to do such a ridiculous thing as that for?" she tittered. "To wit; to woo."

—Among the children recently presented for baptism at a church in Toledo, Ohio, was a bright little two-year-old girl. She was restless throughout, requiring careful management to keep her even moderately quiet. The ceremony having been completed by her venerable grandfather, Rev. Dr. —, she placed both hands upon her head, and finding her hair saturated with water, exclaimed, in dismay, "Oh, my bangs!"

LATE ADVANCES IN SCIENCE.

In a telegraph office in Pittsburgh ten years ago, one of the most intelligent and skillful of American electricians was the centre of a group of astonished spectators at an experiment in the advance in the use of the electric current. Four different messages, coming simultaneously over one wire, were recorded on four separate slips of paper. All looked to him for an expression of the result of the experiment. He took up the printed messages, and after reading them aloud, one after another, he said: "I thought I knew something of electricity; but, in view of this wonderful feat, I must now declare that I know simply nothing." He appreciated the fact that what he had previously learned was as nothing to what was before him and what was yet to be learned. Such scientific men are not hasty to condemn the statements of other inquirers into the powers of the elements in nature.

In the wonderful developments of these ten years, the perfecting of the telephone and the electric light have shown the wisdom in the electrician's utterance. The storage and transporting in reservoirs of electricity as a power for use at a distance from the point of production is another advance not yet fully developed; but partial success has been attained. Thoughtful men have been led, in view of the experiments in this direction, to ask if it might not prove to be possible yet to store and transport any other element as well. One of these lines of experiment has been carefully followed to accomplish the storage and transportation of oxygen as an appliance in the healing art.

Men of scientific acquirements have long been convinced that it would be valuable, and a thousand experiments have been entered upon with this object in view. Some of these have approached very near success, and some of the stories told of them have been as interesting as those of the old alchemists.

People have been, for a long time, reading these stories of experiments and wondering if one of these days they should not find this problem solved, and now the question arises whether, in view of the evidence in the pages of a little paper published in Philadelphia once in three months, with the title of *Health and Life*, success has not already been achieved.

If these statements are reliable, then oxygen (compounded with other elements) is being stored, is capable of transportation, and it heats! Just as Delaney was the other day awarded the gold medal for pre-eminence in his incomparable instrument for duplex telegraphing, so to Drs. Starkey & Palen, of Philadelphia, is being awarded the verdict of pre-eminence success in this great discovery and the utilizing it in the cures of various forms of disease.

From patients cured by the use of this Compound Oxygen, stored in portable reservoirs and transported by express to their homes, we have evidence of cures of various diseases, among which are asthma, catarrh, bronchitis, consumption, dyspepsia, hay fever, sick headache, and the ailments under the general title of nervous prostration and debility. The effect of the inhalation of the oxygen is to gradually build up and invigorate the system, enabling it to eliminate disease and then resist further attacks.

The little paper above mentioned is published once in three months, and in the last number, dated April, 1885, are printed letters from Alabama, Australia, Canada, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Michigan, Missouri, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Among the writers of the letters in these papers of various dates we find the names of authors, editors, judges, physicians, clergymen; lecturers like Mrs. Livermore and Edward L. Wilson; business men like C. C. Cady, of Cady's Commercial College

in New York; Mr. Alonzo Clark, head salesman of a large business house also in New York; Mr. Arthur Hagan, Mr. George W. Edwards, Mr. W. H. Whiteley, and Mr. Frank Siddall, of Philadelphia, and Hon. William D. Kelley, who for twenty-four years has represented a Philadelphia district in Congress. These are such witnesses as would be gladly welcomed in establishing the truth of any cause. Some of the expressions used are very striking.

In addition to *Health and Life*, Drs. Starkey & Palen, whose address is Nos. 1109 and 1111 Girard street, Philadelphia, publish in pamphlet the detailed statements made by Hon. Wm D. Kelley, for twenty four years a member of Congress from Philadelphia; Judge Jos. R. Flanders, of New York City, for many years the law partner of Hon. Wm. A. Wheeler, formerly Vice-President of the United States; the late T. S. Arthur (who never wearied of declaring that Compound Oxygen prolonged his life after 1870); Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, of Melrose, Mass., the popular and widely-known lecturer; Chas. W. Cushing, D.D., pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, Rochester, N. Y. These they mail free to any address on application. All are interesting reading.

—The *Transcript* asks: "Will somebody please tell what is the nitrate of soda?" Usually about 50 per cent in excess of the day rate. All depends upon the druggist you patronize.—*Roxbury Advocate*.

—"Clara Belle" wants to know what a young man won't do when he's in love. Well, he won't eat onions; he won't give his attention to his business; he won't wear a poorly laundered shirt; he won't go to see his girl until he has oiled his hair and scented his pocket-handkerchief; he won't leave his girl at night until he hears the step of her exasperated father on the stairs; he won't believe his girl is anything but an angel, for he never saw her hanging out the washing with six clothes-pins in her mouth at one time; he won't take no for an answer when he is parting with her on the stoop and asks for "just one;" he won't—but what's the use of going further? Give us a harder one, Clara?—*Boston Courier*.

IMPERIAL GRANUM

THE SALVATOR FOR INVALIDS AND THE AGED

REGISTERED JUNE 5, 1877

THIS justly celebrated DIETETIC PREPARATION has acquired the reputation of being an aliment the stomach seldom, if ever, rejects, CONDITION NOT EXCEPTED; and while it would be difficult to conceive of anything in food more delicious, or more SOOTHING and NOURISHING as an aliment for Invalids, and for the growth and protection of Children, its rare Medicinal Excellence in Inanition, due to mal-assimilation, Chronic, Gastric, and INTESTINAL DISEASES (especially in Cholera, Dysentery, Chronic Diarrhoea, and Cholera Infantum), HAS BEEN INCONTESTABLY PROVEN. Often in instances of consultation over patients whose digestive organs were reduced to such a low and sensitive condition that THE GRANUM WAS THE ONLY THING THE STOMACH WOULD TOLERATE, when life seemed depending on its retention.

SOLD BY DRUGGISTS JOHN CARLE & SONS NEW YORK

HELIOTYPE PRINTING CO. BOSTON

LADIES'
FLORAL CABINET.

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IXIA, SPARAXIS AND TRITONIA.

IXIA, SPARAXIS AND TRITONIA.

WHAT are popularly known as Cape Bulbs, from the fact of their being indigenous to the Cape of Good Hope, the most important varieties of which are the ixias, sparaxis and tritonia, combine in a remarkable degree those characteristics so important in house plants—floral beauty and easy cultivation. For the window garden we have nothing to compare with them as flowering plants, when we take into consideration their great beauty, the ease with which, under ordinary circumstances, they can be made to produce their exquisite flowers, and the low price for which the bulbs can be obtained.

Their cultivation is of the most simple kind. In their native home, the year is divided into two portions, the dry and rainy seasons: during the one, the earth is saturated with moisture; during the other, parched with drought. Therefore, when the plants start into growth, give plenty of water and sun; keep them vigorously growing until after the flowers have faded; then dry them off gradually, by giving them daily less and less water, till the foliage withers; and place them in a dry, airy place, without removing them from the pots, until another season of growth. The soil best suited for all the genera is a rich sandy loam, and the pots should have good drainage.

They may be potted from September to December, and if brought forward at different times, a succession of bloom may be had from February to April. Water should be freely supplied with a syringe to destroy red spider, with which many of these plants are especial favorites. As soon as the flower stem appears, a few waterings of weak liquid manure will be found beneficial. They will ripen their bulbs within four weeks after flowering. All of this class of bulbs will thrive in a low temperature, but it is essential that they should have all the light that it is possible to give them, and plenty of air. These cultural instructions will apply to the whole class, and such special treatment as may be required will be given in our description of the several genera.

THE IXIA.

This is one of the most common of the Cape bulbs, and one of the easiest to manage, if there is any difference; it has narrow leaves, similar to the iris, and slender, simple or slightly branched stems, bearing spikes of large showy flowers, various in color, and exceedingly attractive when fully expanded by sunshine. They are not grown nearly so much as they deserve to be, partly because they are not known and more particularly because they are not understood. When well grown they are charming house-plants, and remarkable for the brilliancy of their colors. Five or six bulbs can be grown in a six-inch pot, and for good effect the bulbs should not be mixed—that is, but one color should be grown in a pot. Do not attempt to force these plants; they are impatient of much heat, which causes a deficiency in the size and number of flowers. The temperature sufficient to grow them in the greatest perfection is about sixty degrees by day to forty by night. This genus is composed of a large

number of species, from which, by hybridization, an almost endless number of pleasing varieties have been produced. Our preference in selection would be for the species, as we have not seen anything in the varieties to make them more valuable, either in size, form or brilliancy of markings, than is to be found in parents. We have not space to give a description of the various species, and will only give that of *I. viridiflora*. A most lovely species; leaves very slender, flower spike very long, producing from ten to thirty flowers. Words cannot describe the beauty of this flower; the petals are of a peculiar vivid green, the base of each black; stamens large and yellow; the contrast is most marked; a very free bloomer of the easiest culture. Introduced from the Cape about the year 1780.

THE SPARAXIS.

This is a genus of splendid flowering plants which has been separated from the ixia, to which it is nearly allied, and which in foliage, growth and flower it much resembles. This genus is fast rising in the estimation of both the florist and the gardener, and only requires to become known to make it one of the most popular of house plants. The treatment is in every way identical with that prescribed for the ixia. It does not come into flower quite as early as the ixia, and for that reason can be most successfully grown in a cold frame, where it makes a very valuable plant for early summer flowers. As with the ixia, numerous varieties of the sparaxis have been produced, but the most desirable, either of species or varieties, is *S. pulcherrima*, of which the *Garden* says: "It is so remarkably distinct from everything we have been in the habit of looking upon as a sparaxis, that its claim to be a member of that genus has often been the subject of comment. It is a most lovely plant; its tall and graceful flower-stems rise to a height of from five to six feet, and wave about when agitated by the wind, but are of so tough and wiry a character that they are never broken by a storm. It continues to produce its lovely deep rosy-purple foxglove-shaped bells on almost invisibly fine wire-like lateral foot-stalks for from six to seven weeks. The usual color of its bell-like blossoms is a rosy purple, but there are forms of purple-crimson and almost every intermediate shade to nearly white, and some are beautifully striped. An allied species is *S. Thunbergi*, but *S. pulcherrima* is by far the finer and more elegant of the two. *S. Thunbergi*, although a very handsome plant, has nothing of the graceful waving beauty displayed by the tall, slender, arching flower-stems of *S. pulcherrima*. It has a stiffer habit and is a more dwarfish plant, with erect flower-stems seldom more than 2½ feet high. The flowers, moreover, have very short stalks, and are not pendulous like those of *S. pulcherrima*."

THE TRITONIA.

This very handsome genus is closely allied to both of the foregoing, but far surpasses them in beauty and use-

fulness, either as a house plant or for the greenhouse, or for growing in a frame for early spring flowers. It thrives well with the same treatment as is required for the ixia. The only species of importance is *S. aurea*, a plant grown largely in England as a border flower, where it will endure the rigors of their winter with but slight protection. A popular writer there, in describing this plant, says: "I prefer this to the gladioli, as it is not so stiff-looking, and keeps longer in bloom; besides, it looks well from the day it is planted, with its graceful, drooping, ribbon-like leaves, which are worthy of their place although it never flowered; and I think its bright orange color and tall habit are much needed where tall plants are required." Differences in climate make a great difference in the usefulness of a plant. In this locality, where we have far more sunshine in winter than England can boast in summer, the tritonia is a magnificent plant for the conservatory or greenhouse, and does fairly well as a window plant. But in the ordinary greenhouse the freedom with which it produces its gorgeous yellow flowers, from February until May, is truly astonishing. A ten-inch pot planted with a dozen bulbs will afford a continuous mass of bloom for two or three months. This plant is also

known as *Crocoshia aurea*. It was introduced from South Africa in 1846.

In close alliance with those described is the

BABIANA,

a charming genus of bulbs from South Africa, differing from the sparaxis and tritonia in having much broader foliage, which is often hairy and plaited. The plants grow from six to twelve inches high, and produce spikes of brilliant flowers, ranging in color from blue suffused with white to the richest crimson-magenta; many of them are sweet-scented. They are natives of arid plains, and during their growing season will bear much wet, and when dry will not be injured by great heat. In their native habitat the ground often becomes powdery, and the bulbs lie exposed to the fierce rays of the sun. The bulbs are eaten by the Hottentots, and are said to resemble chestnuts when roasted. All the species have showy flowers of various colors, blue predominating. Some of the varieties are finely variegated. They require the same treatment as the ixia, but being of slender growth, the bulbs can be put much more closely together in pots. They are exceedingly useful as a window plant, or for the conservatory or greenhouse.

FLOWERS OF JULY.

THE sweetly pretty flowers of spring are past, the summer's heat is at its height, dust abounds everywhere, berries are abundant in the woods, brilliant foliage paints pretentious garden beds, and vacations are in order. But our homes are not bereft of beauty, nor our garden plats of interest, and it depends upon ourselves alone whether or no we can go away and find more July flowers in mountain, field or wood, the seaside maybe, or neighbor's yard, than we have around our doors at home.

What a host of hardy perennials are now in bloom! Kœmpfer's irises are at their gayest; they are large and showy, single and double, white, blue and purple, self-colored or marbled or pencilled. Perennial larkspurs are in their prime. As soon as they have done blooming and before they go to seed, cut them down, and they will grow up again and bloom in the fall. Among lilies the white lily has about gone by, but the trumpet lilies are in their prime; the scarlet martagon, the nankeen, Humboldt's and many others are in perfection. The Californian red columbine (*Aquilegia truncata*) and the long-spurred yellow one (*A. chrysantha*) and their hybrids alone among their kind remain with us. The double-flowering *Achillea Ptarmica* is a mass of white. It lasts a long time in bloom and is very serviceable for florists' work. The blue, variegated and white-flowered monkshoods are showy enough, but we should handle them carefully, as they are poisonous plants. Many herbaceous spiræas are pretty in our borders, for instance, the double white meadow-sweet, the red *S. palmata* and the pink *S. venusta*. We have lots of pentstemons, especially the scarlet wands of *P. barbatus* and *P. Torreyi*.

Many of the showier sorts, as *P. Cobæa Murrayanus* and *Eatoni* are not hardy enough for general outdoor work, and when wintered in frames, bloom in June rather than in July. Fringed pinks, Carpathian and *Platycodon* bell-flowers; blue, purple-red and white spider-worts; blazing stars (*Liatris*), double-flowering bouncing-bet (*Saponaria*), purple and white prairie clover (*Petalostemon*), perennial scabios, Pyrenean and large-flowered brunellas, the large-flowered betony, stately hollyhocks, and many other common plants are now in bloom. Among coreopsis we have several handsome species, but none more useful and copious than *C. lanceolata*, which is a continuous bloomer, and blossoms the first season from seed. Several of the tall blue veronicas are in bloom. To name them accurately is exceedingly hard, the species are so mixed.

The large-flowered lychnises, as *L. grandiflora* and Haage's varieties, are hardy, showy and worth growing and as easily raised from seed as are annuals. *Yucca filamentosa* is in full beauty and makes a capital clump in open, rocky places, or, in fact, anywhere in dry ground where we wish for a permanent group. The fat-leaved sedums add their contingent in the way of the yellow stonecrop-like *S. sexangulare*, the white *S. album* and the red *S. spurium-splendens*. One of the strongest and sweetest of hardy perennials is David's clematis, a herbaceous species from Northern China; *C. tubulosa* is not unlike it, but a poorer plant. The perennial peas (*Lathyrus latifolius*), white and purple, are acquisitions in roomy gardens, and although they blossom freely when sprawling on the ground, do better and take up less room when we give them stakes or brush. The stronger gypsophilas

display their airy masses of tiny flowers. These are fine plants for dry and sandy soils, their roots penetrate the ground so deeply. The creeping milk-weed, *Euphorbia corollata*, is another deep-rooting plant, which, although a weed in many places, is worth growing in our gardens; its "flowers" are pretty and in a cut state last a long time in good condition. The bright red fantastic flowers of the bee-balm (*Monarda didyma*) are very showy; the large yellow evening primroses attract our attention at night, and the lesser diurnal forms, as *Æ. riparia*, our notice in the daytime. Some of the taller phloxes are in bloom; they begin with *P. Carolina* and *P. glaberrima*, pink-purple, hardy and copious, and notwithstanding books to the contrary, so far as my observation extends, they are identical. *Lysimachia clethroides* is pretty, but it spreads about so much as to become a nuisance. Add to these the host of showy composites, home and exotic, that now begin to display their brilliant charms for our admiration.

SHRUBS.—May and June are the heyday of garden shrubs, but enough remain for July to render our gardens gay. The smoke tree (*Rhus Cotinus*) is a cloudy mass; every branchlet of the sorrel tree (*Oxydendron arboreum*) is tipped with bunches of lily-of-the-valley-like flowers; *Andromeda speciosa* and its varieties are tasseled or wreathed with waxy bells; old bushes of "Californian" privet have lots of white bunches; *Kalreuteria paniculata*, with immense panicles of yellow blossoms, is in its gayest; the bladder-sennas are full of yellow pea-flowers and rattling pods; the chaste-tree (*Vitex*) has many bluish clusters; the small buckeye displays its slender raceme-like panicles above its bank of leaves; the catalpa's wealth of open panicles is unsurpassed; *Rubus deliciosus* is clothed in white; the lead plant's (*Amorpha canescens*) violet-purple spikes add variety to the garden; fleecy pink sprays appear on the current growths of the

Chinese tamarix; our native hydrangeas may be considered for admission; the spiræas have not all past; *Douglasi*, *callosa*, *salicifolia* and its varieties still remain with us; the lovely stuartias are in bloom, and althæas seek an introduction. These and many others we may have in July. And should we choose to add ornamental fruited shrubs, we may find them in Tartarian honeysuckles and *Eleagnus longipes*. Among vines the wistaria gives us a few more flowers, the trumpet creeper is in its prime, and the pink wreaths of the prairie-rose are worth admiring.

WILD FLOWERS.—The cornflowers occur in patches in the meadows and hayfields, the wood lily in open spaces in dryish ground, the Canada lily in the damp meadows, and the American turk's-cap lily in the swamps. The orange-colored asclepias is common along the railroads and in sandy land in many places. The meadow beauty forms pink patches in moist places, and the willow-herb is plentiful in burnt-over woodlands, in meadows, and scattered along mountain roadsides. Meadow rue is scattered in the swamps, golden hypericums in waste fields, bouncing-bet by the roadside, butter-and-eggs (*Linaria*) wherever it can get a foothold, and chicory in the forenoon along our outer streets and turnpikes. These and many others now in bloom are very suggestive.

AMONG WILD SHRUBS the clammy azalea inhabits the swamps, the common elder the thickets and fence-rows, wild-roses with button bushes by the water's edge or associated with mulleins in dry and rocky ground; viburnums flourish in the margins of the woods, clethras where the soil is rich and moist, and the red-root (*Ceanothus Americanus*) in dry ground and rocky slopes most anywhere. And then, among our garden shrubs in blossom now, behold how many of them are natives of our hills and woods!

WILLIAM FALCONER.

THE CAMELLIA.

COMMEMORATIVE names so abound in catalogues of plants that a garden may be regarded, not only as a selected portion of the book of nature, but also of the book of men. A large proportion of the most valued plants are, by virtue of the familiar names they bear, living memorials of the masters of the world, whose names a grateful posterity would not willingly let die, and has, therefore, associated them with things that may be regarded as everlasting; for Nature will take care of her own children even when our neglect may have exposed them to the danger of extinction.

The camellia was named in honor of George Joseph Camellus, or Kamel, who was a Moravian Jesuit, and traveled in Asia. Being a botanist and a careful collector of curiosities, he wrote an admirable monograph of the vegetation of the Isle of Luzon, the most northerly of the Philippines.

That the *Camellia japonica* is the grandest of our conservatory and garden shrubs the reader of this sketch

does not need to be informed, and in the brief space at our command we will endeavor to do better than eulogize its beauty. The plant was introduced into England by Lord Petre some time before the year 1739, and the first plants were killed by being placed in too high a temperature. Thus at the very start a lesson was learned, and in the same direction there is yet another lesson to be learned, as will be stated presently. Its original and proper name is *Camellia japonica*, but it has been also called *Tsubaki*, *Rosa chinensis* and *Thea chinensis*. The last cited name makes occasion for the remark that the tea-plant is closely allied to the camellia, and several sorts of true camellia are available as tea-plants. Those who can take interest in the economical view of the subject will not object to be told that the leaves of *Camellia sasanqua* are dried to mix with tea and communicate to it a grateful odor. A Nepal species, known as *Camellia kissi*, is so much characterized by the flavor and odor of tea that it might be em-

ployed for the same purpose. But the true tea-plant (*Thea*) is so hardy and possesses in such a striking manner the properties for the sake of which tea is consumed, that the camellias may be very properly neglected as possible tea-plants, that nobody wants.

Another matter of some interest is that the camellia displays but a shadow of its true beauty when grown as a pot-plant, and has no equal for massive grandeur of leafage and floral splendor in its season when planted out in a spacious conservatory, and encouraged to grow freely, with scarcely any pruning, and subjected to no more artificial heat than suffices to keep the plants safe from frost.

The successful cultivation of the camellia is a matter of some difficulty, for any serious mistake will result in the shedding of the flower-buds just at the time when they should be opening into flowers, while systematic misman-

agement will result in a poor growth, naked stems, diseased leaves, and an absence of flowers. The chief point in the management is the watering. If the soil becomes sour with stagnant water, mischief must follow; and if the roots are dry for any length of time, the flower-buds will be likely to drop. As for the soil, there is nothing so suitable as a stout, friable, yellow loam, full of fibre from rotted turf. Clay, chalk and sand are all unfit for the camellia, but a good peat soil answers very well, especially for making beds for planting out camellias, when a nice friable, fibry loam is not obtainable.

One of the best for the conservatory is the one known as *Donckelaari*. The following also are fine varieties, and the most useful among hundreds: Double White, Alexina, Beali, Countess of Ellesmere, Jenny Lind, Lavinia Maggi, Leopold I., Valtavaredo and Giardino Santarelli.

A BIT OF NATURE.

NATURE not only "never did betray the heart that loved her," but she is ready to whisper in your ear her choicest secrets. "Listen. Look in the grass yonder; I have a little 'find' for you"—and you discover *Drosera rotundifolia* (round-leaved sundew) almost right at your own door—a plant that you had been obliged to go five miles to procure. Then Nature seems to really smile and say, "I am glad to have given you so much pleasure."

When I was studying ferns, it was a standing remark of one of my friends, that "whenever I see Mrs. D—, I always expect to hear something about *Botrychiums*; and when I am walking with her I say, 'Where do they grow?' She stoops and calls my attention to a rare, strange-looking leaf and single stalk, with clusters of grape-like globules, and says, 'Why, here is one!'" And so it is, when you are in real sympathy with any subject, you are at once admitted into the home circle, and there are no secrets.

If you really love the growing life about you, do not carelessly and recklessly destroy it. Take with care what you need and can use, but be sure that you do not eradicate comparatively rare specimens. I say comparatively rare, because my oldest botanical friend will seldom allow that a plant is really rare. Also, when you find fine specimens by the pathside, leave them when you can, to gladden the eyes of other passers-by.

An excellent pteridologist wished to examine for scientific purposes *Woodsia obtusa*, a very pretty fern and not very common in this locality; but the specimen most convenient for him to take looked so lovely he could not bring his mind to the point of disturbing it, and so, I presume, it lives in its home even to this day.

Another learned professor, when shown a beautiful fringed gentian, said, "Yes, very good," and began at once to dissect it, to the horror of the owner. The former was scientific, but a real lover of nature too; the latter looked at all plants, it is to be supposed, in a purely

scientific view, and the beauty to him was in structure and formation. It was a fine specimen, not a beautiful flower.

Science is very valuable, but I must confess that there is a certain tenderness in my heart for the sweet, lovely, wild blossoms; and I am sure that it was there long before I knew anything about their structure and growth.

Have you ever noticed in your walks and drives what an important factor in nature the wild-rose is? There is no plant that seems to be used so profusely and effectively for decorative purposes. By the roadside, in the thickets, along unsightly walls, the edges of swamps and in attractive groups in the pastures. Wild-roses here, there and everywhere! And then they come so early and stay so long! You ought to be able to find them from the middle of June until the first of August, and the last lingering blossom will possibly stay until past the middle of the latter month. I found last year a single rose, *Rosa Carolina*, on the 20th of August. As I was entering a small swamp its beauty beamed upon me from afar, and it really was surprising to see how one small rose could brighten the scene.

If you wish to study the roses and learn their scientific names, you will have but little difficulty if you give close observation. You will readily find five species, and possibly six.

The dwarf wild-rose (*Rosa lucida*), with its shining and sharply serrate leaves, armed with unequal prickles, stipules broad, and one to three flowered, will probably be the first to greet you in your summer walks. This is common in dry soil and on the edges of swamps.

A little later the swamp rose (*Rosa Carolina*) will be very abundant in all low grounds. The leaves of this are dull above and pale beneath, the flowers numerous, stipules narrow, and the prickles stout and hooked.

Rosa nitida is similar to *Rosa lucida*, only the leaves are narrower, and the stem seems to be studded with small prickles.



GLOSSY-LEAVED LADY'S SLIPPER (*Cypripedium levigatum*). Flowers yellowish, with purplish dots and lines.
(See Notes and Comments, page 102.)

I have only found it in open swamps, and do not think it is very common.

The two sweetbriers are usually solitary or in small groups, and can easily be distinguished from each other by their fruit and prickles.

Rosa rubiginosa, the larger sweetbriar, has numerous prickles, of unequal size. The larger strong and hooked; the smaller, awl-shaped, and the fruit is pear-shaped, or obovate. In *Rosa micrantha*, the smaller sweetbriar, the prickles are uniform, and the fruit elliptical.

By observing these special points you will be able to decide the type, and will not, I trust, enjoy your roses any the less for knowing their real names. One writer

says: "How cruel to make an honest country girl mouth *Rosa rubiginosa* for the sweetbriar that perfumes her garden!"

Is it cruel to teach or learn? Of course, in conversation generally it would be out of place to use any but common well-known names, but at the proper time and place it is well to be able to speak of and know plants by their scientific names, and certainly a necessity if you desire to intelligently communicate with people in other sections of the country, for the common name here may be unknown there, and you can only make yourself understood by using the name known the world over.

LOUISE DUDLEY.

CULTURE OF PELARGONIUMS.

WHEN properly cultivated nothing can exceed the pelargoniums for the window-garden. Mr. Henderson, in "Practical Floriculture," gives them high praise. Most of them come from the Cape of Good Hope and are natives of arid plains, therefore they are subject to extreme dryness at certain seasons. The roots are few, and, after blooming, they need a long period of rest.

The colors are so rich and the shades so varied that it is a matter of surprise to me that they are not more used as house-plants. I believe they are generally thought difficult of culture, but I think this a mistake. I have excellent success with them, and they are, during late winter and through the spring, the chief attraction of my window-garden.

What is more lovely than the pelargonium, Cambridge Pet, so covered with blossoms as almost to hide the foliage. I have counted twenty-five and thirty clusters of buds and blossoms at a time on this variety. All the dwarf varieties are very free bloomers.

The new sorts, Fred Dorner and Freddie Heinel, are very early and free bloomers, both beginning, with me, to flower in December, and continued in full bloom for a long time afterward, not as full, but still never without buds and blossoms till time to get them out of doors in the spring.

There are many lovely new fringed varieties, but the most beautiful I have ever seen is the "Duchess of Edinburgh," very large, ruffled edge, pure white, with delicate purple spot. This belongs to the Regal class, like Beauty of Oxtou, though much finer.

About the last of July or the first of August, I cut back my old plants to three or four inches in height, always with a view to making them symmetrical, and cutting so as to leave good places for leaf-buds to start. I then select such cuttings from the branches as seem well ripened or hardened, and start them in pots measuring two-and-a-half or three inches across the top. They root easily in sand, but I like best to root them in the earth, in small pots, in which they are to grow. When new shoots have started on the old plants to about an inch in length, I re-pot them, shaking off all the old soil, using the same sized pots again, being careful to have them clean outside and in. I "pot them low," as it is called; that is, I leave a space of one and a half or two inches unfilled at the top, so as to give them less earth and less root room, to insure success. Set them so that they will be planted even with the soil as they were before, though not having as much in depth.

The old plants, when well trimmed, will make fine bushy plants when the blooming season arrives. By old plants, I mean those that are one year old, and have bloomed one season. For soil, I use two parts good loam, one part sand, and two parts good rich leaf-mold, the latter two or three years old, well rotted, upon which has been poured suds, slops, &c. This is sufficiently rich

without manure, which I never use for them. I always bake the earth to kill worms, insects and larvæ, and start my cuttings in two-and-a-half or three-inch pots, in the above soil, and place in warm sunny windows, near the glass. This is much better than rooting in the open air, and care must be taken not to give too much water, as they would be likely to "damp off."

After the cuttings are well rooted, I pinch out the top at the third or fourth leaf, which causes side branches to start. As soon as these small pots are filled with roots, I re-pot into those from three and a half to four inches across the top, according to the size and vigor of the plant. Care should be taken not to injure the white working roots, also not to over-water at any time.

A four-inch pot is sufficiently large for one or two-year-old plants, but last season I kept several for the third year, and they were magnificent when in bloom. I gave them five-inch pots, which seemed plenty large enough. The old plants that I "potted low," as it is called, I re-set again in November in the same pots, and put sufficient soil at the bottom to raise the old ball of earth the desired height, that is, within a half inch of the top. Most persons err with these plants in giving too much pot-room, which induces growth of foliage rather than flowers.

They do not like a hot dry atmosphere, but do best in winter in a room but slightly warmed. I keep mine in south windows, in a room warmed slightly by means of a register communicating with the room beneath, where a constant fire is kept. Through November and December I keep them rather dry, after that give a little more water, and still more when blooming.

I give liquid manure once a week while in bloom, but never on any account give it till buds are large and well formed, or you will get "nothing but leaves," as it will have the same effect as over-potting. As fast as the plants show well-formed buds I take them to the sitting-room and place them in the sunny bay-window. I have had them in bloom all the past winter. I give two good smokings, one day intervening between them, to kill the aphid, and with an occasional washing (say, once every two or three weeks) I have very little trouble from insects.

I am more and more delighted with these plants each year, and think they should be more generally cultivated.

In the summer, after blooming, I let them remain rather dry, giving only sufficient water to sustain life.

G. J. M.

[The above practical article on pelargonium culture refers to what is known as fancy pelargoniums, the descendants of *P. grandiflorum*. Botanically, all our bedding geraniums are pelargoniums, and in many catalogues are classed as such. We make this note to avoid confusion, and to stimulate the culture of the "fancy pelargoniums," with which our correspondent has been so successful.—ED.]

SUMMER WORK IN THE GARDEN.

OUR suggestions in the last number of THE CABINET in regard to successive plantings in the vegetable garden are equally important for securing continuous bloom in the flower garden. Annuals should now be in their glory, all bedding plants well established, their flowers large, full and fresh. The foliage has not commenced to suffer from summer's heat and drought, the charm of making garden has not worn off and the weeds have not yet asserted their strength; therefore the garden is a source of pure delight, and will remain so the whole season if a little care and attention is daily given to it. It will not do to stop work now, simply because everything is so beautiful and luxuriant; we must remember the inevitable law, "that all that is fair must fade." The beautiful is the result of labor wisely applied, the recompense for the daily care and watchfulness, the earnest devotion we pay to the tender objects of our care. We must not think because foliage and flowers are all that the heart can wish for now, that they are to remain so the whole season without further care and trouble, or rather without further joy and pleasure, for such the work should be. The garden must be made anew every day, for each day some lovely form will fade away, and a new one must be ready to take its place. If not, the garden will put on weeds, in evidence of the death of the love that for a season dwelt there. Eternal vigilance is the price of continuous flowers, as eternal attention is the price of love, whether in the garden or anywhere else, and if you don't pay the price you won't get the article.

Successive plantings must be made during this and a part of the coming month. A few or many, in proportion to the size of your garden, good, strong gladiolus bulbs should be ready for planting any time before the 15th; these will give such spikes of bloom early in October as you would not suppose the bulb capable of producing. It may, possibly, be necessary to protect the flower-spikes against the first frost, which usually comes with considerable vigor, to show what it can do, and then retires for two or three weeks, during which time your bulbs will have finished their work, and you will have enjoyed this noble flower in the full measure of its beauty and stateliness.

Pansies in variety should now be sown in some partially shaded situation, so that you may have plants in readiness to fill any empty space there may be in the garden. Have sufficient young plants to take the place of the early potatoes, unless the place is already set apart for something else. Pansies make a far more pleasing second crop than ragweed or purslane, which you will surely have unless you give the ground some useful work to do. Pansies, by common consent, are called spring flowers, when, in fact, they can be had in the greatest luxuriance and numbers in autumn; and what is more beautiful than pansies in the garden during Indian summer? They are as bright and cheerful then as in June. The handsomest pansies we ever gathered were from

self-sown seed, having hid itself in a lily bed, where it grew uncared for, unmolested and unnoticed, until all the other flowers had succumbed to the icy hand of frost, then their cheerful faces bid us welcome to a rare feast indeed. Give the pansies a fair chance and there are no plants that will repay so liberally for all the attention they have received. There is no flower in the garden that speaks to us so plainly as does the pansy; its broad, full, cheerful face is full of expression.

The mignonette is a fitting companion for the pansy; it is modest, sweet and retiring, it will not crowd itself upon your attentions, but will ever greet you with a sweetness that is as enduring as life itself. For saucer bouquets pansies and mignonettes blend most happily together; the contrast they afford tends to repose the eye, and to give the impression that there is something more there than a mere inanimate existence. Add a little fertilizer to any vacant place you may have, work the soil deep, then sow the seed, and after your fair-weather friends have been frost-bitten, the Frenchman's *Little Darling* will show you a friendship that the frost only sweetens in order that you may more fully appreciate its true loveliness. There are many varieties of mignonette listed in the seedsmen's catalogues, as there are of all popular flowers. We prefer for outside cultivation the *Golden Queen*, but you cannot go astray in planting any of the popular kinds. One thing, however, must not be overlooked, viz.: If you wish the best of mignonette, the soil in which it is grown must be worked deep, must be very rich, moderately heavy, and moist.

Phlox Drummondii is a showy annual, the seeds of which may be sown any time during the month, and masses of brilliant flowers in autumn will be the result. These flowers are not injured by a moderate frost, neither does hot, dry weather discourage them, as it does many annuals. Selection and cultivation during the past few years has done much in developing this flower. The variety known as *grandiflora splendens*, of which there are several colors, is the one that should in all cases be selected.

Reflection as well as observation is in order now; it is well to enjoy what is before you, but it is better to enjoy now what you are to behold in the next and in future years. In order to do that, you must now make the necessary preparations for next year's garden.

SEEDS MUST BE SAVED

as well as planted, and do not for a moment suppose you can buy as good as you can save, providing you have made a good selection at the start—this you must determine by comparison and observation. If your annuals are inferior to those of your neighbors throw away your seeds or do not allow them to ripen, and commence again. If your several strains are superior to others, carefully select the best flowers for seed; do not choose the first, nor the last, as the most perfect forms and positive colors will be found in the intermediate stage of the

plant's existence. Do not allow the plant to ripen more seed than you will require, and one pod of balsam of any desired color will be sufficient for next year's stock, and the same is true of most other flowering plants. If the plant is allowed to ripen its seed it will soon cease blooming, having accomplished its mission. If not allowed to ripen seed it will continue to flower the whole season, to accomplish the work of reproduction.

The selection of seed is a far more important work than is generally supposed. If you want to preserve double forms select your seeds from the most double flowers; if single forms are desired choose the largest, the most vigorous and those having the most decided and pleasing colors. It matters not of what variety the plants may be, you will find in the bed some that are superior to the average; choose these for your stock. The seed-grower who has supplied your seedsman cannot afford to do this, he must gather the whole or his industry would not be remunerative. The seedsman who best understands his business gets his stock seed from amateurs or saves it himself, in the same manner as we have just described for you. Follow out this plan and you will not only have the best strains of flower-seeds, but you will soon find a pleasure in your gardening operations far above that which you have in looking at your flowers. Developing forms from a lower to the highest possible form they are capable of reaching is a noble, an interesting work, a work that will elevate you in proportion as you elevate the objects of your care.

What is true in the flower garden will apply with equal, if not greater force to the vegetable garden. If you have a good or superior tomato, set apart one plant for seed, cut away all but one or two of the largest, smoothest and most perfectly formed tomatoes, and allow these to ripen for seed purposes, first choosing the heaviest and more solid fruits. Follow up this selection for a few years, and you will be the originator of a new variety, which will save you the trouble of sending for the latest novelty (?) in tomatoes. It is a well-known fact that while there are so-called new varieties sent out annually, there has not been the slightest improvement in the tomato in the last twenty years. Old forms have deteriorated because proper care has not been taken in selection for stock seed, and those who have taken the trouble to keep their stock up to a high standard are reaping the rewards of their labor by selling seeds of "a new tomato" at 50 cents per packet.

Careful selection of all other garden seeds, or at least many others, should be made in the same manner, and they will in the end give the same results. Watch carefully every vegetable and flower for new forms; "sports" are constantly occurring, many of which, with proper care, will develop new types. Those should be guarded tenderly, for whoever aids in the improvement of fruits, vegetables or flowers is truly a public benefactor. We are of the opinion that the horticulturist is more indebted to accidental variations, or sports, for new vegetables, fruits and flowers than to any systematic effort at hybridization or cross-fertilization.

CLIMBERS—INDOORS AND OUT.

IN my last article I notice I inadvertently spoke of the smilax as having a *bulbous* root. This was a mistake; the root is tuberous. The difference between the two may be thus described: A bulb is an underground bud, resembling a root, and consisting of numerous fleshy scales, placed one over the other; a tuber is a fleshy, solid, underground stem. The lily may be taken as an example of the first class; the potato of the second.

In mentioning outdoor climbers, we must distinguish between the annuals, which die down each season, and the perennials, both evergreen and deciduous. The former compensate by rapidity of growth for their want of permanence.

Among evergreen climbers suitable for the United States there is none more entirely satisfactory than *Akebia quinata*. It is a native of Chusan and the Japanese Islands, where it must experience a rigor of climate equal to our own in intensity. It is abundantly clothed with dark-green leaves, divided into five ovate lobes. The quaintly characteristic tri-lobed flowers are purplish-maroon in color, and very fragrant. It is not a rooted climber like the ivy, so will not cling to a wall unaided, but if given a trellis or support as a base of operations, it will twine and wreath itself in every conceivable position. One of the handsomest akebia plants I have seen

was twisted into a compact mass some four feet in diameter, and extended to a height of forty feet, making a perfect pillar of leaves and blossoms. The akebia produces a fruit something like the granadilla; it is a stout maroon pod containing transparent pulp, in which the seeds are imbedded, and may be likened in flavor and appearance to a combination of sago and gum-arabic. It does not, however, often mature fruit with us.

Our common Virginia creeper, *Ampelopsis quinquefolia*, receives its share of appreciation among climbers; it seems such an easy-going, contented plant, always ready to do the duty assigned it, whether in its native thickets or in the garden. I must, however, point out one serious fault in its character—a fondness for bad company. In the wild state it is nearly always found associating with the poison vine (*Rhus toxicodendron*). In consequence, those who have not learned to distinguish clearly between the two are very apt to be poisoned severely, if they are not proof against the toxic property of the plant. There is, however, a very great difference between the plants; the *Ampelopsis* has digitate irregularly-toothed leaves, divided into *five* distinct lobes; *Rhus toxicodendron* has either *three* leaflets, more nearly round in form than the *Ampelopsis*, though pointed, slightly downy underneath, or an entirely ovate leaf, this being the

variety *radicans*. The difference between the poisonous and non-poisonous vine may be noticed at a glance. Both make a brilliant show of crimson leaves in the autumn. A third native vine, often seen growing with the above, is the bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), its orange and scarlet fruit renders it a conspicuous roadside ornament in the autumn and enters largely into the composition of Christmas decorations. I have never seen it growing under cultivation, but there is no reason why it should not do well, if grown according to its natural requirements.

Ampelopsis Veitchii is a Japanese Virginia creeper, to use an Irishism; it has heart-shaped undivided leaves, green and shining, growing thickly along its rooted stems, which turn to a gorgeous crimson in the autumn. It grows quite rapidly, forming a mass similar in appearance to an ivy.

Another beautiful contribution from Japan is *Vitis heterophylla*, a non-edible variety of the grape. The leaves are small and palmate, irregularly notched and toothed, and most irregularly variegated. The stems are purplish-green; the leaves are blotched and streaked with creamy white, often changing into the reddish tinge of the stems. Sometimes a leaf will be entirely cream-white; again, it will be entirely green. The plant bears clusters of little grape-like berries, crimson when unripe, which, as they ripen, change to a beautiful clear light-blue. Ripe and unripe berries are often to be seen in the same cluster, and the marvelous contrast in color, combining with the quaintly variegated leaves, makes it a most picturesque climber, suggesting a fairy vineyard for its origin. It is hardy, though it may require slight covering over the roots during the winter. It requires a trellis for support, like an ordinary grapevine.

I have spoken before of the familiar *Clematis Jackmanii*, with its numerous large dark-blue flowers and sturdy growth. It is most satisfactory as a climber, both in hardiness and beauty. Our common native clematis, or Virgin's Bower (*C. Virginiana*), is a pretty climber, bearing dark-green leaves divided into three leaflets, and panicles of white flowers, which are succeeded in the autumn by the feathery smoke-colored tails of the seeds. It will climb rampantly over fences or rockeries, and may be transplanted successfully from the woods to the garden.

The *Wistaria sinensis*, with its pendent racemes of lilac flowers, is too well known to need description, but it cannot be too highly praised. It shows its drooping clusters among the earliest spring flowers, and after its bloom is over, the handsome pinnate leaves form a charming covering for screen or trellis. We may mingle with it most effectively the trumpet vine, *Bignonia grandiflora*. It is a hardy Chinese climber, making a fine show with its clusters of large orange trumpet-like blossoms. It is quite a common thing in country gardens. I have seen a rustic arbor with a mingled mass of bignonia, wistaria, and *ampelopsis quinquefolia*, making a most

picturesque retreat, its only drawback being the presence of sundry earwigs and other many-legged creatures, which are only too apt to infest our rural shades.

If we want to cover some unsightly stump or other eyesore in the garden or shrubbery, we must have recourse to some quick-growing annual vine, and of these the convolvulus, or morning-glory, is among the best; indeed, it is a most satisfactory plant anywhere. If the seeds are sown in pots in March, they are ready to be put out in May, or as soon as danger from frost is over, and they flourish and bloom the season through. *C. Mauritanicus* is a fine variety with large sky-blue flowers; however, a packet of mixed seed will give one a good selection, without paying attention to any special varieties. A nearly-allied plant is the ipomœa, very similar in growth to the convolvulus. A very interesting variety is *Ipomœa bona nox*, also known as *I. noctiliflora*. During the day the buds remain closed, developing after nightfall into large, pure white, fragrant flowers. It is sometimes called the Moon Flower. *I. coccinea* has small star-shaped scarlet flowers. Another beautiful scarlet flowered variety is the Quamoclit (*Ipomœa Quamoclit*, or *Quamoclit vulgaris*), a native of the West Indies. The *ipomœas* pass into as many and as beautiful varieties as the convolvulus; indeed, it is often a difficult matter to discriminate between the two. A nearly related plant—and a very ornamental one, too—is our sweet-potato (*Dioscorea batatas*). It will creep, or twine, or hang in most picturesque fashion, if planted in sandy soil, with plenty of sun, and its dark-green leaves and pretty pink flowers make a handsome show. *Abobra viridiflora* is a pretty little gourd bearing a bright red fruit. There are many of these gourds having ornamental fruit, some very pretty, others merely odd. They are very useful on account of the rapidity of their growth, especially for the purpose of covering any unsightly object. I have seen an old and broken fence rendered picturesque in the extreme by being covered with a common pumpkin vine. Certainly, on close inspection, the plant seemed coarse and rank; but from a little distance the effect was extremely good.

The "Dutchman's Pipe" (*Aristolochia siphon*) is a quick grower, with an abundance of handsome, bright green leaves and quaint pipe-shaped maroon flowers. It is perfectly hardy. Then we have another quick grower in the *Cardiospermum*, or balloon vine, so called from its inflated seed vessels. By exercising a certain amount of taste and judgment we may obtain the most charming effects with the climbers; their form and habit lends itself to so many graceful modes of growth. Indeed, it seems impossible to imagine a successful garden without them. Care must be taken, however, if many sorts are grown, that they accommodate or harmonize with one another to a certain extent. Still, their natural grace of habit renders it impossible for one to make any very glaring mistake in that respect. E. L. TAPLIN.

"I hold that he who humbly tries
To find wherein his duty lies,
And finding, does that same, and bears

Its burdens lightly and its cares,
Is nobler in his low estate
Than crowned king or potentate."

WHITE-FLOWERED CONVULVULUS (*Ipomoea Thomsonianum*).

THE IPOMOEA.

THIS is a very extensive and interesting genus of twining plants, consisting of hardy and tender annuals, hardy, tuberous-rooted perennials, and greenhouse perennials. They are remarkable for their showy flowers of white, pink, blue, purple and variegated colors. *I. purpurea*, with its almost innumerable varieties, is the common morning-glory of the garden, and there is nothing more beautiful. To enjoy its real beauty one must be in the garden early, before the sun is up, when the flowers are covered with crystal dewdrops, and insect life is busy, visiting every opening flower, gathering the nectar in repay for its labor of cross-fertilization. It is then we see the blossoms in their perfection; the colors are the most vivid and the forms the most graceful, while the munificence of the flowers combine to make a display that no other class of plants can offer. Besides, getting up half an hour before sunrise—but little later than society goes to bed—prolongs the beauty of the day, and makes us retire when we ought to, for sanitary reasons. *I. pandurata*, not unfrequently called Man-of-the-Earth, because of the resemblance of its tubers to the form of the human body; roots of this variety have been found which weighed thirty pounds; it is a native species, and very desirable for covering unsightly places. The stems from a well-established plant will cover a space fifty feet square, and produce an immense number of very large pure white

flowers, which remain open much longer than the annual varieties; if in a shady place, they not unfrequently remain open nearly the whole day. For a sunny situation this species is not as desirable as some we shall mention, from the fact that its foliage becomes burned.

I. Mexicana and *I. Mexicana alba* both produce pure white flowers. The only difference apparent in the two is in their seeds, one being white, the other black. This small difference has created a considerable confusion in the nomenclature of the species. *I. noctiphyton* (which is sold under several other names) is a tropical perennial species, with immense pure white flowers, emitting a delightful fragrance. This is probably identical with *I. bona nox*, as they are both found in the West Indies, and are in all respects similar. The flowers, contrary to the habits of this splendid family, open at night instead of the morning. Being a free bloomer, the effect, especially on a moonlight night, is charming, particularly when growing on a tree, where it seems perfectly at home. A well-established plant affords a full orchestra of insect music when the plant is in flower, giving it an animated appearance. This species is not hardy, and its tubers require to be stored during the winter in the same manner as those of the dahlia. Propagation of this species by seeds or cuttings.

I. Learii, a tender perennial species, is perhaps the

most beautiful and useful of all the ipomœas. It is particularly valuable in the open air for rapidly covering an outbuilding, a wall, trellis or summer-house, and it will flower abundantly from midsummer till fall. In the greenhouse it will bloom the entire season, but it is well to cut it back rather severely in September to keep it within bounds. The flowers which are large, and of that pure sky-blue so rare among flowers, are produced in the greatest profusion. The propagation of this species is best effected by cuttings, as it does not come true to name from any seeds we have been able to obtain.

I. Thomsonianum.—White Indian Convolvulus, the subject of our illustration, is a beautiful tropical species, recently introduced by B. S. Williams, Esq., London. This species has flowers similar in shape to those of *I. Horsfalliæ*, but larger and of the purest white. This is truly a greenhouse plant, but would, without doubt, succeed well in this country in the open border. It has not yet been introduced here, but we trust soon to be able to announce it in our list of rare and beautiful climbers.

I. Horsfalliæ, a native of the hot and moist regions of

Africa and the East Indies, is one of the handsomest of this large and interesting family of climbers. It is admirably adapted for greenhouse culture. Its leaves, are digital and smooth. Flowers large, and very freely produced in flattened panicles of a deep rich shining rose-color. We dare not hope to see it generally cultivated in this country, as the love of flowers here is strongly blended with the love of gain; and flowers that have not a marketable value have but little to recommend them, even to those who have greenhouses that are not devoted to commercial purposes.

I. coccinea (*Star Ipomœa*)—Is one of our choicest hardy climbers, a rapid grower in any soil or situation, and bearing a profusion of brilliant scarlet blossoms, which contrast finely with its bright green and finely-cut foliage. It grows readily from seed; in fact, the only objection to this species is, that it is apt to become troublesome when once established.

Nearly all the ipomœas are popular plants, especially to those who have an eye for gracefulness combined with showiness.

ORNAMENTAL FOLIAGE PLANTS.

MANY people in their ambition to have flowers almost ignore, if they do not wholly, a very important and attractive class of plants, quite as essential to the open border or the window-garden as the bloomers, and while many of these last are unreliable and inconstant, the ornamental foliage plants rarely fail to charm us with their beauty. Some, it is true, will have two or three coleuses, but seem to have little knowledge or appreciation of a very large class of beautiful foliage plants far more desirable because of their rarity. In this paper we propose to present to your notice some of these with the desire that you may form an acquaintance with them.

Bertolonias are very ornamental when one can give them hot-house culture; they are rather delicate and not adapted for ordinary rooms. *Van Houttii* is specially beautiful with its leaves of a rich olive green traversed with large bars of magenta red and dotted all over with spots of the same color. *Rodeckii* bronze speckled with white spots, edged with creamy white. *Guttata*, leaves dark green dotted with rose color. *Pubescens* has light-green leaves with a dark band through the centre.

Phyllanthus rosea-pictum is a plant of easy culture; it is remarkable for its variations of color, no two leaves showing precisely the same markings. Some of the leaves will be bright crimson, others cream-color; some will be bronzy shaded with crimson, some dark green blotched with rose; others tri-colored, white, rose and green or bronze.

Another unique feature of this plant is that the flowers are produced on the edges of the leaves. *P. latifolius* is quite unlike *pictum*, the charm of which is in its foliage, for this produces on its leafless but leaf-like branches a

multitude of little pink flowers. The name *Phyllanthus* is from *phyllon*, a leaf, and *anthos*, a flower.

Colocasia macrorrhiza, or, as it is frequently called, *alocasia*, is a caladium-like plant, very ornamental, with its large leaves splashed with white. The name is from *kolokasia*, the Greek for the root of an Egyptian plant. *C. esculenta* we find usually classed under the head of caladium. It is grown extensively in the Sandwich Islands for food, and is called by the natives *tara*, the root being eaten like potatoes and the leaves cooked like spinach. The negroes in the South also eat them. It is a grand plant for the lawn or for a large pot. Its leaves often measure four feet in length by two and a half in breadth. They are very smooth, light green in color, beautifully variegated and veined with dark green. There are beautiful variegated caladiums, and anyone who will cultivate some of them will be convinced that they are as valuable as flowers for ornament. *Excellent* has large foliage, with brilliant crimson centre and spotted with white. *Major Benson* is dark crimson spotted with red. *Reine Victoria*, green, spotted with red and white.

The alocasias some consider a different species from the colocasias, but they differ very slightly. *A. metallica* is a plant of great beauty, with its large, thick, shell leaves of a bronzy copper color, with a metallic lustre. *A. Jenningsii* has the foliage heavily blotched with black. *A. alba violacea* has blue stems striped with white; its foliage is large, and it is a fine plant for bedding out.

The anthuriums are strikingly ornamental for indoor cultivation and decorative purposes. *A. Scherzerianum* is one of the most brilliant. It is of dwarf habit, beautiful in foliage and flower. The blossoms are very curious,

a vivid scarlet in color, and remain two or three months in perfection.

A. warocqueanum has leaves from twenty-four to thirty inches in length and not more than seven or eight in breadth. The ground color is a deep lustrous green, with light-colored midrib and veins.

A grand pot plant is *Aspidistra lurida variegata*. It has large leaves, broadly striped with white. It is of easy culture, a very robust plant, but of slow growth. One leaf, however, when it unfolds from its *twist*, is worth a great deal—it is so large, so beautiful and so *established*. It says emphatically, "I have come to stay, and no changes of season nor place can make any changes in

me." For a decorative plant, to contrast with a dark-bronze *dracæna*, margined with crimson, it is admirable. Should be grown in quite small pots, and the soil liberally mixed with sand.

Eranthemums are fine for the open border or the window-garden. *Tricolor* is of dwarf habit; color of the foliage olive-green, blotched with grayish-purple and salmon-pink. *Sanguinea*—foliage deep crimson-maroon, leathery-like; admirable for bedding out. For dark foliage plants, *Euphorbia sanguinea*, purplish-crimson, and *E. atropurpurea*, blackish-purple, are desirable.

M. D. WELLCOME.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Celery.

IT appears to me to be very singular that so many persons consider celery to be one of the most difficult of garden vegetables to cultivate successfully, when in reality it is one of the most easily grown, and any person can readily grow it to perfection if he has any inclination to do so. Within the past few years the manner of cultivating celery has been very much simplified, thus placing it within the power of the amateur cultivator to raise all he desires for his own use; but as it is too late in the season for him to attempt to raise his own plants, I think it advisable to omit this part of the subject for the present, but I would here say that as the seedling plants are rather troublesome to raise, they can usually be obtained at any seed store much cheaper than one could raise them, if only a few hundred plants are required. But where they are wanted by the thousand or so it is preferable to raise them at home, the simple fact of their being on hand whenever wanted being ample recompense for the time and care bestowed upon them.

It is altogether useless to expect to obtain a good crop of tender, succulent celery unless it has a rapid and uninterrupted growth from the start, and to secure this not only should the ground be properly prepared, but the crop must be carefully cared for during its season of growth, and I cannot too strongly insist on this being done.

The ground should be deeply and thoroughly plowed, and repeatedly harrowed until it is as finely pulverized as possible, and when this is done it can be marked out in rows from three to four feet apart, according to the variety grown, and the amount of ground one has at his disposal.

The rows should be opened as deeply as possible by means of the plow, and a good supply of well decayed stable manure thoroughly and deeply intermixed with the soil by means of the fork, and then leveled off as nicely as possible. All of this preparatory work should be performed before the first of July; so that the ground can become well settled before it is wanted for use, which is about the middle of July, although the plants can be

planted at any time during the month. In planting, place the plants about six inches apart in the row, and see to it that the ground is well "firmed" around the roots. Planting is best done just previous to or after rain, although it can be done at any time, if not too hot or dry. In this case, however, the plants should be very carefully removed from the seed-bed, and the ground well pressed or "firmed" around their roots. This is very essential in plantings of all kinds, as it partially excludes the air until the new rootlets are formed.

In removing the plants from the seed-bed, let the ground be first thoroughly saturated with water, then with a small trowel raise the plants carefully, retaining as much of the earth and fibrous roots as possible. Plants so treated can be safely removed at any time, but it is preferable to select damp or cloudy weather for the operation. Care should also be taken not to set the plants too deep, for if the heart is covered with soil, the growth will be materially retarded.

After the crop is planted, nothing further is to be done for some six or eight weeks, excepting to keep the plants well cultivated and free from weeds.

As to varieties for cultivation, I prefer the Perfection Heartwell, London Red and Sandringham Dwarf White, although one will not go astray in selecting any of the varieties enumerated or described by any of our principal seedsmen.

The Perfection Heartwell is an excellent keeping sort, and is a strong growing variety doing well in light or poor soils, and for inexperienced cultivators the most preferable. The London Red is also an excellent keeper, and in my opinion is more crisp and better flavored than any of the white sorts, while the Sandringham is well known as being one of the most solid and finely flavored of the white varieties.

Directions for "handling" and "earthing-up" that portion of the crop desired for fall and early winter use, and also for the preservation of the crop for winter uses, will be given in the August CABINET.

CHARLES E. PARNELL.

FAVORITE FLOWERS.

SOME of our flowers come from lands of perpetual summer, some from countries all ice and snow, some from islands in the ocean. Three of our sweetest exotics originally came from Peru; the camellia was brought to England in 1739, and a few years afterward the mignonette and heliotrope. Several came from Cape of Good Hope; a very large calla was found there in the ditches, and some of the most beautiful geraniums, or pelargoniums. The verbena grows wild in Brazil; the marigold is a native African flower, and a great number of our most beautiful plants are natives of China and Japan; the little daphne was taken to England by Captain Ross from almost the farthest land he visited toward the North Pole.

Many of these are quite changed in form by cultivation; some have become larger and brighter, while others fall short of the beauty and fragrance of their tropical growth, despite all care of florists and shelter of hothouses. When the dahlia was brought to England it was a very simple blossom, a single circle of dark petals surrounding a mass of yellow ones. Others were, a short time after, transplanted from Mexico, with scarlet and orange petals, but still remaining simple flowers. Long years of cultivation in rich soil, together with other arts of skillful florists, have changed the dahlia to its present form.

"There is a curious perversion of name in the designation of the tuberose, which has nothing to do with 'tubes' or 'roses' and is merely a corruption of its botanical title, *Polianthes tuberosa*, the latter word simply signifying tuberous, and the former word, from the Greek, expressing 'city flower.'"

This glorious floral favorite grows naturally in India, whence it was brought into Europe in 1632. Its blossoms were originally single, and Monsieur le Cour, a celebrated Leyden florist, first produced a double variety. He was so tenacious of the roots of this flower, that after he had propagated them in such plenty as to have more than he could plant, he caused them to be cut in pieces, to have the vanity of boasting that he was the only person in Europe who possessed specimens of them. This device could not, however, long exclude so desirable an acquisition from the gardens of Europe, and it is now common all over the world.

For button-hole bouquets and funeral wreaths, the tuberose is in great demand; but its excessive sweetness renders it not so desirable for the window-garden as less odorous plants. The Malaysans style this floral belle "The Mistress of the Night," a poetical idea used in the poem of "Lalla Rookh:"

"The tuberose with her silvery light,
That in the gardens of Malay
Is called the Mistress of the Night,
So like a bride, scented and bright,
She comes out when the sun's away."

It has been prettily remarked that we must remember

that Moore is speaking of the lady's habits when in her own native country; in our colder clime she waits for the sunshine before expanding her perfumed petals.

When worn in the hair by a Malayan lady, it informs her lover, in a manner that words could never speak half so well, that his suit is pleasing to her.

An exquisite little *jeu d'esprit* by Leigh Hunt, known as the "Albanian Love-Letter," prettily carries out this idea of—

"Saying all one feels and thinks
In clever daffodils and pinks;
Uttering (as well as silence may)
The sweetest words the sweetest way."

There is a favorite legend in Germany of a luck-flower which admits its fortunate finder into the recess of a mountain or castle, where untold riches invite his grasp. Dazzled with so much wealth, with which he fills his pockets and hat, the favorite mortal leaves behind him the flower to which he owes his fortune, and, as he leaves the enchanted ground, the words, "Forget not the best of all," reproach him for his ingratitude, and the suddenly-closing door either descends on one of his heels and lames him for life, or else imprisons him forever. If Grimm is right, this is the origin of the word forget-me-not, and not the last word of the lover drowning in the Danube, as he throws to his lady-love the flower she craved of him. The tradition that the luck-flower, or key-flower, was blue is inconsistent with the fact that the primrose is the "Schlüsselblume" (key-flower).

Or we may believe as the poet says:

"When to the flowers so beautiful
The Father gave a name,
Back came a little blue-eyed one—
All timidly it came,
And, standing at the Father's feet,
And gazing in His face,
It said, with meek and timid mien,
Yet with a quiet grace:
'Dear God, the name Thou gavest me;
Alas! I have forgot.'
The Father kindly looked on it
And said, 'Forget-me-Not!'"

The ancient nations had each its emblematic flower. The special flower of the Hindoos, for instance, has always been the marigold. The Chinese display as their national flower the gorgeous chrysanthemum. It is used as the peculiar emblem and badge of the mikados of Japan. The Japanese seem to think more of this flower than any other. One of the highest of their national honors is the "order of the chrysanthemum." They have an annual festival at the time of its blooming, and even name their daughters after the flower.

The history of the chrysanthemum goes far back into antiquity. It is not certainly known in what country it originated, but most of our varieties come from China and Japan.

In a Japanese book called the "History of Nin-taku ten-wan," the following passage occurs :

"In the year 386, in the seventy-third year of his reign, seeds of the chrysanthemum were first introduced into Japan from a foreign country, both blue, yellow, red, white and violet."

The Japanese commentator remarks: "By a foreign country is meant the kingdom of Paiktre, one of the States of Corea."

A variety of the chrysanthemum exists in Japan with blue flowers. It is represented very frequently on Japanese porcelain, both ancient and modern, especially that of Satsuma and Kioto; it appears on *cloisonne* enamel and embroidery. In a book called "Keramic Art in Japan," it is represented on platters, jugs and vases, in blue, red, yellow, and shades of orange.

The Japanese possess countless varieties of this favorite flower. The size and splendor of its star-like flowers are often incredible. The delicate tints of rose and pink, like the tints of a sea-shell, spotless white, glowing crimson and golden yellow are all so beautiful that it is no wonder the Japanese hold a yearly festival in honor of the chrysanthemum or *kikro*.

In China a liquor is distilled from the flowers of the chrysanthemum, which is regarded as an elixir—vital, and a powder is made of the dried flowers which is prescribed as a cure for drunkenness.

The Assyrians have for ages proudly worn the water-lily. This magnificent flower, floating in the river with its seed-heads and great round leaves, gives us a perfect idea of this plant, sacred to the ancient Egyptians, and which has, apart from its use by that people in their religious mysteries, formed the model of some of their best architectural designs.

Egyptians delight most of all in the heliotrope; though the papyrus leaf, used by the ancient Egyptians in place of paper, may also be regarded in a high sense as the symbolic plant of the land of the Nile.

The Greeks and Romans were in the habit of distributing the flowers in their luxurious gardens among their gods and demi-gods; just as in yet remoter times the sweet basil and the moon-flower were sacred to Asiatic deities.

In the Roman custom, to Juno was devoted the lily; to Venus, the myrtle and the rose; to Minerva, the olive and the violet; Diana had the dittany; Ceres, the poppy; Mars, the ash; Bacchus, the grape leaf; Hercules, the poplar, and Jupiter, naturally, the monarch of trees, the oak. The olive-branch has been consecrated to peace; palm branches to victory; the laurel to conquest and poetry; the myrtle to love and pleasure; the cypress to mourning, and the willow to despondency.

The crowns of victors in athletic exercises were frequently composed of oak-leaves. The oak itself was, with the mistletoe, regarded as sacred to the ancient Britons. The most honorable reward of the Roman patriot was the *civic crown*, composed of unwreathed oak-leaves.

The ivy and the vine were associated with festive mirth. So, we may infer that among the Romans the lily and the oak were the emblems of power; the myrtle and the rose,

of love; the olive and the violet, of learning; the ash, of war, and the grape-leaf, of festivity.

Even the days of the week are named from deities, who had each his special flower: "Sunday, from the sun, to which belonged the sunflower; Monday, the moon, the daisy; Tuesday, the god Tui's day, the violet; Wednesday, the god Woden's day, the blue monkshood; Thursday, the god Thor's day, the burdock; Friday, the goddess Frea's day, the orchis; and Saturday, Saturn's day, the horse-tail."

We find also that in our own time the sacred days in the calendar of the English Church have all their flower or plant emblems; the principal of which are the holly for Christmas, the palm for Palm Sunday and the amaranth for All Saints Day.

Many nations have adopted flowers as symbols and heraldic badges. The palm typified Judea. The lotus Upper and the papyrus Lower Egypt.

The oak has been considered one of England's most appropriate symbols, and the leaf of the strawberry is used in the circles of gold worn by certain of the English nobility.

The shamrock, or trefoil, is the symbol of Ireland. "When St. Patrick preached the gospel to the heathen Irish, the doctrine of the trinity was the stumbling-block in the way; but picking up a trefoil, or shamrock leaf, which grew at his feet, he by its means explained so satisfactorily to them the possibility of 'trinity in unity,' that on that point there was no further difficulty. Thus did the trefoil's holy charm aid the saint. The order of St. Patrick was instituted by George III. in 1783. On the jewel of the order is a wreath of shamrocks, with the motto *Quis separabit*. The trefoil is also the emblem of hope, who is pictured as a beautiful child holding in its hand a three-colored grass. That no serpent can touch the trefoil was a belief extending back to remote antiquity. No true Irishman will dispense with a bunch of shamrock on St. Patrick's Day."

The leek is the symbol of Wales and is worn by the Welsh on St. David's Day (first of March). It is "an ancient tradition begun upon an honorable respect, and worn as a memorable trophy of predeceased valor."

The fleur-de-lis is the badge of the royal house of France, and the amaranth of that of Sweden. The rose blooms for ever on the royal coat-of-arms of England.

The thistle is the symbol of Scotland; it was adopted with its motto, "Wha daur meddle wi' me?" says tradition, from the following circumstances:

During an invasion, and when the destinies of Scotland hung suspended upon the result of a battle soon to come, the invaders were upon the soil of "dear auld Scotia," and if they gained the victory in the first encounter they might not afterward be overcome. They knew that the Scots were desperate, and if they would surely conquer them they must fall upon them suddenly and unawares. To this end they availed themselves of a dark, stormy night, and planned to attack the Scottish army on every side at the same moment. Had they been suffered to execute their plan undetected they would certainly have succeeded in entirely destroying the Scots, but a simple accident betrayed them.

When near the Scottish camp the foremost of the invaders removed the heavy shoes from their feet so that their steps might not be heard, and thus stealthily advancing barefooted, a heavy, quick-tempered soldier trod squarely upon a huge thistle, the sharp points of which gave such sudden and exquisite pain that he cried out with a bitter curse in his agony. His cry aroused the outlying Scots, apprising them of their danger. With wonderful alacrity they sprang to their arms, and meeting the foe widely divided for the purpose of encompassing the camp, they were enabled easily to overcome them, which they did with great slaughter.

The unfortunate soldier who had so unwittingly given

the alarm was captured alive, and when he had told the story and the Scots knew to what their deliverance was due, they resolved to adopt the *Thistle* as the national insignia of their country. In all ages and among almost every people flowers have been adopted as symbols, types and emblems of human characteristics—affection and loyalty. Surely nature bears no product more gracefully adapted to such symbolism than the flowers in the infinity of their forms, colors and poetic significance.

George Eliot says: "Is there not a soul beyond utterance, half nymph, half child, in those delicate petals, which glow and breathe about the centres of deep color?"

ZENAIIDA.

THE SARGASSO SEA.

Within the wide Atlantic's reach
(So comes the tale to me),
There lies a lake, some furlong's stretch,
Called the Sargasso Sea.

It has no waves that roll and toss,
There storms and tempests cease,
No frailest bark can suffer loss,
Haven'd within its peace.

The Gulf Stream bends above its place,
With mighty, onward flow,
And winds and tides move on apace,
Around it and below.

Yet there it lies, so calmly still,
Naught can disturb its rest;
Elsewhere the storm fiend has his will,
But ruffles not its breast.

Dear friend, upon life's ocean wide
We've traveled, man and wife,
Just half way o'er, from side to side;
Men call it *middle life!*

The onsets fierce of youthful days
No more our quiet vex,
And hope and fear, and blame and praise,
Do less and less perplex.

We feel not yet the "slowing up,"
No feebleness is ours;
There still is strong wine in the cup,
Once garlanded with flowers.

Whence comes this calm, so free from fear?
It surely, love, must be
That we have reached mid-ocean here,
Our life's Sargasso Sea!

ELIZABETH P. ALLAN.

[The curious facts about the Sargasso Sea are found in Maury's "Physical Geography of the Sea," and elsewhere.]

THE PLANTS THAT GREW IN JOHNNIE'S GARDEN.

SUCH a brown, hopeless-looking patch of ground as it was that bright May morning!

"I don't believe I can ever make anything grow here!" sighed Johnnie, leaning disconsolately on his spade.

"Oh, yes, you can," answered his mother, encouragingly. "Just see the handsome pictures on these papers of seeds! And I will give you some slips of heliotrope and geranium, and some pansy-roots from my bed. Won't it be beautiful when they are all in blossom? And you are so fond of flowers, Johnnie!" She did not add, wise mother that she was, "And the doctor says that it will be so good for you." Mrs. Dean remembered that boys were not fond of medicine in any form.

Johnnie went to work with renewed energy. He spaded

the little patch of ground over thoroughly, raked it with his tiny rake till not a hard lump was left, and then began to build around it a wall of the smooth, white stones left in a huge pile by the well-diggers, in the corner nearby. Back and forth he traveled with his little wheelbarrow till the shapely mound was nearly surrounded. It was hard work; the sun shone brightly on his steaming face, and there were tiny blisters on the small white hands, when mamma, seeing that the work was beginning to lag, came to the rescue.

"Better wait awhile, till you get rested, Johnnie," she called from the porch. "Please come and help me slip these geraniums."

She held in her hands a soup-plate, covered to the

depth of perhaps two inches with moist sand. "If you are going to turn gardener, my boy, you must learn all the secrets of your trade," she laughed. "The geraniums in the farther window are those I intend for you, but I wish to save some slips to bloom in the early winter months. If a stem breaks easily between your fingers—so, it is nice to slip from, but if not brittle, the chances are that it will not root."

Then Mrs. Dean took from the window two large bottles with wide mouths, which were filled with different kinds of coleus. The variegated leaves made a handsome bouquet above, while through the water below gleamed masses of white, fleshy roots. "I put these in the water three weeks ago," she said, "and you can see how finely they have rooted. Several of the handsomest are for you, and will be a great addition to your bed."

Mrs. Dean had accomplished her object; Johnnie was thoroughly interested, and anxious to return to his work at once. She persuaded him to wait till it should be cooler in the afternoon, and meanwhile showed him the proper way of arranging the geranium slips in the plate of sand, which was then placed in a sunny south window. "Now," she said, "you can arrange a plate precisely similar, and I will show you how to root begonias and heliotrope."

When he brought the plate, his mother handed him some choice cuttings of her favorite plants, which she arranged in clusters, so that a common tumbler inverted over them would cover several slips. This plate was placed beside the other. "And you have only to keep the sand moist," said Mrs. Dean, "and I can promise you that nearly every slip will root. Now we will examine our seeds."

The papers were spread out on the table, and Mrs. Dean looked them over carefully.

"We will try only those kinds with which you are sure of success," she said. "We do not wish to make many experiments. Here are sweet-peas, nasturtium, mignonette and phlox Drummondii. I think these will be sufficient, with what plants I have for you."

After a long rest, Johnnie returned to his work, and soon had the wall completed. His mother then gave him an old hoe-handle and some pieces of board, and showed him how to nail the strips across one end, so as to make a support for vines. This was then set firmly in the centre of the bed, and small stakes driven at regular intervals in a circle at its foot. Stout twine was then fastened securely to the stakes and again at the top of the support; and Mrs. Dean declared the day's work ended.

The next morning came the important ceremony of sowing the seed. In the spaces between the stakes were planted sweet-peas and nasturtiums; around these a row of coleus was set at regular intervals; then followed the geraniums, thrifty plants which had bloomed through the winter, and were now cut back to stimulate new growth. Each was protected from the sunshine by an inverted flower-pot placed above it. The heliotrope came next; then mignonette and phlox Drummondii, sown in alternate patches; lastly, the pansies forming the border.

Over the stone wall Mrs. Dean draped the white and purple tradescantia from her hanging-baskets, the pretty,

thick-leaved trailing plant which grows with so little care; and then, when Johnnie had sprinkled the bed thoroughly with warm, soft water, she told him his work was done for the present.

It was weary waiting; day after day he would run out to his garden to see if the seeds had sprouted, but not the tiniest bit of green greeted his sight. The leaves on the geraniums and coleus, accustomed to the warm air of the sitting-room, looked brown and dingy, and were torn and tattered in the rough wind; the heliotropes turned black and dropped their leaves, and even the pansies looked wilted and forlorn. Johnnie went to his mother in despair. "I wish I hadn't tried to make a flower-bed at all," he said ruefully. "Nothing will grow in it."

"Patience, my boy," said his mother, with a smile, "you must learn to wait as well as work. Don't go near the garden for a few days, and in the meantime here is a book about South American flowers, which I think you will enjoy reading." The book was large and full of pictures, and Johnnie became so absorbed in the stories of the wonderful Southern blossoms, delicate as butterflies, brilliant as tropical birds, that he forgot his trouble.

A few days later, going out to the garden one bright morning, he saw lines of vivid green just breaking through the soil, and ran overjoyed to his mother, to tell her the news. She pointed out to him also the young and vigorous leaves on the house-plants, and assured him that another week would work wonders in his bed.

It was not long before another trouble arose: there were seeds in the ground which did not require the care bestowed upon the others to induce them to grow, and, once started, they speedily outran the nobler plants in the race skyward. The little florist soon found that no half-way measures would answer with these intruders; they must be exterminated, root and branch, nor could the warfare cease for a single day.

"It is like learning the multiplication table," complained Johnnie. "It's over, and over, and over." But the same spirit which had made him first in his class determined him not to be conquered by persistent weeds, even though their name might be legion. So the work went on, and soon the pretty mound was a mass of fragrant bloom, and Johnnie, grown strong and active and brown, delighted his generous heart by sending beautiful bouquets from his garden to his friends.

That year at the county fair he received a prize of two dollars for the second best collection of flowers. He went to his mother with the money in high glee.

"I am very glad," she said "but the best plants that grew in your garden were not represented in your collection."

He looked up in astonishment. "What can you mean, mother?" he asked; "I never skipped a single one."

She touched his ruddy cheek with a kiss. "I mean, Johnnie, the health the exercise gave, the patience taught by long and tiresome waiting, and the persevering industry which enabled you to overcome all your difficulties. These are the plants which will bloom for you, if you are faithful in their culture, in greater beauty with every succeeding year."—*Good Cheer.*

HOME DECORATIONS.

A Mantel Lambrequin with Design in Lustra Painting.

THE material for the lambrequin may be of plush, velvet, velveteen or satin; the quantity will, of course, depend upon the shape and the size of the mantelpiece.

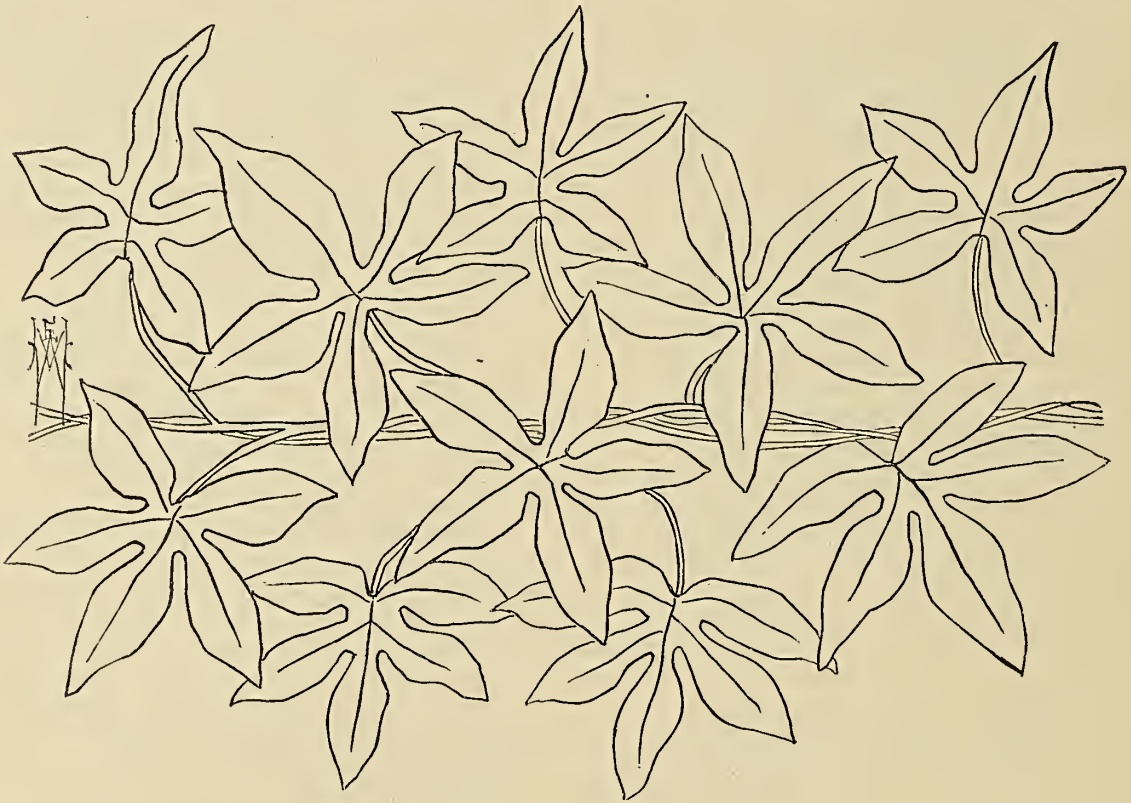
Bold or conventional designs are more suitable for this work than the more delicate ones, as a lustrous effect is the point to be gained. Depressed plush is very beautiful, for, as the name implies, the whole design is de-

the depth desired will be found most convenient, although in case a draped lambrequin is preferred the ends can be decorated.

Lustra painting has somewhat the appearance of the tinsel embroidery which has of late been so much used, but the decoration is much less difficult.

The bronzes are prepared in powders, and these are mixed before applying to the material on which they are to be used, with liquids of which there are two, the "general medium" and "special medium."

The colors can be purchased in boxes with all that is



DESIGN FOR MANTEL LAMBREQUIN IN LUSTRA PAINTING.

pressed, or stamped in upon the plush, thus giving a smoother groundwork to paint upon. It is, however, rather more expensive than the plain. On the plain plush, or whatever material is used, the design should be stamped as for embroidery. The one given for the lambrequin is of Virginia creeper, and should be painted with the tints of its brilliant autumn coloring of crimson and carmine.

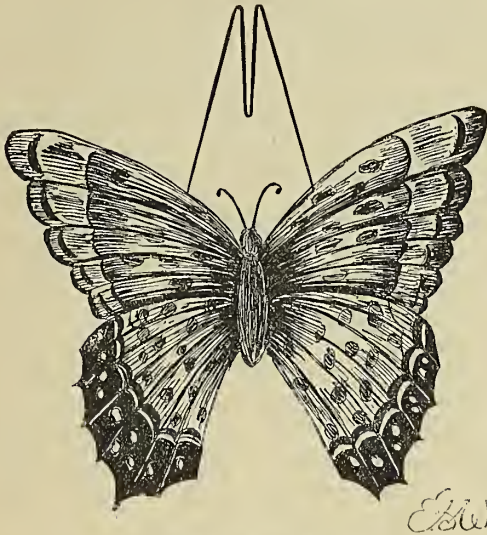
If crimson or gold will harmonize with the coloring of the room for which the lambrequin is intended, either will prove a pretty background for the design. In order that the painting may be displayed to the best advantage, a straight piece fitted smoothly round the mantelpiece and

necessary for the work, as the water and the oil color boxes are prepared, or the powders can be obtained by the ounce if desired.

The colors are as follows: Pale, rich and green gold, lemon, orange, fire, brown, pale and middle pink, carmine, dull red, light, dark and dull green, sparkling silver, silver, black, and light and dark purples.

A large china palette, with wells in which to mix the paints, and rather large sable brushes are best for applying the colors, which, in most instances, are used without mixing other shades with them; should it be necessary to do so, however, practice will prove the best teacher.

When using the liquids for mixing the powders the



DESIGN FOR LAMP SCREEN.

“special” is for pink shades only, and the “general medium” for all other colors.

It is possible to imitate nearly all flowers in lustra painting, but it will be necessary for those of a deep crimson shade to work them in with crimson lake and vermilion in oil-colors first, and lighten with lustra carmine.

In working upon plush, if not the depressed, the strokes should be firm and worked with the pile, the brush well filled with color, which must be about the consistency of syrup.

Golden-rod, elder-flowers, or any of that description, should be painted in masses with short strokes. White flowers are painted with silver, shaded with steel and black, and the stamens of large flowers should not be painted until the petals are dry.

It would be well to practise on small designs before attempting larger ones, that experience may thus be gained in mixing colors.

The brushes should be always thoroughly cleansed in turpentine, and afterward washed in hot water with soap, then dried on a soft cloth before putting them away, otherwise they soon become unfit for use.

Table scarfs, and many other useful articles, can be made very beautiful by decorating with the lustra colors, as described for the lambrequin.

M. E. WHITTEMORE.

Butterfly Screens.

BLACK satin is the most suitable material for these convenient little screens, as it gives a pleasant shade and can be decorated with painting or gay-colored embroidery silks to resemble very closely a large butterfly. It is best to cut a paper pattern of the design and try it on the lamp, for, while the screen should be large enough to be useful, it must not be so large as to be out of proportion to the size of the lamp.

When you have the pattern just right, cut the wings

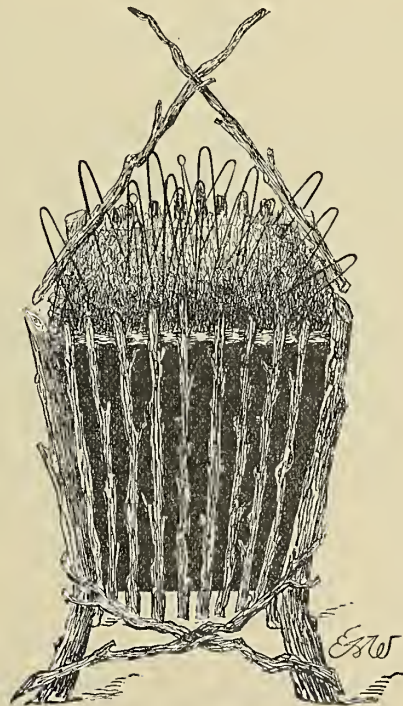
first from the satin, as they are made separately; the lining may be of the black or else of some bright color, as may be fancied. Sew the outside and lining together in a seam on the wrong side, then turn them and press with a warm iron. Fasten a fine wire in the edge to keep the wings in shape. Make the body of the butterfly of a little roll of cotton, cover it with satin and fasten the wings to it, and paint or embroider them as preferred. A piece of stout wire, by which to hang the screen on the chimney or shade is then fastened on the under-side of the wings, and bent as shown in the illustration.

Hair-Pin Holder.

THE pretty little baskets made of twigs of the Norway spruce and offered for sale in many fancy stores can be very easily constructed at home.

Select the new growths of the wood and remove all the bristle-like leaves; the best method for doing this is to heat the pieces quickly, a few at a time, to dry and loosen the leaves, which can then be easily removed by scraping the twigs with a dull knife in the direction of the foliage, but be very careful not to destroy the wood buds.

For the bottom of the basket cut a piece of thin pine-wood two inches square and at each corner tack a strip of the spruce five inches in length. The twigs can be rendered so very pliable by steaming them for a few minutes that they can be bent into any desired shape. Join these corner-pieces at the top with four twigs three and a quarter inches long, but not quite as thick as those used at the corners. Then tack still smaller twigs on the sides and bottom, as shown in the illustration, and arrange



HAIR-PIN HOLDER.

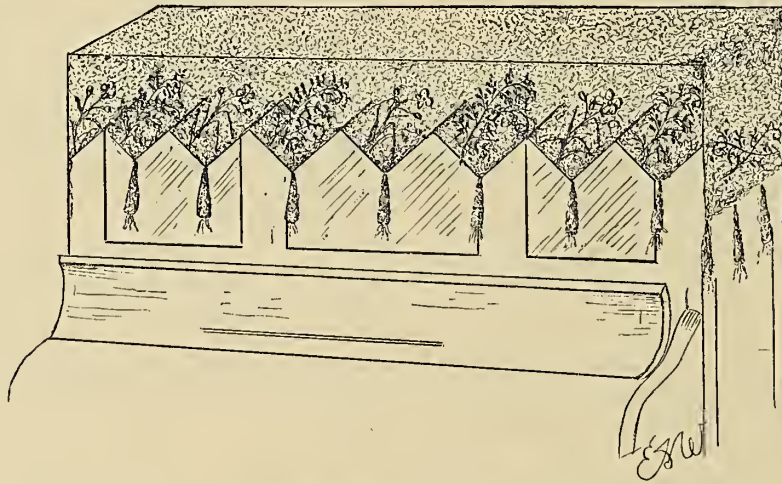
two on the top for a handle. Gild with liquid gilding, or if preferred, leave the twigs their natural color and simply varnish them. Line the box with material corresponding in color with the worsted to be used for the cushion cover. Knit a square with split zephyr in loop-stitch; that is, knit one row plain and in the next row wind the zephyr four times around two fingers and knit in, thus making a long full loop with each stitch; the next row must be knit in plain stitch and the one following again in loops, alternating them in this way until you have a piece large enough to cover the top of the holder. Fill the holder with curled hair and sew the cover over it. E. S. W.

Cover for Upright Piano.

AN exceedingly pretty design for an upright piano cover is given in our illustration. The material for the cover should be deep garnet plush

or velvet, and if afterwards desired for other uses, taken off and reapplied. They have no raw edges to be concealed and all that is necessary to fasten them, is to sew them down with sewing-silk through the work, and they have the appearance of being embroidered directly on the material. The designs are composed mostly of roses, pansies, pelargoniums and pond-lilies, with leaves and buds; the blossoms usually are formed of velvet or plush, and the leaves and stems embroidered with arrasene.

After the panels are decorated, line the front as well as the scarf-shaped strip, with satine the same color as the cover; overhand the edges together and sew a fancy cord around them, and over the threads which mark out the panels; sew a plush tassel on each point. The ends of the cover are left straight, and may be embroidered to correspond with the front, if desired, and should be decorated with the plush tassels. E. WELCH.



DESIGN FOR PIANO COVER.

or velveteen, which can now be obtained in such good qualities as to be very desirable for decorative purposes and for many uses supersedes plush, as it is much less expensive and wears well. The top is cut in a straight scarf just the width of the piano top, and long enough to hang over the ends a little deeper than the embroidered front, which is made separately and joined to it after it has been embroidered and lined. A strip of the material about ten inches wide will be required for the front, and one edge should be cut in large points which are formed into diagonal panels by extending the cord which is used to finish the edge. To outline these panels, lay a ruler on the material from the point to a few inches above, and run in on the line thus formed a white basting thread, to serve as a mark until you are ready to sew the cord in place.

Embroider some pretty design on each panel or decorate them with applique sprigs, which can be obtained already embroidered. These sprigs, by-the-way, make beautiful decorations where heavy embroidery is suitable, and as they are embroidered on crinoline foundation, which is afterward cut away, they can be applied

Case for Table Linen and Cutlery.

WHILE calling upon a friend who lives in an apartment house, she had occasion to go to the china closets, which are small and occupy two corners of the dining-room. My attention was immediately attracted to some very convenient and useful things for any one who is limited as to room. On the inside of one door hung two cases for holding knives and forks, on the other door, a holder for table cloth and napkins.

The cases for knives and forks were the same only in length, and were made out of dark cardinal cotton flannel. Cut it the width you can conveniently hang on your door, measure about twice and a half the length of your knives, and double it up from the bottom nearly as deep as your knife—after hemming both top and bottom—and stitch in rows about an inch apart, or so that the knife will slip in easily. If that makes more places than you wish for knives, you can make some of them two inches apart, to put in tablespoons. Sew three or four brass or steel rings to the top and screw into the door as many brass or steel hooks (which you can buy at the hardware-

store for from five to ten cents a dozen, and which if you once purchase, you will wonder how you ever kept house without), and hang it up. Make the one for the forks in the same way, only shorter.

The case for the table-cloth could be made of cotton flannel, cretonne or colored linen—the latter I prefer, and bind it with plain or fancy braid. Make it a little wider than the folded table-cloth, and about twice the depth. The top can be straight or pointed. It is better to cut it out of heavy pasteboard first, and cover both sides; then cover a second piece the same width and a couple of inches deeper than the table-cloth; cover another piece the same width, and from two to three inches deep, to sew into the bottom; also pieces for the sides. Overhand them together and bind. Then make two pockets above to put the napkins in, and sew on rings by which to hang it.

M. W. W.

Etching on Glass.

THE *Art Amateur* gives the following directions for etching on glass: "The glass vessel to be etched should be thick but of fine quality. Cover the surface with a thin coat of hot melted bitumen, dipping the glass once or twice into a bowl containing the fluid. Scratch the design upon the film with a sharp steel point and pour

hydrofluoric acid over the whole surface of the work. Let the acid do its work for two or three hours under exposure to the sun, and then stop out with Brunswick black the acid from the parts of the etching intended to be fine, delicate strokes. After another hour under the influence of the acid, stop out in the same way the portions of the etching intended to be of moderate intensity. For the lines intended to be the deepest, let the hydrofluoric acid work an hour or two more. You may then wash the glass clean, and you will find beneath the bitumen film your etching in all its varying degrees of delicacy or strength.

To paint windows in imitation of stained glass: First draw the design on paper, then paint it and affix it to the outside of the pane with a little gum. Then paint the inside over the design with varnish colors. In this way the same design may be used as often as desired, and the most brilliant hues may be obtained, as the colors are transparent and cannot be distinguished from stained glass. Use a separate brush for every color, and never use for any other until it has been well washed with oil of turpentine. The coloring must not be too thick. If the glass is in the window-sash, keep the windows shut, as no dust must get on the work.—*Decorator and Furnisher.*

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

IN skirts, one of the newest designs is the housemaid skirt, which is very full, and plain from the waist down. The bottom is turned up in a hem four or even five inches deep, and above this hem a group of five or six tucks one or two inches in depth, as a finishing touch, is added in wash fabrics. The skirt is gathered to the band in the back, laid in deep pleats on the sides, and with only enough fullness in front to make it set well.

In costly materials the tucks are omitted and the skirt opens in front over a petticoat of embroidery or embossed velvet, in the style of our grandmother's dresses. The corsage is often pointed, having the skirt sewed to it, but as it is very difficult to make a skirt in this style hang well, it is oftener put to a belt or yoke separately. When pointed, which is best for stout ladies, the outside belt or sash is omitted, but for those who are slender, a sash is universally worn.

A pretty, comfortable, lawn-tennis dress is composed of a kilt-pleated skirt, made rather short, three or even four inches from the ground, a blouse waist, and a Hussar jacket. The colors usually combined are black and orange, blue and white, dark green or brown and cardinal; the skirt should be of the dark material, with a band about four inches wide of the light or bright color, six inches above the hem; the blouse of the bright goods and the jacket of dark. A Hussar jacket is fastened with only one button directly at the neck, falling straight without darts, just to the waist, all around, with the back tight-fitting. Usually, a Tam o' Shanter cap, crocheted, of

wool, to match the bright trimming, is worn with these costumes, or else a cap of the same cloth, as may be preferred.

Many of the exquisite lawns for sale this season have delicate grounds, which will not stand soap or water; the figures are mostly roses or pinks, on a pink, light blue, or lavender ground, and it is a dainty style to trim these perishable fabrics with a light quality of black lace—usually French lace. And another freak of fashion is to have velvet collar, vest and cuffs for satteens, fine gingham, and fine striped seersuckers, thus giving an inexpensive and cool cotton or linen dress, the style of a more expensive wool or silk.

Canvas, mohair and bison cloths are generally used for traveling, though mohair is the favorite, as it does not easily wrinkle, and sheds the dust as readily as the old-fashioned alpaca, which I am pleased to say is fast coming into favor again. The plainer a traveling dress is made, the better, and wool goods of light weight is generally chosen for warm weather. Canvas cloth is new and expensive, because it is so thin that it necessitates a silk waist and skirt lining.

For more dressy costumes Louisine is generally chosen, instead of summer silk, because it wears better; and although it is a little more expensive, yet it is a trifle wider.

As with all other fabrics this summer velvet is the choice for trimmings, and panels, revers, vest, cuffs and collar are made of it.

MELUZINA.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Pond Lilies (*Nymphaea odorata*).—We watch with no little interest the coming of the first pond lily, as it evidences that summer has come to stay. Last year the first flower was picked on the first of June; this year we had the first flower on the last day of May, showing quite plainly this lovely aquatic is not affected by the backwardness of the season. The yellow pond lily (*Nuphar advena*) we found on the same day, although it is with us usually several days earlier. This is a much despised flower. Why, we cannot understand, as a close inspection of it shows a beauty of arrangement of parts rarely seen.

* * *

New York Horticultural Society.—The following notice from the secretary tells its own story, which we anticipated in our last number: "We regret that we are unable to announce the usual June Rose and Strawberry Exhibition, unavoidable circumstances preventing, and as no meetings are held in July and August, the next exhibition of this society will be duly announced in July."

* * *

Glossy-Leaved Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium lewisianum*). (See illustration, page 176.) *The Gardener's Magazine*, London, says of this orchid: "It is one of the loveliest of the genus, and one that has obtained considerable attention from cultivators, although, as yet, it can scarcely be described as popular. In general character it comes near to *C. Stonei*, which also has glossy leaves, but differs in the form of the labellum, which is smaller than in *C. Stonei*, and also in the color, the last-named being pink, and this one a dull yellow. Another distinguishing character is the great length and peculiar twisting of its petals. The late Mr. J. G. Veitch found this orchid established as a parasite on the roots of *Vanda Batemanii*, to obtain which was one of the main objects of his voyage to the Philippine Islands." This cypripedium is said to be a good grower, and to flower freely.

* * *

American Institute.—The Farmers' Club, a branch of this old and useful institution, held its annual rose and strawberry exhibition at their rooms, Clinton Hall, New York, June 18 and 19. In common with most other exhibitions this season, the display was relatively a failure. The strawberry is a week late in its coming, as is the rose, consequently what was exhibited would not, in ordinary seasons, have claimed passing notice, and not a plate of fruit shown would have come within speaking distance of a premium. And the display of hardy roses grown in the open air was still worse. A heavy rain followed by intense heat had scalded the flowers, so that, to a rose fancier, they made a sickening appearance. The orchids from Mr. Morgan's rare collection, though few in number, were exceedingly fine and attracted much attention. J. R. Pitcher, Esq., of Short Hills, N. J., exhibited a fine collection of pæonies, numbering more than sixty varieties.

The charming *Lilium tenuifolium* was shown in its integrity by Messrs. Hallock & Thorpe, as was German iris. While, owing to the season, the display of fruit and flowers was a failure, we are pleased to say that in the president of the club, Dr. F. M. Hexamer, there was no failure, and that his intelligence and hearty love of horticulture in all its branches, combined with his untiring industry, cannot but make the Farmers' Club of the American Institute a living and useful body, in contrast with other societies that could not even make a poor exhibit.

* * *

New Pansy.—Among the novelties of the season we notice the new show pansy, "Trimardei," a strain which we have not tested, but from what we have seen of it are inclined to think it a valuable acquisition. It is a vigorous grower, bearing its beautiful flowers on erect stems, which gives a striking effect. Its flowers are of immense size, some of them measuring more than five inches in diameter, and are of various colors. The foliage is bright green, and very vigorous. If half that is claimed for this new strain is realized, it will entirely supplant the old.

* * *

Double White Violet.—In Bacon's "Essays," published in 1625, Essay 46, of Gardens, occurs the following sentence: "That which of all others yields the sweetest smell in the air is the violet, especially the white double violet, which comes twice a year—about the middle of April and about Bartholomew-tide."

Gerarde, in his quaint old herbal, in describing the violets, after speaking of the single white, says of the double March violet, *Viola Marchia flori multiplici*: "There is no difference between this violet and the former in any other thing than in the doubleness of the flowers, which have so many leaves set and thrust together that they are like unto hard buttons. There is of this double kind both white and purple, as in the single; but the white sort is seldom so thick and double as the purple; but of the red colors to be double I never heard." Reference to these old herbals sometimes makes us think there is nothing new under the sun.

* * *

Society of American Florists.—The first annual meeting of this society will be held at Music Hall, Cincinnati, Ohio, August 12 to 14, inclusive. From the programme received we can safely say the meeting will be one of unusual interest, not only to the trade, but to all who desire to see a magnificent display of all that is rare and beautiful in the way of flowers and plants that are in perfection at that time. There are many novel features in this programme. From the prospectus we quote:

"The list of very excellent papers to be read and discussed forms one of the most important features in the annals of floriculture, coming as they do from men who are acknowledged masters of the subjects presented. These alone are sufficient to warrant the attendance of

every member. The exhibition of plants and flowers will be entirely unique in character, differing materially from any previous exhibition ever made in this country. It is the earnest desire that all members having seedlings, novelties, or plants of merit will not hesitate to exhibit them, *No plant or flower* of merit will be unrewarded.

"A NEW DEPARTURE.—We invite all those intending to be with us to bring with them not less than two, or more than four plants, nicely grown in 5-inch or 6-inch pots. The variety may be whatever is the most convenient. We would, however, suggest begonias, ferns, geraniums, or other suitable window plants. It is our intention to distribute these plants among one or more of the Children's Homes or Hospitals on one of the days of meeting, thus leaving behind some reminiscences which will be remembered by the recipients as more than a passing visit to Cincinnati. We know how heartily this will be responded to, and with what pleasure it will be done."

The following papers will be read after President Thorpe's address:

"Forcing of Bulbs and Plants for Winter Use," by Carl Jurgen, Newport, R. I.

"Diseases of Plants and their Remedies," by Charles Henderson, Esq., Jersey City, N. J.

"On the Floral Embellishment of Parks and Gardens," by H. DeVry, Superintendent of Lincoln Park, Chicago.

"The Cut-flower Trade"—Sale, shipment, packing and the mutual interests of grower, commission-man and retailer, by William J. Stewart, Boston, Mass.

"Roses."—The propagation of tea-roses, their subsequent treatment and the raising of new varieties, by John May, Summit, N. J.

"What shall we Grow for Early Spring and Summer Cut Flowers?" by Henry Michel, St. Louis, Mo.

"Steam versus Hot Water for Heating Greenhouses," by John Thorpe, Queens, N. Y.

"Pioneer Florists," by S. S. Jackson, of Cincinnati.

These several papers cannot but provoke discussion of value and interest, both to the professional and amateur florist.

We hope to be present, and to see such an attendance as the general interest in floriculture requires and demands.

* * *

Queens County, N. Y., Agricultural Society.—The annual summer exhibition of this society was held at their grounds at Mineola, June 18 and 19. As all County, and also State fairs, are but a repetition of their predecessors, we will only notice such plants as were specially worthy. We will say, however, that for general display of plants and flowers Queens County far exceeds any other in the State, both in its summer and autumn exhibitions.

The principal exhibitors were Hallock, Son & Thorpe and Geo. Lucas, Esq., for miscellaneous cut-flowers; Albert Bentz and Wm. Burgess, Esqs., for roses. Messrs. Hallock & Thorpe's collection of German iris were remarkably fine, as were their gladioli. Mr. Lucas showed *Nymphæa cœrulea*, which he has in bloom in a hothouse

all the year round; some fine specimens of *Lapageria rosea*, and a rare species of euphorbia—its specific name we are unable to give; also some remarkably well-grown cattleyas. Mr. Burgess, the veteran rose-grower, always makes a good display, and the one this year was quite up to the average. Mr. Bentz, whose fame as a pansy grower has long been sounded, showed some remarkably fine ones, besides an excellent display of roses. Miss Albertson, of Roslyn, made a display in the amateur's class that would do credit to any professional. In short, the whole display of plants and flowers was remarkably fine.

* * *

Nymphæa cœrulea is in bloom now, also *Limnœcharis Humboldtii*. *N. cœrulea* I regard as the best of the day-blooming varieties. It blooms until frost, and never less than three flowers open at once. With me it is evergreen and hardy, having stood out all winter, thermometer 26 degrees—six degrees of frost; it is of very compact habit. My plant is in an 18×12-inch box, standing in about three feet of water, and has been in the same place since this time last year.

The next best for a night-blooming variety is *N. dentata*. This is also a compact-growing variety, and could be grown like the former in a moderate-sized wash-tub. It opens about six P. M., and from the time the first petal springs back with a jerk until the whole flower is open will be about fifteen minutes. A beautiful star-shaped flower, from six to eight inches across, is thus disclosed, and diffuses its fragrance all around. *N. dentata* opens three nights and the third morning droops under the water to perfect its seed. It is not so floriferous as *N. cœrulea*, but one or two flowers open every night until frost.

If a flower be cut in the daytime and placed in a glass of water, it will open at night and close toward morning, just the same as if it were on the plant. *N. dentata* is pure white.

M. H. LESTER,

New Orleans, La.

* * *

The American Seed Trade Association held its third annual meeting at Rochester, June 9, 10 and 11, in the Common Council Chamber, City Hall Building. As the objects of the meeting were not of public interest, being simply matters pertaining to the welfare of the trade, we cannot give a detailed report of the proceedings. We learn however, from the Rochester papers that C. L. Allen (Ed. CABINET) "read an interesting and instructive paper on the 'Sexual Relations of Plants.' This paper was much commented upon during the day by the members of the association, and so favorable an impression did it make that last evening a number of gentlemen who were unable to be present at the morning session prevailed upon Mr. Allen to again read the paper, which he did before a large number, including several who heard it in the morning at his room at the New Osburn House."

* * *

The Editor of the "Queens County Sentinel," who is on a visit to Southern California in search of his lost health, says: "The grape season was just closing when I came, most of the grapes having been gathered, and

so I missed the pleasure of seeing a vineyard in full bearing; but the general appearance of the vineyard was a great novelty to me, for there are no trellises or supports for the vines, as in the New Jersey vineyards, but each vine must support its own branches and fruit, and this it can readily do, because the vines are pruned back each year to within a couple of buds of the main stalk, so that in time the bodies of the vines resemble stumps of trees more than anything else; and as in the older vineyards the vines are but six feet apart each way, the resemblance was more marked. The body of the vine is allowed to grow but about two feet high, and the canes being cut each year to within a few inches of the body, causes a wonderful growth of the latter, and I have seen some of these stumps, as they may be called, more than six and even eight inches in diameter—I don't mean circumference. Now, just think of grapevines measuring so much across the body! Many of the vineyards embrace acre after acre, almost as far as the eye can reach; and in many places in this valley that is a wonderfully great distance."

* * *

A Flower-Lined Grave.—Covering the graves of those we love with flowers is a beautiful custom, however much it may be abused, as it is when carriage-loads of monstrosities, called floral designs, are heaped upon the grave as a matter of form, without any of that kindly, affectionate feeling that should go with every flower that is strewn upon the last resting-place of relative or friend. It is fitting to give the most beautiful things of earth to the earth that covers all that is left of those we loved.

We noticed a very pleasing change in floral offerings a few days since—one quite as appropriate as beautiful. It was at the grave of a young mother who has left a large circle of sorrowing friends, some of whom visited the newly-prepared grave the morning before interment and completely lined the walls with evergreens and choice flowers. The design and execution of this beautiful offering was entirely by young ladies, who could not entrust to other hands the arrangement of flowers, the sweet emblems of their affectionate regard. It was a beautiful thought, and put to shame the florists' meaningless "gates ajar," and other absurd designs, so common and soulless. Let there be placed over my grave a single rosebud by a loving friend, rather than a display of the florist's art.

* * *

Winter and Spring Flowering Bulbs.—In selecting bulbs for the window-garden, there is an extensive class that are almost entirely neglected; we refer to the ixias, babianas and sparaxis, allied plants, of easy culture and remarkable for their showy and beautifully-tinted flowers. They are charming South African bulbs, more easily grown than the hyacinth, and yield an abundance of bright flowers, on slender spikes, admirably adapted for cut-flowers. Six or eight bulbs of either sort can be accommodated in a six-inch pot, and grown successfully under the same conditions as are required for the hyacinth. The flowers are far more showy and are of longer duration than are those of any of the more popular Dutch bulbs.

Answers to Correspondents.

Pæonies—*Mrs. T. A. Braddock, Pa.*—It is exceedingly difficult to say what causes blight, or decay in the bud. It may have been caused by insects, which discriminate in their selection of food; it may have been caused by the excessive cold of last winter, impairing the vigor of the plants, some of the species being much more hardy than others. If the plants seem healthy, they will undoubtedly flower freely another season.

Pelargoniums—*Mrs. J. O. Hibbard, Texas.*—If you mean the fancy, large-flowered pelargonium, we would say it is not a winter-flowering plant, neither is it a perpetual flowering one. With you it should remain out all winter without injury, and flower freely in early spring. Lantanas, if in a pot, will flower nearly the whole season, and should with you out of doors. The shrubby calceolaria cannot be induced to flower in the winter, neither will it endure dry, hot weather. Give it a shady situation, and accept gratefully its flowers at their annual season, early summer.

Camellia Japonica—*Same.*—This ornamental shrub will flower the first year from cuttings, and ever after, if planted in a cool, moist situation, in your locality. From South Carolina southward it makes a splendid low-growing tree or shrub for the lawn, where it produces its blooms in the greatest profusion during the winter and early spring.

Night-Blooming Cereus—*Same.*—Yes, withhold water when your plant is at rest. Its period of rest is in fall or early winter.

German Ivy—*Same.*—It depends altogether upon where you have placed your German ivy whether you need to cut it back in summer. The beauty of this plant is its luxuriant growth of clean shining green foliage, and where you have sufficient room for it to run, the longer the growth the better. For house-plants cuttings should occasionally be taken, which root readily in sand or water, and soon make plants as large as will be required for the living-room.

Plants for Name—*E. E. Ryan, Texas.*—The purple flower is *Callirhoe involucrata*, a hardy perennial plant indigenous to California. It is an excellent plant for the rock garden, as it produces a continuous crop of its showy blossoms from early summer till late in autumn. It should not be trained up to a support, but allowed to fall gracefully over the rocks. The yellow flower is *Enothera Drummondii*, one of the most beautiful of that interesting family of plants.

Books, &c., Received.

The American Fruit Culturist. By JOHN J. THOMAS.

We have great pleasure in noticing this publication; partly from our regard for the author, whom we have known for many years, and partly from the genuine love which he exhibits for horticulture, to which we ourselves are so much attached. The importance of fruit culture is but little understood or appreciated in this

country, where every kind, in its favored locality, can seemingly be grown without an effort. With the little attention thus far given to fruit culture the most satisfactory results have been attained. To give our readers something of an idea of the industry in its undeveloped state we quote from the introduction of this volume :

"The climate and soil of our country afford unequalled facilities for fruit culture, both in gardens and market orchards. A rich treasure lies within our reach in the profusion of delicious sorts which successive months of the year may be made to supply. Advantage has already been taken of these facilities, extensive orchards have been planted in the different States, and vast crops are annually produced. Within a few years the foreign markets have taken from this country, in one season, between one and two million barrels of apples and three thousand tons of evaporated fruit. The horticultural productions of the Mississippi Valley, consisting mainly of fruit, have been estimated at an annual value of one hundred million dollars, while more limited regions give corresponding returns.

"A single county in Western New York (Orleans), in one year, furnished for market two hundred and sixty-nine thousand dollars' worth of fruit, besides the amount consumed at home, and other counties have occasionally exceeded this sum. Two hundred thousand bushels of peaches were canned in San Francisco in 1881, and the dried fruits of that State sold for over two million dollars, of which the raisin crop amounted to half a million."

The successful horticulturist is amazed at the fact of millions of acres of land in this country, now comparatively useless because of its rocky or hilly surface, that might be profitably employed in the cultivation of fruits of various kinds, which would yield a greater revenue than much of our most arable land. Land has a value in addition to the marketable crops it yields, and of this value the author speaks as follows :

"The family which is at all times supplied with delicious and refreshing fruit from its own gardens, has within its reach not only a very important means of economy, but of real domestic comfort.

"Every addition to the attractions of home has a salutary bearing on a rising family of children. The difference between a dwelling with well-planted grounds, well furnished with every rural enjoyment, and another where scarcely a single fruit-tree softens the bleakness and desolation, may in many instances, to a young man just approaching active life, prove the turning influence between a life of virtue and refinement on the one hand, and one of dissipation and ruin from the effects of a repulsive home on the other. Nor can any man, even in the noon or approaching evening of life, fail to enjoy a higher happiness when among the blossoming and loaded trees which his own hands have planted and pruned, than in the noise of the crowd and tumult of the busy world."

The *American Fruit Culturist* contains all the information as to selection, cultivation, production of new varieties, and, in short, on every point relating to the culture and care of fruits. It is a book that no farmer or gardener can afford to be without.

HAY FEVER.

ONCE established, the return of Hay Fever is counted on at a fixed hour of the fated day with the same certainty as the rising of the sun. And until it has run its course the words "endurance" and "patience" have to the sufferers an emphasis of meaning known to no others. Some persons are affected as early as in June, others as late as September. It is, like nasal catarrh, a disturbance of the mucous membrane, and its most appropriate title, perhaps, is "annual catarrh." It has been by some called "rose cold," "hay asthma," &c. Hundreds of our patients who have used "Compound Oxygen" report a removal of unhealthy conditions *predisposing to catarrh and asthma and hay fever*, and several who were at one time acute sufferers from hay fever report that they believe themselves to be entirely cured. The following letters are of especial interest to hay-fever sufferers now looking forward with dread to the coming of their annual visitor. They have here an indication of a pleasant way to avoid the necessity of entertaining so unwelcome a guest.

A gentleman in Greenfield, Mass., wrote to us in regard to his wife. In stating her case he gave the following particulars :

"One year ago last spring she had *rose or hay fever*, which terminated in *asthma*, and was sick in bed most of the winter, with soreness of the chest, cough, and hard breathing. Coughs hard now and raises considerable, and is *very thin and feeble. No strength and very little appetite.*"

The last report was at the end of six months. The following letter gives the patient's condition at the time it was written. Tracing the case along through the reports given, the change in six months was indeed "wonderful."

"To Drs. Starkey & Palen :

"DEAR SIRS—My wife is, she says, well. A wonderful change in six months, from the bed to good health or nearly so, and all from Compound Oxygen.

"Has used nothing else. Appetite good, strength and flesh returning; *everything looks like sound health again.*

"We are grateful. Words cannot express the gratitude we owe you for this great cure."

A physician at Newsom's Depot, Virginia, wrote in October, 1884 :

"Having recommended your Compound Oxygen Treatment to my friend E. M. D., of this place, and also his lady, who have been suffering for several years—*himself fifteen years from the most trying and severe attacks every fall from 'HAY FEVER,' his wife from chronic catarrh and bronchitis*—both have experienced the greatest benefits, and especially Mr. D., *who has entirely escaped his usual fall attacks*, although he did not get your Treatment before it set in quite severely; *yet in less than two weeks he was entirely relieved; to-day he tells me he is all right and well of it.*

"So, having so greatly benefited them, I have determined to try it on two other of my patients at once. I write to-day to get you to send me, per express, a complete outfit marked C. O. D. Send me also some of your treatises, pamphlets, and oblige. Should I again get the benefit I hope for and expect, you will hear from me again, and I shall think myself fortunate in finding so great a remedy among diseases that have always baffled our most skillful physicians."

In confirmation of the Doctor's statement about hay fever, we have a letter from Mr. D., the gentleman referred to, dated October 14, 1884, in which he says :

"I am much benefited. *Have entirely escaped my usual attack of hay fever. Before I received the Compound Oxygen it had set in quite severely, yet in less than two weeks I was entirely relieved, and to-day am all right.*"

A letter of later date says :

"If you remember, I ordered of you a supply of your Compound Oxygen last August to use for hay fever and asthma myself, and for my wife, whose right lung was very much affected; in fact, she was given up at one time as having consumption. *I think it did me more good than anything I ever used for hay fever*, and now the doctor says my wife's lungs are all right; still, she takes it occasionally."

A patient in Oquawka, Illinois, who had suffered very much from hay fever, each fall, for five or six years, beginning the last week in July and lasting through August and September, last year used Compound Oxygen, and the good results attained led to other orders for Home Treatments from some of his acquaintances, though no direct report has been received from the patient himself.

The experience we have had satisfies us that almost every case of it may be cured. But it is of little use to expect that an attack can be stopped if the treatment be delayed until it is fully established.

To be surely successful, treatment should be commenced long enough before the expected invasion of the disease to have taken one full supply of Compound Oxygen—or two months.

Full directions will be given as to method of use. To anyone wishing to learn, *What Compound Oxygen Is; Its Mode of Action and Results*, a brochure of one hundred and eighty-eight pages, will be sent free, postpaid, on application. Address, Drs. STARKEY & PALEN, 1109 and 1111 Girard Street, Philadelphia.

After July 1 the address will be No. 1529 Arch Street, Philadelphia.

HOUSEKEEPING.

Salad.

Boil eight eggs one-half hour. When cold, cut the whites into rings, mash the yolks fine, and mix with them a cup of mayonnaise dressing. Arrange sixteen small white leaves of the head lettuce tastefully on a dish; lay the rings of egg on them, with the yolks in the centre, after the form of a daisy.

Meat Croquettes.

One cup of cold meat, chopped fine; one-quarter of a cup of bread-crumbs; a teaspoon of corn starch, wet in just enough water to remove lumps; one egg; salt and pepper to taste, and half a teaspoon of onion juice obtained by grating an onion. Have half a cup of stock or water boiling in a saucepan; put into it a piece of butter as large as the bowl of a dessert spoon, then stir in the corn starch and let it come to a boil. Beat the egg and pour the contents of the saucepan on it, and then mix in the meat and crumbs with the seasoning in them. When the mixture is cold, shape into rolls or balls, dip them in beaten egg, then in crumbs; place them in a frying-basket and cook to a nice brown in hot fat. Drain a moment, then turn them on to brown paper and keep them hot till ready to serve. The paper will absorb all fat that will not drain off.

Oatmeal Cakes.

Into a quart of cold water in which has been dissolved a little salt, stir enough oatmeal to make it about as thick as hasty pudding. The meal should be sprinkled in slowly and the stirring be very brisk to avoid lumps. Now turn it out into a tin that has been rubbed with suet or butter, and spread it out evenly with a knife till it is about half the thickness of a common cracker. Divide it with a sharp knife into the sized pieces you wish and place it in a warm oven, where it will bake slowly, being careful not to brown it. These cakes are very nutritious and will keep for some time.

Ginger Snaps.

One pint of molasses, one cup of brown sugar, one cup of butter, a little salt, one tablespoon of ginger, or half ginger and half cinnamon can be used if preferred, and one tablespoon of soda. Stir the spices into four cups of flour. Heat the molasses, sugar and butter to the boiling point. Dissolve the soda in a little hot water and stir it into the heated ingredients, holding them over the flour, as they may foam and run over. When the flour has been stirred in, if the dough does not seem stiff enough, add more flour and roll out very thin.

Baked Egg Omelette.

Six eggs, yolks and whites beaten separately; a teacup of warm milk with a tablespoon of butter melted in it; one tablespoon of flour, one teaspoon of salt, and a little pepper. Beat the flour smooth in a little of the milk, and add it to the beaten yolks. Beat the whites to a stiff froth, and slowly mix them with the yolks and flour, and last, very gently stir in the remainder of the milk. Have

a short-handled frying-pan, well heated and thoroughly buttered, pour the omelette in and bake fifteen to twenty minutes.

Graham Mush.

Stir slowly into very fast-boiling water enough graham flour to make a thin pudding. The flour should be sprinkled evenly from the hand, and the water should boil violently all the time, so the flour will be scalded immediately. Five minutes will be sufficient to cook it. Salt to taste. A Scotch bowl—which is a round-bottomed iron kettle—is best to cook it in. A great deal depends on the manner of cooking, as from the same material a delicious dish may be made, or one not fit to eat. It is especially nice for breakfast served with cream and sugar.

Southern Pudding.

One cup of molasses, one cup of sugar, one cup of butter, three cups of flour, four eggs, half a teaspoon of salt and two teaspoons of soda, mashed fine and stirred into the molasses. Steam two and a half hours. Serve with liquid sauce flavored with wine or vinegar.

Iced Tea.

Allow one teaspoon of the best Oolong tea to every tumbler of water. Select pieces of ice that are perfectly clear and clean, and put water, ice and dry tea into a granite iron or earthen vessel, and let it set four or five hours in the refrigerator.

French Toast.

Beat two eggs very light; add to them one pint of milk. Slice baker's bread or nice light home-made bread and dip the pieces into the milk and eggs, letting them lie long enough to be thoroughly moistened and yet not fall to pieces. Fry a delicate brown in hot, fresh suet. Serve with sugar.

MRS. C. G. HERBERT.

MRS. HERBERT'S "Fairy Layer Cake," given in June CABINET, 1884, is delightful. It never fails and is delicious. We find it convenient, at times, to bake it in large sheets, after which we give it a chocolate icing; then cut into squares with a very sharp knife. Mixed in a cake-basket with other kinds, the snowy, puffy squares with their glossy brown tops, have a very pretty effect.

L. M. H.

To polish brass use ordinary whiting or chalk and a damp cotton or woolen cloth. If the metal is stained or tarnished, then use rottenstone and oil on a cloth, and finish with whiting for a gloss. If corroded and blackened, use oxalic acid in water with the rottenstone, instead of oil.

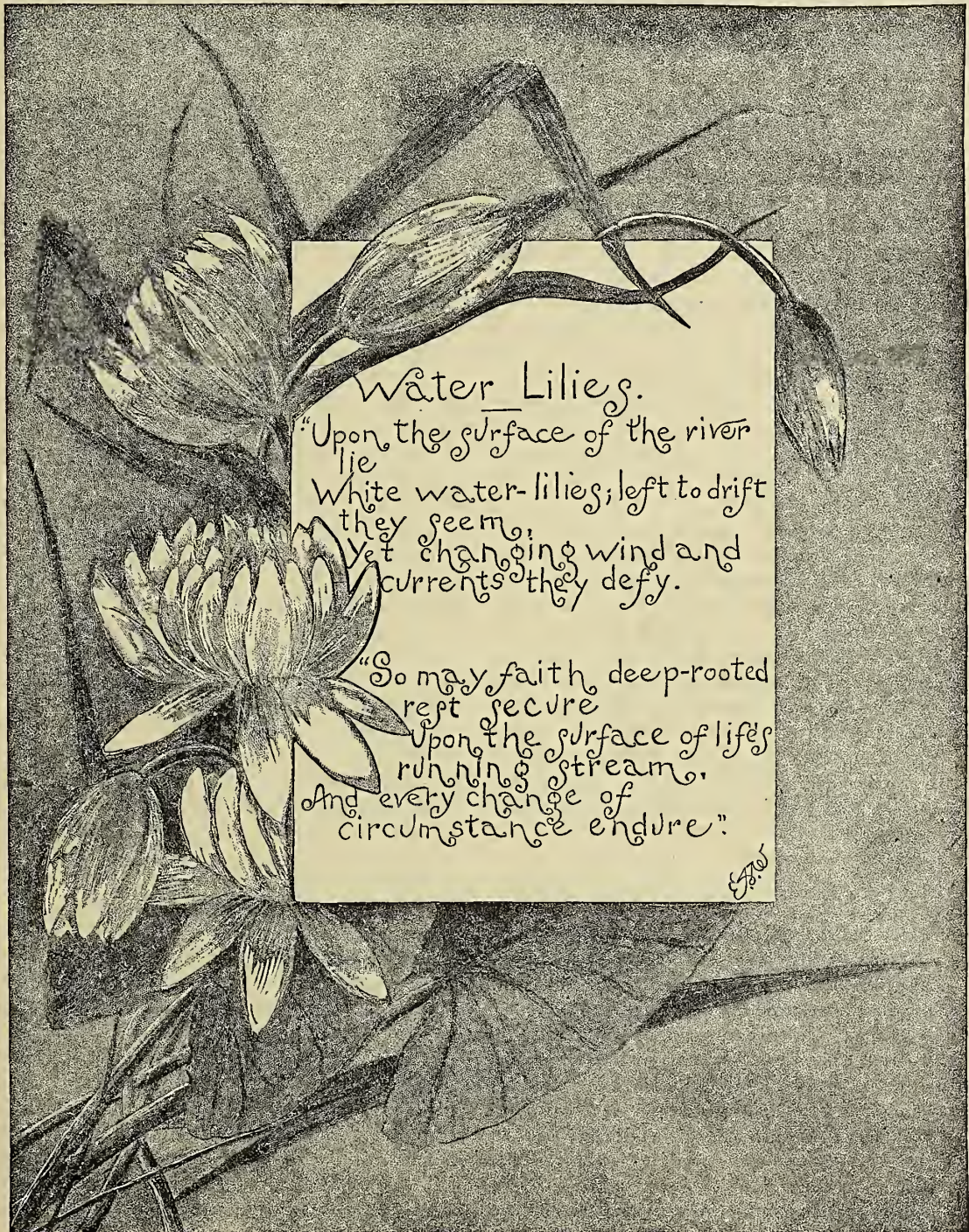
A VERY complete filling for open cracks in floors may be made by thoroughly soaking newspapers in a paste made of one pound of flour, three quarts of water and a tablespoonful of alum, thoroughly boiled and mixed; make the final mixture about as thick as putty, a kind of paper putty, and it will harden like papier-maché.

LADIES'
FLORAL CABINET.

Volume XIV.

AUGUST, 1885.

No. 8.



Water Lilies.

"Upon the surface of the river
lie
White water-lilies; left to drift
they seem,
yet changing wind and
currents they defy.

"So may faith, deep-rooted
rept secure
Upon the surface of life's
running stream,
And every change of
circumstance endure!"

E. J. H.

OUR GARDENING EXPERIENCES.

REGRETS.

THE most prolific crop the garden now affords is regrets, not as a whole, but as a rule. The half-done work of the spring now shows half a crop, or even less, of flowers and vegetables. Surface work that looked well for a short season, like all superficial things, soon became exhausted. The plants soon eat out all the food to be obtained on the surface, and the roots were not invited down into the rich storehouses below, where there has been an accumulation of plant-food for years. Consequently drought and famine have consumed, not the objects of our care, but the subjects of our neglect. But this is only one cause for regret; there are many others, even where deep cultivation, liberal enriching and constant care have been given the garden. Careful selection of such varieties as would keep up a continuous bloom has not been observed. The outlay has been large enough, but it has not been wisely distributed. Some rare forms and pleasing colors were noticeable in July, but they have passed away without any provision for a succession. There is no better time to remedy a neglect than when it is the most apparent. That time is now, when you see other gardens overloaded with fruit, vegetables and flowers, while yours has outlived, thus early, its usefulness for the season. Now is the time to note success in other gardens and defects in our own.

We probably have more flowers in our garden and on our farm than can be found anywhere in the country, yet there is not a garden that affords so many regrets, all of which can be attributed to neglect. If we wish to cut a bunch of flowers for a friend—and when don't we?—we have not in all our acres a single plant of rose geranium, and there is no plant more generous with its rich green and deliciously-perfumed foliage. A single spray of this geranium, with but one *Lilium lancifolium præcox* flower in front, will fill a small vase for the table so beautifully, that nothing from the garden can compare with it for grace, elegance and sweetness. Our sorrow for this neglect is more keenly felt because we did not have it last year, but firmly resolved that we would have a large bed of it this season. So much for good resolutions!

Mignonette is one of the flowers that we advise every one to grow, and not a plant of it is to be seen in our garden, which is a sad neglect. But there will be in September, for I have just ordered a bed prepared for it, and the seed will be sown before this article is finished. Mignonette finds a welcome in every heart, and now that there are so many varieties—red, yellow and white—its attractions are doubly great. Do not, critical reader, understand us that there are any positive red, yellow or white colors, for there are not, these terms are only relative. In comparison to the old and well-known sorts, a bed or mass of the one will appear decidedly red, the others yellow or white. But to compare the red with that of a *Lilium tenuifolium*, the comparison would be perfectly ridiculous. Mignonette can be grown without

the least difficulty; indeed, it will reproduce itself from seed shed in the previous year. Nevertheless, it is true that in the majority of gardens justice is seldom done to it, for the simple reason that its capabilities are but little understood. Each plant should have at least a foot of room, and it is not an uncommon thing if the seed is sown in a deep rich soil to see plants three feet across, with spikes of bloom six inches long and more than an inch in diameter, and as fragrant as only mignonette can be. Mignonette does not well bear transplanting, but otherwise it is very accommodating. All it requires is a rich, moderately heavy soil, in a moist situation. It may be grown in a pot as a tree and kept for a number of years by removing the seed-pods in their young state, but it is more satisfactory to grow young plants annually. Mignonette has its enemies, and the young plants are frequently eaten off by a small flea as fast as they appear above ground. Soot, tobacco dust and wood ashes are the best preventives, and they should be applied upon the first appearance of the enemy, or a second sowing will be necessary.

The *Lilium candidum*, the lily of all lilies in point of true beauty and loveliness, we miss from our gardens with the deepest feelings of regret. From many friends we hear the complaint that this lily will not grow in their gardens. They have bought it every *spring*, and it will not live and grow. Quite possible, simply because you do buy it at that time. This bulb should not ever be caught out of ground in the spring. The only proper time to buy and plant this lily is *now*. It may do to plant next month, but, to be sure of success, plant in August, and by the last of September it will have made a splendid growth and have already laid upon its heart the buds that are to develop into lovely blossoms the coming June.

The gladiolus is another cause for regret. Truly did we intend getting some of the American Seedlings, the flowers of which far surpass in size, form and color the old sorts we have admired for years; but we did not, and our neighbors who did, provokingly ask us to come and take a look at *their* gladioli; we do, and resolve to imitate their good example next year.

Does not the head of the family—not the head of the house—often regret duties neglected? Where are the morning-glories that he was asked to plant by the fence, that the invalid wife might see in the early morning before she beheld the rising sun?—those flowers that have no rivals for beauty and cheerfulness. How they would have pleased that soul that has nothing beautiful to look upon, excepting the hope of death. How little do we think what a relief it would be, what a comfort to one worn out by long suffering and disease, to see the little morning-glory climbing heavenward, loaded with brightness and cheer; it seems more beautiful the higher it gets, and is typical of a pure, noble, spiritual life! We may not regret *now* that we did not comply with that simple

request, because other duties seemed more pressing; but how will it be *then*, when we cannot grant the request? The fact of our cheerfully and patiently performing the more important duties will not soften the pangs of regret for the neglect of the lesser ones.

DELIGHTS.

One does not need to be very observing—in fact, it is not necessary to go beyond one's own garden to see delights and regrets strangely mingled. The two usually go hand in hand; wherever we find the former in excess, the latter is also predominant. It is an old and very true saying, that the more we have the more we want, and nowhere is this truth more manifest than in the garden. Who ever saw the possessor of one hundred varieties of roses, gladioli or any other flower, content if the collection was not complete. If there are a given number of varieties, and the specialist has all but one, that one will cause more regrets than all the others will give delight. We like to see every man have a hobby and enjoy it. It stimulates him to noble exertion, he feeds his desire from every quarter of the globe, and we profit by his experience. The lily fancier boasts of his many varieties of a given species, and invites us to his feast. We gladly accept his invitation, as it enables us to select the best dozen for our garden—the limit of our desires. The rose fancier must have a *Baron de Bonstetton* and a *Monsieur Boncenne* in his collection, and fancies there is a difference in color or form between them, until the rose congress decides the names synonyms. Yet the same rose fancier is a useful man, because he is an educator—he develops a taste and a desire for the rose.

However, it was not of hobbies or specialists that we intended to speak, but of the pleasures of a well-ordered garden.

August should be a month of true delight in the garden. Our work is all in the background, and before us is the expected reward. Many things have been left undone, and many but poorly done; but all has been attempted, and our whole plans have been carried on in the proper spirit, and with an earnest desire to do our best. The failures and disappointments which have befallen us, or which are still before us, are small compared with the pleasure we have enjoyed in our noble efforts and the success which is promised; and we have little to complain of, for we do not expect unmingled joy and satisfaction.

Our delights have not been the results of our possessions, so much as the deep and earnest love we have for the flowers and their culture, and in our determination not to be without them in the future. It is not the number of varieties we have, neither is it the size and extent of our possessions, which gives the garden a power to bestow pleasure. It is the perfection of its arrangements, the healthful condition of its flowers and the love we bear for them that makes them beautiful. We need not now state what we have so often stated before, that to obtain the purest delight in the garden it must be the work of our own hands, of early and late attention, of personal devotion and love; for love it is that makes the flowers grow, as it does everything else that is beautiful.

Let us take a glance at our garden and its arrange-

ments, make a partial inventory of what we have, but more particularly of what we may have next year. Our geraniums are all strong, healthy and full of bloom, immense trusses of semi-double flowers, the best possible kinds for display. They are generous to us because we were liberal to them. We gave them a deep, rich bed, tucked the earth gently but firmly around their roots; we trained them as we would train a child, to go as we desired, seemingly from their own choice. Now they cover the beds completely, and they have nothing else to do but to look beautiful and impart pleasure.

Our hardy carnations, were there ever any so beautiful? They are next in true loveliness to the rose; and how easy are they of cultivation! We sowed the seed last year in August, and the plants were strong and healthy before the ground froze; we covered them barely over their tops with newly-fallen leaves, which were kept from blowing away by brush laid over them, and in spring, as soon as we were convinced that pleasant weather had come to stay, we raked away the leaves and found our plants, as we had expected, ready and anxious for a new life. About the middle of May we transferred them to a bed specially prepared for them, and they have afforded us more true pleasure than we had supposed could exist in a flower. We had, from a single paper of seeds, flowers of every color to be had in the carnation, in both double and single forms. The English gardeners, who make a specialty of this flower, have made the following classification of the several types: Bizarres, Flakes and Picotees. The Bizarres (which means singular) have a white ground, with irregular spots and stripes of two colors. The Flakes have a white ground, with large and entire stripes of a single color. Picotees have a white or yellow ground, but with the edges pencilled with shades of rose or purple. Pinks form a separate class, although all of the above are called pinks. Their distinctive characters are: The broadest part of the outer portion of the petals, white and distinct from the eye, unless, indeed, it be a laced variety. The eye ought to be bright crimson or purple, and the darker the better. This dark eye and the white previously described, should be quite proportionate to distinguish a good pink.

Our gladioli please us immensely; the main planting is in the extreme of its glory, and the plants we have shaded, as all should be in this sunny clime, have thrown up flower-spikes that we did not suppose the bulbs capable of producing. The satisfaction the gladiolus has afforded us in years gone by stimulated us to more liberal culture. We dug deeper, enriched more liberally, and the result is spikes of bloom that would put to shame such as we previously thought superb; we have profited by the experience of the specialist, without sharing his expense; we do not possess every known variety; neither have we labelled each one with its distinctive name, but we have a collection that fully satisfies our desires, and that is saying considerable. The specialist enjoys the possession of a thing; we enjoy its beauty. He must have a complete collection; we must have a choice one, and he has helped us to obtain it.

Our dahlias are, as yet, simply promises; but we know

what they will be, for we have done our part, and surely they will do theirs. We have a dozen sorts from another specialist, one who boasts of 250 varieties; we do not envy him his collection, but we do his memory of names, and his faculty of distinguishing colors; he knows them all by name, and can point out to us some wonderful shades of color which one possesses in distinction from another that we considered the same. So much for a liberal education—in one line. We have our twelve, in as many different clumps, and mostly in such out-of-the-way

places as some of our neighbors have set apart for burdocks and other natives more vigorous than beautiful. For the next two months we shall have a display of the "best twelve dahlias," that we shall enjoy for their own sakes, besides the intense satisfaction of hearing our neighbor say "that next year he will swap" his burdocks and plantain for dahlias and mignonette. Will he? We have altogether too much delight in our garden to enumerate further this month, so we must defer the remainder until the next.



TRILLIUM GRANDIFLORUM.



TRILLIUM ERECTUM.

THE TRILLIUM (WOOD-LILY).

THIS is a singular and beautiful class of hardy herbaceous plants, belonging exclusively to the United States and Canada. The stems have three leaves and the flowers, which are large, have three petals, white, purple or pink in color, and are produced from April to June. We know of no flowers more beautiful than the trilliums of our woods, excepting it be the trilliums in our gardens, as they are greatly improved by good garden cultivation. They thrive under almost any treatment, their preference being for a moist and partially-shaded situation. They are tuberous-rooted, and do not divide readily, but may be produced rapidly from seed, which, as soon as ripe, should be sown in a frame, where it may be shaded, or sown in the open ground and slightly covered with leaves.

There is quite a difference in the form and colors of the flowers, as well as in their time of flowering. One

of our correspondents, a great admirer of the trillium, notes its peculiarities as follows:

"First, the purple trillium, sometimes called the 'bath-flower' and 'wake-robin,' comes into bloom; handsome to the eye, but with an odor far from agreeable. One pleasure it always gives us—that of searching for its rare varieties. Great is our rejoicing when one is found with narrow yellow petals, very unlike those of its dark sisters. Yet more rarely we meet with others, differing from the common flower only in having petals of yellowish green.

"In favored spots the 'smiling trillium' unfolds its dark olive leaves and delicate white petals marked with crimson. More widely spread, the white trillium glorifies the woodlands while it lasts. The flowers vary much in size and form, and gradually change from snowy white to pink and red. A large cluster

is often a charming sight. Both are pretty for bouquets, having no offensive odor, and all are easily cultivated in the shade.

"Although these are called trilliums, from having all the parts in threes, exceptions are found. In a group of perfect flowers will be found one with four petals, four

sepals and four leaves. More rarely a double flower occurs. How great was our pleasure in seeing one recently with six long sepals and nineteen petals of greenish white. We thought of many comparisons, as others may do, and wondered what a florist might effect where nature had so clearly pointed out the way."



DOUBLE-FLOWERING TRILLIUM.

MY SUMMER CONSERVATORY.

I WANT to tell the readers of THE FLORAL CABINET how I arrange my flowers to beautify and grace my home in the summer, as all my entire year's work is to this end; for, with years of trial, I have never succeeded in getting any but a few plants to flower with me in winter. Having only a deep pit, with glass sides and roof, and no fire heat, I keep my plants in an almost dormant condition during winter, hence, to enjoy them I exert every effort to obtain fine specimen plants for this summer conservatory, so called, though it is only my front veranda (or piazza, as we call them here). This piazza is fifty feet long in the centre, ten feet deep, with narrower wings eight feet deep thrown out on each end. The hall door and the windows from both front drawing-rooms opening to the floor by glass doors, give access to

it, while in the centre it is approached from the ground by six broad stone steps, which are flanked on each side with broad, paneled boxings two feet wide and level with the floor. The piazza is finished with ornamented columns or pillars, and a balustrade with large turned columns. On this balustrade I have planks fourteen inches wide and two inches thick, fitted neatly, on which to set my pots of plants. With each season I strive to vary the arrangement, and as it always attracts attention and admiration I will describe it, as now it is in full beauty.

On the east side is a large iron basket, painted vermilion, the arch over the basket making it six feet high. In this basket are many plants from eight to ten years old. The largest is *Plumbago capensis*, with hundreds of pale lavender phlox-shaped clustered flowers; many of

its branches are four feet long and three feet high. At the side where the arch springs from the basket is a *Lygodium scandens* (climbing fern), which clammers up the arch and from thence by strings to the lattice of the piazza. The basket also contains *Lycopodium arborea* and a smaller variety, a rose-colored hydrangea, with clusters of flowers as large as a tea-plate, *Sedum Sieboldii*, and tuberous-rooted begonias, which make it very attractive. The shelf on each side contains pots of *Pilogyne suavis*, begonias, primroses, and a Grand Duke jasmine, four feet by two feet, in full flower. In front I have my fuchsias, with northeast and western exposure. One Carl Halt has created more comment than all my plants taken collectively. It is six years old and is grown in a box two feet square and eighteen inches deep; it is full three feet high and has from ten to fifteen branches, all as large as a man's thumb, with thousands of flowers each season. It alone would attract attention, but flanked by Black Prince, two feet high, Speciosa, Montrose, Mrs. Marshall, George Rundle, &c., all large fine specimen plants in pots, none smaller than seven inches, makes a handsome collection. The piazza being wider in the centre than in the wings, gives me a recess, where two large rustic jardinières stand, filled with fine plants of *Curculigo recurvata*, *Aspidistra variegata*, *Farfugium grande*, ferns, tradescantias, in variety, sedums, &c.

On the boxing each side of the front steps are my two large square calla pots, imitating wood, with basins to hold water. On the piazza is a rustic lounge, two bentwood chairs, one arm-chair and one ladies'-rocker, painted vermilion. There are brackets on the walls, with vines twined around each pillar or column, and it is truly a delightful place to rest and sit during our hot afternoons. My large flower-garden is on all three sides of this piazza—north, east and west—running far back to rear of the house, and in it, from early February to late in December, can always be culled beautiful bouquets of flowers. I do not study artistic effects, for with only a quarter of an acre for my grounds and an insatiable desire for all beautiful flowers, I have succeeded in collecting specimens of many rare and beautiful plants. I have 200 named varieties of roses, 100 of the new chrysanthemums, 25 varieties of lilies, as well as bulbous, tuberous, perennial and annual plants, that yield to my eager desires far more than we can cull. My flowers grace many a wedding feast and social gathering; they decorate the church and are worn by school-girls and for button-hole bouquets for boys, as well as many bearded men, yet I have more than an abundance, and I ascribe it to my unstinted cutting of all varieties. I spare none; all succumb to my keen-edged shears.

MRS. J. S. R. THOMPSON.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

JUNE EXHIBITION.

AMID the gorgeous assemblage of flowers of all denominations which adorned the exhibition tables of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, at their late rose show, notwithstanding it is difficult to particularize a selection of noticeable specimens from among a multitude so universally, so pre-eminently good, we nevertheless cannot refrain from recording a few, but will precede our notices with some remarks on the exhibition generally.

Excellent as are the arrangements, usually, of the committees in charge, by which all specimens can be seen to the best possible advantage, and every exhibitor is recognized as an important factor in the general work, there was this year a serious hitch or defect in the arrangements, that left a reasonable doubt in the minds of some of the most enthusiastic and large exhibitors as to when the exhibition was to take place, if at all. This uncertainty was the cause of Mr. Harris's absence with that grand collection of plants from Mr. Hannevell's establishment, which is always one of the prominent features of the exhibition, and one that draws together annually the best growers of rare plants in this country for an interchange of thought and feeling, and for the inspection of "novelties" that are sure to be exhibited, if any there are in the country.

Notwithstanding this uncertainty, that was caused by the backwardness of the season, or the disposition of the roses not to be on time, or even to make a fair promise of time, the exhibition as a whole was a splendid

success. Upon this point but one opinion could be entertained. We wish, however, to speak only of the various collections of *orchidaceous plants* which were exhibited in fine condition, as they always are in Horticultural Hall. As there are in the vicinity of Boston many fine specimens in the possession of those who grow this interesting tribe extensively, it is not unreasonable to expect, from those plants of large dimensions, production of "spikes" and "scapes" of corresponding quality and quantity.

It would be invidious to distinguish where excellence was so generally apparent; we, therefore, do not wish to be considered as speaking in a comparative sense as we notice the different collections, or the various specimens on the tables. Nor do we wish to be understood as thinking size the only indication of good culture; a large plant, if good, is the result of continued good culture, while a smaller specimen may as clearly indicate wise care and attention.

From the gardens of Frederick L. Ames, North Easton, Mass., came a lovely group of orchids, arranged in exquisite taste, and all showed skillful cultivation. Some of the specimens were particularly well grown. Conspicuous in this group were fine examples of the following:

Several varieties of *Odontoglossom Alexandræ* and *Pescatorei*, well flowered, showing the rare beauty of this remarkable genus, and two charming varieties of

O. vexillarium, bearing six and seven spikes each. One fine specimen of *O. maculatum*, with fifteen spikes, an object of great interest. A fine specimen each of *Masdevallia Hayana* and *superbissima*, bearing respectively ten and twelve flowers. There were also many fine specimens of *Dendrobium thyrsiflorum* and *Drearii*; several species and varieties of cypripediums, oncidiums, æridas, vandas, saccolobiums, &c. In this collection was a charming plant of *Utricularia Montana*, bearing twelve graceful spikes of its white and yellow flowers. This plant is seldom seen in as fine condition as that exhibited by Mr. Robinson, whose whole collection entitles him to great credit, not only for his care and skill as a grower, but for his taste in arrangement, the whole group being one of the handsomest that it has ever been our pleasure to see.

E. W. Gilmore was another contributor, from North Easton, Mass. His group was much smaller than that of the foregoing; but we noticed in it some remarkably fine specimens, among which was a superb *Cattleya Mendelii*, with twenty-five flowers, one of the best plants we have seen of this comparatively new introduction. A *Dendrobium thyrsiflorum*, with six fine spikes, was an object of great interest, as was a plant of *D. Bensonii*, a fine little plant bearing twenty-five flowers. In this group was a fine *Odontoglossum Alexandræ*, and a charming specimen of *O. Roezlii*, bearing eight flowers. Among the cypripediums were many varieties, several of which were remarkably well grown. This group was also well arranged, showing much artistic skill in the young gardener, whose name was omitted.

Mr. Payson, of Watertown, Mass., exhibited a fine specimen of *Cypripedium Dominionum*, four feet in diameter, with fifteen spikes of flowers. This is a garden hybrid and a plant of great beauty and interest. In fine order was a plant of *Epidendrum vitellinum majus*, with six spikes of flowers. This group also contained choice specimens of *Cattleya Mossiæ*, *C. superba*, *Epidendrum nemorale majus* and *Ærides odoratum majus*.

The whole being nicely furnished around the edges of the table with cut-flowers of orchids, anthuriums, stephanotis and miscellaneous hot-house flowers.

David Allen, gardener to Mr. Pratt, of Watertown, Mass., made an exhibit worthy of special mention. A specimen of *Epidendrum vitellinum*, with twelve long and well-furnished spikes, was especially fine, as was also a plant of *Dendrobium suavissimum*, with five gracefully-drooping spikes of rich yellow flowers, with a bold crimson blotch in the centre of the lip, which is deeply fringed. The flowers are two or more inches in diameter, and have a rich wax-like appearance. There were also noticeable in this group fine specimens of cattleyas in variety, odontoglossums, cypripediums, &c. The spaces between the plants on the table were completely filled with choice ferns, mostly *Adiantum cuneatum*, which gave the whole a beautiful effect, not unlike what we might imagine their appearance would be in their tropical homes. We must not forget to mention the presence in this group of a fine *Epidendrum nemorale majus*, with thirty spikes of its charming flowers. In addition to the growing plants was a rare collection of cut-flowers of orchids and other hot-house plants.

The Botanic Garden, at Cambridge, also contributed an interesting table of plants, mostly orchids, the chief attraction being a *Cattleya Mossiæ*, with thirty-five flowers in the highest state of perfection. This was certainly a well-grown plant, and one of the gems of the exhibition. There were in the exhibit good specimens of odontoglossums, cypripediums, phalænopsis in variety, and a good specimen of *Thunia Bensoniæ*, a fine and pleasing orchid. A novelty in this group was a living specimen of the edelweiss, probably the first living plant ever exhibited on this continent.

The lover of rare and beautiful plants would have found a wilderness of other rare forms on exhibition, which we cannot now describe, and we regret being obliged to limit such as we have noticed to so small a space.

WM. BENNETT.

FLATBUSH, N. Y.

THE COCA PLANT.

WE owe many things to Peru, so many, in fact, that were it not for them it is an interesting question to study out what condition our race might occupy at this day different from that of the present. The Peruvian silver turned a numerous emigration to the shores of this continent, while the Peruvian cinchona kept alive the new-comers who might have died of the coast and other fatal fevers which met the unacclimated adventurers. Peruvian guano has enriched England and France through the prosperity of agriculture, and we owe a great debt of gratitude for the same gift. And now we have a new medicinal agent which promises to become as notable an anæsthetic for local application as ether or chloroform have been in other ways. This plant has long been known from its uses among the Peruvians, who have been addicted to it as a pleasing and moderate stimulant and

intoxicant. The leaves are rolled up with a little lime in them and are chewed. The saliva, which is swallowed, produces slight intoxication and a strong inclination to rest. As the native workmen take their coca four times a day the prolonged rests which it encourages are serious drawbacks to their industry. As a set-off against this, however, it is claimed that the laborers can perform a great deal of labor by the help of this stimulant with very little food. The same claim, we think, has been made for beer and other alcoholic stimulants.

The new use of coca, however, is of the greatest importance to the human race. By a chemical process, an alkaloid, or its active principle, cocaine, has been separated from the leaves. This drug has the property of producing local insensibility to pain upon any part of the body to which it is applied. The cocaine has been chiefly

used in serious operations upon the eye with great success; but its use in the treatment of General Grant has brought it into greater notice, and has popularized its name and reputation. It is exceedingly costly, having been sold for several dollars a grain, and its costliness prevents its use, excepting in rare cases. The plant is a small shrub about five to eight feet high, which bears thick evergreen leaves. The form of the leaf is an ovoid, prolonged and narrowed at the base. The shrub grows in the mountain districts, where it is cultivated in plantations for the leaves, which form an article of domestic commerce, and are sold in a dried state for a dollar or

more per pound. The first crop of leaves is picked when the shrub is five years old, after which an annual gathering is made. The leaves are now imported into Europe and America, and the traffic promises to become important, and the value to increase largely for some time at least, as new plantations are of slow growth. It is quite probable that the plant would grow successfully in some portions of the United States or Mexico or Cuba, and the supply be largely increased. Its known value, and the probability of its successful culture gives it a general interest, especially to the farmers of Florida and Southern California.—*Henry Stewart, in Weekly Times.*

METHONICAS OR GLORIOSAS.

METHONICAS are occasionally met with in specimen form at provincial exhibitions held during July and the two following months, and when of large size and well flowered they present a very attractive appearance, and afford the exhibitors substantial assistance in obtaining a good place on the prize-list. But they are perhaps less suitable for specimen culture than many other stove plants grown for their flowers, and they certainly appear to the best advantage when trained up pillars and allowed a moderate degree of latitude in making their growth. They are not particularly difficult to grow, and the flowers are so distinct as to at once arrest attention, as they are richly colored and highly attractive. They have, moreover, the great recommendation of flowering freely during the latter part of the summer and the early part of the autumn. The number of species at present in cultivation is comparatively small, and as they are all thoroughly distinct from each other, one example at least of each may have a place in a collection of moderate extent.

Under a good system of culture the methonicas attain a height ranging from six to eight feet, according to the strength of the tubers, and the slender stems are so pliable that they can readily be trained in any way the cultivator may desire. The leaves, which are of a rich, glossy green, are provided with tendril-like appendages which will firmly clasp a trellis or other support, and hold the plant securely in position. It is necessary to regulate the growth with some degree of care, especially during the early stages, to prevent its becoming entangled, and the closest attention must, as a matter of course, be paid to the training when they are grown on balloon or similar trellises for exhibition purposes. An annual potting is required, and the proper course is to shake the tubers out of the soil and repot them in clean pots with fresh compost. This should be done early in the spring, before new growth has commenced, as they cannot be disturbed afterward without some injury to the roots and tender stems. The size of the pots and the number of tubers in each must be regulated by the purpose for which the plants are required. When wanted simply for the decoration of the structure in which they are grown, it is a capital plan to employ eight-inch pots, and put three tubers in each. But when intended for exhibition specimens the best course is to grow them in ten-inch pots,

six tubers in each. The tubers produce, as a rule, one shoot only, and they should be potted with the point from half an inch to an inch below the surface of the soil. They can, of course, be started in pots one size smaller than those here mentioned, and, after they have made sufficient progress to fill them with roots, be shifted into those in which they are to bloom. But there is no great advantage in commencing with small pots, and, generally speaking, the best practice is to put the tubers into the pots in which the plants are to bloom. When this is done it is necessary to be careful in not supplying the plants too liberally with water before they have made any material progress, or the soil will become sour, and the growth in consequence be unsatisfactory.

The drainage must be thoroughly efficient, and pots of the several sizes mentioned above should have a layer of medium-sized crocks ranging from two to three inches in thickness. These must be covered with some light material, flaky leaf-mould being perhaps the most suitable. The compost should be moderately light and rather rich, to enable the roots to run freely and the plants to obtain the assistance necessary in making a vigorous growth. Probably the best mixture that could be provided for the methonicas is one formed with turfy peat, fibrous loam, leaf-mould, well rotted manure, and sand, the proportions to be two parts each of the peat and loam to one part each of the leaf-mould, manure and sand. The compost should be used in rather a rough state, and the peat and loam must not therefore be broken up very fine. In potting the tubers, put the roughest part of the compost at the bottom of the pot, in accordance with the usual practice in potting bulbs and tubers, arrange them regularly over the pots, with the points upward, and at such depth that the upper portion will be rather more than half an inch below the surface, and press the soil rather firm. The tubers will start finely without bottom heat, but when they are wanted in bloom rather early in the summer the pots should be plunged to one-third or one-half their depth in a moderately brisk hot-bed.

From the time the pots are nicely filled with roots until the flowers begin to lose their beauty, rather liberal supplies of water will be required, with, in the earlier stages, a light syringing once or twice a day. A long season of rest is essential, and, generally speaking, a reduc-



METHONICA LEOPOLDI—Flowers Yellow. (Popularly known as the Climbing Lily.)

tion of the water supply should be commenced immediately the flowers are past their best. When the leaves are assuming a yellowish hue watering should be discontinued, and as the stems die down, place the pots upon their sides under the stages or in an out-of-the-way corner of the house, where they can remain until they are re-potted in February or March.

The methonicas at present in cultivation are *M. Plante* and *M. superba*, both of which have bright crimson and yellow flowers, and *M. Leopoldi*, which has flowers of a lemon-yellow color, slightly washed and striped with red. A specimen grown from the last-named species, is singularly elegant and effective, although the individual flowers are certainly not showy.—*Gardeners' Magazine*.

CLIMBERS--DIOSCOREA BATATAS.

IN an article in THE FLORAL CABINET for July we read: "A nearly related plant [to the *Ipomæas*], and a very ornamental one, too, is our sweet-potato (*Dioscorea batatas*)."

The writer has evidently confounded two plants. The sweet-potato is a *batatas* and a climber, but it is entirely different in most respects from the *Dioscorea*. The latter, although said by Mr. Henderson, in his "Handbook of Plants," to have been introduced from the West Indies in 1733, was little known in this country until after 1850, when it was introduced as from China. It was then feared the Irish potato might be entirely destroyed by the rot, and some believed this yam might, in a measure, take its place, and its cultivation was attempted in various localities, but never prosecuted to any great extent. There is no difficulty in its culture, for it grows readily, requiring but little care, and is perfectly hardy; but although the root is edible it is not particularly desirable, and it costs more to gather it than it is worth, as it grows in shape like a parsnip, but with the large end down. It is, however, desirable as a climber, and as such is often sold under the name of "cinnamon vine;" its flowers, which are formed in the axil of the leaf, having an odor strongly resembling that of cinnamon bark.

It is propagated by seeds or bulblets, that may be

planted soon after they are ripe or delayed until the next spring, they being kept meantime in a cool place sufficiently moist to prevent their shriveling.

Although it is an annual like the sweet-potato, it may be left in the ground through the winter without injury, and by so doing larger and stronger plants will be established. Because of this, it has been believed by some to be perennial, but such is not the case. It has a bright, glossy, heart-shaped leaf, remarkably free from insects. Seedlings produce leaves close to the ground, but established plants throw up a stalk several feet before a leaf is seen and with a rapidity that is astonishing. I do not know how high it would grow, never having given it an opportunity to do its best, but have had specimens that run fully thirty feet. It twines itself around a pole or may be trained on a fence or trellis. By pinching in, it can be kept within due limits, but it is a rampant grower. Its flowers, although delightfully fragrant, are insignificant in appearance, its main attraction being in its foliage. It is especially adapted to places where wooded climbers are unsightly in winter, as the stems can be removed as soon as frost comes, the tuber remaining in the ground, where it will be all ready for action after winter has gone.

L. A. R.

SOME PRETTY FIRS.

THE evergreen trees and shrubs of our gardens chiefly consist of pines, firs, spruces, yews, cypresses, arbor vitæ, retinosporas, rhododendrons and junipers. Among them all are some beautiful species and varieties well adapted for garden cultivation, and suitable for either large or small places; but now I shall deal with the firs only. I shall not lead you through a wilderness of catalogues or botanical or horticultural books, but ask you to come with me into our garden, which is on the north side of Long Island, and I shall bring to your notice the firs that are growing here, and feel at home and appear happy.

Botanically, the firs are known as *Abies*, and the spruces as *Picea*; but in old books and catalogues you will usually find *Picea* used as a sub-genus of *Abies*, and both firs and spruces included under the generic name of *Abies*.

THE BALSAM FIR (*A. balsamea*).—A common tree in cold damp soil, from Canada to Virginia, and West along the lakes to Minnesota. When old it is a miserable-looking tree. As a rule it loses its lower branches when comparatively young, and is short-lived. But take a young healthy plant, and keep it low, and it will make a fine-looking evergreen for twenty-five years.

THE CEPHALONIAN FIR (*A. Cephalonica*).—From the high mountains of Greece. It is beautiful and distinct, with short, sharp, rigid leaves. Our specimens are solid masses of green, unhurt by summer or winter.

THE CILICIAN FIR (*A. Cilicica*).—From Mount Taurus, in Cilicia; is a lovely evergreen, and I believe the handsomest specimen conifer in our grounds. In general appearance it is much like Nordman's fir; but it is more compact, brighter in color, and starts into growth earlier.

THE WHITE FIR (*A. concolor*).—From the mountains of New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Southern Colorado. It has several varietal names. We have several forms of it, and all are pretty. Some have long broad leaves; others shorter ones; some are deep green in color, and others of a glaucous or silvery hue. When young it is a gem, but as it advances in age we fail to get it as compact as a Cilician fir.

THE JAPANESE SILVER FIR (*A. firma*).—Is found throughout the whole extent of Japan. It resembles the European silver fir. The upper surface of the leaves is deep green, the lower silvery.

FRASER'S BALSAM FIR (*A. Fraseri*).—Is a small tree from the summits of the peaks of North Carolina and Tennessee, and is not unlike our northern balsam fir. So long as we keep it small, so long it will be pretty, but let it grow unchecked it is apt to lose its lower branches.

HUDSON'S BAY FIR (*A. Hudsonica*).—Regarded as a variety of the last. Was found in the vicinity of Hudson's Bay, and is a very pretty dwarf form, a fit companion for Mugho and other dwarf pines and dwarf

spruces; but to have it in good condition we should grow it in cool, moist ground.

THE GREAT SILVER FIR (*A. grandis*).—Found in California to British Columbia, near the coast; is the largest of our native firs, and in cultivation one of the handsomest. It likes moist ground.

THE NOBLE FIR (*A. nobilis*).—From the Cascade Mountains; is a beautiful bluish tree, slow growing at first. We have several plants of it and some fine glaucous forms, but they do not assume the beautiful and vigorous proportions of some of the other species.

NORDMAN'S FIR (*A. Nordmanniana*).—Native of the Crimean Mountains; is one of the handsomest and most prized of all firs. It is hardy, a ready grower and densely furnished with branches; its leaves are deep glossy green above and silvery beneath. We have specimens of it broader than they are high.

ALGERIAN FIR (*A. Numidica*).—Is from the high mountains of Algiers, a pretty deep-green species, and notwithstanding its African home is hardy here.

EUROPEAN SILVER FIR (*A. pectinata*).—A native of the Alps and other mountain ranges of Northern and Central Europe. In a cool, moist, sheltered situation it grows and thrives very well, but under unfavorable conditions is scraggy and unseemly.

SIBERIAN SILVER FIR (*A. Pichta*).—From the mountains of Siberia. This is a beautiful small tree, deep green, hardy and accommodating.

PINSAPO FIR (*A. Pinsapo*).—A strikingly distinct fir from the mountains of Spain. We have two specimens of it that are compact and perfect, and show no signs of injury from the effects of summer or winter; they are growing on the northeast side of a wood, shaded from the southwest sunshine and pretty well sheltered. I mention this because it is of uncertain hardiness here, and the unscathed condition of our trees is a surprise to many.

VEITCH'S FIR (*A. Veitchii*).—An alpine fir from

Mount Fusi-Yama, Japan, and introduced to European and American gardens some five or six years ago. It is a pretty fir and quite hardy here. There is a little confusion about this species. Lately I have seen three distinct firs under this name and all claim to have been sent out by Veitch as *Abies Veitchii*. *Abies brachyphylla* is a lovely but badly-named species from Japan, and which a few years ago was distributed as *A. Veitchii*. Anyhow, it is one of the prettiest of silvery-backed firs, hardy and vigorous.

Most fir trees, under natural and uncared-for conditions and at maturity, are rather unbecoming in appearance, but, properly attended and suited in their conditions of growth, the poorest of them can be made into handsome desirable evergreens. In their native wilds some of them become stately trees, but under garden cultivation these same would-be big trees can be kept under twenty-five feet high for thirty or forty years, with benefit to themselves and a vast improvement in their appearance. Let us put into close, wide-spreading branches what if left alone would run into stature, and this we can do by allowing the leader about six or eight inches growth a year, and disbudding the outmost tips of the branches in May as soon as possible. Firs need protection from fierce and cold winds, and no matter, be they alpine or lowland, without shelter you must expect misery. Firs like moderately good, moist soil, and one that is well drained. A soft, mellow ground-surface is of benefit to the young firs, and this we can afford by having the earth about them cultivated and mulched. Bear in mind that you cannot take a scraggy plant of a fir tree, no matter how young it may be, and make a handsome specimen out of it. If you desire success begin with a healthy, vigorous plant, no matter how young it is. For a small garden I would recommend Nordman's or the Cilician and Siberian firs, because they are pretty and likely to grow well, and by timely attention you can keep them as small as you wish.

WILLIAM FALCONER.

WATER-LILIES AND THEIR CULTURE.

ONE of the most attractive features of a landscape is a water surface. Landscape gardeners go to much expense when laying out grounds to get some water into a conspicuous part of them. Why should not farmers, who have freely given to them by nature every opportunity of embellishing their homes, enjoy at the cost of a little labor the advantages and pleasures which their richer neighbors enjoy at a large cost, and on account of which some people, who could themselves possess the same, envy them. And as land is far more pleasing and enjoyable when covered with flowers, so the surface of the water is improved and beautified by being covered with fragrant and beautiful water-lilies, which may be grown so easily.

The commonest water-lily is our native American species, *Nymphaea odorata*. Its lovely white, wax-like flowers and sweet odor always make it attractive, and it is worthy a place in every garden, which, however

poor, may have its half-barrel sunk in the soil of a grass-plot, or a stone-cemented pit in which a few roots may be planted. It does best in a pond or in the almost-still bend of a slow-running stream, in the mud of which a few roots may be pushed down to a depth of six inches. Where the mud is rich these flowers grow six inches across and the leaves thirteen inches. The florists sell these roots for 40 cents each or \$3 a dozen. A variety of this lily producing flowers only 1½ or 2 inches in diameter can also be procured. A pink water-lily is found at Cape Cod, but it is rare excepting where it is cultivated. It is of a deep pink or rose color, has flowers larger than the white variety, and possesses a most delicious fragrance. The flowers often sell for 25 cents each, and for double as much at the popular watering-places and in the cities. The roots are scarce and cost \$5 each. Another pure white lily is *Nymphaea tuberosa*,

which has flowers at times seven inches in diameter, with a sweet ripe-apple odor. This kind costs 75 cents a root. A most beautiful and deliciously fragrant species is the yellow water-lily, *Nymphaea flava*. The flowers are of a bright golden-yellow and are scented like the blossoms of the locust tree. This variety requires a warm, sunny corner of the pond. The roots cost 50 cents each. A pigmy lily is the dwarf Chinese water-lily, *Nymphaea pygmaea*, very sweetly odorous, but with flowers no larger than half a dollar, which open at noon and close at night. There are some other kinds having white and pink flowers which are natives of England.

The queen of the lily pond is *Nelumbium speciosum*. This beautiful plant is the lotus of Egypt and India, and the seed of it is the sacred bean. It is, however, entirely hardy and produces its leaves 30 inches across. Its buds are at first creamy white and bright rose in color, and in form like enormous tea-rose buds, and then gradually expand like a tulip, until at maturity they spread to a width

of 12 or 13 inches, and diffuse their delightful fragrance far and wide. *Nelumbium luteum*, or the yellow lotus, is a native plant, not equal in beauty to the *speciosum*, but a noble ornament to the pond, with its scarcely smaller leaves and its hundreds of buds and score of open flowers, all exhibited at the same time. The flowers are of a sulphur yellow color and as large as a quart bowl. Several other varieties of foreign nelumbiums are cultivated, which have beautifully colored flowers. There are many other desirable aquatic plants described in the catalogues of the florists who make this class of plants a special culture, but space is inadequate to mention them. A few of them, selected according to the means and desires of the owner of a pond, would certainly add a charm to any country home, which would be all the more pleasing because of its rarity. Even one native lily would be a source of pleasure, and would be a beginning which would lead to further progress in this delightful culture.—*Weekly Times*.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

What is a Cantaloupe?

AT the recent Convention of the American Seed Trade Association, an informal discussion arose as to what is a cantaloupe and what are its distinctive characteristics in comparison to the musk-melon. If differences there are, no one could define them, neither could any one say that he could furnish seed of the cantaloupe with any assurance of giving his customer the variety he wished. The nomenclature of vegetables and plants is sadly mixed. The same pea is sold under a dozen different names, usually prefixed by that of the dealer offering it; and what is true of the pea is true of many other popular plants and flowers. Dealers not unfrequently change the names or reintroduce some old variety, "the same with intent to deceive."

This is not so, however, with the cantaloupe, whose family history is so little known that, as far as possible, we will give it. The botanical name of the cantaloupe and all of the musk-melons is *Cucumis melo*; that of the cucumber is *Cucumis sativus*, and, of the water-melon *Cucurbita citrullus*, all of which belong to the natural order *Cucurbitaceæ*. The early history of the melon is very vague and unsatisfactory, it being always classed with the cucumber. *Gerarde*, in his quaint old herbal, published 1629, says; "The melon is certainly a kinde of cowcumber, it doth so neare resemble it, both in the manner of his growing, having rough trailing branches, rough uneven leaves and yellow flowers; after which come the fruit, which is rounder, thicker, bigger, more ragged, and spotted on the outside then the cowcumber, of a russet color, and green underneath, which when it groweth full ripe, will change a little yellowish, being as deep furrowed as they, and besides having chaps or rifts in divers places of the rinde; the inward hard substance is yellow, which only is eaten; the seede which is bigger, and a little yellower then the cowcumber, lying in the middle onely

among the moister pulpe; the smell and changing of his color, fore-shew their ripeness to them that are experienced; the root is long, with many fibres at it.

"They have beene formerly only eaten by great personages, because the fruit was not only delicate but rare; and therefore divers were brought from France, and since were noursed up by the kings' or noblemen's gardeners onely, to serve for their masters' delight; but now, divers others, that have skill and convenience of ground for them, doe plant them and make them more common.

"They paire away the outer rinde, and cut out the inward pulpe where the seede lyeth, slice the yellow, firm, inward rind or substance, and so eate it with salt and pepper (and good store of wine, or else it will hardly digest), for this is firmer, and hath not the moisture in it that the cowcumbers have. It is also more delicate, and of more worth, which recompense the paine."

The melon is a native of the milder regions of Asia, but was introduced into Europe before the time of Pliny (50 A. D.), as that writer, when treating of gourds and cucumbers, after mentioning that "when the cucumber acquires a very considerable volume it is known to us as the 'pepo'" (supposed to be the pumpkin), adds, "Only of late a cucumber of an entirely new shape has been produced in Campania, having just the form of a quince. The name given to this variety is 'melo-pepo.'" The melon had also been known to the Greeks, who were accustomed to soak the seeds in milk and honey before sowing them, and even to put them in earth surrounded with rose-leaves, believing that when thus cradled in sweetness, the fruit which they would bear could not but be mild and fragrant. The great Baber has the credit of introducing it to his subjects in Hindostan, where it now abounds, it having been indigenous only to the milder parts of Asia. At what period it was brought into England is a matter of great uncertainty, as is the introduction

of all vegetables and fruits. Gough, in his *Topography*, says it was grown there in the time of Edward III. (having only gone out of cultivation, along with the cucumber, during the troubled time of the Wars of the Roses). It is generally supposed that the object to which he refers was really the pumpkin, which was called the "melon" by old writers, the fruit to which that name is now restricted having formerly been distinguished by the title musk-melon. Most writers think it probable that it was really only brought into England from Italy in the time of Henry VIII.

The English cultivators have divided the melons into four sections: The thick-skinned; soon-perishing sorts grouped together under the general name of cantaloupes; the long-keeping winter melons; Persians and watermelons. The type of the first-enumerated class is supposed to be the original old-fashioned musk-melon, characterized by the thick network of gray lines over its surface, and by possessing but little scent; it varied in size from one pound to forty pounds weight, but being so uncertain in quality that out of half a dozen fruits but one would perhaps be found good. This earliest-known sort was almost banished from the English gardens on the introduction of superior kinds. One of the first to supersede it, and still one of the most esteemed throughout Europe, was the melon which claims, in a more restricted sense, as the original owner of that name, the title of the Cantaloupe, which, according to M. Jacquin, derives its name from Cantalouppi, a seat belonging to the Pope, situated about fifteen miles from Rome, and where this fruit has been cultivated ever since the Mithridatic war, having been brought, it is said, by Lucullus, in the last century B. C., from Armenia to Italy, and thence taken by Charles VIII. into France. The earliest description we have of it is as follows: "The melon is usually nearly round, and of middling size, though not constant even in these particulars; its exterior, always remarkably rough and irregular, varies much in color, being sometimes green and black, or some other variegation, the darkest colors being generally preferred, while the flesh also assumes different tints, nearly white, orange or pinkish." The diversity of size among melons classed as cantaloupes is very great, but all are characterized by a more or less rough and thick rind, which considerably reduces the eatable proportion of the fruit. This is particularly noticeable in a foreign variety known as Black Rock Melon, which often attains a weight of fourteen pounds, about three-fourths of which, however, being composed of a rugged wall of rind studded with carbuncles, and a mass of seeds within, embedded in the fraction of eatable pulp, which is small in quantity and poor in quality.

The citron, or green-fleshed melon, was brought into France by a monk from Africa in 1787. It spread from there into many countries, and numerous varieties have been obtained from it. Frederick the Great was so passionately fond of a small melon of this sort that he could not conquer himself sufficiently to abstain from them even when his health was in danger, for Zimmermans, who attended him in his last illness, finding him suffering severely from indigestion, discovered that he ate three or four of these fruits daily for breakfast, and on remonstrating

with him the only reply he could get from the despot was an attempt to make them their own apology, by promising to send him some the next day that he might taste himself how excellent they were. It is to this melon that we are indebted for all the green-fleshed varieties we now have under cultivation, one of the most popular being the "Hackensack," which is grown in immense quantities for the New York market.

The melons of Persia have long borne a high character, and differ materially from the varieties commonly cultivated. They are extremely rich and sweet, and instead of the thick rind of the common melons, they have a very thin and delicate skin, which makes a fruit of the same apparent size contain nearly twice as much edible flesh. From this peculiarity they are difficult to handle and ship, and they are likewise more difficult of culture, requiring a long, warm season to ripen to perfection.

Thus we have given all that is positively known of the history of this class of melons, in distinction from the watermelon, which has a history of its own. But this does not clearly answer the question, "What is a Cantaloupe?" Neither can we. Certainly it is not a class name, for it is applied to all classes; neither is it a variety name, because there are almost an endless number of varieties called cantaloupes. Botanically, it is neither a generic nor a specific name. Locally, it is applied according to custom or fancy; in some parts of our country it is a distinctive name, designating the class from watermelons. In other parts it applies to melons only that have a pink, or salmon-colored flesh, in distinction from the citron or green-fleshed melon. To what melon the name "Cantaloupe" was originally given it is impossible to determine. One thing, however, is certain, that if the name was originally given to any particular variety, that variety no longer exists. Deterioration on the one hand and cross-fertilization and selection on the other has long since supplanted any variety known as long as the cantaloupe, with others of an entirely different character. If the name was originally applied to any class of melons, whether rough skinned or smooth, whether round or oblong, large or small, pink fleshed or white, conjecture alone must determine, for there is nothing in the history of the melon that will solve the mystery. C. L. A.

Celery.

THE growing crop should be kept well cultivated, clean and free from all weeds, until about the 1st of September, when we usually begin to have that moist and cool atmosphere which is so essential to the growth of celery, and then we can begin the earthing up for the blanching and whitening of that portion of the crop which is wanted for use during the fall months.

The first operation, which is termed "handling," consists in drawing the earth firmly with the hoe to each side of the celery, so as to keep the leaves in an upright position and give them an upward growth, preparatory to their being blanched for use.

In about two weeks after being handled it will be ready for banking, which can be done by digging the soil from between the rows and laying or banking it up to the tops of the stalks with the spade on each side of

the row of celery. This should not be done, however, when the plants are wet from dew or rain, and care should be taken to keep the leaf-stalks close together, so that no earth can fall in the centre or between the leaf-stalks of the plant.

Within three or four weeks after being banked it will be ready for use, so that if it is desired to have celery earlier in the season it should be handled and banked accordingly. But if the celery is desired for winter use and is to be stored away in trenches or in the cellar, all that it requires is the operation of handling, and this can be repeated as often as the plants seem to require it.

I do not know of any better method of preserving celery during the winter season than that recommended by Mr. Peter Henderson in his excellent work, "Garden and Farm Topics," and from which I take the liberty of quoting as follows: "The best way to keep celery for family use is to place it in a cool cellar. It should be stored in narrow boxes of a depth a little less than the height of the celery. A few inches of sand or soil should be placed in the bottom of the box, and the celery packed upright, the roots being placed on the sand or soil at the bottom, but no sand or soil should be placed between the stalks, all that is needed being the damp sand on the bottom of the box, the meaning of which is that before the celery will blanch or whiten it must first start at the root; hence, the necessity of placing the roots on an inch or so of damp sand. Boxes thus packed and placed in a cool cellar early in November will be blanched and fit for use during January or February. But the celery intended

for use later than this should not be packed or brought inside until there is danger of a sharp frost." If one has no suitable cellar the celery can be easily preserved in the manner followed by market gardeners. A trench is dug about eight inches in width, and of a depth equal to the height of the celery, which should be packed in it exactly in the manner described for storing in boxes to be placed in the cellar, that is, it should be made to stand as nearly upright as possible, and packed as closely together as can be done without bruising it. After the trench is filled it should be covered over with wooden shutters, so placed as to prevent the plants from becoming wet and the trench from being filled with water. As the weather becomes cold the shutters should be gradually covered with leaves or litter to the thickness of seven or eight inches, or enough to prevent freezing; this will enable it to be easily taken out when planted, by commencing to take it out on one end of the trench.

Great care should be taken to have the ground in which it is to be preserved for winter use as dry as possible and so arranged that no water can remain in the trench, and let the winter covering be placed on very gradually, this last being a very important point.

In conclusion I may be permitted to say that, as far as my experience has extended, I have found the red or pink varieties to keep best, and advise that they be so placed in the trenches as to be reserved for use during the late winter and early spring months.

CHARLES E. PARNELL.

MISS THEO'S LOVE AFFAIRS.

HER name was Theodora Popplewell, but if the amiable and sweet-tempered Theodora detested anything it was her surname, and by her own request she was called Miss Theodora. But the world—which every one admits is a queer sort of world—has a lazy fancy for shortening names with little regard for the owner's desires. So it is not strange that Miss Theodora became Miss Theo; first to the children, and before long to the parents, and in the course of time to the school board as well, for she was one of the teachers in the public schools of the city of L—, and had held her situation for several years to the satisfaction of all concerned. Little was known of her family or antecedents, and little cared the children whom she taught. She was always so indulgent, so pleasant, so sympathetic that they fairly adored her, and it naturally followed that the parents regarded her as a very superior teacher. As for the school board Miss Theo was so quick to apprehend and adopt their methods and to recognize their superior wisdom and sagacity on all points, that they were one and all convinced that in her, at last, was the ideal teacher materialized. She had a charming way of appealing to them for advice and counsel that is always irresistible to the masculine soul, especially when the suppliant is as charming in person as in manner, as was the case with Miss Theo. Not that Miss

Theo was young, but she was more attractive than many a young and lovely girl. She was in the full blossom of womanhood, and confessed to thirty-five years, but might easily have been passed for twenty-five. Miss Theo had that perfect blonde hair which never shows a gray thread, but in ripe old age is found to have imperceptibly changed into the loveliest and purest white. She had with it that clear complexion which defies wrinkles, and large dark hazel eyes, such as now and then accompany blonde hair to the surprise of the careless observer. Miss Theo was very fond of her scholars, and her manner toward them was always gentle and winning, but if it was a trifle more so toward the boys than toward the girls, she may have been entirely unconscious of the fact, and if the bigger the boy the greater the tenderness, surely that was only in accordance with the rule of proportion! And if Miss Theo gave her friendship and confidence to the members of the board rather than to their respective wives, it was not at all strange, for they were her employers, and the opportunities were greater.

It was Mr. George Barlow, the youngest and handsomest of the board, to whom Miss Theo first confided a bit of her heart history. She was sure she could trust him as she would a brother, so Miss Theo said, and she wished him to know that she looked forward to teaching

as her life-work, and she felt anxious to perfect herself in it so far as possible, and she should look to him to help her with his invaluable counsel and brotherly sympathy.

Mr. Barlow delicately intimated that, so far from looking on teaching as her life-work, they could only hope to retain her services until she should consent to bless some deserving man with her heart and hand.

Miss Theo sighed impressively, and replied, in a tone of sadness:

"I will tell you, Mr. Barlow, in confidence, that I have once given my heart and hand to one most worthy, but he died just before the time set for our marriage. I have always considered myself his widow, and looked upon that phase of life as ended for me. Not that I have any sentimental feeling on the subject which would prevent me from ever loving again, but I have grown to look upon it as unlikely."

Of course, Mr. Barlow assured her that he should regard her confidence as sacred, and offered his sympathy in suitable terms, and expressed a civil hope that one so well qualified to bless and adorn a home would yet do so.

To Deacon Elderkin, the eldest of the school board, and a hale, handsome man of sixty, Miss Theo related the touching episode of her early love and disappointment; also in strict confidence assured him that she felt she could trust him as a father, and look to him for advice and protection in her lonely condition. And the good deacon was quite melted by such a proof of confidence from this lovely and desolate woman, and assured her in turn that he should regard her with as much paternal affection as though she had been his own daughter.

Miss Theo had invested a small portion of her savings in some rather doubtful mining stock, and often consulted Lawyer Hemenway, another member of the board, about the advisability of selling it. At these times she would lift her beautiful hazel eyes to his face with a look of innocent friendliness, and assure him that his friendship was the greatest possible boon to her; that she trusted him entirely and depended upon his judgment, and she did not know how she could endure life if ever he should cease to be her friend; that he seemed nearer to her from the fact that her own betrothed, who had early been taken from her, was interested in the law.

Of course, Mr. Hemenway was much interested on learning, as he supposed, that she had been engaged to a lawyer, and the sad story was also confided to him and his sympathy eagerly absorbed.

Miss Theo had remarkable taste in dress, and could make of herself a most charming picture. Her costumes were marvels of style and becomingness; but it is more than doubtful if John Greyson, another member of the board, would ever have known it had not his attention been called to the fact by Miss Theo's innocent appeals to know if he considered it wrong for her to dress so elegantly, seeing that much of her wardrobe consisted of presents from him who was to have been her husband, if a merciful heaven had spared him to her. Thus appealed to, it was only natural that John Greyson's eyes should wander over Miss Theo's pretty figure and observe the perfect fit and entire harmony of her dress and the rich-

ness of her laces, and it was equally natural that they should express the admiration they felt while he told her it was her undoubted right to wear garments thus bestowed, and that nothing could better suit the figure and complexion of the wearer.

Miss Theo thanked him sweetly, and hoped he would always tell her when she was right, and warn her if at any time he disapproved of her conduct. She could trust to his superior wisdom, and feel confident of never going wrong.

It is not strange that Mr. Greyson felt flattered and pleased, and henceforth felt some sense of responsibility in regard to Miss Theo.

Poor Miss Theo! She was really good and innocent, and should not be blamed too severely if the withering tendrils of her desiccated affections, reaching out for natural support, attempted to twine about such masculine supports as came in their way. Surely, no one could be so heartless as, to deprive her of the consolations of friendship!

The members of the school board being strictly honorable men, never dreamed that the repetition of Miss Theo's sad story to the ears of their respective wives involved any breach of confidence on their part, and accordingly those worthy ladies were soon in possession of this interesting love story. Strange to say, they were not so tenderly impressed by it as their spouses had been, and not quite so ready to offer unbounded sympathy and friendship to the fair heroine as might have been desired. Some women have such a practical way of transmuting the romantic into the commonplace by a word or look.

"Poor thing! so she is an orphan, is she?" remarked Mrs. Elderkin as the deacon recounted her touching appeal to his fatherly feelings and his promise to act a father's part by her.

"Why, no; her father and mother are both living, I believe," replied the deacon.

"O-h!" remarked Mrs. Elderkin.

"But, my dear," expostulated her husband, "they do not live in this city; they live twenty miles away."

"We have excellent postal arrangements, I believe," continued the lady, "and 'blood is thicker than water.' How should you like to have Laura appealing to a comparative stranger for paternal affection and protection?"

This put rather a different aspect on the affair; the deacon was ready to admit that it would not please him at all, for Laura was his only child, now away at boarding-school, between whom and himself existed the closest confidence and whose long and frequent letters were his greatest source of enjoyment during her absence.

"Lydia, my dear," said George Barlow to his wife, "I hope you will call on Miss Theodora and be a friend to her. It is so hard for a woman to be so alone in the world as she is, and she seems to have such a clinging nature and feels so deeply the need of a home."

"Has she no home to go to?" inquired Lydia compassionately.

"Why, she can go to her father's home when she chooses, I presume; but that is not like having a home of her own."

"Well, I confess," said Lydia, "that I never regarded myself as an object of commiseration when I had a father's house to go to, and you will bear me witness that I was in no haste to leave it to become the mistress of yours. And a woman can never be considered alone in the world so long as she has a mother."

Really, when viewed in the light of Lydia's common sense, Miss Theo's condition did not seem to present very strong claims to sympathy and compassion.

"Has she no brother to consult about her business affairs?" asked Mrs. Hemenway, when her better-half alluded to the subject.

"She has never mentioned any to me," he replied; "but, now I think of it, I have heard that she has several, and one is a lawyer, too," and he began to wonder why Miss Theo didn't consult her brother, instead of making such demands on his time.

"How very interesting!" exclaimed Mrs. Greyson to her husband. "So you are to be her conscience, it seems; most people prefer one of their own. It must be quite a hardship to have to depend on a new acquaintance for that useful organ. You had better take up your abode at the school-house, for one is liable to need one's conscience at all hours, and, if you were not at hand, Miss Theo might get into trouble."

John flushed angrily, for he was painfully susceptible to ridicule, and for a moment fairly hated Miss Theo.

But although the weight of these practical women occasionally compelled the board to rest a little on the firm ground of common sense, it was sure to seesaw back to the slippery sands of sentimentality as soon as Miss Theo appeared at that end.

Miss Theo had been in L— about a year when she confided to Deacon Elderkin that she had received an offer of marriage, and begged him to advise her, as a father, what to do about it.

The worthy deacon was thrown into a state of unspeakableness at the thought of losing Miss Theo, and earnestly begged her to give the matter the most careful consideration before deciding; he would not for worlds stand in the way of her happiness, but he felt that her loss from the school would be irreparable; he did not see how they could do without her.

Miss Theo also confided to George Barlow the fact of the offer and begged his brotherly counsel, by which she should be guided more than by any other earthly consideration. Mr. Barlow was deeply touched by this proof of Miss Theo's trustful reliance on him, and protested that in a question involving, as this did, the very vitality of the school and the happiness of herself and of her friends on the school board, she must be influenced only by one consideration, namely, did she love the suitor? If so, it was plainly her duty to accept him; if not, it was as plainly her duty to refuse him.

Miss Theo blushed and hesitated, and with becoming modesty owned that she did not love the individual as she had once loved, or as she felt herself capable of loving again. Mr. Hemenway, on being consulted, earnestly desired her to consider whether the proposed suitor was in a position to give her the kind of home and the place in society to which her accomplishments and su-

perior attractions entitled her. He must protest against the possibility of her throwing herself away, to say nothing of the terrible blow which her marriage would inflict on the school and on her friends. Miss Theo meekly asserted that she had the greatest respect for her suitor, and that he would give her a better home than she deserved (he lived in two small rooms), but that it might not seem to her friends to be a rise in life, and, of course, she should be guided by their advice in the matter.

As for John Greyson, he anathematized the presuming individual, whoever he might be, who desired to take Miss Theo from her school and friends, and assured her that it would be actually sinful for her to reward such unparalleled covetousness by the bestowal of her hand; and as Miss Theo had appointed Mr. Greyson to be her conscience, what could she do except abide by his decision.

The board consulted, and considered and confounded the subject, and appealed to Miss Theo not to desert them, and she soon made known her decision to remain single; to look upon the subject of matrimony as settled once and forever so far as she was concerned, and give herself and all her energies to the work of teaching.

And the waves of excitement subsided and again the board floated on smooth waters.

Meanwhile the wives of the board, like the sensible and judicious women they were, had called on Miss Theo, invited her to high teas and dinner parties, and made so much of her as to sustain that august body in their admiration and allegiance to her.

As we have already said, Miss Theo was fond of children, and at the house where she boarded there was a promising boy of some ten years, with whom she became close friends. Indeed, so strong was the affection on his side that on one occasion his youthful ardor carried him to such an extent that he begged her to wait for him until he should be grown up, and then they might marry and "live happily ever after." Miss Theo laughingly parried this proposal, and directed his mind to topics better suited to his tender years.

But soon after this little episode Miss Theo submitted to the board another matrimonial offer. In response to Deacon Elderkin's questions on this occasion, she admitted that the suitor was considerably younger than herself, and perhaps such a union might be unwise. And to Lawyer Hemenway's urgent entreaties that she would not consent, at least without ample time for meditation, she owned that there was no haste in the matter, as the gentleman was not just at present in a condition to assume the support of a wife! And she assured George Barlow that whatever decision she might come to, nothing should affect the friendship existing between them; and she begged John Greyson to tell her if it would be actually wrong for her to marry a man a few years her junior. Again the storm passed over, and Miss Theo retained her "single blessedness" and her position in the school; but as the years went by her popularity began to wane. The fact was that the wives of the board had a good deal of fun out of Miss Theo's love affairs, and, indeed, lost no opportunity of inquiring into them and holding them up to ridicule. This behavior on their part knew no bounds

after the seventh offer of marriage had been laid by Miss Theo before the board, and that sagacious body of men had devoted a whole business meeting to discussing the affair, and had been obliged to adjourn at last, leaving much important business connected with the school untouched. After this Miss Theo was so inquired after, laughed about, and consoled over, that the board quite lost its temper, and, with masculine inconsistency, instead of cherishing resentment toward its sarcastic wives, were indignant with the innocent and confiding Miss Theo for being the unconscious cause of their sufferings.

About this time a new member was added to the board in the person of Eugene Dascomb, a wealthy and handsome bachelor of forty. Eugene had never heard of Miss Theo, but at their first meeting he surrendered to her mature charms the heart which had hitherto withstood all the assaults of youth and beauty; and when, at their third interview, she entrusted to his ears in strict confidence the sad tale of her early love and loss, he was impelled by an irresistible power to apply for the vacant situation. Miss Theo was surprised and delighted out of all prudence, and for once forgot the very existence of the board and accepted him on the spot. But habit reasserted itself, and, meeting George Barlow the following day, Miss Theo, with sparkling eyes and an animated manner, quite at variance with her usual confiding and languidly appealing bearing, informed him that she had received another offer and one which she felt inclined to accept. Mr. Barlow said he hoped she would do nothing rashly; his brotherly interest in her was of such long standing that he felt he had a right to warn her not to change her condition except from the worthiest of all motives—a true affection for her suitor. Miss Theo blushed, but unhesitatingly replied that there would be no difficulty on that score, and that, although all the members of the board had been very kind to her, she could but rejoice that henceforth she should be first in one heart. It struck Mr. Barlow that her sisterly regard for him had undergone a cooling process. Happening to mention the interview to Mrs. Barlow, that astute little woman remarked: "Poor Miss Theo! She has been fed all her life with husks; perhaps at last the ripened grain has really been placed within her reach."

"But, Miss Theo, you have refused so many offers already that we have come to look on you as a fixture here," remonstrated Deacon Elderkin, to whom Miss Theo made her next avowal.

"Oh, those were of no consequence at all!" cried the happy woman. "I never had a genu—a really suitable offer before—I mean suitable in all respects and so wholly to my mind. I don't think I could—ought to refuse this."

"Do you think it would be right for you to accept an offer after repeatedly promising us to remain in the school," asked John Greyson, less, however, from unwillingness to lose Miss Theo than from force of habit.

"But I never expected an offer like this! I'm sure the only right thing for me to do is to accept it at once," replied Miss Theo, with unquestioning decision, though she lacked the courage to say that she had already accepted it.

"What a relief to your conscience, John," cried his wife when the matter came to her ears, "to be burdened no longer with Miss Theo's love affairs."

And the other wives of the board were not backward in the matter, and the honorable board was treated to Miss Theo's love affairs at breakfast, dinner and tea, and even into the small hours of the night, until it was nearly distracted and quite ready to accept the resignation which Miss Theo promptly sent in at the next meeting.

"What does the board propose to do with Miss Theo's resignation?" asked Mr. Hemenway, the chairman of the board; "the subject is open to any remarks or to a motion of any kind."

"We certainly ought not to stand in the way of Miss Theo's happiness," suggested Greyson.

"And Miss Theo's love affairs ought not to stand any longer in the way of the proper conduct of our school affairs," asserted George Barlow. "It is perfectly scandalous that we should have taken up so much time with them in the past to the neglect of educational interests."

Eugene Dascomb flushed and winced. What love affairs could Miss Theo have had? She had certainly assured him that she had never loved before, except the betrothed who had died during her girlhood.

"It seems to me this is a providential opportunity for getting rid of Miss Theo," said Deacon Elderkin. "For my part, I can't stand it much longer. These nine years that she has been with us she has been looking to me as a father for sympathy and advice, and I declare I feel as if I had brought up a round dozen of children."

Was this the way they spoke of Miss Theo, thought Eugene. "Getting rid" of her! Had he acted too rashly?

"She seems very much in earnest now," remarked another. "She is certainly old enough to know her own mind by this time, for she owned to thirty-five when she came among us nine years ago, though she looks as young as ever."

Here was another revelation for the startled Eugene. Had not Miss Theo assured him that she was barely thirty-five? Had he made a fool of himself?

"It's my opinion that we have been confided in, and appealed to, and flattered, and bamboozled by Miss Theo long enough!" exclaimed another. "It is Miss Theo's love affairs at home, and Miss Theo's love affairs on the street, and at the board meetings, and everywhere; it is more than human nature can endure. I move that we accept her resignation."

"I sec—" commenced John Greyson.

"Hold on a—minute," gasped Eugene Dascomb, in the desperation of the moment. "Miss Theo seems to be a—very—remarkable woman, indeed. Wouldn't it be best to—to retain her services awhile longer—to—in short, to refuse to accept her resignation. We might not be able to get another teacher like her."

"We don't want another like her," interposed Deacon Elderkin, "and she seems very anxious to accept this offer."

"Do I understand that she has not yet accepted it?" asked Eugene, with a ray of hopefulness.

"So she gave me to understand," replied the deacon.

"And me, too," added George Barlow.

"Will you stand by that, gentlemen?" asked Eugene, anxiously. "You see—this is all news to me. I—I—in fact, I was a stranger, and——"

"And she took you in," supplemented John Greyson, beginning to see how matters stood. "Yes, yes, we'll stand by you," and a roar of laughter ran round the room, while Eugene wiped the perspiration from his manly brow.

The member kindly withdrew his motion and George Barlow moved that the board refuse to accept Miss Theo's resignation, and that a committee of three be sent to urge her to withdraw it and to continue in their service indefinitely.

"It's quite a sacrifice," remarked Deacon Elderkin, "but the board must stand by its unfortunate member."

It remained for Eugene Dascomb to smooth the way for that committee of three by writing Miss Theo a brief letter. In this letter he stated that several members of the board having understood from her that she had not

yet accepted his offer, he concluded that he was mistaken in thinking that she had done so. He begged pardon for so misunderstanding her. And as he found that the board could not be prevailed upon to release her, he felt it to be his duty, in view of her great usefulness and the inability of the board to fill her place, to withdraw his offer and leave her at liberty to continue the noble work to which she had devoted her life.

Poor Miss Theo! it was a great blow to her, for she had given all the heart she had to this most suitable suitor; and it was really wonderful how much of that useful organ yet remained after she had frittered it away in dribbles on so many sentimental friendships.

Her resignation was withdrawn, but before another year passed she found herself unable to bear the sight of Eugene Dascomb's handsome face, and she again resigned and soon departed to some distant town.

And Miss Theo's love affairs receded forever from the horizon of the school board of L——.

MRS. SUSIE A. BISBEE.

ORACLES OF FLOWERS.

I.

Three little girls in a meadow—

Ethel and Madge and May—

Trying the tests of flowers

On a summer holiday. —

"Who loves butter?" cries Ethel—

Ethel with deep-blue eyes—

And Madge laughs out, as the golden shade

'Mid May's soft dimples lies.

"Time to go home?" cries Ethel;

"Here is a fox-glove bell.

I ring it. Hark! can you hear the stroke,

Deep in its painted cell?

"The dandelion-clock is truer;

I blow it—One, two, three!"

"Time to go home," cry the children,

"As true as true can be."

II.

Three fair maids in a garden—

Ethel and Madge and May—

Trying their fates in flowers,

In youth's fair holiday.

"He loves me," May whispers softly—

May with the dove-like eyes—

"He loves me 'with deepest passion'

Says the daisy that's ever wise."

"'A rich man' shall be my husband,"

Cries Madge, in her saucy glee;

"What care I how old or ugly

So a rich, rich man he be!"

"Take, if you will, your 'rich man,'

A 'sailor-love' is mine;

The boldest, merriest sailor

That ever sailed the brine.

There's none can love like a sailor,"

Cries Ethel; but gentle May

Shakes softly her golden tresses,

With never a word to say.

III.

Three sad-eyed women together—

Ethel and Madge and May—

Telling their lives in flowers,

On an autumn holiday.

And Ethel plucks at a willow,

To garland her aching head;

And Madge breaks sadly the mournful rue,

And never a word is said.

"Not for me is the willow,"

Cries May, with the dove-like eyes,

"For long ago the truth it told,

The daisy that's ever wise.

"Not for me is the mournful rue,

For my love, he loved me well,

And never a shade of doubt or fear

Between our fond hearts fell.

"Sad is the mournful willow,

Sadder the bitter rue,

But I can smile 'neath my cypress wreath,

For I know that my love was true."

HELEN F. MORE.

HOME DECORATIONS.



DESIGN FOR OUTLINE AND APPLIQUE WORK.

Outline Embroidery.

TINSEL outline work can be applied to almost any fabric, and is not at all difficult, for it is similar to braiding.

A plush band for table-scarf is very pretty, or it can be used for the border of a large table-cover, for tidies, chair stripes, or many of the articles on which the various kinds of embroidery are executed. The designs for this work should be conventional, and much like the braiding patterns. The only parts ever shaded or worked solidly are the centres of flowers when necessary.

Many of the Briggs patterns are suitable, as well as pretty, and so easily transferred to most materials that they are exceedingly convenient for the purpose, although they cannot be used on such material as plush, for the texture is too soft and thick. Therefore, it is necessary to have the design stamped upon it, or those who understand drawing can sketch their own pattern with a fine brush and Chinese white.

Plush, velvet, woolen fabrics of the kind suitable for the article to be made, can all be used for this work. For tidies or window drapery, pongee or cheese-cloth can be ornamented with this outline work, and thus rendered very beautiful.

The tinsels may be procured in various shades of gold, silver, red and blue at fifteen cents a ball, several yards in each. The different shades, if tastefully arranged in one pattern, are very pretty. Silk the color of the tinsel is required to catch it to the material, but instead of sewing through the tinsel the stitches must be taken over it very carefully, that they may not be seen.

A design of daisies is very pretty if silver is used for the flowers, gold for the centres which should be worked solidly, and gold and red for the leaves.

Designs of other flowers can be braided with good effect.

The work is simple, and so quickly accomplished that it is worth a trial, for so many pretty articles can in this way be made.

Still another pretty work is that of outline and applique on pineapple cloth, which is a thin gauze-like fabric; or fine silk grenadine may be used instead. The flowers are done in applique; the leaves and stems in outline stitch with fine silks.

The groundwork is of white, or some delicate tint; the flowers of the same kind of material, but selecting their natural colors whenever possible. They should be cut in the shape of whatever variety one may desire to represent.

A group of three disks overlapping each other is a pretty design shown in our illustration, the disks outlined with three shades of tan, or wood color, one shade for each disk. In each one may be gracefully arranged one or two pansies, as the space will allow. The pansies should be cut from two shades of the material; the two upper petals dark purple; three lower ones light. These are placed on the design which has been stamped or traced on the material. Each flower is then carefully and very delicately button-holed around the edge with fine silk the shade of the flower, and the centre is worked with a knot-stitch of yellow silk. The leaves are outlined with green silks of several shades.

The groups of disks may be placed across each end of the tidy, and scattered between them, and over the surface, which is plain, single sprays of flowers and leaves will give a pretty finish.

Trim the ends with lace and catch the tidy together in the middle with a bow of wide satin ribbon of a suitable shade and arrange the ends to show the work.

This same design may also be used for thin curtains if desired, scattering the disks all over the material, which can be less expensive than grenadine, for cheese-cloth makes light, pretty drapery, and if the flowers are cut from bits of silk, selecting such colors as are most appropriate for them and outlining them with silks of the same shade, the effect will be very pretty.

The work is pleasing and many articles can be very beautifully decorated with it. M. E. WHITEMORE.

Diamond Edging.

MAKE a foundation of 27 sts (stitches) with fine Saxony or split zephyr, and work back and forth as follows:

FIRST ROW—Pass over the last 9 foundation sts, work on the next stitch, 5 dc (double crochet, made by turning

the thread around the needle; put it in the stitch, and bring it through; take the thread up again and draw it through two loops, which leaves two loops still on the needle; draw the thread through these, thus by a *double* movement completing the stitch); then 2 ch (chain) pass over 2 sts, 12 dc on the next 12 foundation sts; 2 ch, pass over 2 sts; 2 dc on the next 2 sts.

SECOND ROW—Work 3 ch (which counts as first dc), 1 dc on the second following dc in the preceding row; 2 ch, pass over 2 sts; 10 dc on the next 10 sts; 2 ch, pass over 4 sts; 5 dc on the following stitch; 1 ch, pass over 5 sts; 5 dc on the next stitch; 2 ch, pass over 2 sts, and make 1 dc on the next stitch.

THIRD ROW—Make 6 ch (the first three of which count as first dc) 5 dc on stitch just following the last 5 dc's in preceding row; 1 ch, pass over 5 sts; 5 dc on next stitch (which is the one-chain connecting the two 5 dc's in preceding row); 1 ch, pass over 5 sts; 5 dc on next stitch; 2 ch, pass over 4 sts; 8 dc on the next 8 sts; 2 ch, pass over 2 sts; 2 dc on next 2 sts.

FOURTH ROW—Three ch (which count as first dc), 1 dc on the second following dc in the preceding row; 2 ch, pass over 2 sts; 6 dc on the next 6 sts; 2 ch, pass over 4 sts; 5 dc on the following stitch, and repeat these groups of 5 dc as directed in second row until you have four groups of them. At the end of the fourth (which forms the point of the diamond) omit the chain stitch in previous directions, pass over 2 sts, and make 1 dc on the next stitch.

FIFTH ROW—Three ch, pass over 5 sts; 5 dc in the next stitch, 1 ch. Make three of these groups of 5 dc, and at the end of the third, work 2 ch, pass 5 sts, 8 dc in the next 8 sts; 2 ch, pass 2 sts; 2 dc on the next 2 sts.

SIXTH ROW—Work same as fourth row, only add 2 more dc to the 8 worked in the fifth row. Make only 2 groups of 5 dc, and at the end of the second omit the 1 ch and make 1 dc in the last stitch of the 5 dc in preceding row.

SEVENTH ROW—3 ch pass over 5 sts; 2 ch, pass over over 5 sts, 12 dc in the next 12 sts; 2 ch, pass over 2 sts. 2 dc on the next 2 sts.

The eighth row is the beginning of a second diamond, therefore, directions for first row should be repeated, except that the 5 dc's are worked in the centre of the 1 group of 5 dc's in the preceding row. Continue the rows as already directed.

Crochet little shells of five stitches each in the loops around the point for a finish to the edging. The dia-



MARKING LETTERS.—No. 3.



DESIGN FOR PEN-WIPER.

mond-shaped cluster of shells which form each point of the trimming have a very pretty effect, and the pattern is a very simple one to work, as it requires no counting after the first point has been made, as you can see at a glance just where the stitches should be placed.

MARY L. THAYER.

Book Pen-Wiper.

A PEN-WIPER in the form of an artist's book is the neatest little article we have seen in some time. It is formed of pasteboard, silk and chamois. To make one like the design cut a piece of thin cardboard twelve inches long and three and a half inches wide; cover it neatly on both sides with dark-blue silk. Cut four pieces of chamois skin, five inches long and three inches wide. Fold together the piece you have covered with the blue silk, and punch several holes in the back of it; overhand them around as closely as possible with blue silk; punch holes in the chamois to correspond with those in the cover, and run a narrow ribbon through the back and tie in a bow on the outside, fastening in this way the chamois leaves. Paint some little design on the cover with the words, "Strokes from the pen of —," the one to whom you are going to give it. E. S. W.

Decorative Notes.

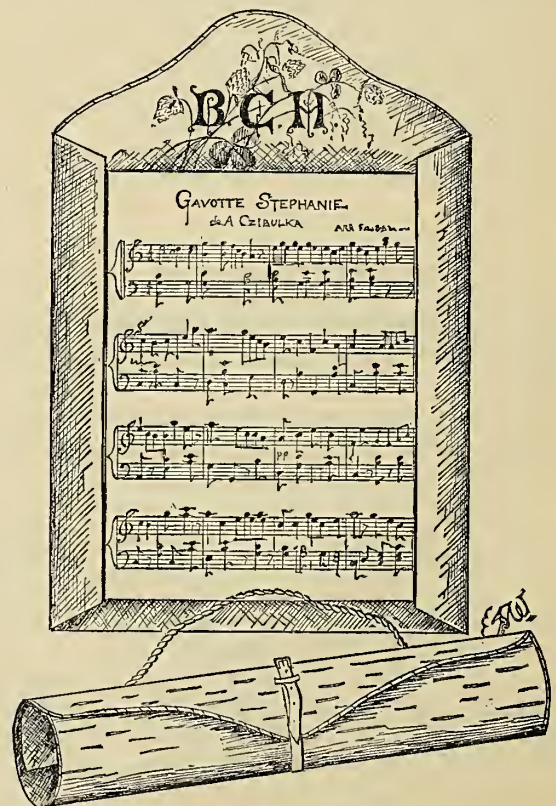
LITTLE casks, sixteen inches in height, and about seven inches in diameter, are put to a novel use by making them answer the purpose of scrap-baskets. They are very ornamental when prettily decorated, and have the advantage of being heavy enough to keep in an upright position, as they are not easily tipped over. The ends of the cask, as far as the hoops extend, are neatly gilded, and a band of embroidered plush or velvet (peacock-blue in color) is used to fill the space between. As there are usually seven or eight hoops on each end of the cask, the space for the embroidered band will not be more than five inches in width. Peacock-blue satin is used for

the lining. It is filled in with small plaits, and tacked on its wrong side to the top of the cask, and then turned in. The lower edge of the lining should be gathered as closely as possible to form a bag-shaped bottom.

A very pretty splasher can be made of the Japanese reed splashes, which can be obtained for twelve or fifteen cents apiece. One side of them usually has a bright flower rudely painted on it, but this will answer for the back, and your own design can be painted on the plain side. Water scenes are most appropriate, and nothing is prettier than pond-lilies as they naturally grow. Shades of blue form the sky, which seems to meet the water where the pond-lilies are floating with their full-

blown blossoms and half-opened buds. The splasher is kept in place by brass rings at the corners, which are slipped on tiny hooks screwed in the wall.

A convenient twine-holder can be crocheted bag-shape from old-gold knitting silk. Make a chain of eight stitches; join it and in each stitch make two double crochet stitches. In the next row make two double crochet stitches between each one in the preceding row, and continue in this way until you have a circular piece a little larger in circumference than your twine ball; then crochet without increasing the number of stitches, until the piece is large enough when drawn together to enclose the



BIRCH-BARK MUSIC ROLL.

ball. Work two rows of shells around the top; run in a narrow ribbon below them; slip in the ball, taking care to drop the loose end of the twine through the little ring at the bottom, formed by the eight chain stitches. The ribbon should be long enough to tie in a bow and suspend the holder in some convenient place.

One of the new materials for embroidery is called "Braidene." It is a little less than a quarter of an inch in width, and comes in all the flower colors—shades of blue, pink, yellow, lavender, red, and also in white. It is in reality a tiny crimped ribbon, woven from very soft silk, which renders it perfectly pliable, so that when used for ribbon embroideries it easily assumes the shape of the petals of small flowers. It can be obtained at four cents a skein, or for forty-five cents by the dozen. When blossoms are made of this material the leaves and stems are formed of fine chenille, which comes in such a variety of shades that the natural leaves can be very faithfully copied. The best quality of this chenille is sold for three cents a skein. Embroideries with these materials can be very rapidly executed.

A handsome screen has a design of lilacs worked with these materials, and the braidene left standing in little

loops represent the blossoms perfectly. Clematis, snow-balls, forget-me-nots and jasmine blossoms are also very easily copied with the braidene. C.

Music Roll.

EVERYONE who has music to carry will appreciate a pretty music-roll. The one represented by our design is made of birch-bark; but, if that cannot be obtained, heavy linen, plush or cloth may be substituted. Cut the outside of the case twenty inches long by thirteen wide, curving it at the top as shown. Cut a lining of satine half an inch larger than the piece for the outside. Fold a strip of the lining together and cut the flaps so that the closed or folded edge will come inside and make them seventeen inches long and three inches wide. Sew the ends together on the wrong side; turn and press them; baste them on the lining; turn the edges in and overhand them to the outside. Sew a cord neatly around the edge and fasten a piece through the case for a handle. A small strap or a satin ribbon is used to keep the roll closed. Paint the initials after the case is lined.

E. S. WELCH.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

SHOES, boots and slippers change their style as often as anything, but "common-sense" boots are always in favor with those who *have* common sense. This style has a broad toe, a flat, low heel, a long vamp, and if made to fit well into the instep, has a very pretty, trim effect. French kid is liked for nice wear and often for street wear, as in the city one seldom needs heavy boots, except in winter. When the need is felt, however, for a heavy pair, straight goat is a durable and soft leather. For elderly ladies and those who require a particularly soft shoe, Dongola kid is very desirable. It is not so elastic as glove kid, but appears like ordinary leather dressed in oil, which gives it a dull finish, that brightens instead of grows gray with usage. There are as many styles of boots as there are of costumes, but I cite the ones which are most comfortable and healthy.

For summer wear, low-buttoned shoes, or Oxford ties, are chosen, and *always* worn with black hose. Slippers are usually worn indoors, and although the "common-sense" slipper is comfortable, still in the house I cannot but recommend the "Opera" (short vamps, high heels) as being a little nicer and prettier.

In hose nearly every color is seen—solid color, plaids, horizontal stripes, perpendicular stripes. Lisle-thread is popular for general everyday wear, as it is cool and not expensive; a fine quality of this is used for best. Silk hose, as a general thing, wears so badly that unless the very best quality is purchased, it is not worth buying at all; and who would not rather have a good quality of lisle-thread than a poor quality of silk hose? The colors to be chosen are governed entirely by the costume worn,

as they come usually to match all possible shades of cloth; but olive-green, navy-blue, cardinal red, black, and the soft unbleached or cream colors are old and new friends alike, and black is always proper. One fact can be relied upon, however, that a small, pretty foot looks smaller and prettier when dressed in sombre colors, and that a large one is less noticed for its size when also clothed in black.

Many times I have heard people say, "A lady is always known by her boots, gloves and handkerchief." So I say unto you, look well unto the fit of the first two and to the spotless cleanliness of the last; and a plain white handkerchief, be it coarse or fine, embroidered or unembroidered, is the most fitting thing for a lady.

And now a word about perfumery. Strong extracts are never used by the most refined and fashionable ladies, but sachets filled with a little heliotrope, violet or rose powder, and laid among the wearing apparel, impart such a delicate odor as to be above criticism.

Gloves match the darker shade in costumes, as a dark color tends to make the hand look smaller. Loose-wristed gloves are not as much in favor as the closely-buttoned ones, and all tan shades are still used for evening wear.

Collars and cuffs have become such universal favorites that it seems as though they had come to stay. Fine hair stripes in black, blue and red are pretty for morning, and plain white for street and afternoon wear. The collars are high and fasten with a little button of hammered silver or gold; the cuffs, usually straight and plain, are worn so as to show about half an inch below the edge of the sleeve.

MELUZINA.

HOUSEKEEPING.

Floating Island of Fresh Raspberries.

Crush a pint of very ripe, red raspberries with half a cup of sugar; beat the whites of four eggs to a stiff froth and add gradually a cup of powdered sugar; press the raspberries through a strainer to avoid the seeds, and by degrees beat in the juice with the sugar and egg until it is so stiff that it stands in peaks. Chill it thoroughly on the ice and serve in a glass dish partly filled with cold milk. Take up the chilled egg and juice in spoonfuls and place it on the milk in little peaks. It is to be eaten with cream.

Blackberry Pickles.

Eight quarts of blackberries, four pounds of sugar, one pint of vinegar; boil twenty minutes and then take out the berries and boil down the juice until it becomes about the consistency of syrup. It is best to keep it in fruit jars, as is customary with canned fruits.

Golden Pudding.

One cup of granulated sugar, one egg, one cup of sweet milk, three tablespoonfuls of melted butter, two and one half cups of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder. Pour in a low square tin, and bake twenty-five minutes. It should be served warm, with a sauce poured over it made as follows: Stir to a cream one tablespoonful of butter and half a cup of sugar; moisten with a little cold water two teaspoonfuls of flour, and pour a pint of boiling water over it to scald it, and then stir in the butter and sugar; beat the white of one egg to a stiff froth, and stir it in the sauce just before sending to the table; flavor with lemon.

Chicken Salad.

Cut the meat in small dice and the celery in the same shape; the same quantity of celery as you have of chicken can be used. For the dressing take three eggs, two tablespoonfuls of mustard, two tablespoonfuls of oil and one of sugar, one teaspoonful of salt, one of white pepper, half a cup of cream, and half a cup of vinegar. After the other ingredients for the dressing are cooked

just enough to scald them, cool a little, add the oil and pour over the meat and celery.

Fricasseed Chicken.

Wash and cut up the chickens; boil them in just enough cold water to cover them, and add to it a little salt, or a small slice of salt pork. Instead of cooking the chickens in a kettle, the flavor will be much sweeter if stewed in a bake-pan made expressly for such purposes. If this be used, a less quantity of water will be required, as the pan can be so tightly closed that there is very little evaporation and the juices and flavor permeate through the meat while cooking. When the chicken becomes tender and seems done, have some hot baking-powder biscuits broken open and laid on a platter, place the pieces of chicken on these. If there should be more than a pint of broth left from cooking the chicken, boil it down to that quantity. Melt a tablespoonful of butter in a saucepan and add to it a heaping tablespoonful of flour, stirring constantly till smooth, then pour in slowly a cup of milk, and as it boils and thickens add the broth and pour the gravy thus made over the chicken and biscuits.

The bake-pan to which we refer in our directions for fricasseed chicken, is the Economy Roaster and Baker, manufactured by T. A. Gardner, South Vineland, N. J. It is made of Russia iron in various sizes, and resembles two deep dripping pans so placed together that one serves as a cover to the other. The two parts are separate, but when in use are fastened together with catches which form handles, and in the upper pan a regulator is arranged which is opened when the contents are to be browned. No basting is required and the pans can be used in the oven or on the top of the stove as may be most convenient. Meat cooked in them becomes very tender and juicy, and although they are especially adapted for roasting poultry and other meats, or for stews, they are very convenient for many other uses.

MRS. C. G. HERBERT.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Where Are the Squash-Bugs?—For the first time in our experience in gardening, which has extended over a period of nearly fifty years, we can truly say, that thus far this year we have not seen a squash-bug of any denomination. What has become of them is a question difficult to answer and one we have not ventured to propound until now, when all dangers from their ravages are past, for fear they might themselves say, "Here we are." We are inclined to the opinion that the excessive cold, so long continued last winter, froze them out. If so, we shall no longer regret the burning of a few tons

of coal extra, as we had to do the past season to keep hands and plants warm. It is, or has been, one of the great drawbacks to vine-culture, to be compelled to fight the bugs, particularly those large dark-brown creatures that are so offensive in their death. It is now a great pleasure to look over our patches of cucumbers, melons and squashes without finding an insect enemy. And, too, where are the caterpillars that have for years covered our apple, pear and wild-cherry trees? Last year the latter in our neighborhood were completely denuded of their foliage and this year not a single nest have we seen. We

presume that all that we term insect enemies have their uses, in fact, we firmly believe it; and, at the same time, if they have accomplished their mission, we shall have no cause for regrets. And this, too, provokes another question, Where are the rose-bugs? We can answer this question feelingly; here, there and everywhere. We failed to see any desirable qualities in this creation when it confined itself to the rose, but now that its ravages extend to strawberries and all manner of fruit-bearing trees, to say nothing of our clumps of cannas they have so completely ruined and from which we have always derived so much pleasure, we begin to lose our stock of patience and wonder, after all, if every created thing has its uses, and if testing our good nature is one of them.

* * *

Society of American Florists.—Preparations for the annual meeting and exhibition at Cincinnati, on the 12th inst., are now complete, and from the flattering reports received, we think it will be one of the most successful as well as one of the most useful exhibitions and meetings ever held in this country in the interest of horticulture. We hope to give a complete report of its proceedings in the September number of THE CABINET.

* * *

“**Land and Water**” has done a useful service in pointing out the fallacy of the widespread belief that ivy trained against the walls of a dwelling-house is productive of damp walls and general unhealthiness. The very opposite of this is really the case. If any one will carefully examine an ivy-clad wall after a shower of rain, he will notice that, while the overlapping leaves have conducted the water from point to point until it has reached the ground, the wall beneath is perfectly dry and dusty. More than this, the thirsty shoots which force their way into every crevice of the structure which will afford a firm hold act like suckers in drawing out any particles of moisture for their own nourishment. The ivy, in fact, acts like a greatcoat, keeping the house from wet, and warm into the bargain. One more virtue it has, in giving the ugliest structure an evergreen beauty.

* * *

A Venerable Beech.—The beech is one of the grandest forest trees either in this country or in Europe. It is a tyrant in the wood or wayside, as no other vegetable form will grow beneath its shade. Under favorable circumstances it grows to an immense size, and its beauty increases with its years. One of the finest specimens of this noble tree is now growing vigorously on Long Island, in the town of Riverhead, and within a quarter of a mile of Long Island Sound. This noble patrician of the forest was beheaded soon after the revolutionary war, to make a brush-harrow. Not at all discomfited by this rude treatment, it threw out branches in all directions, forming a beautiful and symmetrical head. Its trunk is fully three feet in diameter, with several branches nearly two feet in thickness at the trunk, reaching out in a horizontal position nearly fifty feet each way and just high enough from the ground to enable a person to walk under the branches without hitting them, forming a beautifully shaded camp-

ing-ground one hundred feet in diameter. This tree is said to be destitute of dignity. As compared with the oak, it may not have much of that characteristic; but for a beautiful tree, we have never seen one that could surpass this noble specimen, whose white bark, broken with lichens, and its dark lines and scars of age and storms, are so attractive as to charm the appreciative eye. When viewed from any direction it is picturesque and full of variety.

* * *

Golden-rayed Lily, *Lilium auratum.*—The following from one of our foreign exchanges expresses our views in regard to the hardness of this popular lily, one that we consider the easiest of cultivation:

“There is a great deal of talk about the tenderness of this world-renowned lily, but it is greatly exaggerated. There is a bed constantly under my notice where these lilies flower without any special attention, except in the way of soil. The bed is in an exposed situation, without the slightest protection whatever for the tender stems in spring, when Jack Frost generally plays his pranks and leaves his mark behind. This year the bulbs have sent up stems over four feet in height, bearing seven or eight of its deliciously fragrant flowers, smaller rather than those generally seen at shows, but yet, nevertheless, what people generally call “passable.” I am sure many amateurs are deterred from planting this lily because it is considered very tender, and to need special knowledge and tact in order to cultivate it successfully, but it grows like other lilies, and needs no special skill to cultivate it.”

* * *

Albert Williams, Sharon, Pa., writes us as follows concerning novelties:

“Every year adds something new to the already large list of seeds and plants, and, although there are some really meritorious new varieties introduced each year, it is a fact, nevertheless, that too many new things of both domestic and foreign origin are catalogued by the large seedsmen and florists without a sufficient guarantee as to their worth. Usually we get the originators’ descriptions, which in the main are not exaggerated, but then it sometimes seems that such descriptions are very much overdrawn.

“Now, I think I hear some one say that man is an “old fogy,” he isn’t progressive in his ideas, or he wouldn’t decry the introduction of new varieties. Such, however, is not the case, as no one in the business, or out of it, is more eager, or has been, than myself to see all the different strains of seeds and varieties of plants improved and brought up to the highest standard of perfection; in proof of which assertion I may say that I have always been a liberal patron of new seeds and plants, and indeed, one of the first in Western Pennsylvania to patronize the introducers and originators of new varieties.

“I have many times invested in certain new plants and seeds that were lauded to the skies, only to be disappointed. Among the former a rose sent out a few years since under the name—well, they call it the true tea Jack. I need only to refer to this, as a great many others in this vicinity were deceived along with myself.

“Now, it is not the object of this letter to discourage

the origin, introduction or the patronage of the new things that are being constantly brought to our notice. I only want to enter my protest against accepting the statements of an originator or introducer for a thing unless he is known to be a man of honor and integrity."

* * *

The Cabinet.—One of our subscribers, after receiving a few numbers of THE CABINET, thus expresses her opinion: "I have *already* received more valuable information from your reliable journal than from a book on floriculture for which I paid \$1.50, and I know from experience that I would have been more successful with my flowers had I subscribed sooner." We are constantly receiving letters of a similar character. We cannot notice all or even a small part of them without encroaching on the space which justly belongs to our subscribers, and which we fill with such information about plants and their culture that makes THE CABINET so truly valuable.

* * *

Tuberose Again.—A correspondent at Spartensburg, S. C., writes us "that in June number of FLORAL CABINET the editor says it is difficult for an inexperienced person to select bulbs of tuberose certain to flower. As I make the growing of them a specialty, and have read much and examined them closely, I think I can teach any one how to be certain on the subject. First—Buy bulbs of those only who have facilities for keeping them at the proper temperature. Second—It is best not to buy until ready to plant; if you must buy, put them in a warm, frost-proof closet, for if the bulbs get chilled they will not be perceptibly injured, but the heart (the undeveloped flower-bud) will be, and failure of bloom will surely result. But you can utilize such bulbs to obtain more sets, which will eventually grow to blooming bulbs. (Northern States in three seasons; here at the South the next year after planting). Third—Before planting, take each bulb and pinch the top out carefully; if not injured, you will see at once a fresh, pure white heart, but if the bulb has been injured, a dark-brown, threadlike line down its entire centre will be seen. When this is the case no blooms should be expected.

I see it is now asserted by some, notably Josiah Hoopes, in New York *Tribune*, that it is a mistaken

notion that one bloom is all a bulb can yield. He says "he has tested carefully their capacity to bloom continuously for a succession of years, and the spikes were produced regularly, but a marked diminution was plainly perceptible;" and an amateur grower claims that he has produced two separate flowerings in the *same* year from one bulb. The period of flowering can be advanced considerably by potting in four-inch pots. I did about one hundred in this way last February, and to-day (July 8) the flower spikes are to be seen. I also delayed planting many until June, and these, I hope, will furnish me with an abundance of flowers when the cold is well upon us. The advantages of the climate here can hardly be appreciated at the North, it is so very different. Last September I bedded out thousands of narcissi, which by May 1 were not only done flowering, but sufficiently ripened to be taken up and tuberose planted in their place; these, by October 15, will be ready to lift, which prepares the ground again for fall planting of hardy bulbs.

Books, &c., Received.

Mushrooms of America: Edible and Poisonous. By Julius A. Palmer, Jr. Published by L. Prang & Co., Boston, Mass.

The cultivation of mushrooms as articles of food is now carried on to a considerable extent in this country, where they are found in almost unlimited numbers in our meadows and roadsides. It is safe to say that a large proportion of our people are deterred from eating them because of the difficulty of distinguishing the poisonous from the edible sorts, and from the many accidents that have occurred from eating the former. Messrs. Prang & Co. are entitled to the thanks of the multitude for the publication of their chart, which will enable the most casual observer to distinguish at a glance the two sorts, and select with perfect safety the wholesome varieties.

The work consists of two charts, containing twelve chromo-lithographic illustrations (eight edible and four poisonous) of twenty-eight species of the most common mushrooms, with full directions to distinguish them and to prepare them for the table. Price, \$2.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Pæonies—*Mrs. E. G. Burles.*—We cannot say what causes the buds to drop from your pæonies; there are many causes for such results. Insect depredations oftentimes destroy them. We have known them to blight; why, we cannot say. They frequently drop their buds for a year or two after removal, and the cause is often the want of proper root action. Time is your best remedy. They should have a heavy soil, and remain undisturbed for many years.

Mulching—*Same.*—Mulching is placing mulch, or long, moist stable litter, upon the surface of the soil over the roots of newly-planted shrubs or trees to prevent too

rapid evaporation. Leaves, straw or marsh hay are also employed for the same purpose. Mulching has a double purpose, that of retaining moisture, and also for preventing frost from penetrating to the roots. For this purpose newly-fallen leaves and clean straw are valuable, as both are poor conductors of heat. When rapid growth is desirable, the mulch should be removed at times in bright sunshine, that the soil may become heated; for, if deeply mulched, the leaves may be enjoying the climate of the equator, while the roots are nearly as cold as if at the poles.

Mulching is of greater importance in horticulture than

is generally supposed. In strawberry culture, mulch applied in the fall protects the roots during winter, and if allowed to remain on the bed in the spring, if of sufficient depth, it keeps down weeds and prevents the evaporation of moisture from the soil during the dry time so common between the flowering and the ripening of the strawberry. The utility of a mulch is not confined to the strawberry among fruits; raspberries and currants are much benefited by it; and some of our most distinguished horticulturists assert that the finer varieties of English gooseberries—a fruit with which very few succeed in our hot summers—can be successfully grown when so treated. Carnations, pansies, roses and other half-hardy plants are greatly benefited in their bloom, besides being made to withstand the rigors of our winters, by a proper mulching.

The material of the mulch is not of the greatest importance, and may be governed in a great measure by convenience or locality; those living near salt-water will find salt hay, as hay from the marshes is called, the most readily procured, and one of the most valuable, the salt being a good fertilizer, and the fineness of the grass, together with its great weight, renders a light mulch entirely sufficient; those who live near pine forests use the fallen leaves, or pine-needles, as they are called; in the grain-growing districts straw is abundant, and nothing can be better; it can be best applied by first running it through a cutter. Leaves are nature's own mulch, and answer admirably. To prevent their being scattered by the wind, brush should be laid over them, or a slight covering of earth will keep them in place. One of the best materials to use for summer mulching is the green grass mowed from lawns. This, applied to the thickness of two or three inches around the roots of all kinds of small fruits, will be found not only to greatly benefit the crop, particularly in hot weather, but will save greatly in labor, by preventing the growth of weeds.

Amaryllis—A. B. C.—You do not want to let your amaryllis rest to the extent you state. That they require rest is quite certain, but to let the bulbs and roots get completely dried up and the soil in which they grow become as dust, will greatly injure the blooming qualities of the bulb. Sufficient water should be given them during their period of rest to keep the bulbs and roots fresh and plump.

Eucharis Amazonica—Amateur.—Your plants have undoubtedly got the disease that has shown itself with this bulb for some time past in Europe and to some extent in this country. What that disease is it is difficult to determine, and it is equally difficult to provide a remedy. We should advise turning the bulbs out into the open border for a season, then potting in new soil. We had hoped this plant would have escaped disease, but our hopes, like the bulbs, have suffered a blight.

Fuchsias—City Garden.—Your difficulties may be summed up in a few words. Your situation is altogether too dry and hot for the fuchsia. Had you plunged the pot to the rim, in the most shaded place

in your border, and given them an abundance of water, your plants would have blossomed finely all the summer. Now that their leaves have all fallen off, you had better let them complete their rest. Give them just water enough to keep the soil from getting dusty, and let them remain dormant until after the first of January. Then re-pot in fresh soil; water liberally when they commence growth; give them all the light and air your rooms will afford. But the fuchsia is by no means a winter-flowering plant. *F. speciosa* will come into flower in February, and is one of the best for house culture.

Camellia—Helen A. Sabin.—A common cause of failure with the camellia is a lack of water when it is completing its season's growth and forming its flowering buds. The ball of earth around the roots gets very hard and sheds water instead of absorbing it. It is a good plan—in fact, the only safe plan—to set the pot in a tub of water, having it completely submerged for, say, twenty-four hours. This should be repeated two or three times during its period of growth. When at rest but little water is required, or should be given. But at all times the foliage should be kept perfectly clean, either by syringing or by washing the leaves with a sponge. At all times keep a careful lookout for the mealy-bug and red spider, both of which are deadly enemies of the camellia. The latter can easily be kept back by syringing, but the former will require mechanical means to destroy it.

Double-Flowering Liliun Candidum—Mary.—If your collection includes all but this, you may as well call it complete, as this is by no means desirable. At the best, it is but a monstrosity, and as such it should be discarded. By all means let us encourage perfect forms in flowers, if nowhere else.

Crotons—Ella M.—No, you cannot grow crotons in your conservatory; they must have strong heat, good light and plenty of moisture, with the most generous treatment, or they will become a nuisance rather than a thing of beauty.

Bulbs in Pots—Subscriber.—Thanks for your complimentary letter. Every kind of bulb grown in a pot should be repotted every year, and have a complete change of soil. There can be no better rule generally than to repot at the time when the bulbs, whatever they are, begin naturally to grow. Amaryllis may be potted any time after they have had a few weeks' rest. If potting is delayed until winter they should have bottom-heat to start them into growth; they may be easily subjected to any routine the cultivator may adopt, provided they are well ripened and have a short period of rest, being then quite dry (not wilted) before being started into growth again. Lilies should always be repotted in autumn, and kept in a cold frame or other cool, moist place all winter; they begin to grow in spring, and, as soon as the weather will permit, plunge the pots in ashes or sphagnum, where they can be kept from drying out during summer. You can succeed in growing lilies in pots when you would totally fail with them planted in beds.

NEWSPAPER WAIFS.

—The Boston *Transcript* recently published a capital story entitled "What a Kiss Did." Newspapers all over the country are copying it, and crediting it to the *Transcript*. As the story may be found in some of the old school readers published more than twenty-five years ago, the newspapers using it need not be so particular about crediting it to our Boston contemporary. Just scissor it out, and slap it in as original matter. The Boston papers are not entitled to all the original stories.—*Atlanta Constitution*.

—The Crow and the Hare—A crow and a hare met by chance one day, and were so well pleased with each other that it was agreed to form a partnership. "The first thing in order," remarked the crow, "is to select a home, which will, of course, belong to both of us. Have you got your eye on any particular tree?" "Tree!" echoed the hare; "why, we want a burrow, of course." "Burrow! But I can't live in a hole!" "And I can't climb a tree!" "If you didn't intend to consult my wishes, why did you propose this partnership!" "And if you weren't ready to give way in these little matters, why accept my proposals?" They were hotly disputing and abusing each other when the fox came along, and being appealed to for his opinion, he said: Moral—My friends, while you are both wrong, you have still exhibited rare judgment. The human family alone are fools enough to marry first and quarrel over their likes and dislikes and nature's incongruities afterward.—*American Fables in Detroit Free Press*.

THE RIGHT SORT OF A JURY.

There are juries and juries. In some there are thoughtful persons who carefully listen to and thoroughly weigh all evidence laid before them. They then give their verdict, as a body or when polled separately, without any doubt or hesitation. Such a jury we have in the case of the great question, "What is Compound Oxygen good for?" The foreman of the jury is no less a person than the celebrated Judge Kelley, called in Congress "the Father of the House of Representatives." This name he bears because he has for some time been the one who has continued longest in uninterrupted service—having represented the Fourth Pennsylvania District in the Thirty-seventh, Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, Forty-first, Forty-second, Forty-third, Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh, and been re-elected to the Forty-eighth, Congress. His title of Judge came before his election to Congress in ten years' service as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia. He makes a first-class foreman.

Second. A well-known Philadelphia editor, Rev. Victor L. Conrad, who is, and has for many years been, in charge of the editorial work of the widely circulated *Lutheran Observer*.

Third. Rev. Charles W. Cushing, of Rochester, N. Y., the editor-in-chief of the new and vigorous paper, *The American Reformer*, published in New York city.

Fourth. Hon. Wm. Penn Nixon, editor of the daily and weekly *Inter-Ocean*, of Chicago, Ill.

Fifth. Judge Joseph R. Flanders, of Temple Court, in New York city, N. Y.

Sixth. Mrs. M. A. Cator, the widow of an eminent physician, the late Dr. Harvey Cator, of Camden, N. J., formerly of Syracuse, N. Y.

Seventh. Mrs. Mary A. Doughty, a well-known retired lady living at Jamaica, Long Island, N. Y.

Eighth. Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, the well-known lecturer, to whom more Americans have listened with pleasure than to any other lady upon the platform. Her residence is in Melrose, Mass.

Ninth. Judge R. S. Voorhees, of New York city.

Tenth. Mr. George W. Edwards, of Philadelphia, a merchant of wide acquaintance, and proprietor and owner of St. George Hotel.

Eleventh. Mr. Frank Siddall, of Philadelphia, also a well-known merchant.

Twelfth. Mr. W. H. Whiteley, of Philadelphia, also a well-known merchant and silk manufacturer.

These twelve names—all of persons of intelligence and character, are of the class from whom juries at their origin were always formed—that is, the class familiar with the fact or question to be decided upon. They all have the quality inherent in "a jury of the vicinage" the personal knowledge necessary to a correct decision. Each one was sick and each one purchased and used Compound Oxygen and to each one health came; each one has, as a polled jurymen, verbally and in writing, expressed an opinion on the merits of Compound Oxygen. Their verdict is such that it will appeal to the judgment of every one seeking for some word on which they may depend. The jury is a remarkable one, composed of three judges, three editors, three intelligent and well-known ladies, and three business men. They are all of the class who may claim exemption from jury duty, but here they come gladly, and for the sake of others who may be seeking health, serve in this case with no thought of evasion.

There are, as we said at our outstart, "juries and juries." Thoughtless persons, who have not looked into the merits of our new Treatment, occasionally say, "Humbug" or "There's is nothing in it." They remind us of the story of the talesman who, on being brought into court on the usual hasty summons and asked by the judge the *pro forma* question, "Have you formed an opinion on the question now on trial before the Court?" arose, and, without knowing anything of the evidence, after looking at the prisoner for a moment, turned to the judge and answered, "I's agin him, jedge; he's guilty!" an answer which, of course, set him aside.

There is a choice given. Each one who cares to read what the fair-minded and intelligent jury whose names we have given above has to say on this question may have it mailed to him promptly, free of cost, on application by letter to Drs. Starkey & Palen, No. 1529 Arch Street, Philadelphia.

(On July 1 Drs. Starkey & Palen removed from Nos. 1109—1111 Girard Street)

—"None of your white-faced damsels for me," said the Rev. John W. Scudder, of Minneapolis, in a recent sermon, "nor one whose face is red with consumptive or hectic flush. Give me the nut-brown girl who abandons her sun-bonnet, who can climb a tree with any boy, who prefers good bread to chocolate caramels, and baked beans to angel cake. The kind of an angel for me weighs 140 pounds, and has more call for crash towels than cosmetics. Her waist is more than nine inches in circumference. She is straight as an arrow, sleeps eight hours a day, has a clear head, a bright smile, and is a joy to those around her." Is Mr. Scudder looking for a wife or a servant, or is he just preaching the gospel with variations?

HOW TO REACH THE RESORTS OF COLORADO.

Colorado has become famous for its marvelous gold and silver production, for its picturesque scenery and its delightful climate. Its mining towns and camps, its massive mountains, with their beautiful green-verdured valleys, lofty snow-capped peaks and awe-inspiring canons, together with its hot and cold mineral springs and baths, and its healthful climate, are attracting in greater numbers each year, tourists, invalids, pleasure and business seekers from all parts of the world.

At each of the prominent Colorado resorts are spacious hotels, so completely appointed that every

appreciable comfort and luxury are bestowed upon their patrons.

The journey, from Chicago, Peoria or St. Louis to Denver (the great distributing point for Colorado), if made over the Burlington Route (C., B. & Q. R.R.), will be as pleasant and gratifying as it is possible for a railroad trip to be. It is the only line with its own track between the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains, and the only line running every day in the year through trains between Chicago, Peoria or St. Louis and Denver. It also runs through daily trains between Kansas City and Denver. These through trains are elegantly equipped with all the modern improvements, and ride you over a track that is as smooth and safe on a perfect roadbed, steel rails, iron bridges, interlocking switches and other devices, constructed in the most skillful and scientific manner, can make it. At all coupon ticket offices in the United States and Canada will be found on sale, during the tourist season, round-trip tickets, via this popular route, at low rates to Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Colorado. When ready to start, call on your home ticket agent or address Perceval Lowell, General Passenger Agent Burlington Route, Chicago, Ill.

—A gentleman met a boy and asked him what o'clock it was. Being told it was just twelve, he expressed some surprise and said he thought it was more. "It's never any more in these parts, sir," said the boy, simply, "it begins again at one." In order to explain in a clear and simple manner the necessity of regulating our conduct by some fixed standard, a schoolmaster asked a pupil what he ought to do with his watch if it went sometimes too fast and sometimes too slow. "Sell it," was the immediate response. A child who had just mastered her catechism confessed herself disappointed, because, she said, "though I obey the fifth commandment and honor my papa and mamma, yet my days are not a bit longer in the land, because I am still put to bed at seven o'clock.—*Times of India*.

A NOVEL ADVERTISING SCHEME.

It has remained for Woolrich & Co., of Palmer, Mass., manufacturers of Ridge's Food, to get up the latest and most striking advertising scheme, which they have just put on the road. It is in the shape of a Royal Salvo sociable Tricycle, on which V. H. Woolrich and W. H. Higgins are to take an extensive trip Westward. Attached to the machine is a wicker luggage carrier for their personal effects and a quantity of advertising material, which they will have shipped to them at different points along the road. A large umbrella has also been rigged to protect them from the sun on extra hot days. The riders have black jersey suits, and black helmets with "Ridge's Food Co." in gilt letters on the front. The larger towns only will be visited, circulars, tin spoons, pamphlets, &c., bearing the advertisement of the company distributed. This is the first thing of the kind to be put on the road, and cannot fail to attract attention.

—"Gossiping," says an exchange, "in some persons is nothing less than a disease." Sort of rumormism, we suppose.—*Boston Courier*.

—A man residing on the line of a railroad has taught his dog to bark vociferously at every passing train. The impulse of the firemen is to watch for the barking dog and hurl pieces of coal at him in passing. The result to the owner is that he has delivered at his door all the coal he requires for his own use, free of cost, and is now contemplating the opening of a coal yard for the supply of his neighbors. He thinks he can compete in price with the oldest coal dealers in the vicinity.—*Troy Times*.

LADIES'
FLORAL CABINET.

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No. 9.



BLUE-FRINGED PASSION-FLOWER (*Passiflora actinia*). Corona banded red, white and blue.

PASSIFLORA.

THIS is an extensive genus of extremely beautiful flowering plants, either for the greenhouse, conservatory, or for the open border. The genus, a very extensive one, being composed of hardy, half-hardy and tender species, are rapid climbers, and mostly natives of North and South America, a few only being indigenous to Asia. The name was applied from the resemblance afforded by the parts of the plant to the instruments of our Lord's Passion and its attendant circumstances; thus the three nails—two for the hands and one for the feet—are represented by the stigmas; the five anthers indicate the five wounds; the rays of glory, or, as some say, the crown of thorns, are represented by the rays of the "corona;" the ten parts of the perianth, the Apostles, two of them absent (Peter, who denied, and Judas, who betrayed our Lord); and the wicked hands of his persecutors are seen in the digitate leaves of the plant; and the scourges in the tendrils. While we are free to say that it requires an elastic imagination to see all the emblems as portrayed, we must say the derivation of the name shows plainly the inclination of the mind of the early "father" who had the naming of this beautiful genus.

All the passion-flowers are handsome, fast-growing and free-flowering plants. *P. Pfordtii* is one of the best varieties for summer flowering in the open border, and is, moreover, one of the most beautiful. This variety originated with Messrs. Pfordt & Son, Albany, N. Y., but we do not know in what manner. Its flowers closely resemble those of *P. actinia*, the subject of our illustration. They are fully four inches in diameter, and a plant two years old will often have twenty flowers open at one time, and will be in bloom the entire summer and autumn. It can be kept in the cellar during winter. *P. incarnata* is a South American species, but is regarded as hardy in this latitude—at least it is with slight protection.

A correspondent writes us from South Carolina concerning our native species as follows:

"I was in my delightful old kitchen-garden this afternoon watching my two gardeners mowing—not hay, but veritable passion vines,—and gathering in my hands great clusters of the exquisite, fragrant, beautiful flowers with quaint flower-buds undeveloped, I wondered what

our Northern flower-lovers would say and think to see two strong men, whose scythes with every sway bring down hundreds of these flowers so prized and nursed there; with each step they are crushed under regardless feet, and the hot summer air is filled with a delicious perfume. Although the thermometer registered somewhere in the nineties a gentle breeze stirred the leaves; the mocking-birds thrilled me with their dulcet notes; life seemed worth the living.

"We have here two varieties of these passion-flowers; one pure white, the other a deep violet purple exactly like the exotic, if I remember correctly, only with us it is a tuberous-rooted perennial, which dies down each winter but comes up with renewed vigor the following spring. It proves a troublesome weed here, for when once it gains a foothold it is almost impossible to root it out; but it is truly a beautiful sight to see this brave intruder, as I have often seen it, thickly covering an acre of ground with thousands and thousands of blooms, which are followed by an edible fruit, oval or egg-shaped, having a mawkish sweet taste, not pleasant to many persons, except the children and the blacks of this section, who seem fond of it.

"The calyx which incloses the flower is divided in ten parts, five of them pale green and five pale cream. Within these are the many petals of the flower (resembling somewhat a Japanese chrysanthemum, only perfectly flat and regular); they are thread-like, and of a deep violet color, with a shading of alternate lines of white and pale lavender near the centre, which reminds you of the halo around pictured heads of "Our Saviour;" in this again, around the style, is a circle of deep maroon, upright, fringe-like stamens. The stigma is much uplifted and to me, with no knowledge of botanical terms, indescribable, but it adds much to the attractiveness of the flower.

"I have never seen the white variety in bloom, but had a dozen tubers sent me this season. I would like to see a tuber tested North. I know it is not native there, but I think it would prove as hardy as many far less desirable plants. I have it planted to run on my front piazza. In good soil it will throw out, in one season, branches fully twenty feet in length."

THE MIXED BORDER.

IN our last number we dwelt to a considerable extent on the delights and regrets of our flower-garden, but did not enter into the details of arrangement, which has much to do with the success or failure in gardening operations. Order must unite with the beautiful objects in nature, as well as in art, to give pleasing effects. The garden that

is orderly and neat is always beautiful, no matter what class of plants may be found in it, and, on the contrary, plants that are not well cared for and well arranged are not objects of beauty.

Nowhere is disorder more apparent than in a poorly-arranged mixed border. And, moreover, there is no sys-

tem of gardening more difficult or one that more truly requires the artist's hand to insure a tasteful arrangement than the mixed border. All well-ordered gardens are apt to get considerably "mixed" in our desires to have a variety, and variety is, after all, the great idol which the majority of mankind worship; and for variety's sake it is the common custom to make almost any sacrifice. Now, we do not in the least object to this desire, and in all gardening operations and arrangements, there is little or no folly in becoming one of variety's devotees. Our only desire is to have harmony in form and color the entire season in the mixed border; then, the greater the variety, the more interesting and instructive will be the garden.

Variety is at war more or less against the practice, now so common, of massing colors to make up a flower-garden, or long ribbon borders, which make a gaudy display; but, paradoxical as it appears, the question may be raised whether gaudy colors are not obtained at the expense of effect. On this matter there is, and probably ever will be, a diversity of opinion. Long lines of colors, as are noticeable in borders of coleus, or large masses of glaring colors, such as a bed of scarlet pelargoniums affords, would never particularly attract our attention. Our preference is decidedly in favor of natural instead of mechanical effects. We want our border to present a new feature every day: we want an ever-varying picture, with some striking object to interest us each morning, instead of looking out on the same mass of color and closely cut forms for a period of three or four months. We admire our morning-glories more than any flowers in our garden, not so much because of the intensity as of the variety of their colors. Our veranda does not present the same appearance any two days during the season; consequently, there is a new study every morning which we rush eagerly to see. The same effect is to be noticed in the mixed border; we make our different groups of lilies and gladioli harmonize perfectly by placing the latter in small clumps, each color separate, and a constant change is kept up by planting at different periods. In our border of hardy plants we have sufficient space to introduce tender ones, in order to secure a continual and ever varying succession of flowers. By cutting back our delphiniums, in part, we have them in flower from June to October, and young plants from seed sown in March will flower long after frost has destroyed more tender subjects. Near these we plant *La Candeur* or some other choice white gladiolus, and their flowers mingle together in the most perfect harmony. Beside a mass of *Euphorbia corollata* we have a clump of *Brenchleyensis*, the most vivid scarlet of all the gladioli. We fill our border in the same manner, using as great a variety of plants as space and purse will permit, and by this method it is a place for rare enjoyment and pure delight. Every morning there is some new study to instruct as well as please. And, after all, if the garden does not improve the mind as well as please the eye, if it does not furnish food for thought, it does not accomplish its mission—at least, not an important one.

But it does not, therefore, follow that colors should not be massed; they may be. To be effective, color must be

decided or obvious, and to be decided or obvious it must not be too much broken or scattered. Masses should be proportionate in size and number to the size of the border. It will therefore require constant care and watchfulness to contract rather than to enlarge the groups of flower-border plants, in order that a given space may show a contrast or variety of color, instead of an unbroken monotonous mass. No rule can be laid down to regulate the size of masses; size is always relative, and what is large in one place would be small in another, so that no absolute rule as regards the size of masses can be drawn in respect to the distribution of colors. Besides, individual taste is somewhat arbitrary, some require a greater amount of any given color, or of a particular form of flower than another, consequently a very different arrangement will be necessary to secure harmony; but without regard to preferences harmony can always be secured by the exercise of taste and judgment. *Mignonette* can always be used to advantage, its lovely green leaves and flowers contrast beautifully with the scarlet blossoms of the annual phlox that agree so well with it for size; the combination is admirably adapted for covering the spaces occupied in early spring with hyacinths and tulips. For such places these annuals have a double use—they serve as a mulch to the bulbs at rest, a very useful purpose, and prolong the season of bloom.

Petunias can be planted around a clump of *pæonies* in such a manner as to completely hide their dried-up foliage, and make a beautiful mound of showy flowers; and for cut-flowers for table decoration there are none more useful than some of the new types of *petunias*. In a large border sweet-peas may be trained up on a trellis, where they will bloom the whole season if the flowers are frequently cut, and no seed allowed to ripen. We have often urged the growing of these annuals, as they have no rival for beauty or fragrance. Besides their arrangement in vases is so simple, all they require is a monopoly of the vase, they will not permit other company—in fact, they are so lovely and pure that they are sullied by any other company. In the border they rise above their fellows and shed their sweetness over all.

We encourage the formation of mixed borders, because almost every flower-garden planted in this way may be made to contain three or four times as many kinds of plants, as if otherwise filled; and the border may be made a mass of bloom in ever varying variety the whole season. Flowers should minister to all our tastes and senses, not merely to the eye alone; they should be teachers, and as such, a variety should be selected; the greater the variety the more we shall learn of the greatness and goodness of the Creator. Our gardens should be so filled that every morning there will be a new object to love and admire, something that will draw us to it and fill us with love and thanksgiving that will last us through the day, and fit us to meet life's trials manfully and cheerfully. If our hearts are filled with the beautiful and good, which is manifested in the flower, there will be but little room for the indwelling of the evil and false, Inoculate the minds of your children with a true love for flowers, and lofty noble thoughts will be their chief pleasures.

SOME VEGETABLE POISONS.

WE so often hear, especially during the summer months, of cases of poisoning caused by ignorance of the toxic qualities of plants, that one is surprised to notice how little is popularly known on the subject, since harmless plants are often regarded with suspicion, while noxious ones are suffered to go free. An example of such ignorance, or carelessness, was recently displayed in the pages of a prominent English horticultural paper, wherein a correspondent recommended our common poison-ivy (*Rhus toxicodendron*) as a satisfactory covering for unsightly buildings or fences. Now, there are doubtless many who are not injured by touching this plant, but in most cases such contact results in a painful and disfiguring eruption, more or less accompanied by nausea, and I have known the same cause to produce a dangerous state of chronic blood-poisoning. So it could scarcely be considered a desirable acquisition to the garden. In a recent article we enumerated the points of difference between this plant and the Virginia creeper, with which it is often confounded. We infer that the poison-ivy is the vine alluded to in Moore's poem of the "Dismal Swamp," where he says:

"He lay where the deadly vine doth weep
Its venomous tear, and nightly steep
The flesh with blistering dew!"

This, however, is a poetic exaggeration, like the wonderful accounts we have all read of the deadly upas tree. This tree, botanically *Antiaris toxicaria*, is fabled to diffuse around it a poisonous atmosphere, fatal to animals which come within range of its influence. Is it not in one of the voyages of Sindbad the Sailor where we read of the Javanese Valley of Death, strewn with the bones of adventurous men and animals who have been slain by the fatal upas trees growing around? But, in point of fact, it is no more deadly than our poison-ivy. I recollect seeing it years ago in one of the exotic houses at Chatsworth, the Duke of Devonshire's country seat in Derbyshire, where it was certainly approached with impunity. The sap or extract, known in Java as *antschar*, *antjar* or *oupas*, is, however, deadly when administered internally. Another tree bearing much the same reputation as the upas is the "manchineel" (*Hippomane mancinella*), a native of the West Indies. It abounds with a milky-white juice, highly acrid and poisonous; if a single drop falls upon the skin it produces a burning sensation, followed by a blister. In its native place the belief prevails that sleeping under its branches will cause death, but this is proved a fallacy. The wood is beautifully variegated with brown and white, and is used for fine woodwork, as it loses its poisonous properties in drying. In felling the trees a fire is first kindled about the trunk, so far solidifying the sap as to prevent it from flowing freely. On the coast of Martinique whole woods have been burned to rid the country of this tree. The order *Euphorbiaceæ*, to which this tree belongs, contains a great number of species, all

yielding a milky juice, and all more or less poisonous. Several varieties are used in medicine. Rafinesque selected our native species, *Euphorbia corollata*, as a prominent representative in the "Medical Flora of the United States." But Nuttall says: "The economy of the genus *Euphorbia* appears to be very limited. In the deserts of Africa they only tend, as it were, to augment the surrounding scenes of desolation; leafless, bitter, thorny and poisonous, they seem to deny food to every animated being. Among the European and American species there are some which have been used medicinally, but they are, at best, dangerous and needless remedies." The native species, mentioned above, is an extremely pretty plant, very common in Southern New Jersey, bearing a panicle of small white flowers, or, rather, small white bracts surrounding the true flowers—in size and shape it resembles a forget-me-not. There has been an attempt to introduce it as a florist's flower, but its milky juice makes it disagreeable to handle when cut, though it is charming in the garden. It possesses considerable medicinal virtue, notwithstanding Nuttall's opinion to the contrary; during the civil war it was successfully used in the Southern Confederacy as a substitute for ipecacuanha, being fully as active and much more manageable and safe in its use.

A similar form of growth to our *Euphorbia*—that is, showy bracts surrounding inconspicuous flowers—is exhibited by a Mexican member of the order, *Poinsettia pulcherrima*. It is a shrubby plant, growing from two to six feet high, bearing on the ends of the branches clusters of bright cardinal-red bracts, a foot or more across; in the middle of the bracts are the small green-and-yellow flowers. These flowering bracts are familiar in the florists' windows during the winter, being much used for decorative purposes. They must be carefully handled, however; if the milky juice finds its way into any cut or abrasion of the skin the result may be serious. An African *Euphorbia* is used by some of the savages for the purpose of poisoning their arrows, and it also enters into the incantations of the Ashantee priests or wizards. Most of the African species form corpulent, branching trunks, having an effect similar to the giant cacti of the Southwest. It seems rather a problem whence they obtain the moisture contained in their milky sap in these arid, tropic plains; certainly their appearance justifies their name, which, literally translated, means well-fed. It is a noticeable fact with many vegetable poisons, that the noxious quality is entirely destroyed by heat. A familiar example of this is tapioca, the product of the cassava plant (*Janipha Manihot*). It is a woody plant, growing to a height of five or six feet, native of Brazil. It belongs to a highly poisonous family, and is itself the most virulent of the species, yet, when rightly prepared, it forms a highly palatable and nutritious food. The poisonous property is seen to lie only in the sap, since the South American Indians, by means of a primitive press, separate this juice,

to be used in poisoning their arrows, while they desiccate the root and bake it into a sort of bread. A small dose of the poison causes death in a few minutes, operating very painfully on the nervous system. The poison is highly volatile, however, since a slight application of heat entirely destroys its deleterious qualities. The root, rightly prepared, is highly nutritious, since one acre of cassava is calculated to be equal in nutriment to six acres of wheat. We have another example of an acrid, irritating root made edible by means of heat in the bog-arum (*Calla palustris*). The root is excessively caustic and biting, but it is dried, boiled, macerated and baked into a cake—the *missebroed* of the Laplanders. This root must resemble in character our Indian turnip (*Arisæma triphyllum*). It used to be a favorite trick at many a country school to disguise a bit of this delectable root in a piece of sassafras bark, then present this diabolical refec-tion to some guileless new scholar. The feelings of the wretched victim are indescribable; anything exceeding the pungency of the root seems impossible. One observant victim describes it as resembling four papers of cambric needles mixed with a tablespoonful of powdered glass.

Truly, it seems that no family of plants is without both useful and deleterious members. The Solanum tribe, to

which we must ever be grateful for that most useful of all esculents, the potato, contains many highly-dangerous species, and they all might prove dangerous under some circumstances. One of the most virulent members of the order is the black henbane (*Hyosciamus niger*).

"the insane root
That takes the reason prisoner,"

a most powerful narcotic, whether eaten in the form of leaves, roots or berries, and the application of heat does not seem to destroy its virulence. Another member of the family, the deadly nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*) is the source of the belladonna so useful in medicine, though many serious accidents have occurred from careless or ignorant use of the plant. According to Scottish history, the Danes were treacherously poisoned with this plant mixed in the food and drink supplied by the Scotch during a truce, so that the latter were enabled to totally destroy Sweno's army. But no person or thing in the whole economy of nature is utterly worthless or harmful, so we usually find that the most dangerous and deleterious plants supply some valuable remedy, either to allay pain or to arrest disease, with the single exception of our poison-ivy, which seems only to exist for the aggravation of mankind.

E. L. TAPLIN.

THE LABORS AND PLEASURES OF FLORICULTURE.

Address of JOHN THORPE, President of the Society of American Florists, at First General Meeting, held at Cincinnati, Ohio, August 10 to 14.

WE are here for the purpose of discussing what are the best methods to make the Society of American Florists and their business a success; we can insure this in no better way than by gathering together as we have to-day, and as often as possible. The fact of so much interest being displayed is most satisfactory; it is full of encouragement for us to go on with the good work we have begun; to accomplish as much as possible must be our aim. We must be persevering, communicative, vigilant and industrious for the society's benefit; this means for our own good and the people's good. The position we now occupy should be a heavy weight in the government of our business. Let us see what we represent and how we materialize.

There are not less than eight thousand florists engaged in the business, either growing plants or raising cut-flowers for sale. Allowing four hundred (400) feet of glass-covered surface to each florist gives us a total of three million two hundred thousand square feet—in other words, six hundred and thirty acres. Calculating that half of the glass structures are used for growing plants, and that one-third of the space is actually occupied with them, and averaging the size of pots used at three inches diameter, and allowing two crops each year, the number of plants would be about forty millions.

The remaining half of the glass structures are used for the purpose of growing cut-flowers—the actual numbers produced is almost incredible. I can state, how-

ever, that during the past season—beginning with November and ending with April—nine large growers of roses sent into the New York market close upon four millions of flowers, and when I state that this was not over fifty per cent. of the roses sent to New York alone, the magnitude of rose-growing will be imagined. The roses grown around Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chicago, Washington, and all other places, could not be less than twice as many as were produced for the New York market. This would bring up the number of cut-roses produced during the past season to twenty-four millions. It would be very safe to multiply the number of carnations, flowers produced in the same time from all sources, by at least five. This would give one hundred and twenty millions. Fabulous as this may seem, I feel that my calculations are rather under than over the actual number placed in the market. It would, moreover, be very safe to state that at least one-fourth as many roses and carnations are annually raised by gentlemen for their own enjoyment, which represent as much value as if they were thrown on the market and sold over the counter. Of various other flowers, though not in the same proportion, there are produced many millions.

The bulb trade, the bulk of which is represented by importation, has grown to be a source of great value to the business, and as there is a duty of 20 per cent. on all bulbs imported, it is a source of revenue to the country also; and, while I have no actual data to make a close

estimate of the value imported last season, it is safe to say that not less than two hundred thousand dollars' worth were actually imported the last twelve months. The bulk of these being hyacinths and tulips, more than one-half being used to force for cut-flowers, this does not include half a million of lilies-of-the-valley which are not dutiable. Thus far I have not said anything about a very important branch of the business or those engaged in it. I refer to that branch known as the florist's supplies and requisites, which has grown to be a most important factor in the trade. The number engaged is estimated at 700. The most important articles are shapes for floral designs, such as ornamental baskets, vases in glass and porcelain, and other wares; wire-work, holders for bouquets, tinfoil, wire for stemming, different papers for packing and wrapping flowers, and other articles used in the business. The actual amount of capital invested in this branch of our business is in the aggregate many hundred thousand dollars, employing more labor in proportion than does the florist proper, paying in many cases enormous rents for their accommodation. Most of those engaged in this branch have other business relations, either as seedsmen, dealers in bulbs or cut-flowers. Then we have the army of cut-flower men, those who are not producers but make a business entirely of selling flowers, either made into shapes or loosely. This is a growing branch and to-day there are not less than 2000 employed in it.

The land occupied with flowering plants and bulbs of all kinds scattered over the country must aggregate at least twelve thousand acres, in addition to several thousand acres used for growing flower seeds. This is accounting only for land so occupied in America. It would not be too much to say that fully half as much land in Europe is also used in the same manner for the American trade. In addition to this there is nearly as much area of land, and as much glass and more than half as much labor devoted to the cultivation of flowers by gentlemen who can make a pleasure of so doing; yet with all this, the florists and gentlemen growers of America have been unrepresented by any organization until the Society of American Florists was established. Just think of an industry of such magnitude without a voice or a word in its own interest! We are not only entitled to consideration as a national union, but as educators of the people. Matters of national importance have been submitted to the Government through our slightly older brethren, the American Nurserymen's Association and the American Seedsmen's Association. The time may not be far distant when *we* may have to submit to the powers that be questions of vital importance which may affect us as florists. With our society we can demand and will be entitled to consideration. Besides, the Society of American Florists will be the channel through which the Government will be pleased to give and receive information in all matters immediately relating to it. I really wonder how we have sat still so long without taking any action, represented as we are by capital, numbers and influence. Let us be up and doing, I say.

The practical part of the business must always be well considered and well represented at every movement of

the Society of American Florists. The time has gone by when half-measures and improper cultivation can be successful. The diffusion of knowledge in a florist's business is of as much importance as in any other pursuit. This we can obtain by personal contact, by interchange of ideas, by comparing notes and by close observation. It is our duty, pure and simple, as an association, to aid each other in all that we can. Let us give to others, when in our power, such information as may be of service, and in return we can ask information from them. It has been my experience whenever I have paid a visit to a brother florist, however limited his establishment may have been, never to have left without gaining something of importance. The same is true of men. The man pretending the least often imparts most valuable information. I feel certain every member here present has come with the intention of doing all the good in his power, and when he goes home he will feel that he has accomplished far more than he expected. A successful florist needs to be a man of intelligence, perseverance and fidelity. The business requires brains as much as capital; he must be on the alert to turn to account all improvements; he must be comprehensive and quick to take advantage of favorable opportunities. It is necessary for him to be of a mechanical turn of mind; he must be well read on all subjects relating to the business; he must be alive to the requirements of his patrons and try to lead rather than to wait to be led by them. I am induced to remark that only a few years since our brethren in small towns would remark that they only wanted two or three kinds of geraniums, half a dozen sorts of roses, and two or three kinds of fuchsias, these being variety enough for their customers. It is now very different; they want to get all the new and good things, because they say their patrons demand it. That is just as it should be—let us have the best of everything as far as we possibly can. Let us see how the business has grown in ten years.

In numbers we have grown four-fold; in volume of business six-fold, and in value just as much. At the sales of plants at public auction in ten weeks, the past spring, there were not less than one million disposed of; ten years since there was not ten thousand. At that time there were scarcely twenty catalogues published in a year, now there are hundreds; and as to illustrated catalogues, they were not known. The florist's catalogues of to-day are not merely lists of plants, but they are works of art; and let me stop to say that we are indebted to those gentlemen who have made the illustrations of catalogues a business. While on the subject of catalogues, I would just like to say that some of our members are inclined to think the catalogue trade militates against those not publishing one. I most emphatically say it is a mistake; for, depend upon it, the more catalogues there are distributed the better it is for the local florists. Catalogues stir up an interest in flowers greater than the local florist dreams of. They educate the people to love flowers more and more; they incite a desire for something new, and in nine cases out of ten the local florist is applied to for information, which brings him in personal contact with those desiring such information, and personal contact is the best of all me-

YELLOW JAPAN JASMINE (*Jasminum floridum*).

(See page 250 Notes and Comments.)

diums for business. The business has become a necessity in every town of only six or seven hundred inhabitants. Flowers and plants are used now at all social and public meetings, even in the smallest villages. In passing through the country, remote from centres of population, the florist's hand is seen everywhere. Beds of annuals, beds of coleus, clusters of roses and borders of other flowers are found around and near every door-yard. The most encouraging signs are abroad in the land. Let us take advantage and do all we can to make all homes cheerful and our business a success. When a few years since the only flower seeds sown were those saved from year to year, or those only bought for a few cents at the groceries, there are now tons of seed sold, such as mign-

onette, sweet-peas, asters, phloxes and pansies. The spring flowering bulbs were rarely ever seen, excepting, perhaps, a very few crocuses, tulips and snowdrops, which struggled along from year to year almost unobserved. How is it now, beds of spring flowering bulbs are as plenty as geraniums were ten years ago. I can remember eleven years ago in Cleveland seeing a bed of tulips on Pearl street—only one. The next year on Franklin street there was one. The next year there were a dozen, and a year or two after nearly every garden had one. Our friend of Pearl street—I say our friend because he was a friend to us all, moreover, he was a dear lover of all flowers—set the fashion of having beds of tulips in Cleveland: he advertised bulbs for us all. It would pay

us to give away 500 bulbs to every village in the country.

There is a great deal of untrodden ground for us to go over yet and where we can do much good, especially among gentlemen's gardeners and amateurs. There are nearly 2,000 gardeners in the employ of gentlemen who are holding positions of trust and responsibility; to these we ought to be known and countenanced. There is a way of reaching them, and it would be best accomplished by members sending to the secretary the names of those known to them. The gentlemen's gardeners are always well informed and would be a valuable aid to the society.

There are also thousands of amateurs having fine gardens and greenhouses, and who do not have any professional help, who would be delighted to join us, if only for the sake of encouraging us; we can always promise in our published proceedings such information as will always be acceptable to our supporters. The very fact of our members being composed of those interested in the best methods of cultivation guarantees our being heard and appreciated among amateurs. The horticultural societies of the country should be enlisted in our interest; their interests should be our interest and so help each other at every turn. The past season's trade among florists, notwithstanding the general depression in other branches of industry, was never better; this proves that lovers of flowers are generally not prevented from buying flowers, though other trades do suffer from general depression. It is a very cheerful outlook under the circumstances, and we may look forward to still more support when the tide of prosperity again sets in.

Flowers and their Associations.

Of all the beauties there are to be found in nature, flowers stand pre-eminently first. They evidently are intended by the Creator to be companions of the human family. The man or woman is not born who does not inherently love flowers; it is only those who have unfortunately been denied the opportunity of ever seeing

flowers that do not love them. I have a very intimate friend who five years ago did not know one flower from another. He is a very active business man in one of our large cities, and well supplied with the world's goods. At one of the flower shows, held close to his house at that time, he was attracted to visit it. The impression left upon him was so deep that he determined to have flowers of his own. His city lot was unkempt and uncared for. What did he do? He immediately set to work, had the lot nicely turfed over, walks laid out, with borders on each side, a circular bed in the centre planted with coleus and other plants. The interest awakened his love for flowers, and grew until he determined to have a greenhouse. To-day he has a greenhouse that has cost him over two thousand dollars. He has a collection of plants that no professional man need be ashamed of. He is a critic in many varieties of plants, capable of judging as correctly as are many florists. There is not a florist's window that he does not stop to look in, and you could not buy the pleasure he has now for untold money. Here is a case where true love, when once awakened, has not faltered. I frequently have occasion to pass through the poorer quarters of New York city. There the love of flowers is to be seen among the poor children. Many probably have never seen a green field. How their little faces brighten up, their eyes beaming with delight at the sight of a few flowers. If they could be constantly associated with flowers would they not grow up better men and women than they are likely to do without? Again, I claim that florists are among the best educators in the country. They teach by example as well as precept all that is good and true; they will mold the character of generations to come; they help those afflicted with sickness, and make the long hours of pain more endurable. They teach also that, with even all the buffetings of life, there is really something worth living for, and that withal the beauties of nature are ever truthful, full of inspiration, and prompt us all to do that which is right.

SPRUCE TREES FOR THE GARDEN.

SPRUCES are among the commonest of our garden evergreens, and the Norway spruce perhaps the commonest species grown. For small gardens we want small trees, and with this end in view should avoid using the rapid-growing Norways in prominent places. And bear in mind, if you can accommodate only a few trees, better have something choice, neat and handsome than a coarse, common tree; the care is the same. Who would plant a Norway spruce in preference to an Engelmann's or Colorado blue spruce? But the matter of size to a considerable extent rests with ourselves. By judicious pruning we can give to breadth what naturally would run too much to height, and that, too, with benefit to the tree. If we would have handsome trees, even spruces, we should be prepared to give them fairly good soil and shelter from biting winds.

Picea alba (White Spruce).—Native of our northern borders and far northward through British America. A small tree, common and inexpensive, nevertheless, while young especially, a beautiful garden evergreen. We use it as an avenue tree, isolated specimens on the lawn, and grouped on a northwestern bluff for landscape effect and shelter from the fierce sea-winds. As a wind-break in exposed places it is the best of our common spruces, even better and more reliable than the Norway spruce, but not as good as the Austrian pine. There is nothing delicate about it. It differs a good deal in color, varying from deep to bluish green. Apart from the normal form there are some pretty garden varieties of it.

P. ajanensis (the Ayan Spruce).—Native of Nipon, Yesso, the region of the Amour and Kamtchatka. A pretty spruce of recent introduction, in the way of *P. Al-*

coquiiana, and apparently perfectly hardy here. Our specimen is quite dense, but too small to give us a correct idea of its value as an ornamental tree.

P. Alcoquiiana (Alcock's Spruce).—Native of the Fuji-Yama Mountains, Japan. A pretty and distinct spruce, apparently quite hardy here, and in good ground a fairly good grower. The under side of the leaves is marked with white, like those of some silver firs, and the leaves being curved, the backs of many of them appear above, giving the whole tree a silvery variegated appearance.

P. Engelmanni (Engelmann's Spruce).—From "British Columbia and Oregon, south through the Rocky Mountains to Arizona and east to the Black Hills of Dakota." A beautiful spruce, quite hardy and free-growing, and promises to win much popularity. Like the Colorado blue spruce, it differs much in variety, so far as leaf-color is concerned; the foliage of different plants may vary from plain to glaucous or bluish green. The bluer the plants the more they are prized.

P. excelsa (Norway Spruce).—From Northern Europe and Asia. The commonest of all garden evergreens, and one of the most useful. In not over-exposed places it makes a capital wind-break, hedge or screen, and in large places may be used with good landscape effect, but its commonness now, in the face of so many other desirable and handsome evergreens, should deny it a prominent position in a small garden. There are many garden varieties of it, some pretty and serviceable and others hideously ugly. We have a beautiful weeping form (var. *inverta*) whose branches from the ground upward bend down closely and gracefully over each other. We have the variety *Clanbra siliiana*, which is a compact, small bush; growing on high, dry ground it is doing poorly, but on low, moist land it is a picture of health. The variety *Gregoryana* is a very dense, low-growing bush, pleasing in appearance and easily satisfied in soil or situation. With a little judicious shortening of the branches Parsons' variety *elata* is a very distinct and ornamental tree. We have a fine specimen of it. We have several plants of the variety *compacta*, which, though very dense, are nevertheless quite free-growing. I do not know an uglier spruce than the variety *monstrosa*.

P. Orientalis (Oriental Spruce).—The Caucasian region and the southeastern coast of the Black Sea. It is a neat and pretty spruce, hardy, of compact pyramidal habit, slow growing, and well fitted for small gardens. It differs considerably in variety; some are much more desirable than others, but I am not aware of any "fixed" varieties known in gardens.

P. polita (The Tiger's-tail Spruce).—Native of the mountains in Northern Nippon. A bold, distinct and hardy spruce. We have it in open, exposed and sheltered positions, and it seems at home wherever placed. Its leaves are very rigid and sharp-pointed.

P. pungens (Colorado Blue Spruce).—"Rocky Mountains of Colorado, extending into Wyoming and, perhaps, Idaho." One of the prettiest of spruces, and so far as I have been able to observe, absolutely hardy here. The bluest varieties are the most esteemed and are usually propagated by grafting, because in a batch of seedlings

only a very small percentage comes blue-colored, the balance are from plain deep green to slightly bluish. But for hedge or shelter use I believe there is a prominent future in store for the common forms of this species on account of their compact growth while young and great hardiness. While the rank and file are cheap enough, the beautiful blue forms must necessarily continue to be costly; but better pay a good price for the fine variety than have the common one at any price.

P. Smithiana (Himalayan Spruce).—From the Himalayas. One of the most elegant of spruces and prettiest of evergreen trees, but, alas, not reliably hardy near New York. We have two nice specimens, in a low (but not wet) and well sheltered portion of our garden, that are doing well and have not been hurt by winter, but, nevertheless, the species is not quite hardy here.

Pseudotsuga Douglasii (Douglas Spruce).—"From Oregon and California, in the Coast Ranges, to Mexico, and east through Arizona and New Mexico to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado." It is only the form found in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado that is supposed to be hardy here. It is the Oregon and California form that has been so successfully grown in European grounds; but no matter, it is not hardy enough in the East to warrant our using it, therefore we must depend on the Colorado one. But, curiously enough, one of the finest specimens in our grounds, and which has never been injured in winter, is the Oregon form. It is a very handsome evergreen, deep to glossy green in color, sometimes glaucous, and not infrequently differing considerably in habit. It is throughout pleasantly fragrant, and the ladies have a fondness for its green boughs with which to decorate the fireplaces in summer.

Tsuga Canadensis (Hemlock Spruce).—In the north, and southward along the Alleghanies to Georgia. One of the most beautiful and elegant of all evergreens. Given cool, deep, moist, but not wet soil and a sheltered situation, we may reasonably expect a perfect specimen; but on high, dry land, wet or undrained land, or in an exposed place, we are apt to have disfigured trees. But shelter it from north and west winds anyway. Suitably situated, it forms one of the prettiest and best of hedges. There are several varieties of it in cultivation. The broad-leaved form, Sargent's weeping and Manning's fastigiate are among the best and most distinct, and all are good.

T. Mertensiana (the California Hemlock) and *T. Pattoniana* (from the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains) are pretty trees, but with us, at any rate, they refuse to be comforted.

T. Sieboldii (Siebold's Hemlock).—We have several specimens of this beautiful Japanese species, and growing under different conditions, so far as shelter and exposure are concerned, but all on dry ground, and so far they have not at all been winter-injured. In the vicinity of Boston, however, some years ago, we had a specimen seven feet in height growing on the rockwork in the Botanic Garden, Cambridge, and which got winter-killed, notwithstanding the fact that it had, in the same spot, braved uninjured several previous winters.

WILLIAM FALCONER.

NATIVE LILY (*Lilium Canadense*).

NATIVE LILIES.

THE time has long since passed when any member of the lily family required an introduction into the best family circle of plants, because it has no equal in the floral world, and one of the most remarkable peculiarities of it and that which gives it so prominent a position in the world of plants is, that it has no poor relations.

It is not, however, of the family that we now propose to speak; we only wish to refer to some few of the individual members—neglected ones—whose real character entitles them to a place in every collection of beautiful plants. While we have been gleaning the globe for rep-

resentatives of this family to adorn our gardens and conservatories we have quite overlooked our own meadows, swamps and hillsides, wherein may be found lilies of the most graceful form, both in stem, foliage and flower, while in the color of the flowers there is nothing to compare in brilliancy and intensity. It is a consolation to know that while we are traversing the fields of India and Japan for *novelties* to ornament our gardens, the florists of those countries are roaming through ours for the same purpose, and both find much to admire and instruct.

Of our native lilies there are in the Northern and East-

ern States three distinct species, *Canadense*, *Superbum* and *Philadelphicum*. The first of these (see illustration) is by far the most common, and is intermediate in time of flowering between the other two species. It grows from two feet to four feet high, and bears, on slender stems, terminal clusters of drooping, bell-shaped blossoms, usually of an orange color, thickly spotted with deep brown. There is of this species numerous varieties, the variation being in the color of the flowers only. One of the most showy is *C. rubrum*, which has bright red flowers, with but few spots. *C. flavum* has bright, golden-yellow flowers, much spotted at the base of the petals. There are three species from the Pacific coast very similar, *L. parvum*, yellow; *L. columbianum*, reddish yellow, and *L. nitidum*, red. All these varieties are of the easiest culture, growing freely and producing their flowers in the greatest abundance, in almost any soil or situation. They are admirably adapted to the shrubbery border, delighting in the partial shade afforded by the rhododendrons and azaleas, and furnishing a second blossoming season to the borders that otherwise would have but one.

L. superbum is a habitant of our swamps and is the

most stately of our native lilies, growing, in favorable situations, from six to ten feet in height, bearing from ten to forty beautiful crimson or orange-red blossoms, thickly spotted with chocolate-brown. This species is distinguished from *L. Canadense* by its purplish stems and by its pyramidal cluster of flowers.

This lily delights in a deep, rich, swampy soil, and does remarkably well among trees or shrubs. It does well also in exposed situation, but in dry soils it does not increase rapidly.

L. Philadelphicum is a more delicate-growing plant, and delights in dry, gravelly situations. It abounds in woods and neglected pastures, where the soil is light and sandy. It grows from one to two feet high, usually taller in its wild state than when cultivated. Flowers one to five, erect, cup-shaped and of a fiery orange-red color, with black at the base of the petals. This is one of the few plants that does not improve by cultivation. Although it succeeds well in the garden, it is only to be seen in its greatest perfection in its native habitat.

We propose making the lilies of the Pacific coast the subject of an article at an early day.

HOW WE GROW HELIOTROPES FOR WINTER FLOWERING.

OUR greenhouse is an east and west one, moderately wide, with a middle bench, the earth of which is raised a foot and held in place with edge-boards. At convenient distances apart, we placed across this bed bottomless boxes, one foot high, two and a half feet wide, and the width of the bed in length. The bed and these boxes were then filled with good rich soil, composed principally of rotten sods. A hard-wood stake, long enough to reach from the ground to the roof of the greenhouse, was nailed to the centre of the outside end of each box. The heliotropes were then planted fifteen inches apart and about nine inches from the edge of the boxes. As the plants grew, we fastened wires backward and forward to the stakes and tied the heliotropes to them.

To-day, two and a half years from planting, the roots are enormous; the branches loaded with buds and flowers reach to the very roof of the greenhouse, which at the north side is ten feet high, and the clumps would measure nearly four feet across. The plants are kept well watered, and about once a week liquid manure is given them. In summer, we let them go dry about two months, then trim them back well, at least two feet away from the glass, then top-dress the earth between them with a good coat of well-rotted manure. We cut thousands of heads of flowers, although the thermometer frequently stands as low as 45° in the morning. Plant light varieties by themselves, and dark by themselves, and heat your greenhouse with hot water.

C.

ROSES.

THE PROPAGATION OF TEA-ROSES, THEIR SUBSEQUENT TREATMENT AND THE RAISING OF NEW VARIETIES.

THE rose has been cultivated for generations by our ancestors, and, as history tells us, with great enthusiasm, but at no period has its cultivation reached what it has done in the last quarter of a century.

Of the rose, that veteran rosarian, S. Reynolds Hole, says: "He who would have beautiful roses in his garden must have beautiful roses in his heart," and I offer as an apology, my love of the rose, if in the course of the remarks I am about to make, I should tire my hearers—of the rose.

To make myself clearly understood on this subject I will treat it under three heads:

1. Tea-roses and their culture.
2. H. P. or H. Remontant and their culture.
3. New roses.

First, the tea-rose is the most important flower, I may say to nearly every member of the Society of American Florists; its cultivation is extending all over this vast country, and to assist those who are trying to grow this queen of flowers, whether it is for pleasure or profit, is

my purpose here, and to do so we must start at the beginning—propagation. This is best done in January or February. Select good, sound, strong cuttings; those just below where a bud has recently been cut are the best. Put them in a bed of sand where the top temperature can be kept at about 56° at night and 65° to 70° during the day; it is best to shade very lightly during the middle of the day, if exposed to a bright sun. Keep the cuttings moistened with a hand syringe at least twice a day. As soon as they are rooted pot off into 2½ or 3 inch pots, using good fibrous loam five parts, well-rotted cow manure one part and sharp sand half a part if the soil is heavy; mix thoroughly and rub through a screen of half an inch mesh; pot firmly, but not so hard as to break the young tender roots, place in a greenhouse where the temperature does not exceed 56° at night or fall below 50° with a rise in the day during bright sun to 75°, with plenty of air; do not shade but water sparingly and on bright days take a hand syringe with a fine spray on and give them a gentle sprinkling all over, taking care at all times to avoid extremes, either dry as dust or wet as mud is very injurious to their well-being. They need constant care and watching and they will well repay any extra care in the better growth they make.

In about five or six weeks from first potting they will be ready to shift into 4½ or 5 inch pots. This time the pots should be drained, or "crooked"—a gardener's term. This is best done by taking a piece of broken pot, nearly as large as the bottom of the one to be used, and placing it over the hole with the round side upward; then cover this about one inch deep with pieces of soft broken brick or potsherds, half an inch square, with a little finer on top; then repot the plants from the smaller pots into these using the same kind of compost as for the first potting. Let the soil in the pots be in a nice moist condition before repotting, then they take much more kindly to the new soil. Avoid having the ball of earth dry, as in that case it takes a long time to get it soaked in the new soil, and often a plant gets a bad check from this cause. On the other hand, if it's too wet (mud) it will press into a mass, and if at some future time the plant gets dry it will form a hard mass like a brick. When potted, return the plants to the best position in the greenhouse, keep as near the glass as consistent, and maintain the same temperatures as given above for the night; but as the days lengthen the temperature can be allowed to run up to 80° and do no harm, if plenty of air is given. This, of course, is taking from the first of April onward.

Treat the plants the same as directed for first potting. As soon as thoroughly established—say, in four or five weeks—they will be ready to shift again. Use 6 or 7 inch pots this time, and treat exactly as for the last shift, except that the soil need not be quite so fine.

This, under ordinary circumstances, ought to be by the 20th of May. Treat the plants in the same way as before directed till the hot weather sets in (in the Middle Atlantic States generally from the 10th to the 20th of June), then place them outside in open air on a good bed of coal ashes. If to be cultivated altogether in pots, they can remain there till September or till the nights begin to get cool. They should be shifted into larger pots, as

required, using at each shifting pots from one to two inches larger, according to the strength of the plants; plunge the pots to the rim in coal ashes, or any light material that will admit water to drain away readily; water whenever they get dry at the root, syringe frequently to keep down red spiders, &c. By the time they are ready to get into the greenhouse, in the fall, they ought to be two or three feet high and proportionately thick through.

But if to be planted out in beds or benches, then the plants need not be put in larger pots than five or six inches at most.

About the end of June prepare the benches, &c., by having them well drained; this is best done by having a green sod cut very thin and placed grass side down over the cracks or openings between the boards, then fill the bench level full of compost, made in the same proportion as before described, but do not screen it for this, only break up the coarse parts reasonably fine with a fork or spade; set your plants from fifteen to eighteen inches apart, according to the varieties, press the soil firmly all over, and water as required. Syringe twice a day during hot weather, and as soon as the plants start to grow fairly give a very light mulching of fine manure to prevent rapid evaporation, keep the plants clean and the soil free from weeds, &c.; during fine weather give all the air possible from the ridge of the house, but receive none at the front if you can avoid it. As soon as the nights begin to get cooler than 56° stop syringing in the afternoon, and endeavor to have a fairly dry atmosphere during the night after this date for the balance of the season.

The temperature as given above for young plants is good for the larger plants for all the winter months, and if really fine roses are the desideratum of the grower, they should be adhered to as nearly as possible.

By the first of October the plants so treated should have a good mulching of well rotted cow manure twenty parts, and one part of fine ground bone *absolutely pure*. Spread this mixture over the beds and benches from one to one and a half inches thick.

For pot-plants a somewhat richer mulching is better; one part bone to fifteen parts manure is not too much. The plants should be housed by the middle of September and treated in all respects the same as for beds, excepting that they will require a little more attention in the way of water.

Manure in a liquid form I have never found to be any benefit to young plants till after the turn of the days, say, 1st of February, when it should be given only sparingly, for the plant will not take it in large quantities; as the plants get older they will take more in proportion. Any good manure is useful for making it. Fresh cow droppings, one peck to fifty gallons of water, thoroughly dissolved, and let stand till clear before using, is good. Let the plants be fairly dry before applying it. Sheep and chicken manure are also excellent for the same purpose, but must be used in much less proportions, say, three-fourths less than cow manure. Guano and blood manures are also good by way of change, for plants of nearly all descriptions, particularly roses under artificial cultivation, are greatly benefited with a change of food after the

plants have absorbed that which the soil naturally contained.

Mildew.—Whenever this shows itself apply a little flour of sulphur to affected parts, and in the fall when the plants become badly affected paint the water pipes while hot with sulphur made into the consistency of paint; mixed with either buttermilk or skim milk is perhaps as good as any way, though some florists are in favor of linseed-oil. For my part I do not like the very disagreeable smell in the houses after it is put on the pipes.

Green Fly.—For this pest there is nothing better, I think, than to spread a thin layer of tobacco stems over the floor of the house, and in a few days the flies will all disappear. I do not recommend putting the stems directly on the soil in which the plants are growing, as I have found it injurious to them.

Red spider and all the other thousand and one pests which will be found to bother the cultivator, I must pass over for fear of tiring you all out.

Second—The Hybrid Perpetual, or H. Remontant.

These require a very different treatment from that of the tea-roses. For very early blooming perhaps the most sure way is to grow them in pots altogether. To do this start the plants the same way in every particular as the tea-rose, but change their treatment in the fall.

If the flowers are wanted for Christmas begin to withhold water gradually about the 10th of August and continue to reduce the quantity given till the wood gets quite hard and solid, which under ordinary circumstances will be by the middle of September, when the pots can be laid on their sides and a little loose bedding or a like material thrown over them. This is a precaution which need only be taken in case of showery weather, as long as the weather remains dry they can be left standing, but do not let them get so dry as to cause the wood to shrivel. Should there be indications of this, syringe them overhead occasionally till the wood plumps up again, but not enough to make them start their eyes. In this condition hold them till about the 1st of October, then they should be pruned back to a good hard wood and sound eyes. Thoroughly soak them with water as soon as pruned, and place in a cool frame or house where they can be slightly protected at night in case of frost.

Let them remain in this position until the eyes begin to swell, which will be in about two weeks; then place them in the house where they are to bloom; mulch the plants with a composition as given above for tea-roses in pots; water and syringe as required; let the temperature be kept at about 45° at night, with plenty of air during bright days. Follow this treatment till the plants are showing bud, then increase the temperature to 56 (gradually), and give an occasional soaking of liquid manure till the plants are in flower, which will be about the 20th to the 28th of December. As soon as the flowers are cut the plants can be removed to a cool house, and their places filled up with a succession of plants of later varieties.

But for general cultivation of this class of roses permanently planted, outhouses are undoubtedly the best—such as may be seen at almost any large rose-growing establishment near the Eastern cities. They should be

so constructed as to be able to remove a part of the roof, if not all, during the summer.

Cultivation under this system is very simple. The plants should be set out in the bed of the house. First well manure it, and then put your plants about twenty-four inches apart each way, and allow them to grow all they can during the summer; then when frost sets in in the fall, and the plants are well rested, they can be pruned back to good hard wood with all the small wood cut clean out.

Then give the whole bed a good mulching three to four inches thick of the best cow manure, put the sash on, and as soon as the frost is out of the beds, give a thorough soaking of water. This, of course, should all be done according to the time the crop of bloom is wanted; for early and midseason crops about twelve weeks should be allowed from the time of commencing, and two to three weeks less for later crops.

As soon as the beds are well soaked the house can be started with a temperature of about 40°, allowing a rise of two degrees each week till it reaches 56° at night, which is really the best temperature to produce first-class flowers. Give two or three good waterings at the root as required in the first month, syringe frequently overhead till the buds begin to show color, then stop till all the blooms are cut. As soon as that is done the temperature of the house can be reduced to 50° at night and kept at that with the needed amount of water syringing, &c., to keep them healthy and clean.

By the 15th or 20th of May the sash can be removed altogether, and the same course of treatment followed year after year, with better results each time as the plants grow older.

The varieties of this class are very numerous, and the cultivator can choose almost any color except yellow to suit himself. Fashion changes so much in this respect that it would be almost useless to give a list here.

Far better for the intending planter to consult the present taste for color and be guided thereby in making his selection. To illustrate this: Two years ago in New York, Black Prince and its kindred varieties were in great demand; this season they could hardly be sold at any price.

Third.—Raising of new roses and those of recent introduction.

This is comparatively a new field for the rose growers of this country, but it is one that must certainly, in the near future, become a very important one. The immense growth in the cultivation of this queen of flowers, and its consequent demand for new and improved varieties, must and will stir up our rosarians to this important feature.

To those who are new to this branch and are contemplating trying experiments in that line, I would say that the first and most important thing to consider is an improved variety over anything we have on the market at the present date, and to obtain that it is necessary to select the parents with a view to that end.

They, the parents, should possess a large percentage of the first-class qualities requisite to form a good rose. Those qualities, I need hardly say, are, first, free flower-

ing; second, good, vigorous grower; third, good form and substance of petal, with a nice fragrance combined. As a type of this, take our old friend Bon Silene, in many respects not equalled and certainly not surpassed to-day. When you have selected the varieties to use as parents, grow them into healthy, good-sized plants, then get them to bloom as near as possible at the same time; take the pollen from one flower and fertilize the other (first cutting out the stamens before the pollen opens), of the flower which is to receive the artificial fecundation. Keep a memorandum of day, date and varieties used; label each plant with numbers corresponding with notes in your book. Do this with all, no matter how many varieties you operate upon. If fecundation takes place, the seed pods, or heps, as they are usually called, will swell and grow fast; but do not be in a hurry to gather them before they are ripe, as that would be fatal to your object, but let them remain on the plant till quite ripe and yellow. This will be, perhaps, October. Then gather and preserve in sand till January, when they can be sown.

For instructions how to do this and all other necessary operations to the raising of seedlings, I would refer you to the "Rose," by my late and very much lamented friend, H. B. Ellwanger, than whom no better informed or more thoroughly practical rosarian of his age did not exist among us, and I regard his loss as a national calamity--horticulturally.

My object to-day is rather to impress upon those of us who have the means and time to devote to raising seedlings to try and see what we can produce; certainly we have everything in our favor for such trials. We have a splendid climate, plenty of sun and warm, dry atmosphere, all essential points to ripen the seed and mature the plants.

And certainly an appreciative public to buy a first-class production after it is assured of being a real improvement on existing kinds. On this particular point there is one thing I would like to impress upon beginners, namely, be sure it is an improvement before offering it to the world. Far better throw every plant away and "try, try again," as one real gem is worth all the imitations in

the world, so is one really fine new rose worth all the poor ones that will ever be produced on this or any other continent. And although many of your seedlings will be beautiful in color and form, yet "all is not gold that glitters;" your fine color and form may not be any improvement on existing kinds, you may find it hard to realize the fact that your pets are doomed to oblivion. In this you will find that they have been real friends to you by constant care and watching, nevertheless you may find it absolutely necessary to destroy a great many of them to make room for others, but by steady perseverance you will gain the prize in time. In this as in all other branches of the cultivation of the rose, it is only by perseverance you can succeed. There is no "royal road to success," but rather it is strewn with thorns and briars all the way; but when at the end of the thorns we meet our beautiful queen in all her glory, what a recompense!

Many people rave over a blue dahlia and some I have heard express a desire for a blue rose. Gentlemen, we see, too, many *blue Jacks* now every season, what I want to see, and I speak for many others also, is a bright scarlet rose--color of General Grant geranium. I tell you there's "millions in it," gentlemen, for the fortunate being who can produce it with a good healthy free-bearing constitution and a flower of good substance and size.

In other colors there is plenty of room for improvement also; we are only in the infancy of this as yet. Twenty-five years ago who thought we should have such glorious roses among Teas as Marshal Niel, Catherine Mermet, &c. Come down again to the present time and see what lovely varieties we have had put upon the market this spring in W. F. Bennett and American Beauty, and we are promised a still more glorious flower in Her Majesty this coming winter. During the period mentioned above we have had very many worthless varieties palmed off upon us. Of those I can only say that they have passed into oblivion, their proper place, which only leaves us better reason to go into the race and win the colors.

Vivat Regina.

JOHN M. MAY, at Florists' Convention.

STEAM VERSUS HOT WATER FOR HEATING GREENHOUSES.

THE heating of greenhouses has been so well carried out the past twenty years by the hot-water system, so thoroughly understood and generally adopted, it would seem useless to advocate any other method. The same was said thirty years ago, when the majority of greenhouses were heated by flues. We have now, in the introduction of heating by steam, a rival to the almost universal hot water. In this paper I do not intend to champion either the one or the other, as I know we have among us able advocates of both; at the same time, I am always on the side of progress, and if steam-heating is the best, let us accept it and do as did those of thirty years ago in the case of flues versus hot water. Admitting that all new-fangled ideas are not worthy of adop-

tion, yet many experiments help to solve difficulties, it would seem that as far as heating by hot water, the best application of it is as perfect as that system can well be. I can remember quite well the battles fought on the different plans of hot-water heating and the various sizes of pipes used for the purpose. It was claimed by one that large pipes were the best--so large as one foot in diameter--and few of them. It was claimed by another that small pipes, one inch and one inch and a half, with plenty of them, were the best. Another claimed that a small flow-pipe was the best, while another claimed that a very large flow-pipe, supplying smaller ones, was the best. Yet another, which perhaps was the stupidest of all, claimed that very small return

pipes should be used, so as to have the water cold or nearly cold when it came back to the boiler. We all know now that each and all of these principles were wrong, and I well remember how much disappointment was occasioned by the many failures. Very often the best cultivators at that time said that flues were best after all, and they did not want any hot water.

It is useless for me to-day to ask which is the best, hot water or flues? As I have stated, however, hot water has had a fight for the position it holds. The progress steam-heating has made during the past six years leads many to think that it is the true method of heating and that hot water must go. How far this is true time will tell: we cannot help feeling that there is a good deal of truth in the statements made for it and that many establishments are most successfully heated; on the other hand, we have to admit some failures as great as were the failures in hot water on its first introduction. With this introduction I feel that I have opened the case and

will leave this matter in the hands of the advocates on either side. It may be well to mention the laws regarding heat, and which must be borne in mind whether the heating apparatus is one of hot water or one of steam. It is an established fact that not more than a certain amount of heat can be extracted from a given quantity of fuel, in all cases the best is the cheapest. It is also an established fact that the fewer impediments put in the way of extraction the more satisfactory are the results. By the same rule the more complete the apparatus used, the one possessing the most economical distribution of the heat engendered, is the best. The more complete the circulation without friction or other difficulties, in proportion will the success or failure of either hot water or steam-heating be. The details of erection will be better discussed as the case proceeds. I feel certain that this topic will be thoroughly ventilated, and that we shall all be benefited thereby.—*John Thorpe, at the Florists' Convention.*

DISEASES OF PLANTS AND THEIR REMEDIES.

Read before the Society of American Florists, at the Annual Convention, held in Cincinnati August 12, 13 and 14, 1885.

IN my observation, very few plants are attacked by insects or disease when in vigorous health. It is only when the vitality is impaired or the growth checked by any cause that they strike. Red spider rarely troubles plants when growing strongly, and even the mealy bug seems to pursue his ravages more vigorously when growth is slower during the winter months. As instances of this, we find the coleus is badly injured in midwinter by mealy bug, but outgrows their attacks in spring and summer. Bouvardia is another case in point, being one of the worst plants we have for the mealy bug, yet when spring comes, and plant vigor asserts itself, they seem to a great extent to disappear. Mildew attacks your roses when a ventilator is raised carelessly on a cold, raw day, and the chilling air strikes down on the soft growth, checking the flowing sap and leaving the plant in a debilitated condition, which invites the fungus known under this name. A marked instance of this occurred in our place years ago. We had a house filled with hybrid roses in full leaf and just showing bud; the house was ventilated by old-fashioned square ventilators that slid up and down. One afternoon they were carelessly left open too long, and the plants under the openings were slightly frozen. The frost apparently did but little injury, but in two days the plants that had been under the openings were completely covered with mildew, while the rest of the house was comparatively free from it. This showed conclusively that the affected plants were made liable to the mildew by having their vitality checked by the slight frost. Of late years, one of the most annoying diseases attacking plants is that affecting the carnation, and it is undoubtedly caused by working our stock year after year at a high temperature, which weakens the general vitality, and the disease, be it a fungus or an insect, quickly fol-

lows. In the fall of 1883 we had a surplus of two varieties of carnations, and rather than throw them away, we "heeled" them in a cold frame, putting straw mats on the glass in extreme weather. They wintered well, and in March we put in a few hundred cuttings of each. We marked them, and last winter they were the best plants we had, not one of them dying off, while we lost hundreds of the same kinds in our regular stock; and I firmly believe that if this plan was adopted of wintering carnations intended for propagation that the "carnation disease" would disappear. We have practised for years another and perhaps more practicable way of avoiding the difficulty, and that is to propagate our young stock as early as possible in the winter, and after the plants have become established, knocking them out of the pots and putting them in shallow boxes in cold frames. This gives them some of the needed rest, and the good effect is very marked. This theory of weakened vitality being the cause and not the consequence of most plant diseases is, perhaps, best borne out in the case of the "black rust, or verbenas rust."

It is a common mistake for growers to use for planting out such plants of verbenas as have been propagated in midwinter. These plants are usually held in the same pots long after they become pot-bound, and consequently are stunted and perhaps diseased when set out. Although they may appear to grow strongly at first, yet the taint is there, and when midsummer comes, with its protracted spells of heat and drouth, the vigor is gone completely, and the insect producing the disease we call "rust" appears in myriads. The true plan is to use for planting the last propagated plants in spring; these sustaining no check, grow right along until midsummer, when it is necessary to cut them severely back, and fork

in a good dressing of manure as close to the plant as possible, followed up by a thorough soaking of water. This last, of course, if the ground is dry, which is almost invariably the case in August. Plants so handled grow vigorously, avoid the fatal check, and give healthy cuttings when needed in August. The "rust" that is found on heliotropes, bouvardias, &c., is probably the same thing, or in any case is produced by the same cause. This is particularly noticeable in heliotropes, as they become "rusted" at once if pot-bound. The insect producing "black rust" is invisible to the naked eye, but under the microscope somewhat resembles a cockroach in shape and general appearance. When plants are affected, a syringing twice a week with fir-tree oil is effective in checking it; but, as in everything of this kind, prevention is the best remedy.

Celery Rust.—Although this is a little out of the florist's line, yet a valuable lesson may be drawn from the causes that produce it. The celery "rust" is occasioned by anything that injures the roots—an excessive rain or drought—either cause kills the working roots, and the yellowing up or "rusting" of the leaves soon follows. In the open field this is beyond our control, but the hint given is invaluable in operations under glass, where watering is at our command. There is but little doubt that nine-tenths of the failures in rose-growing for winter flowers is traceable to the fact that the working roots of the plants have been destroyed by having been kept too wet or too dry.

Green Fly.—Of course, we all know that this insect can be destroyed by fumigation with tobacco, but in cases where cut-flowers are grown, particularly roses, tobacco smoke will take the color out of the buds, and to a great extent lessen their value. The "fly" can be kept down by simply spreading tobacco stems about the house and giving them a dash of water whenever you are watering. The slight fumes that are constantly arising from the tobacco will keep the green fly entirely under subjection. We kept a rose-house, 312 feet long and 20 feet wide, entirely free from "fly" with a layer of tobacco stems, ten inches wide and two inches deep, running the full length of the house. It is not safe to put the stems on the bed where plants are growing, as sometimes there are ingredients used in curing the tobacco which will cause injury to the plants. I have known several cases of this. The stems need renewing every six weeks.

Mealy Bug.—We have tried various emulsions of kerosene oil for this pest, but with indifferent results. Alcohol, which is the basis of most insecticides for mealy bug, will do the work, but it is too expensive for general use. The imported preparation known as "fir-tree oil" is by far the best and most economical remedy we have yet tried. It kills the bug and its eggs and does no practical injury to the plants. In using the fir-tree oil or any similar insecticide, it is better, when practicable, to dip the plants in the preparation. In my experience one dipping is as good as ten syringings and much more economical. A common error in the use of all insecticides is the want of persistence in their use. It is much better to use a weak application of any insecticide fre-

quently than a stronger dose of it at less frequent periods. For example, we have always found it more effective and safe to fumigate with tobacco smoke our houses twice a week lightly, rather than once a week and more heavily.

Rose Bug.—This most dangerous insect first appeared in quantity about New York seven or eight years ago, and probably you are all familiar enough with it by this time. It is about as large as a lady-bug, but is brown in color. The perfect bug feeds on the tops, eating the leaves and doing some injury, but the great mischief is done by the larvæ feeding on the roots. This is a white grub, about a quarter of an inch long, which is hatched in the soil by the bug. Its presence at the roots is quickly shown by the yellowing and dropping of the leaves, which by the inexperienced may be attributed to the ordinary causes of overwatering or too high a temperature, but if a plant is dug up dozens of the grub will be found about the roots. The only remedy seems to be to pick the perfect bugs from the tops by hand. The rose bugs have not done so much damage in the last few years, as the now general practice of planting new stock each year seems to have disturbed and prevented their breeding.

Black Ants.—These symbols of industry will cause considerable injury and annoyance in a greenhouse if allowed to gain headway. They tunnel the soil in pots and benches, and carry the soil up the stems of the plants and encrust with it the mealy bug and scale, which they pretend to devour but never diminish. They can be readily exterminated by dusting the large runs of them with pyrethrum, applied with a bellows. It is useless to spread it around by hand, as they are killed by breathing it, and it must be distributed in fine particles. In the winter of 1883 our place became badly infested with ants, and only the persistent daily use of pyrethrum for three months exterminated them.

Mildew.—The only remedy we have ever used for mildew is sulphur, either by putting it on the pipes so that the fumes will be thrown off by the heat or in the liquid form, as follows: 1 lb. lime and 1 lb. sulphur in 2 gals. water; boil this down to one gallon, and use a wine-glassful of this to five gallons of water and syringe the affected plants twice a week. This is particularly useful in summer when not firing, and is a certain remedy. It has been recently suggested to use linseed-oil mixed with sulphur for painting the pipes, it being claimed that in this way the sulphur would do no harm to the plants. Now, while the linseed-oil may be a good thing to mix with the sulphur to make it stick to the pipes, it is certainly of no other benefit. It is well known that sulphur mixed with water alone is used on hot-water pipes in greenhouses and graperies as an antidote against mildew and red spider, without injury to the plants. It has been our practice for years to sprinkle the pipes with water, and then dust the sulphur on while wet, and I have never seen the slightest injury to roses or other plants by this manner of applying it. Many serious results have occurred by burning sulphur in greenhouses or applying it on brick flues, where the temperature is perhaps 300 degrees, but I never heard of injury to plants resulting

from its being applied on hot-water pipes, where the temperature is usually under 200 degrees.

Black Mildew or "Black Spot."—I have had scarcely any experience with this, as we never have had it on our place, except in a slight degree on some hybrid tea-roses. I have noticed, however, that it is most prevalent in rose establishments where the stock is grown for propagation in shallow benches, in soil without manure. It is almost unknown where the plants are grown for cut-flowers, and consequently are liberally fed. In all probability this continued starving leaves the stock in such condition that it invites the "black spot." There is a formula which is said to check it, but it has been kept a secret by the discoverer.

In conclusion I would say that, in my opinion, the ventilation of a greenhouse has more to do with the health of its contents than any other one cause. This is particularly true with roses. If air is given to a rose-house, day and night during July and August, there will be little trouble with mildew, as the cool night air and the action of the wind all tend to toughen the fibre of the wood and leaves and give strength of constitution to the whole plant, so that when the spores of mildew and other fungoid diseases strike, they do not take root, but glance off harmlessly from the hardened and fortified foliage.

CHARLES HENDERSON.

JERSEY CITY HEIGHTS, N. J.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Spinach.

ONE of the most important crops in our market gardens is that of spinach, and it is estimated that there are hundreds of acres of it cultivated in the neighborhood of New York city for fall and early spring use, and I know of no reason why it should not be grown in every amateur's garden. It is one of those vegetables that require but little skill or experience to cultivate it successfully, but like all others will well repay the extra cultivation and care that may be bestowed upon it.

As it is mostly required for early spring use it should be given the most sheltered situation one has at his command, and like all other vegetables of which the leaves or stalks are the parts used, the land on which it is growing can hardly be made too rich and deep, for the size and succulent tenderness of the leaf depend altogether upon the character of the soil and the manner in which the plants have been grown.

The ground should be prepared early in September by ploughing in deeply a good supply of well-decayed stable manure, and then, with the harrow leveling it off as nicely as possible. On a more limited scale all of this preparatory work can be done (but not so well) by means of the fork and rake, and land on which any early crop has been grown will answer, providing it be properly prepared.

After the ground is in readiness the seed should be sown in drills about an inch and a half in depth and from

twelve to sixteen inches apart. Sow rather thickly, covering it with about an inch of soil, and then firm the ground on the seed by treading down firmly each row with the foot.

The seed should be sown from the 5th to the 10th of September, but if any is desired for use during the fall months, it should be sown about two weeks earlier. As soon as the crop is up and the plants strong enough to handle they should be well thinned out, so that they stand about four inches apart; after this all the care they require is to be kept well cultivated and free from weeds until the ground becomes frozen in the fall.

Early in the ensuing spring, as soon as the earth becomes settled, the crop should be thoroughly and deeply hoed, and in a short time it will be ready for use.

A few years ago we had only a couple of varieties, but of late there has been quite an improvement in this excellent vegetable, and the result is that we now have several very valuable varieties. For amateur cultivators the best are the Round-leaf, which is so well known as to require no description, and the Savoy; this is of recent introduction, and has wrinkled leaves in the way peculiar to the Savoy cabbage. It is truly a very valuable variety, producing twice the weight of crop of the ordinary sorts, and is decidedly one of the most hardy.

QUEENS, N. Y.

CHAS. E. PARNELL.

AN ACRE OF PANSIES.

FOUR miles east from Amherst, as the crow flies, nestled among rocks and unevenness hardly high enough to be called hills, and in singular contradistinction to the uncultivated fields about it and the young growth of scrubby forest trees, lies a flower garden, ten acres in extent. One whole acre is devoted to pansies. Row after row it stretches in brilliant lines like broken rainbows, showing every tint and every combination of tints that can be named or imagined. There are all the old favorites, purple and yellow and white and

velvety black; but beside and around them range thousands of new and, to me, unknown sisters. They are blossoms fresh and clean looking as new calicoes in stripes and spots of blue and white; others with the quaint pink-and-gold tints we used to see on grandmother's china; others still are streaked with a crimson like that which stains the bright cheek of a winter apple. There are royal fellows in mauve and lavender, and a richly-robed one in deepest wine. There are pink and white flowers that mimic the form and color

of Lady Washington geraniums; any number copy the butterfly fashions. One gay little gypsy flaunts a jacket of scarlet and a petticoat of yellow, while beside it nods a sombre-petaled flower, brown as an oak-leaf in November. Queer copper-hued blossoms call to mind the foil from button-cards, which children call "gold-money." Spotless white beauties hover over their plants like great snowy moths, and one set of pansies actually get the sunset glow on Pelham Hills among their delicate shades of violet. This sounds fanciful, but it is hardly a hint of the glorious sight that made us fairly hold our breath and then let it go in a long sigh of satisfaction.

"It is magic!" I exclaim to the owner.

"No," he replies, with a quiet smile, "it is cultivation."

And I acquiesce meekly.

"Yes, that works all the miracles nowadays!"

You who are flower lovers probably know all about the guardian of these wonder children and how he cherishes them until they have lived their fragrant life and left its ashes, their seeds, for part payment on his rent-roll. Then you will not open your eyes as I did mine—not as wide as the pansies, for they are three inches in diameter sometimes—when I tell you that beside the 15,000 pansy plants there are 50,000 asters, 30,000 phlox and 20,000 pinks, besides smaller quantities of plants less suited to this climate.

"You must do a great business," I venture respectfully, watching the long, deft, brown fingers moving among the nurslings with the mixture of familiarity and gentleness which nature gives the touch of her scientific sons.

"I employ from six to fifteen men all of the time. Pansy seeds, you know, must be gathered every week. Ten years ago I had two hundred orders in a year for seeds. Now my orders are from one to five hundred a day."

"You import?"

"From Germany, France and England. They used to

think we could not raise flower-seeds in America. We have proved that we can raise some varieties better here."

"Who are 'we,' please?"

"Some in Rochester besides Vick, two or three on Long Island, a few in Pennsylvania and a few West. But seed-growing is comparatively new in this country. My name is L. W. Goodell. I raise more than any one but Vick, and he has no pansies. I took it up for the love of it."

As he looks fondly at the dazzling array, I remember what used to be said of such work: "Flowers will do well only for those who love them." Somewhat of the feeling of the artist watching the picture grow beneath his own careful, competent hands; somewhat of the feeling of the musician and the poet, finding rich harmonies and contrasts cunningly blended, undoubtedly lurks in his heart, finding a happy vent in helping the grand metamorphosis of earth, air and water into pansy velvet.

"Have you always lived here?" I ask.

"Yes," with another frank smile, "and my father, grandfather and great-grandfather lived here. I have the old deed, dated 1760, under King George."

"An unusual American," I muse, driving away, "remaining where his ancestors first struck root more than a hundred years ago, making an artistic and a pecuniary success of his quiet life, content to have the finest collection of pansies in the country, where only stray travelers may exclaim over them, and no glib-tongued reporter recount their splendors. But a reporter might as well attempt to describe the jewels of the Taj Mahal. The catalogue which Mr. Goodell handed me tells that all the ladies of the Olympian court, to say nothing of the classic heroines from Antigone to Cassiopeia, have been invoked to furnish names for his stately blossoms. What an æsthetic assistant to classes in literature such a pansy bed would be! The city which cherishes her public gardens with one hand and her fine public schools with the other should have something of the sort.—*Alice Ward Bailey, in Boston Journal.*

AN OUT-DOOR FLORIST.

MRS. CROSBY was busy getting the children ready for school. She took a strong thread and needle, and sewed up a rip in Annie's boot, stitched a seam in Lena's glove and went round and round the coarse straw hat of her only boy, Bobby. Then the lunch basket was packed, and the three children, after a loving kiss, started off for their half-mile walk to the nearest school in the suburb of the city. Their home was within a mile of the metropolis, and the old-fashioned cottage where they lived had belonged to Mr. Crosby's mother long before it was built around as now so as to seem part of the city, though it escaped the taxes. But as Mrs. Crosby sat down to dress the baby, her mind wandered to many things connected with her household cares, and to nothing so much as the scanty limit of her purse to her expenditures. Oh, if she only had some way of buying many of the little things they needed, without going to Mr. Crosby! She

seldom called him "John," and never when these mental recriminations were going on in her mind. He was a good husband and a bountiful provider; her wishes were always gratified, as far as he could purchase anything, but then he often bought things she did not want and left her in need of other things she *did* want. "How selfish men were," she thought; "they always want to hold the purse-strings and to spend the money. I'm sure I work as hard as any bookkeeper and yet I have no pay, and never a dollar to call my own. I would rather do without anything I need than ask John Crosby for money."

By this time the little one was in the cradle and its mother picked up a stocking she was knitting for Lena, and at the same time took up the daily paper and laid it on her knee—"Hush, my baby, slumber sweetly," she sang in a gentle, loving drone, "slumber, slumber, sweet." Ah! who but a mother could do fourfold work, and all so

patiently? But the song died away, her foot stopped its monotone on the cradle rocker, and she pauses in her reading at a florist's advertisement. "Wanted, lily of the valley, also *lilium longiflorum* and heliotrope. Apply at Bayne Brothers, Elder street." A flush of surprise, and then a look of determination came over her face. Why should she not avail herself of this chance to make a little pocket-money? There was a large straggling bed of lilies-of-the-valley in a moist corner of the old garden; she had often wished they could be dug out, but the roots were tough and tangled, and they were just coming into bloom now. Then the tall white lilies would blossom when the others were gone, and she had a bed of fine heliotrope on a sunny slope. It seemed as if a kind providence had directed her eyes to that particular column, and she could hardly wait for the children to return from school at two o'clock in the afternoon, to investigate this opportunity of making a little money.

When Annie came in and threw down her bag of books her mother was ready and with many strict injunctions, as to the care of the baby and of the fire, she started for Bayne Brothers, taking with her a bunch of the opening lilies. The florists were at home, and busy making up a large wedding order; they told her in pauses between the work that a piece of their garden had been sold; they had only leased it and the purchaser was now building on it; that their lily-of-the-valley beds, and plots of *lilium longiflorum* had to be removed and did not flower; hence the advertisement. They could, however, take all she had every season, if put up in good shape; also, later on, the chrysanthemums and any other good white flowers she might have. The flowers were to be picked before sunrise, and sent to a grocery near her home, where their wagon stopped at six A. M. with vegetables. They gave her two small wooden boxes promising to leave more at the store, and to exchange them every day. "I see you want to make a little money, ma'am, and it's a mutual benefit, so if you pack 'em tight, and put in plenty of leaves, tie up in bunches of twenty-five each, they will come all right. But no sun—pick 'em early; better do it over-night than let a sunbeam on 'em." And promising her a dollar and a half per hundred, and the same for lilies and heliotrope, the florists went on with their work, and Mrs. Crosby returned to her home, content to be able to earn the dollars she had that morning coveted apparently so hopelessly.

No plan ever succeeded better, and this mine of flowers in the shaded dell lasted for ten days, and then dwindled away. But the long-flowered white lilies were in bloom, and they needed a larger box and more careful packing. When the first of them were sent away they looked so very dingy and forlorn that Mrs. Crosby had misgivings that all was not right, and in the afternoon her fears were realized by the appearance of one of the Bayne Brothers at her front door.

"Them lilies ain't no good, ma'am," he said; "you must break off them yellow centres, or all that pollen dust will go over the flower," and he went out in the garden and dexterously detached the top from the stamens. "There now, send 'em clean and white; you lost that lot, but it needn't happen again."

When the summer was over and only the shrubs of *Hydrangea paniculata* stood in the garden, to be shorn as late white flowers, except a border of sweet alyssum that was cut every day, the little woman sat down to count her profits. It had been quite an effort to tell Mr. Crosby, as she did long before, but he only took it as a joke and thought no more about it.

Now the returns were dwindling down, and soon all would be over. She had sown pansy seed early in the season and the beds were full of purple and white bloom, the new white pansy showing conspicuously. "Put your old hot-bed sashes over 'em, and if you water and air 'em regular they'll flower till Christmas," advised Mr. Bayne, and this she determined to do.

Many comforts for the children had been purchased, and she had a balance of forty dollars, with which she intended to treat herself to a new cloak. While she mused over it before the fire, and tried to decide if she would get a cheap suit of all wool, or only a cloak of heavier material, her husband came in looking jaded and harassed.

"What is the matter," she asked timidly.

"Oh!" was his peevish reply, "the butcher came to the office to-day and left his bill, right before all the clerks. I haven't anything to pay it with, and he said he would call to-morrow. I had no idea it had mounted up to forty dollars."

Her heart gave a sudden leap, and a wave of generous impulse took possession of her.

"I have that amount. I—I—intended to get a new cloak with it, but it doesn't matter, if you need it."

He knew how niggardly he had been to her, and knew also the price of cigars of the finest brand, of which she had no suspicion. So he turned to her in sudden amazement.

"Where in thunder did you get it?"

"Hush!" she answered; "you *know* how it is. I made it selling flowers. It's a regular business, and a good one, too, only its over now, for autumn has come. They only take white ones, or pale blossoms; but I got the children shoes and hats, and have been able to get the winter flannels made before we needed to wear them. It *may* save Lena from that bad croup she had last year." Here she paused, and took from an inner drawer four ten-dollar bills. "Take them—never mind the cloak."

"Do you take me for a brute," he roared, in scornful rage, "to let you scrape up money in this way and then take it from you?"

"It was pleasant work," she said, gently, "the children and I like it, and I am going to have pansies to sell at the holidays."

"Well, you are a woman with brains," he answered, admiringly. "I shall go down town and stir up Jim Forrester; he owes me \$50, and he shall pay it; and look here, wife, since you've done so well I've half a mind to stop smoking and save the money to build you a *greenhouse*!"

He did not wait for her reply, but passed quickly out of the door in search of his delinquent debtor; but the sound that fell upon his ears was a prolonged and delighted oh! and a sigh of satisfaction from his happy out-door florist.

ANNIE L. JACK.

HOME DECORATIONS.

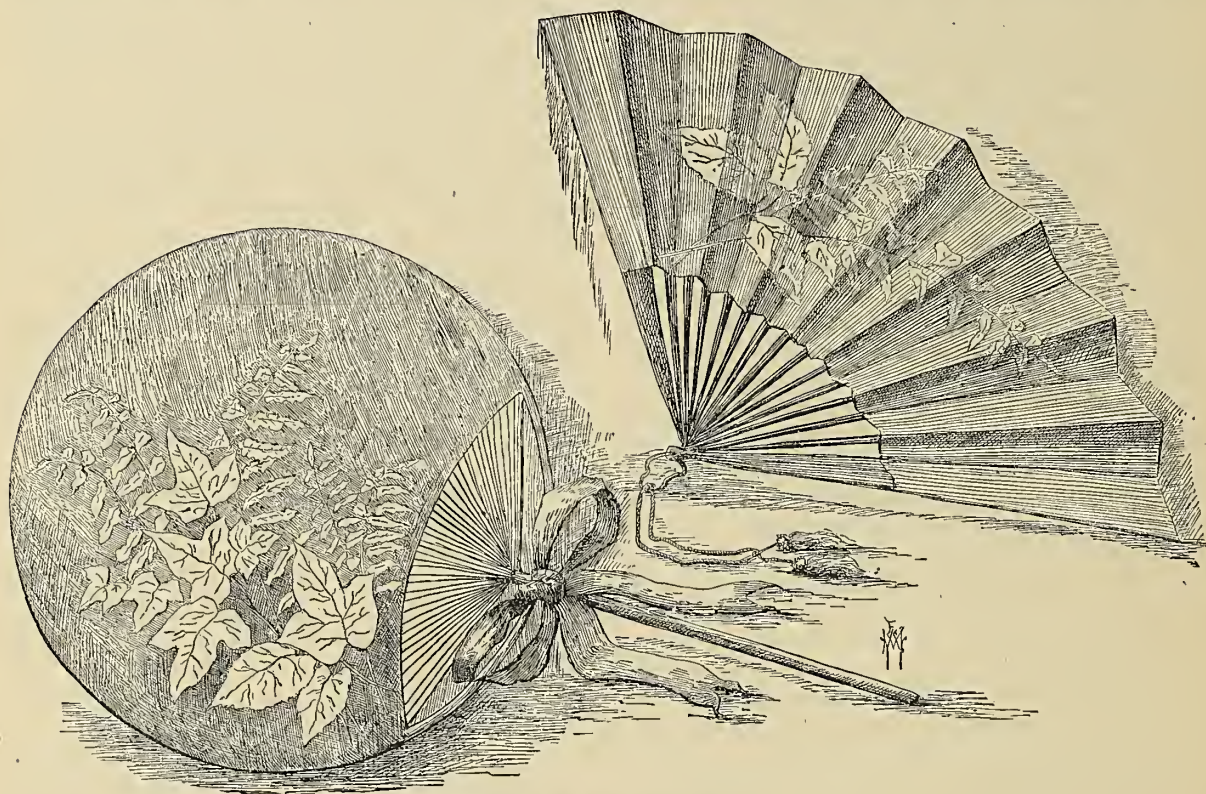
A Novel Use for Skeleton Leaves.

LEAVES are beautiful when wearing their coats of green, but divest them of this, as is the case when they are skeletonized, and they are still more beautiful, for all their delicate lace-like tracery can then be seen.

Many understand the method of preparing them, but for those who do not possess this knowledge a few hints will, perhaps, not come amiss.

Gather such leaves as are perfectly developed but have not become tough by the action of the sun and wind.

boiling; but if it is removed with difficulty, boil them longer, or until they can be easily cleansed; otherwise there is danger of breaking the fibres. When they have become sufficiently softened, pour off the water in which they have been boiled and put them in a bowl of clear cold water. Take one leaf at a time, lay it on a plate, and with a medium-sized bristle-brush, such as is used for painting, carefully brush off the coating, every now and then pouring a little water over the leaf to wash it. Then drop it again in cold water, letting it remain there until you have a number ready for bleaching at one time.



DESIGNS FOR SKELETON LEAVES.

Maple, pear, ivy and poplar leaves are easily prepared; the more delicate varieties of ferns are first pressed and then bleached; but these are so frail that no other process is necessary.

The leaves must be treated in the following manner: Put them in a saucepan and pour over them one quart of boiling water, then stir in one tablespoonful of bicarbonate of soda and two tablespoonfuls of laundry soap which has been cut in small pieces.

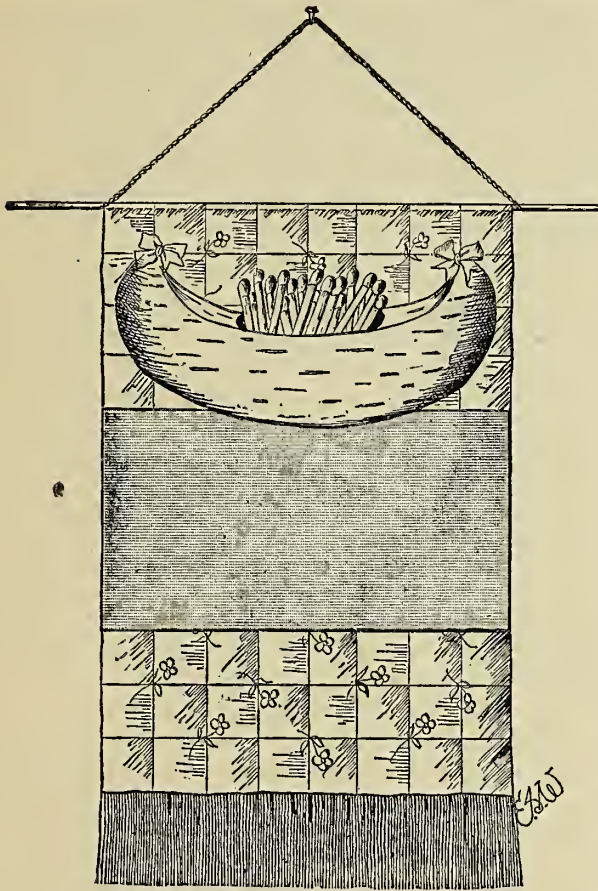
Place the saucepan on the fire and let the leaves boil in the water for twenty minutes or half an hour. Then take one from the water, place it on a plate and rub gently with the finger. If the green coating comes off readily, leaving the fibres clear, they require no more

Should it be necessary, however, to keep them for several hours or days, it is better to lay them on paper that they may dry.

The best bleaching solution is Labarraque's chloride of soda, using one-half water with which to dilute it, for if used full strength it destroys the leaves.

Put the mixture in a bottle, glass with a wide mouth is best, and in it place a number of the leaves, but not enough to be crowded. Stand the jar in a sunny place for several hours, or longer if the leaves are not whitened. When perfectly bleached take them from the fluid and carefully rinse them in clear water, then very gently dry them between soft cloths to free them from moisture. They must then be pressed between sheets of

Match-Safe Banner.



MATCH-SAFE BANNER.

A PIECE of fancy sash ribbon, a knitting-needle, little birch-bark canoe, and a bit of sand-paper, if properly joined together, makes a convenient arrangement for holding matches as well as a place to strike them. Fringe the ribbon an inch deep and sew the top around the knitting-needle, glue a piece of sand-paper on the banner and fasten the little canoe above it with bows of narrow ribbon. The canoes can be bought for twenty-five or thirty cents. Sew a cord on the top by which to suspend the banner. E. W.

Whisk-Broom Case.

THE whisk-broom holder in the form of a lily is made of dark-red satin. It is a more economical way to cut first a paper pattern, then you can cut your satin to much better advantage. First cut the paper perfectly round, measuring ten inches in diameter, fold it together and cut it to form six petals about three inches deep, at equal distance around the edge, varying a little in shape; cut an opening in the centre large enough to slip in the broom when pressed together tightly. Then cut out of wigan one piece the exact size of the pattern, and of the satin two pieces a little larger. Overhand a fine wire around the edge of the wigan and baste the satin on each side of it; turn the edges in and overhand them neatly together. Work the stamens with light green silk or arasene.

Make the case for the lower part out of pasteboard, the top to correspond in size with the opening in the centre of the lily, and the front half, long enough to conceal the broom so that only the handle is exposed, the



CASE FOR WHISK-BROOM.

white paper under weights, as you would press autumn leaves.

After pressing they are ready to be arranged in designs. If stems are required the base of the leaf is securely bound to the end of a piece of fine white silk wire, by wrapping it round neatly with white sewing silk.

The ferns are merely placed in the bleaching fluid after having been pressed until dry. Then carefully wash them in clear water and dry them between soft cloths. These also may have the wire stems, if necessary, but as they usually retain their own stems, if long enough, they will require no others.

They are now ready to arrange on the screens, fans or whatever one may wish to decorate with them.

For a hand-screen, a round paper Japanese fan may first be covered smoothly on both sides with satin of any color desired; light-blue is one of the prettiest for a background. Then arrange the leaves, lightly and gracefully grouping them together. The under side of each leaf and fern must be very slightly coated with a thin solution of gum-arabic, only enough to make them adhere to the satin, and care must be taken that none shows on the right side. They seem like the daintiest and most exquisite designs in lace applied to the satin. The leaves can also be used on folding fans, but, of course, will be less durable, as the opening and closing will, after a time, wear them away, but though they seem frail they will keep their beauty for a long time.

M. E. WHITTEMORE.

back can only be two-thirds the length to allow the broom to slip out easily; cover the two pieces of pasteboard with the satin and overhand them together. Cut a couple of long leaves of wigan and cover them on each side with dark-green satin, sewing the wire around the edge as you did with the petals of the lily; attach them to the lower part and sew the lily in the case. If you can paint it will improve it to shade the lily and green leaves a little; it can be done without having much knowledge of painting, as you want to use the same colors, only darker. Sew two rings on the back of the case near the top, by which to suspend it, and bend the petals so that the lily will look as graceful as possible.

E. S. WELCH.

Mantelpieces and their Decoration.

“WHITE marble mantelpieces,” says the *Art Interchange*, “are now as much a fashion of the past as white china and white walls. A plain pine mantelpiece is now regarded with more favor than the most charmingly sculptured white marble.

“One of the chief effects of the demand for wooden mantels has been the, one might almost say, discovery and appreciation of some exquisite native and foreign woods comparatively but slightly known except to persons in the trade. Take, for example, the wood of the sweet gum-tree of fine grain and softest olive-brown tint; the dark sycamore, with its marvelous streakings and veinage of red on a ground of a warm pink-brown; the light sycamore, with its tender terra-cotta tintings; the white mahogany, with soft, oaken-brown; and satinwood, with its deep, golden glow and lustre of polish.

“At the command of persons of moderate means are mantels of cherry in its natural finish, and cherry stained to a deep crimson hue, mahogany, oak, ash and walnut.

“The fancy for the hour in color and design runs largely to full-tinted mahoganies in old Colonial patterns for parlors and libraries; to antique oak and walnut in German Renaissance designs for halls and dining-room; to the light fancy woods and to ivory white and gold for luxurious reception and drawing rooms.

“In Colonial designs there are two styles—the severely chaste and plain, and the slightly ornate as to flutings and moldings. In a fine example the mantelshelf proper is supported by tall, slender pillars with fluted headings. Set in the middle of the over-mantel is a finely-beveled mirror with arched top; on either side, under shelves for bric-à-brac, shine oblong mirrors. Near the top on each side of the central mirror, framed in mahogany, are two semicircular shelves, with slender spindle-railings, intended for the reception of vases or plaques. The fireplace facing for this mantel of deep-hued mahogany is composed of deep blue-green tiles, the hearth of rich dark terra-cotta tiles. The ornaments for a mantel of this style should be chaste in design and wrought in bronze or antique brass.

“Besides the Colonial there are many other old patterns, revival of German and Italian Renaissance and French periods. For halls come charming corner mantelpieces in old oak, showing beautiful hand-carvings in borders of the German Renaissance, and leaf-molding about the

edges. A stately mantel of this period shows a high, narrow shelf, supported by tall, curving pilasters, surmounted by grinning tigers' heads, and ending in huge-clawed feet. On either end of this mantel stand old brass candelabra, in the middle a clock of the same metal. Above the high shelf rises a pent-roof nearly reaching the ceiling. Above the fireplace facing of deep blue tiles, mounted in old brass, is a second shelf for bric-à-brac.

“Coming to the drawing-room we have the lighter woods and more ornate decoration, for example, a mantelpiece of sweet gumwood in color resembling olive wood. The mantle-shelf is rather broad and low, its fine grain showing through a smooth polish. Above the shelf rises a circular mirror framed in the gumwood, and beautified on the top by festoons and a garland of carved roses and other flowers. From the semicircular receptacles on either side for candelabra or vases droops a festoon of carved flowers swinging downward to the shelf, which is rounded at the corners. The moldings around edge of shelf and across the panels of the front are refined and simple. On either side, below, and about half way up from the floor are side niches large enough to hold a rather stately vase. Set in the fireplace is a facing of pale green tiles of honeysuckle design.

“So beautiful are all these mantels that they need no drapery or valance of any kind, save a simple scarf. For the ivory-white mantel may be used an ivory-white plush scarf, to be laid on the shelf and hang about ten inches below at either end, with dead gold fringe. Turquoise-blue, old pink, and gold-colored silk, satin, plush or velvet may also be used. For a cherry mantel of the deep red stain, a deep blue or blue-green scarf is appropriate; for a gum-wood pale silver-green; for red sycamore golden-olive; for satinwood mats of turquoise-blue velvet fringed with silk. Mahogany looks well with deep blues and olive-greens. For an ebonized mantel plum color, old gold, lemon-yellow are appropriate.

“To those who still like stone mantels are recommended the slate mantels, which, at least, have the merit of full, warm color, exquisite polish and chaste design.”

A Pretty Rug.

DIRECTIONS for making your own rugs are by no means novel; indeed, the subject has been worn nearly threadbare. One can scarcely glance over the advertising pages of a magazine or newspaper without being confronted by the announcement, “Make your own rugs.” There are rag rugs innumerable, and rugs made of carpet bits; but notwithstanding all this, a rug knit of colored carpet warp (such as is used in weaving rag carpets) is so pretty, so simply made, and requires so small an outlay for materials, that I am sure a description of it will be of interest.

Two pounds of colored carpet warp will be needed; one pound of deep red and one of olive green is a pretty combination. The warp can be obtained for twenty-five cents a pound, and the rug is knit in strips on two steel knitting needles about as large around as a straw. The

centre of the rug is knit in three strips; the middle one of the olive green contains three diamond-shaped figures of red; the two outside strips alternate blocks of red and olive green, and around these a border of red with corner squares of the olive.

For the middle strip, cast on twenty-five stitches of the olive yarn, knit one row plain (knit the first stitch with each row). For the second row, wind the yarn over *two* fingers *three* times and knit in these loops; knit three rows plain between each row of loops. In the seventh row of loops knit the thirteenth stitch with the red for the point of the diamond; in the eighth row knit three stitches with the red, thus increasing the figure by two stitches with each row; the eighth row of *red* will be the centre and in the seven following rows diminish the red stitches by two each time, so that fifteen rows complete the diamond. Then knit two rows of the olive and begin in the same way a smaller red diamond consisting of nine rows.

Two more olive rows, then a diamond the same as the first one described, and six rows of the olive color, as at the beginning, finishes the strip.

For the two strips of alternate colors in blocks, cast on fifteen stitches with the olive yarn; knit five loop rows, then five with the red, alternating them in this way until your strip contains eleven blocks, the last one being of the olive yarn as at the beginning.

For the border, cast on thirty-one stitches of the olive yarn and knit enough rows to form a square; then knit fifty-five rows of the red and finish with an olive square as at the beginning. Two of these strips form the side borders, and a red strip of the same width must be knit for the ends to complete the border.

Overhand the three centre strips together in the order already described; also overhand the border and line the rug thus formed with a piece of strong burlap or a piece of partly worn ingrain carpet. MARY L. THAYER.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

THROUGHOUT the city the stores are just beginning, early as it is, to bring out fall and winter goods. It is hard to say, so soon, what will be worn, for goods are as yet mere suggestions as to what is to come. Woolen stuffs of all varieties still remain in favor for walking and street costumes, though they are found principally in rough cloths this season.

A very peculiar effect is given to the new materials by having curled loops of the fabric woven in stripes, palms, conventionalized figures in borders, and sometimes covering the cloth entirely; in which case it often resembles Astrachan, though, of course, much lighter in weight.

Jersey flannel can be purchased now in many pretty shades, and as it is both warm and soft, and has a tendency to make slender ladies look larger, it is likely to attain considerable favor. The right side looks like a heavy flannel, but the wrong side is webbing, which gives it the elasticity which has won for it so much praise.

The winter canvas stuffs—very much like the étamine of the summer, but of a closely-woven texture—have a border of palm-leaves woven in loops of the material along the selvedge. This border is used as a trimming for the draperies, cuffs, collar and vest, and if enough is to be had, for a band on the pleating of the skirt. Lead-color, russet brown, marine blue and dark green largely represent the fall shades, but still, mixtures of dark colors, such as red, green or blue, with black, or drab, sage, and brown with blue or red are seen.

Soft silks, such as Bengaline, sicilienne or surah, will, in combination with plush and velvet, be used for both autumn and winter. Plain and small figured velvets are seen for dresses, while black, dark brown and lead-colored velvets with larger figures, are for cloaks, wraps, &c. In the figured velvets for dresses some very bright combinations are seen, drab and blue, or blue with Havana brown, bright red with dark green, and a darker red with écu.

Plush is still imported in all imaginable plaids, stripes and arabesques, and is also to be seen dotted here and there with gilt or lead, as if beaded.

Coats and redingotes will be in favor for autumn and winter, yet still "are not what they seem," or what the name implies, for the coat has no skirt behind, while the redingote stops a little below the waist-line in the back. These redingotes, which are really corsages, have the sides lengthened to within a few inches of the bottom of the skirt, and form broad ends, which sometimes separate in front below the waist to show the skirt. The long ends are often lined with a medium quality of silk, or still better, of satin the same color as the costume, or else a contrasting color, and gives a pretty finish to the whole costume. They are trimmed with gold or silver embroidery, beads, or sometimes with lace, put on like passementerie, and usually open down to the waist and are caught together by a bow or belt (beginning in the under-arm seams) or else metal fastening, the space left in front being filled by a slightly bouffant plastron or a plain vest of the material of the costume.

For autumn traveling the redingote is most in vogue, and the following is a good type made from any woolen goods especially suited to the taste of the wearer. The skirt gathered behind is joined to the pointed basque, a simulated hood is laced almost together by a cord, the ends of which finished with tassels fall half way to the bottom of the garment. The lining of the hood, the revers down the front, which turn *toward* the back, and the collar and cuffs are made of velvet the same shade of the cord and tassels which trim the hood.

Little wraps of medium weight woolen goods will be worn in the early autumn days, some in the shape of a large cape with sleeves and a hood, others having the sleeves of a contrasting color or of a different material.

MELUZINA.

HOUSEKEEPING.

Potatoes Warmed in Gravy.

Chop a quart of cold boiled potatoes quite fine, season them with salt and pepper. Melt a little butter in the frying-pan, put in the potatoes, add a cup of gravy and stir with a fork until they are hot and brown, but do not stir them enough to make them pasty. Chicken gravy is especially nice.

Codfish Balls.

Soak one pound of codfish over-night in cold water. In the morning, pour off the water and add enough tepid water to cover it, and let it stand three hours more; then scrape off any fat or rusty-looking portions, and put the codfish in a saucepan with some warm water, and let it simmer—not boil—for two hours. Remove from the fire and pick out all the bones. When cold chop it in a wooden bowl. Boil some potatoes and mash them very smooth; add plenty of butter, salt to taste, and milk enough to make it sufficiently soft, and the beaten yolk of one egg. Now put in the fish, a little at a time, and mix all together, having it as soft as can be conveniently handled and made into cakes. If it is too stiff add more milk. The potatoes should be in the proportion of two cupfuls to one of fish. When all is ready, flour your hands, and taking out a spoonful at a time, shape it into flat cakes, if they are to be fried on a gridle, or into balls, if they are to be fried in hot lard.

Egg Sauce.

The ingredients for this delicious sauce are three eggs, one cup of powdered sugar and a teaspoon of vanilla or lemon extract. Beat the whites to a very stiff froth, then with a silver spoon gently and slowly stir into them the cup of sugar and the flavoring, and last stir in the yolks, having previously beaten them very light. The directions must be followed exactly and the sauce not allowed to stand after making, or the result will not be satisfactory. It is particularly nice over boiled or steamed rice.

Mayonnaise Dressing with One Egg.

One-half cup of olive oil, one scant cup of whipped cream, one tablespoonful of vinegar, one tablespoonful of lemon juice, as much cayenne pepper as can be taken up

on the point of a penknife, one-quarter of a teaspoonful of salt and the yolk of one egg. Beat the yolk with the salt and pepper until it is light and creamy, then add the oil, a few drops at a time, until about half of it is used. Add the remainder of it in larger quantities. As the sauce thickens, add the vinegar slowly, and then the lemon, and last the cup of whipped cream. This will be sufficient for a pint and a half of fish or shrimps and three small heads of lettuce.

Egg Salad.

Boil six eggs twenty minutes, then lay them in cold water. When they are thoroughly cold, take off the shells and cut the eggs into halves; remove the yolks, and when they have been thoroughly mashed and are light and smooth, add to them one tablespoonful of butter, one of vinegar, a little salt and pepper, and then heap them in the halved whites; arrange them on a flat dish with sprigs of parsley around the edge.

Coffee Ice Cream.

One pint of sugar and one of water; boil twenty minutes; then add a half-pint of strong clear coffee and the yolks of five eggs, and beat until it begins to thicken like soft custard; then set away to cool. When cold, add a quart and a half of cream, and freeze.

Stuffed Tomatoes.

Select large smooth tomatoes; for a dozen there will be needed a cup of bread-crumbs, one tablespoonful of butter, one of sugar, a teaspoonful of onion juice—obtained by peeling and grating an onion—a teaspoonful of salt and a little pepper. Cut a thin slice from the top of each tomato, and, with a small silver spoon, scoop out all the soft part that can be spared without spoiling the shape. Mix this pulp with the other ingredients and fill the tomatoes with it; then replace the slices taken from the top of the tomatoes, put them in a granite-iron or earthen baking dish and bake them slowly three-quarters of an hour. They must be removed to a platter with a pancake turner, so as not to destroy the shape.

MRS. C. G. HERBERT.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Society of American Florists.—The annual convention of this society, recently held at Cincinnati, was a surprise to everyone present. A large attendance and a good time generally was expected; but no one thought of seeing so many of the leading florists of the country in council together; no one expected so many admirable papers read on subjects vital to the interests of the trade in general; neither did they expect to hear them so fully and ably discussed. The florists of the country were, in a great measure, strangers to each other, and they sadly un-

derrated each other's powers for usefulness. No one florist suspected so much talent in his brother florist as was manifested, and a good many of them did not imagine for a moment there was so much in themselves to interest and instruct. No one suspected the florists of Cincinnati had sufficient heart-room to entertain in so princely a manner all the other florists of the country. It was still a greater surprise to have a railroad company give all the delegates and their friends a free excursion to the National Soldiers' Home, near Dayton, and return, as

the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad Company did, and they did it, too, without any restrictions as to numbers, leaving the matter wholly in the hands of the local committee to say who is a florist and who are his friends. The florists of this country should plant a rose beside every rail from Cincinnati to Dayton, and send a daily *boutonniere* to Samuel Stevenson, the general passenger agent, in grateful remembrance of a day of uninterrupted pleasure. Let us no longer say that corporations (outside of New York), have no souls.

The greatest surprise of all was to see so much business transacted in so short a time and, too, so unselfishly. There were no envyings or jealousies, no bitterness; no shirking of duties, nor strife for positions of honor.

Our space will not permit us to give a detailed report of the proceedings of the convention; we, however, give our readers in this number several of the papers read, which were intensely interesting and valuable to all engaged in floriculture. We should advise all lovers of plants to have their names enrolled as members, in order to obtain the society's report, which will be complete and worth many times the cost of membership.

There was a fair exhibition of plants and cut-flowers, but not so large as we had reason to expect after seeing at previous exhibitions what Cincinnati could do. We give the report of the Committee on Plants, which is as follows:

"The chairman, Mr. William Hamilton, of Pittsburgh, respectfully reported that after careful examination they did not find any plants that could be properly judged as 'new,' yet feel justified in calling the attention of the society to a number of plants exhibited that are of great value and that are not as well known, perhaps, as they should be."

The commended plants were:

Ficus elastica variegata, *Dracæna Goldiana*, *Dracæna Lindenii*, *Asparagus plumosus nana*, *Croton Andreana*—Exhibit of D. Ferguson & Sons, Philadelphia.

Yucca filamentosa variegata—Exhibit by H. Waterer, Philadelphia.

Bennett Rose—Exhibit of C. F. Evans, Philadelphia.

Asparagus tenuissimus—B. A. Elliott, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sphærogyne latifolia, *Anthurium Scherzerianum*, *Rhaphis humilis*, *Curculigo recurvata variegata*, *Kentia Australis*, *Pandanus Veitchii*, *Ampelopsis Veitchii*, *Nepenthes Osburniana*, from seedlings raised in the United States; *Nepenthes Siebrechtiana*—Exhibited by Siebrecht & Wadley, of New York.

Mr. B. P. Critchell's display of Crotons were reported to be, in the opinion of the committee, unsurpassed by any other grower in the United States.

The committee consisted of William Hamilton, James Taplin, Thomas M. Ferguson and R. J. Halliday.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President—John Thorpe, of Queens, N. Y.

Vice-President—Robert Craig, of Philadelphia.

Treasurer—Myron A. Hunt, of Wright's Grove, Chicago.

Secretary—E. G. Hill, of Richmond, Ind.

All were unanimously chosen, Mr. Jordan declining a

re-election as Vice-President and placing in nomination Mr. Craig. President Thorpe, in thanking the society for re-electing him, said he had talked about an organization of florists at Cleveland six or seven years ago. Next year they had two or three recruits, and the circle grew larger until last year at Chicago a good gathering of common-sense men had formed the Society of American Florists. No society in so short a time had accomplished so much, and he made the prediction that in five years the membership roll would be among the thousands.

The next annual meeting will be held in Philadelphia, date to be fixed by the Executive Committee. The members are to be congratulated upon the selection of Philadelphia as a place of meeting, as there is not a city in the Union that has more intelligent and hospitable florists than the Quaker city.

* * *

The Board of Managers of the American Institute of New York open their fifty-fourth annual exhibition at the Institute Building, Third avenue, Sixty-third and Sixty-fourth streets, on Wednesday, September 30, and are now busily engaged in arranging and perfecting the details incidental to a show of such magnitude as this always is.

The Exhibition will be divided into seven departments, consisting of Fine Arts and Education; the Dwelling; Dress and Handicraft; Chemistry and Mineralogy; Machinery; Inter-Communication, and Agriculture and Horticulture. These again will be subdivided into seven groups each, each group having three judges, who will examine all articles exhibited and make their report thereon to the Board of Managers, by whom the awards of prizes will be made.

A special and marked feature of this year's Exhibition will be its opening with a grand show of flowers, palms and ferns, which will be continued for four days, viz.: from Wednesday, September 30, to Saturday, October 3, both inclusive. In this display a large number of the best known horticulturists, both amateur and professional, have already signified their intention to take part and compete for the valuable premiums offered. It is therefore anticipated that this innovation will not only be a most enjoyable one, but will serve as an additional inducement to exhibitors generally to have their exhibits in place on the day of opening.

A display of fruits and vegetables will take place in the second week of the Exhibition, to be followed by others in succession of palms, ferns, evergreens, &c., while the largest and grandest exhibition of chrysanthemums ever seen in this country, including new specimens from China, Japan, France and Germany, as well as home grown, will bring the floral show to an end.

Intending exhibitors should without delay send in their applications for space to Mr. Chas. Wager Hull, the general superintendent, at the offices of the Institute, Clinton Hall, Astor place and Eighth street, New York, who will also furnish proper forms, and any information that may be needed.

* * *

Lilium lancifolium purpuratum.—Of what are popularly known as Japan lilies there are several distinct varieties, all of the same general character, differing prin-

cipally in the color of the flowers. While there are no poor ones—in fact, though all are exceedingly good—some are greatly to be preferred to others. We have no hesitation in saying the variety known as *purpuratum* by far surpasses all others in the properties that constitute a perfect plant. We have just seen a clump of this lily in bloom on the grounds of Mr. Fleming, a very successful amateur, of Garden City, N. Y., that excel anything we have ever seen in the way of Japan lilies. They were nearly five feet in height and fully twice the size and strength of *L. speciosum roseum*, growing close beside them and having had the same treatment. The stems were fully an inch in diameter at the ground and well furnished with dark, glossy foliage. We counted twenty-four flowers and buds on a single stem; they were from six to eight inches in diameter and nearly as dark as those of *L. Melpomene*.

* * *

The Yellow Japan Jasmine (*Fasminum floridum*) belongs to the section represented by the well-known *Fasminum revolutum*, a plant somewhat common in gardens, which flowered for the first time in England in the year 1814. *Fasminum floridum* differs from it in several particulars. The *Gardener's Magazine* says of it: "The pinnate folioles are distinctly petiolated, the calyx teeth are slender, and the corolla tube longer, the expanding limb smaller and more elegantly modeled; this, in fact, is quite a delicate plant in its several features, although by no means delicate in constitution, for it is hardy here on a warm wall on a well-drained border. In B.M. 6,719 it is described as discovered by Bunge during his journey to China, and published by him in 1831. In B.R. 1842, Lindley gives it a place in Appendix No. 58, as *Fasminum subulatum*, acknowledging indebtedness to the Hon. W. F. Strangways, 'who raised it in his garden at Abbotsbury. It is very like *F. paniculatum*, but has yellow flowers, and must be a pretty shrub; greenhouse, no doubt.' This beauty thrives without protection, at Kew, and flowers in July."

* * *

Queens County (N. Y.) Agricultural Society.—Although in no sense an agricultural paper, we notice with pleasure the premium list and regulations for the forty-fourth annual exhibition of this society, to be held at Mineola, L. I., September 22 to 25 inclusive. We can safely say there is not in this State an agricultural society, either county or State, that offers so much encouragement to floriculture as this. And we can also say, without fear of contradiction, that no other agricultural society in this State has so large and interesting exhibits of plants and flowers as this. Too much credit cannot be given the managers for the interest they take in floriculture and the liberal premiums they offer in the various classes. A move in the right direction is the encouragement they give to amateurs, a class that, as a rule, have no chance of success in competing with professional florists, consequently they rarely exhibit. The Queens County Society offer the same premiums to the amateurs—the lovers of flowers—as they do to professional florists, under the following wise regulations:

"Competition confined to amateurs of Queens County

who have never been professionally engaged in the cultivation of flowers, and who do not employ a professional gardener, nor grow their flowers on the ground of a professional.

"All exhibits in this department must have been raised by the exhibitor or owned at least three months previous to exhibition, except those used for designs.

"All varieties that are incorrectly named will not be allowed to compete."

Premium lists can be obtained by addressing the secretary, Jacob Hicks, Esq., Old Westbury, N. Y.

* * *

EDITOR LADIES' FLORAL CABINET:

Reading this month's number of your interesting and beautifully printed magazine, reminds me that perhaps you might like a short note on flowers out in our experimental garden at Oakwood. The ones most admired by our visitors just now, are the Japanese *Iris Kämpferi*. I do not know whether this is much grown with you. The story is that it was sacred to the Mikado's garden, and not allowed to be sent out till the time of the great exhibition held in Vienna; then the wish to make as great a show as possible in the Japanese garden laid out there caused *Iris Kämpferi* to be sent. These were bought and circulated in Europe; since then a good many of the irises have been sent to England from Japan. The flowers are certainly gorgeous, of very many colors, from pure white to purple and gold—some lavender-colored and beautifully veined I admire the most; the flowers are as large and flat as a saucer. They are supposed to be difficult to bloom well, but we have not found this to be the case. I believe the conditions of success are good loam and damp situations, and these we can give them. Another much admired plant, also from Japan, is *Lilium Browni*; we have had in a clump three plants, each with three flowers to the stem; the thick, solid petal with its rich shade of white and the dark color on the back of the petal have a beautiful effect. Mrs. Duffield, the eminent flower painter, is just now staying at the cottage at our garden, painting flowers, and has reproduced this difficult lily perfectly.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE F. WILSON.

WEYBRIDGE HEATH, England, July 20, 1885.

* * *

Hyacinthus Candicans.—This beautiful bulb is now in full flower in the fields, where it is grown on a large scale for commercial purposes, and, when well grown, there is no plant that gives greater satisfaction. We wish, however, to say that, from our experience, this bulb does not succeed well after its first flowering. The first year after the bulbs have acquired their growth they throw up a flower spike from three to six feet high, branching, forming a pyramidal head, with hundreds of white flowers, which are exceedingly useful as cut-flowers for vases or for florists' use. Although perfectly hardy, after the first flowering the plant is by no means satisfactory; the stem is short, but little branched, the flowers small and scattering.

This fact should not prevent its general cultivation, as the bulbs are very cheap, and can be grown easily from

seed; in fact, they seed themselves as freely as the petunia, although, to secure good bulbs, they should receive liberal culture, with which they will flower freely the second year from seed. Sow the seed in the same manner as for an onion crop, take up the bulbs and store the same as those of gladioli, and plant out the following spring. This is a better plan than to leave the bulbs in the ground, as the soil can be much better worked.

* * *

Oxalis.—We have no better house plants than many of the oxalis when properly grown. Prominent in this class is *O. cernua*, or *O. lutea* as it is not unfrequently called. The bulbs of this species, which we receive from the Dutch bulb growers, are usually quite small, and fail to produce flowers as freely as do those of our home-grown bulbs. The former are not, as a rule, larger than small peas, while the latter are as large as filberts. Half a dozen of these large bulbs will fill a large hanging-basket, and make a beautiful subject for the bay-window or any sunny situation. There are but few plants that will thrive in the heated temperature of the room near the ceiling. This oxalis delights in just such a place. Plant the bulbs in a light, rich soil, one inch below the surface, about the first of October, and by the first of December the hanging-basket will be a mass of bloom, and will remain so for several months. Water liberally, as the plants suffer from drought.

* * *

Bouvardias as Window Plants.—The following useful information with regard to bouvardias we fully endorse: Mrs J. D., of Morgan County, Ill., writes to an exchange: "I have grown bouvardias for fifteen years and had them blooming abundantly long before I knew the name of the flower. My practice then was to sink the pots on the north side of the house in summer, where they bloomed constantly, and then they were wintered in a west window where they bloomed most of the time. In April of 1883, I had eight varieties sent me by mail. They began to flower in June and continued to bloom in partial shade until October, when they were placed in a bay-window with an eastern exposure, and bloomed until a bitter night, when they were frozen dead. The double-flowering variety, Alfred Neuner, was the most floriferous. A friend of mine, with a single plant, reports that it is constantly in flower, winter and summer. She picks off the dead flowers and fresh ones fill their places. Next summer I shall not allow them to flower so constantly, and hope by this method to secure a more steady and abundant bloom."

* * *

Grant's Face in Flowers.—"About a hundred feet from the Drexel fountain in South Park," says the *Chicago Tribune*, "stands a large canvas tent. The front of it opens to the driveway, and every vehicle that passes stops and the occupants devote considerable time to gazing into the tent. The attraction is a large picture of General Grant made of foliage plants. So good is the likeness that no one who had ever seen the man or his picture would fail to recognize it instantly. The picture is about

five by six feet, and stands upon an easel of draped timbers decorated with palm branches, which produce the effect of plumes. The frame is made of heavy planking, and the plants are growing and thriving on the two inches of soil contained in the back of the frame. The background of the picture is composed of *Sedum acre*, sometimes called 'stone-crop,' which produces the effect of a solid neutral tint, and looks at close range like moss. The face is made up of hundreds of small rosette-looking plants, with solid wax-like leaves. The botanical name is *Echeveria secunda glauca*. The eyes are composed of sempervivum. The eyeballs are small cacti. The necktie is *Echeveria rosea* and the vest *Echeveria compacta*. The coat lapels are *Echeveria lanceolata*. The several varieties of the echeveria differ in shade, size and effect. There are about one thousand plants in the picture. The whole is nearly on a level, except that the forehead and nose are slightly raised. The plants, in those parts of the face where the effect of shading is necessary, are artificially darkened. The collar, necktie, coat and all the details of the bust, however, are clearly and nicely shown by the natural difference in the shading of the plants. The effect at twenty-five feet is surprisingly good, and is that of a well-executed mosaic."

* * *

Dicentra eximia.—We have nothing in our collection of hardy plants that gives us more pleasure than our long rows and masses of *Dicentra eximia*. Its beautiful fern-like glaucous foliage gives our borders a cool, refreshing appearance, which is enlivened by clusters of pink-purple flowers, that are produced through the summer and fall; in fact, it is an ever-blooming plant. Both in foliage and flower this plant is very different in its habits from *Dicentra spectabilis*, that is now in the "sere and yellow leaf." There is one fact, however, not generally known in regard to this old favorite—if it is cut back as soon as its flowers are developed, a new growth will be stimulated and the plant will flower freely again in September.

* * *

Rural Life versus Character.—At a recent convention of the Central Illinois Horticultural Society, Mrs. H. R. Dunlap read an admirable paper upon the "Influence of Rural Life upon Character," from which we quote:

"Rural life is the nursery of virtue and genius. Fewer temptations to sin against our moral nature are met than elsewhere. It is a life of comparative quiet and time for thought and reflection. For the majority of mankind the country is the great school of morality; it is the place for the development of generous impulses, pure hearts, and fair dealings, but the bane of hypocrisy, deceit and jealousy. It encourages independence of thought and action, as well as habits of observation and experiment. . . . If more rural husbands would spend a small portion of their valuable time in helping to plan, arrange and make convenient the house and its surroundings, our rural wives and mothers would have more time not only for their own improvement, but for training and rearing their children."

NEWSPAPER WAIFS.

—"Waiter, can you bring me a nice young chicken smothered in onions?" "No, sah. We doesn't kill 'em dat way, sah. We cuts off der heads."—*Chicago News*.

—"What to do with wealth after one's got it, is a serious question," says the Brooklyn *Eagle*. This may be, but the question which strikes us far more serious, is what to do without wealth when one has not got it.—*Boston Post*.

THE AWARD.

Last month's FLORAL CABINET gave the names of "The Right Sort of a Jury" on the great question, "What is Compound Oxygen good for?" We now give a brief extract from each one's statement:

Judge Kelly, in a letter to Drs. Starkey & Palen, says: "Gratitude to you and duty to those who may be suffering as I was from chronic catarrh and almost daily effusion of blood, in greater or less quantities, but always sufficient to keep one reminded of his mortality, impel me to say to you and to au horize you to give any degree of publicity to my assertion, that the use of your gas, at intervals, has so far restored my health that I am not conscious of having discharged any blood for more than a year; and that my cough, the severity of which made me a frequent object of sympathy, has disappeared.

"Thanking you for renewed health, strength, and the hope of years of comfortable life, I remain your grateful friend."

Rev. Victor L. Conrad, office editor of the *Lutheran Observer*, says: "Recovery was a simple and pleasant process. My restoration to health took place several years ago and has been permanent.

"A case even more wonderful than my own is that of my brother, Rev. F. M. Conrad, who for several months was entirely laid aside. He is now busy among the churches, as well as attending to his duties as editor-in-chief of the *Observer*."

Rev. Chas. W. Cushing, D.D., editor of the *American Reformer*, New York city, writes:

"For fifteen years I found myself gradually losing the power of endurance: my whole nervous system was giving way; my mind was losing its grip. Sleep was insufficient and unrefreshing.

"Under these circumstances, four years since I began using Compound Oxygen. Restful sleep followed. At the end of three months I was entirely recovered. My mind has never worked better than during these four years, and in no other time of my life could I do as much work, or do it with as much ease."

Hon. Wm. Penn Nixon, editor of the *Chicago Inter-Ocean*, writes:

"I have never given a testimonial to any patent medicine, and I would not; but I do not consider Starkey & Palen's Compound Oxygen a patent medicine. It is a vitalizer and a restorer, and to it I owe my life. In my family we set a high value on its efficacy in cases of need, and several of my friends have found the advantage of it. You may put me on record as being a hearty and thorough believer in it."

Judge Flanders, of New York, says:

"For many years I suffered from weak digestion and dyspepsia. In 1879 I was all run down in strength and spirits. I commenced taking Compound Oxygen. In a month I improved so greatly that I was able to come to my office and do some legal work, and I grew stronger, taking Compound Oxygen all the time, until to my astonishment and that of my friends, I was as fit as ever for hard work."

Mrs. M. Cator, the widow of an eminent physician, the late Dr. Harver Cator, of Camden, N. J., says: "Compound Oxygen had an immediate effect on me the first time. My lungs were seriously impaired and my body was greatly emaciated. In three or

four months I was a new woman. Now I have a good appetite and I sleep well."

Mrs. Mary A. Doughty, of Jamaica, L. I., says: "Some twenty years ago I became a victim of the most intense nervousness and sleeplessness. I wasted away and was hopeless and helpless.

"Compound Oxygen drove away my sleeplessness. I am in good spirits and free from pain; eat moderately, with fair appetite, and am not restricted in diet. Dyspepsia is gone. Under the blessing of God, Compound Oxygen raised me from the edge of the grave and opened to me a new life."

Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, the celebrated lecturer, says of her experience:

"Four years ago this spring, at the end of a very severe and exhaustive winter's work, I found myself utterly broken down in health. My physician recommended a trip to Europe. While in England some American acquaintances told us of the Compound Oxygen, and were enthusiastic in its praises.

"My husband immediately ordered a Home Treatment. I used it for a month, punctiliously obeying the directions, before I began to rally. Then my return to good health was rapid, and since then I have enjoyed almost uninterrupted perfect health and youthful vigor."

Judge R. S. Voorhes, whose office is at No. 55 Broadway, N. Y., writes:

"I have just ended my sixty-second year. From infancy until I arrived at maturity, I was subject to catarrh in the head, which, complicated with other ailments, resulted in final deafness in my left ear. Finally the right ear became so much impaired in hearing that I was obliged to abandon my profession, the law. It is now almost a year since I began the use of the Oxygen Treatment, under the advice of an aurist. Compound Oxygen at once began to build me up in a way that was surprising and most gratifying. My strength increased daily, the buoyancy of my spirits was enhanced and my intellectual faculties brightened. Compound Oxygen, though slow, was wonderfully sure. *The diseases in my system have finally yielded to the more powerful agent of Oxygen.* It has broken up the destructive elements in my system and forced them out."

Mr. George W. Edwards, a well known merchant and owner of St. George's Hotel, Philadelphia, says:

"I had Bright's disease. For three years I was so prostrated as to be unable to attend to business. I was utterly exhausted. Nearly all the while I suffered with severe neuralgic pain in my head and rheumatic pains in my joints. My digestion was miserable. I tried Compound Oxygen.

"Now I am able to attend to my business regularly and cheerfully. I live in the country and come to town every day. I sleep soundly; take a good deal of active exercise; eat everything I want, and my digestion is good."

Frank Siddall, of Philadelphia, whose name, because of his enterprise, is a household word everywhere, writes:

"I and my wife and son, also Mr. Johnson, a clerk in our employ, all owe our present good health to Compound Oxygen. I consider that in its discovery there has been given to the world something as valuable and as notable as Jenner gave it in the discovery of vaccination. I never lose an opportunity to speak a word in its favor."

W. H. Whiteley, Esq., a well-known silk manufacturer, of Philadelphia, considered himself one of the incurables, yet he now says:

"Compound Oxygen had triumphed over one of the worst cases of sciatica and nerve prostration that the doctors had ever known. I now enjoy excellent health—really enjoy it, for you can imagine what a joy it is to be well again after my long years of suffering."

Any one who cares to read the full statement of this "Right Sort of a Jury," may have it mailed promptly, free of cost, on application by letter to DRs. STARKEY & PALEN, No. 1529 Arch Street, Philadelphia.

—An English traveler in looking over some American town names, came across the well-known ones of "Pawtucket," "Shetucket," and "Nantucket." "Haw! haw!" he exclaimed, "I'm blessed if the whole family didn't take it!"—*Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph*.

—"You must be having a hard time of it nowadays," remarked a traveler at a railroad station lunch-counter, to the proprietor of the establishment. "Why do you think so?" was the query. "Well, I noticed when I bit into this sandwich that you do not make both ends meet."—*The Rambler*.

The Largest Cabbage Growers in the World

(W. M. Johnson & Co., of Chicago), use upwards of five thousand acres of land for growing cabbages. Last season they manufactured nineteen thousand six hundred barrels of sourkrout, besides shipping four hundred and sixty-seven carloads of cabbages to eastern cities. They use and recommend Tillinghast's Puget Sound Cabbage Seeds. The disseminator of this renowned brand of seeds, Isaac F. Tillinghast, of La Plume, Pa., in order to introduce them into every county in the Union, has organized a Seed and Plant Grower's Association. One reliable party in each town in the Union is being enrolled as special agent, and is supplied with seeds in trademarked packages, and also instruction books which will enable any one to grow cabbage plants successfully anywhere. Parties desiring seeds or plants, will, upon application to Mr. Tillinghast, be furnished with the addresses of agents nearest them from whom they may be obtained. Purchasers are thus saved unnecessary express charges and assured of obtaining the best strain of cabbage seeds or plants which can be procured.

This association thus furnishes one man in each town—the appointed agent—a good cash paying business in selling seeds and growing and supplying plants. There are still many excellent localities unoccupied, and any one so situated as to act as agent for this association should address Mr. Tillinghast as above, for particulars in regard to it.

Mr. Tillinghast has also just put upon the market a "Cabbage Pest Powder," which is entirely harmless to the plant at any stage of its growth, and also harmless to persons eating them, yet the most effective destroyer of lice, fleas and worms which has ever been compounded. It retails at 24 cents per pound.

—She (coaxingly—she has been trying to get a little check)—"You know, dear, when we were married you promised to endow me with all your worldly goods."

He (grumpily)—"Yes, but I had no worldly goods then—excepting brains, and heaven knows I didn't endow you with them!"—*New York Graphic*.

—The other night, after the thunder shower, Jones dropped in on a neighbor and found about a dozen people assembled.

"Well, well, you look cheerful after such a close call," growled Jones, as he removed his hat.

"What close call?"

"Why, lightning struck the barn in the alley not a hundred feet away."

"Oh, dear!" said one of the women, "but I knew it all the time. One of my arms has been numb ever since."

"And it affected my foot," said another.

"And it set my heart to palpitating."

"And my elbow has felt queer ever since."

Everyone in the room remembered to have been shocked, and everyone was thankful over the narrow escape.

By and by a boy, who had been thinking deeply, gushed out:

"Why, there is no barn in the alley!"

Amid the deepest silence everybody remembered this fact, and the boy clinched it with:

"And how could there be when there is no alley!"

THE GLOXINIA.



NEARLY all the species that make up this splendid genus of flowering plants are natives of South America, and are usually found in deep ravines, on rather high mountain elevations, and always in damp, much-shaded situations.

If we take into account their distinctness, their continuous flowering habit, the exquisite colors they possess, and the ease with which they may be grown, it will at once be admitted that few plants so well deserve attention as the gloxinias. They flower continuously through the spring and summer, and, when grown in pots, are invaluable for decorative purposes, while the flowers are exceedingly useful for small vases and for all purposes where cut-flowers are used. With the gloxinia, as with

most other flowers, the process of hybridizing has been largely resorted to, and the results have been most satisfactory, although the great improvement in the size, form and colors has been more the result of selection and in what is known as "sports" than all other causes combined. The original kinds, with their drooping flowers, have mostly given place to forms with the corolla almost regular and nearly erect; this latter peculiarity is an important improvement, as the border and throat of the corolla are fully presented to the eye, and on these parts much of the beauty of the flower depends.

The most interesting class of gloxinias are the spotted varieties, and the origin of this class is quite as interesting as the flowers themselves. The following account of



GLOXINIA GESNERIOIDES.

their origin is given by a correspondent to the *Garden*, March, 1879: "It has frequently occurred that a certain family or species, which may not have shown during a series of years any great tendency to sport, all at once gives us something both novel and beautiful. M. Vallerand, with whom the spotted varieties originated, informed me that for a number of years he assiduously crossed the best known varieties, but, although he annu-

ally raised a large number of seedlings, he could not succeed in obtaining anything better than those already in cultivation. Being discouraged at finding his best efforts so poorly rewarded, he had determined to relinquish the attempt. His seedlings that season had nearly all bloomed, with the usual result. There remained but a few weak plants to flower. Curiously enough, on the weakened and latest seedling appeared a single flower, so distinct and so beautifully marked that M. Vallerand declared that he was quite taken by surprise. If I remember rightly there was but a single bloom on this plant. It may be easily imagined how that plant was cherished, the flower carefully fertilized, and precaution taken to destroy every other bloom near it. The seed was ripened, and from this sprang many other charming forms."

The present race far surpasses anything known in the original, both as to form, color and markings, which is an extraordinary feature in the history of this plant. To this class there is now added the *G. Gesnerioides*, which is described by Messrs. Carter, of London, who have the honor of introducing it, as follows: "This desirable novelty is the result of hybridizing the gloxinia with the gesnera, and the peculiar properties of both species are fully united, for while carrying the graceful habit and beautifully colored foliage of the gesnera, it produces the magnificent flowers so identified with the gloxinia, and will prove a valuable addition to the decorative section of plants. It comes perfectly true from seed."

The culture of the gloxinia is most simple. Seeds sown in March in well-drained pans, filled with light, sandy, fine soil, and kept in a warm greenhouse, will produce plants that can be put in a frame filled with similar soil, and will give an abundance of flowers in July and continue in bloom through September. For full cultural instructions see page 251 of THE FLORAL CABINET for 1884.

DUTCH BULBS.

ALTHOUGH the garden is, or should be, in the height of its splendor, active preparations must be made for the coming season. What are popularly known as Dutch bulbs now claim our attention, quite as much for decoration of the living-room and conservatory as for the flower garden. We are annually asked for information in regard to the cultivation of the several classes of these bulbs, and not unfrequently asked for the cause of failure to grow them successfully. The last question can usually be answered in one word—delay. The neglect to plant at the proper season occasions more failures than all other causes combined. While these bulbs all require perfect rest, and can remain for months out of ground, it does not follow that they can remain out of ground beyond a given time without injury. For the best success all Dutch bulbs should be planted by the first of October, and if they can be planted early in September it will be much the better plan. We propose giving the

proper method of treatment of each class, commencing with the most important, that being the

HYACINTH.—The most suitable soil for growing hyacinths is a rich, light, sandy loam, but they will do well in any good garden ground. To grow them to perfection, however, special treatment is necessary, and no plants require more care to prevent them from degenerating than hyacinths. They are strong feeders, and the soil cannot very well be too rich for them if fine blooms are required. No fresh or rank manure, however, should be used on any account, as it will do more harm than good. The best manure is from the cow stable, and it should be thoroughly rotted and placed at least a foot below the surface of the bed. In heavy soil plenty of sand should also be used to keep it open. Hyacinths in the open ground do best in beds by themselves, but a few may be placed in the miscellaneous border to advantage. In making beds for hyacinths the ground should be dug to

the depth of at least fifteen inches, and provision made for effectual drainage. Although the bulbs can be grown in glasses with water, they will not flourish if the earth is soddened. If the soil is dug to the depth of fifteen inches, six inches of manure should be placed at the bottom, and covered with four inches of soil; upon this place the bulbs, say, five inches apart each way. If the soil is of a heavy, tenacious character, cover the bulbs with a little coarse sand, then cover the whole with soil so that the crowns will be at least five inches below the surface. For the best success plant in September, but good flowers are often obtained when plantings are deferred until November. The selection of bulbs is a somewhat important matter, although to a considerable extent one of individual taste, particularly as regards colors and double or single forms. In selecting the bulbs always choose the heaviest and most solid; size is not of so much importance, except for forcing either in pots or glasses, when the largest bulbs should be chosen, as they give the longest spikes of bloom. For the open border we prefer medium or small bulbs, as they will remain longer in the ground without division, giving annually fine spikes of flowers.

After the top of the ground is frozen hard the beds should have a liberal mulching of newly fallen leaves; this will prevent alternate freezing and thawing, which is so injurious to the bulbs.

To grow the hyacinth successfully in glasses demands no horticultural skill, for children often produce very creditable specimens. It only requires the intelligent application of certain well-known principles. Like all other bulbs, the hyacinth should have its roots formed before top growth begins. The flower is cultivated in water for two principal reasons: the pleasure derived from seeing the entire plant, and the enhanced decorative value insured by this mode of treatment. As darkness retards top growth but does not delay the production of roots, it is usual to place the glasses in a cool cellar or dark closet, and if these situations happen to be airy, as well as cool and dark, there can be no better place in which to start the bulbs. Still, it must be admitted that darkness is not essential for the development of roots. But darkness and coolness alike tend to delay the growth of foliage until roots are formed. Therefore, if the cultivator resolves to have the plant in view from the commencement, he will have to rely on a low and uniform temperature for securing these ends.

The water must always be pure and bright, and it should not quite touch the bulbs or the latter will rot. A rather low temperature and free access of pure air should be regarded as necessary conditions of health in all stages of growth. Hence, it will be obvious that a mantelpiece, with its fluctuations of heat and cold, is a most unsuitable position for the glasses; this is equally true in regard to placing the glasses on window-sashes, where they receive cold draughts of air and glaring sunshine. We would like to remark that the hyacinth is a friend of the most humble, and will succeed in a tumbler or fruit can as well as in the most expensive vase or glass.

For pot culture there is no plant that succeeds better than the hyacinth. Prepare the pots carefully as to drain-

age, and fill them with a light, rich, porous compost. Remove a little soil from the central surface, and into this opening lightly press the bulb, and pack the earth somewhat firmly round it, leaving about half the bulb visible. If the bulb is pressed too firmly into the soil, when the roots begin to grow, instead of penetrating, they will lift the bulb out of its proper position. To prevent this, the pots may be covered with coal ashes, which will also serve to check leaf-growth, thus answering a double purpose. At this stage the pots can be stored in any cool and safe position. A shaded border, where they can be covered with ashes, is as good as can be obtained. For the earliest flowers select the single varieties, as these naturally come into bloom somewhat in advance of the double. For a succession, bring in the pots from the first of December until the first of February, as desired. If much top-growth has been made, gradually bring them to the light until the natural color is gained, when they will stand all the light and heat the living-room or conservatory will afford. It will augment the beauty of the flowers and prolong their period of usefulness to keep them in a low temperature; they will, however, adapt themselves to almost any degree of temperature.

The next in order of Dutch bulbs for garden decoration is the TULIP, and there is no better time to form beds of this popular flower than during the present month. However, planting of tulips may be deferred until November, and good success obtained; but it is better to plant early. The bulbs should be buried four or five inches deep, according to size, and it is important that each kind should be put in at a uniform depth to insure a simultaneous display. The tulip delights in the same soil as the hyacinth, and it should be prepared in the same manner. The late single varieties are the tulips which were formerly so highly prized by florists, and they are to-day by far the most desirable for planting in the open border. For these bulbs it was the custom to prepare the soil with extraordinary care when the tulip craze was at its height. After the amazing folly of paying \$2,000 for a single bulb, the minor folly of extravagance in treating the soil may be readily pardoned. Happily, that phase of the business has passed away, and handsome tulips are now grown with a moderate expenditure of labor and money. The finest quality of these bulbs can now be obtained at a price which will permit their general cultivation; they are valued because with little care they will rapidly increase, instead of deteriorating, as is the case with many other bulbs and plants. The site for this flower should be sunny, the soil fairly rich, and the drainage good. With these conditions, and bulbs which are sound and heavy, it is easy to obtain a magnificent show of blossoms. Tulips of the earlier class are of great value for forcing or for house culture, because of their brilliant colors and elegant forms. They take kindly to house culture, and adapt themselves to almost any temperature, but prefer it moderately even. Several bulbs may be put into one pot, and they will succeed quite as well as though grown singly. Treated in the same manner as the hyacinth in pots, a succession of flowers can be kept up the entire winter. An eight-inch pot is sufficiently large for a dozen bulbs, and these should

be of positive colors—white, scarlet and yellow—then the effect is decidedly pleasing.

THE NARCISSUS, in importance, is next in order. Fashion is giving it the front rank, but as we are not bound by her dictates, we give it the position to which we think it entitled. It is a mistake to keep these bulbs out of ground longer than is necessary, and those intended for pot culture should be put in promptly. The Double Roman and Paper White naturally come into bloom in advance of other sorts, and these should be selected for the earliest display. Give them a rich, porous soil and pot them rather firmly, but not so firmly as to render it impossible for the roots to penetrate, or they will raise the bulb out of the soil. Place them in a cool spot, covered with some material to keep the bulbs in their places, and to prevent the foliage from starting prematurely. When top-growth commences, the pots can be given their position in the conservatory or window-garden. A succession can be kept up until flowers appear in the open border by bringing the pots in at intervals. Flowers can be obtained more rapidly if bottom heat can be given them as soon as the buds appear. We will say for the comfort of those who do not have these appliances, that the flowers grown without artificial aid will be fully equal, if not superior, to those grown with it.

Narcissi may also be grown in glasses in the manner recommended for hyacinths, and there are no bulbs that surpass them for this special treatment.

In the open ground the narcissus should be planted in quantity, especially in those spots where it appears naturally at home, such as under the shade of trees and in shrubbery borders. There is now an awakened interest in the many forms of double and single daffodils, and they are certainly most effective border flowers. All the varieties of narcissus should be grown in clumps and patches in every spot which is suitable and vacant. In any out-of-the-way place large quantities of *N. poeticus* and other varieties should be planted for a supply of cut-flowers. Their graceful appearance renders them peculiarly valuable for this purpose, and if cut when partially opened they will develop in water, and last for many days. In planting be guided by the size of the bulb, allowing four or five inches between small sorts, and six to eight inches between large varieties. A good feature of the narcissus is that plantings may remain undisturbed

for many years, and annually improve in the quantity and quality of the bloom.

THE CROCUS.—Several flowers bloom in advance of, or as early as, the crocus, but no other bulb can compare with it for brightness and effective coloring. Plant not later than during this month; if left longer out of ground the germs become dry, and if they make any growth it is an unsatisfactory one. The bulbs should be planted in groups or rows for a border, at a uniform depth of three inches, and about one inch apart.

For indoor decoration two or three separate lots should be potted, or as many as may be required for a succession, and brought forward the same as the hyacinths. For this purpose named sorts should be used, both for the size of their flowers and for the exceptional brightness and diversity of their colors. Use a light, rich soil, and put four or five bulbs in a six-inch pot. They may also be grown to advantage in large seed-pans or shallow boxes; in fact, they will grow anywhere and make interesting house plants.

CROWN IMPERIALS are rarely met in our gardens, the only place where they can be grown to advantage, and where their stately forms should always be found. This bulb requires a rich, loamy soil and an open position to bring it to perfection. Still, it will do fairly well in a shrubbery border or under the shade of trees. Plant in September if possible, and under no circumstances later than October.

SNOWDROPS are about the earliest spring flowers, certainly the most lovely, and particularly desirable because of their willingness to bloom under almost any circumstances. It seriously injures the roots of this exquisite little favorite to keep them long out of ground, therefore plant them as early as possible. The proper way to plant the snowdrop is in masses, either in long lines or in clumps, and to contrast with it make alternate rows or groups of that beautiful little blue *Scilla Siberica*. Plant two inches deep, and, if possible, where they may remain undisturbed for many years. In moist, shaded places they will form dense masses, completely driving out all other herbaceous vegetation.

IRIS.—The tuberous varieties are all hardy, and may be planted any time before the ground freezes. Plant three inches deep in light soil, and they will give no trouble except to divide the clumps every second or third year.

SEPTEMBER FLOWERS.

GERANIUMS are blooming less than they did before the recent rains came. Scarlet salvias from seed sown last spring are in their prime; the pale-blue *S. farinosa*, also from seed, has been in good bloom for over two months, and Pitcher's salvia, which is the finest of blue sages, is just beginning to bloom. We winter it in a cold frame, and increase it by means of seeds, cuttings or divisions. Dahlias raised from seeds or cuttings last spring are growing and blooming nicely; those from old roots set out in May are not blooming as well as the

others. Gladioli from late June plantings are at their best; our July plantings will yield us flowers till frost comes. *Hyacinthus candicans* is in good bloom. We should raise a young stock from seed every year as the old bulbs get "run out." *Asclepias nivia* is a little, white-blooming, tender species that blossoms all summer long and does well in light sandy land. I raise a fresh stock from cuttings every year. Verbenas are reinvigorated and blooming freely. They love good soil. Common balsams from May sowings are as full as they can

be. The new Zanzibar balsam (*Impatiens Sultani*), in rich, moderately moist ground, is growing and blooming abundantly, but has not set any seeds; on light, sandy land it died off; in pots it blossoms more copiously, throws its flowers up well above the leaves, and ripens lots of seed. I have no room for it in winter, therefore I raise it from seed every spring.

Nierembergias bloom all summer, but they are of no use for cutting; I treat them as annuals. *Torenia Fourneri* is a little gem, blooming all the time, but sometimes it damps off unaccountably. The double sweet alyssum didn't grow or bloom much till six weeks ago; now it is a bank of white, and perfumes the atmosphere about where it grows. Raise it from cuttings only. The double white feverfew is in full bloom a second time; it is in much demand for cut-flowers. I keep over an old root or two in a cold frame or pit, start them to grow early in spring, then "strike" the slips. Heliotropes are better now than they have been; we like them as cut-flowers, and prefer the darker varieties. Sweet-peas, sown in April in heavy ground, blossomed till the middle of August; now they are succeeded by a sowing put in in the middle of May.

Between June and August I found difficulty in raising a good crop of mignonette, but now it is coming up readily enough. Petunias are aglow in sandy places where little else would thrive, *Eschscholtzia*, creeping milkweed, marigolds (*Tagetes*), globe amaranths and lantanas are capital plants for dry ground, but bear in mind that they, like most other plants, will attain proportionately greater perfection in good ground. I never saw anything in the way of marigolds finer than the Eldorado strain John Thorpe gave me last spring; the blossoms are self-colored, pale to deep yellow, and as large and double as a dahlia flower. July-sown, also self-sown, Meteor marigolds are coming into bloom and shall continue in flower till November. They blossom beautifully in spring and fall, and as pot plants in winter, but during the dry, warm part of summer they become much deteriorated. During August and September China asters are in perfection, and what a grand display they make! My April sowings are past; May sowings still good. Chrysanthemum-flowered, rose-flowered and Victoria-needle types are fine, but much depends on the strain of seed you grow. Between types and varieties of these types I now have in bloom seventy-two kinds of "China" asters and seven thousand plants, and all are lovely. The seeds of these asters are raised for the trade mostly in Germany, but let me say here that in America we can raise a better and fuller crop of aster seeds than the growers can in Germany.

Under ordinary circumstances ten-week stocks are not worth much after July, but some of the biennial sorts, as Intermediate and East Lothian, from March sowings, are blooming with moderate freedom. Brompton stocks seldom bloom in fall. Those I wish for spring blooming were raised from seeds sown in July, and are now in pots plunged in open cold frames.

Gaillardias are very serviceable plants; they keep in bloom from June till November. Lorenz's double is excellent, and its parent, *G. picta*, very copious, but the

brightest of all is *G. Amblyodon*, and it is long-lived and copious. The lance-leaved coreopsis is bearing a profusion of bright yellow flowers. It is a hardy perennial, neat and extremely free flowering, and comes into blossom in May and lasts in bloom till destroyed by frost. It seeds freely and self-sows itself abundantly. *C. tripteris*, *C. senifolia*, *C. delphinifolia* and *C. verticillata* also bloom freely but less beautifully than *C. lanceolata*. The fountain-leaved sunflower (*Helianthus orgyalis*) is in full bloom, Maximilian's fast advancing and the single and double varieties of *H. multiflorus* are among the gayest of herbaceous plants. Among annual sunflowers the small cucumber-leaved, the woolly leaved *H. argophyllus* and the Western *H. lenticularis* all have neater and more beautiful flowers than the great gawky things within the negro's fence or that farmers grow for chickens.

Snapdragons blossomed full in June and July, and now they are bearing a good second crop. Raise them every year from seed. Perennial larkspurs that were cut back as soon as they had done blooming are again in flower, as are also young plants raised from seed last spring. Scabios or mourning bride, as we often call it, is in good bloom, and so is the white, fragrant tobacco plant (*Nicotiana affinis*). The white day-lily and the lance-leaved plantain-lily are in full bloom. These and all other funkias love good ground and shady quarters. Several herbaceous phloxes are still in fine flower, notably a pure white one. They should be lifted, divided and replanted every second year. After the flower-heads of *Sedum spectabile* were pretty well developed and before the buds began to open I cut off a lot of them and planted them close together as a border edging; they live, thrive and blossom out as prettily as they would if left on the parent plants. They now are in full beauty.

Zinnias are very showy. Where I had them in large masses they are past their best, but where they occurred in clumps of only three or four plants together, these are finer than they were in July. Drummond phlox was very fine till midsummer, then on account of the hot, dry weather, it became rather seedy; but the rains of August came and the phlox revived and still is good. My best phloxes now are from early June sowings in a frame, and thence transplanted to the open ground. *Pentstemon pulchellus*, from last spring-sown seed, is now and has been in good bloom for nearly two months. Mixed pentstemons (varieties of *P. Hartwegi*), raised from seed last spring are in good bloom, but old plants, also plants raised from cuttings, are past. These varieties, if kept over winter, should be protected a little by means of mulching or a cold frame. Carnations raised from cuttings last fall, also plants that were bloomed in the greenhouse last winter, cut back in spring, set out in good soil, have yielded a fair crop of flowers since midsummer. Of course, the plants for blooming indoors next winter were not allowed to blossom in summer. *Vinca rosea*, white, purple, or white, with red eye, are capital plants for dry summer weather; they love the warmest and sunniest places to grow in, are in bloom when set out in May or June, and continue to grow and bloom till destroyed by frost. You may sow the seeds in November and keep the little plants in their seed-pots till February,

then pot or box them off, or sow in February and hurry their growth. At first they are slow growers, and in summer or winter love warm quarters.

In addition to the above, we have many more kinds of plants in bloom just now; for instance, Chinese hibiscus, Cape plumbago, abutilons, Brazilian cassias, begonias, speciosa, and other young fuchsias, pink justiceas, and some other seasonable tender plants; cypress vine, Lindheimer's gaura, cockscombs, Chinese pinks, portulacas, *Cedronella cana*, creeping sanvitalia, dark purple cosmos, cannas, and some other annuals or plants treated as such;

Japanese anemones, speciosum, tiger and Maximowiczi's lilies, fiery pokers, Russian statice, monkshoods, heliopsis, mist flower, bee-balm and other perennials. Some scattering showy clematis blooms, together with Pitcher's purple, the Texas red, the Virginian white, and the Himalayan yellow clematises; the climbing hempweed, Japanese honeysuckle, and remnants of the trumpet creeper, as hardy vines. Among shrubs, Chinese tamarix, altheas and paniced hydrangeas are very gay and conspicuous, and *Lespedeza bicolor var.* isn't fully out in bloom yet.

WM. FALCONER.



MARIPOSA LILIES (*Calochortus splendens*, *C. luteus*, *C. venustus*).

CALOCHORTUS.

THIS is a very interesting genus of liliaceous plants common on the Western coast from British Columbia to Mexico, and there is no class of plants with which we are acquainted that has received so many popular names. From one locality they come to us as "Mariposa tulips," and this appellation is quite excusable; from another section they are sent us as "mountain lilies," which is not so appropriate, particularly when they are described as "beautiful blue, covering the mountain sides with their fragrant flowers the entire summer;" other local names are "yellow lilies" and "tiger lilies." However, there is but little in the name, and whatever the plant may be called it certainly is one of the most showy and interesting of recent introductions. All the species are remarkable for the intensity of color and delicate markings of their flowers. They are, moreover, of the easiest culture, delighting in a light sandy loam, with full exposure to the sun and, if possible, a moist situation.

When first introduced they were supposed to be difficult subjects to manage, and it was recommended to grow them in frames in the same manner as ixias, sparaxis and other Cape bulbs are treated; but if such treatment was really required we should see the calochortus very rarely in our gardens, as "frames" are by no means popular adjuncts to American gardens. We seem to be able to produce flowers of the most lovely forms and colors without those unsightly fixtures.

Fortunately, we can grow the Mexican species, which we consider by far the most desirable, to perfection in the open border, in the same manner as we grow the gladiolus and the tigridia; in fact, the treatment we give the tigridia answers perfectly for all bulbs from the Western coast, particularly the more southern parts. We plant

the bulbs in drills, say, one foot apart, about the first of May, in just such soil as we have, without being particular as to the parts of loam, sand or peat, placing the bulbs four inches apart in the drills and covering them as lightly as possible with about two inches of the soil. After this, we have no trouble with them further than to stir the soil frequently and to keep the ground free from weeds. It is essential to start them as early in the spring as practicable, in order that the bulbs may get thoroughly ripened before taking up, which should be soon after the first severe frost. We have no difficulty in keeping the bulbs through the winter, by spreading them thinly in trays and keeping them in a dry room free from frost. We would say that most of the species are regarded as hardy in this latitude, but we prefer treating the Mexican species as we have described; in fact, we have not been successful in treating them in any other way. The California species, although classed with the hardy bulbs, must be protected, particularly against water, during winter in order to insure success. A dry, warm soil where water does not stand must be secured.

There are a great number of species, all of which are worthy a place in the garden. Among the more desirable is *C. venustus*, a charming plant, flowers white, with spots and bars of red and yellow; this species is popularly known as the "Mariposa lily;" *C. splendens* is a self-colored species, rich purple, very showy; *C. luteus* is a fine large flower, deep yellow; *C. albus*, pure white, and *C. lilacinus*, rosy lilac.

There is much confusion in regard to the botanical names of this family of plants, some being classed as *Calochortus*, others as *Cyclobothra*, others again as *Fritillaria*, the same name at times having been given to each of the species.

WINDOW-GARDENING UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

Lecture delivered by F. W. BURBIDGE, F.L.S., Curator Trinity College Botanic Gardens, at the Town Hall, Rathmines, Dublin.

AN old friend of mine who has traveled among the Japanese tells me that their love of flowers and young plants is in reality an absorbing passion. In the smallest of dwellings there is an altar-like niche in or upon which flowering plants are arranged, but they have in some districts a most remarkable custom in connection with window-gardening which I will describe to you.

In houses wherein reside one or more daughters of a marriageable age, an empty flower-pot of an ornamental character is encircled by a ring and suspended from the window or veranda by three light chains.

Now, the Juliets of Japan are, of course, attractive, and their Romeos as love-sick as those of other lands. But instead of serenades by moonlight and other delicate ways of making an impression, it is etiquette for the Japanese

lover to approach the dwelling of his lady bearing some choice plant in his hand, which he boldly but, let us hope, reverently, proceeds to plant in the empty vase. This takes place at a time when he is fully assured that both mother and daughter are at home, and I need scarcely say that neither of them are at all conscious that the young man is taking such a liberty with the flower-pot outside their window. It is believed that a young lover so engaged has never been seen by his lady or by her mamma in this act of sacrilege; at any rate, my friend tells me that during his long residence in Japan he never heard of anyone being detected in the act, or interfered with in any way. The fact is, this act of placing a pretty plant into the empty flower-pot is equivalent to a formal proposal to the young lady who dwells within. The youthful gardener

having settled his plant to his mind, retires, and the lady is free to act as she pleases. If he is the right man, she takes every care of his gift, waters it, and tends it carefully with her own hands, that all the world may see and know that the donor is accepted as a suitor. But if he is not a favorite, or if stern parents object, the plant is removed from the vase, and the next morning finds it withered on the veranda or on the path below. In a word, if you are not the right man, it is quite evident that this phase of window-gardening must be a difficult and disappointing one to carry on in Japan.

But one really might go farther, and say that all kinds of window-gardening must be carried on under difficulties. I know somewhat of the troubles of gardening in town, and shall not deceive you by saying that window-gardening is easy; there is, however, so much pleasure mixed up with the difficulties, that if those of you who have not done so will try it, you will never rest contented until you succeed.

But how to begin, that is the question. Flower-pots, seeds and plants, and even soil or earth in which to plant them cost money—not much, perhaps, but still sufficient to deter some from making a commencement. Now, a bit of turfy sod from the roadside is all you will at first require. If flower-pots are not obtainable no one need be disheartened; an old tin can, a cigar-box—anything, in fact, which will hold earth and allow waste water to run away will do. Of course, I know that you will do better than this, but even if some of you actually do resort to these homely makeshifts you will not be the first to do so, and it is better to grow a few pretty plants in an old starch box than to have no flowers at all near your home in the town.

One of the great charms of window-gardening is the interest it excites in us, and the amount of pleasure a window-gardener obtains during his rambles, for I need scarcely say he will be most anxious to see the plants grown in other windows besides his own. Then at holiday times every excursion into the country is doubly attractive, for, of course, a few common ferns or trailing bits of rooted ivy will be carefully dug up and carried back to town for the little garden at home. A few primrose roots from a mossy hedge-bank, or five or six bulbs of the common yellow daffodil from the fields, will make the smallest window interesting in the spring. Of course I do not advocate the wholesale collection and destruction of our prettiest wild-flowers in the way now common near most towns, but I feel sure no intelligent proprietor would begrudge the removal of a few roots if he were sure they really were not to be carried away wholesale and sold. Apart altogether from the decorative or beautiful aspect of flowers and green foliage in windows, such things have a teaching power peculiarly their own, and this is especially so where there are children. One of the best of lessons to instil into the minds of children is that all flowers are beautiful, even the most common ones, for it is these that our greatest poets have most delighted to honor. Daisies, bluebells, primroses, daffodils, snowdrops and violets, wild-roses and woodbine have all been woven into song and story from the time of Chaucer to the days of Tennyson. The

one great charm which lingers round our garden blossoms is their beautiful reality. They are essentially genuine. If you put wax flowers or fruits into your windows or on the tables of your rooms, no one with any taste will waste a second glance on them; even the child who at first was taken with their bright colors will soon forget them, but this is never so of real flowers.

The best soil or earth for fuchsias and geraniums—indeed, for all the ordinary kinds of plants grown in windows—is what a gardener calls “fibrous loam.” This is obtained from upland pastures and sheep-walks, and consists of a mellow, friable, nut-colored earth rich in vegetable fibre. This should be cut in layers about three inches in thickness, and may be stacked up until wanted for use. Broken up into rough pieces the size of hazelnuts, this sort of earth contains all the elements really necessary for a plant's existence. As before mentioned, a few sods of fibrous earth of this kind may often be obtained from a grassy roadside. When prepared for pots it should not be too finely pulverized. One of the most common of errors into which inexperienced window gardeners fall is that of using finely sifted earth for plants—that is to say, soil destitute of fibrous rootlets and other organic material. It is from this fibrous matter, when acted upon by water, heat and air, that the plants derive their food. The tips of the tiny roots of a fuchsia or a myrtle, for example, are really hungry little mouths eager to suck up nitrogenous matter soluble in water, so that the soil, apart from its mechanical use of retaining a plant firmly in an erect position, must contain organic or manurial matter easily dissolvable in water. But if any ordinary earth be taken, you may safely leave your plants to manage their own chemistry if you place good drainage material below the soil and water regularly and keep their leaves free from dust and insects. As is well known, rain-water is best. Every gallon of fresh rain-water contains about half a grain of ammonia salts, and Liebig, that great agricultural chemist, calculated that this quantity per gallon is amply sufficient to nourish a forest of oaks. Thus rain-water is the best you can use for your pet plants, and in towns it is rendered still more nourishing, owing to the soot collected by it as it falls on the roofs ere it finds its way into your water-tub below.

DRAINAGE.—Broken bits of earthenware or of flower-pots are most generally placed as drainage beneath the soil, but the action of these is mechanical only, and as a substitute for these oyster-shells, broken bones, charcoal, nodules of common coal, or even cinders may be used, containing as they all do plant food in a soluble form. It is a good plan to put a layer of moss over the drainage to prevent the soil washing down and blocking up the drainage hole in the flower-pot. For all strong-growing plants old broken bones may be mixed with the soil with advantage.

WATERING.—Now, as to the watering of your plants, it is necessary to be methodical, and a little practice will teach you more than anything I can tell you here. The best plan is to look over your plants every morning. Thus you will perceive that the four great essentials of healthy plant life are heat, air, light and constant moisture. That all plants like heat rather than cold is proved by

their rapid growth during the summer as contrasted with their slow progress or absolute rest during the winter. Air and light are as necessary for plants as for ourselves. I might even go a little farther and say that when the plants grow up in your windows tall and thin, with wiry stalks and pale yellowish leaves, they indicate by their general appearance an insufficient amount of light and air. When this is the case more air and more light through clean window-panes would be beneficial. Moisture is necessary, since the roots can only absorb nutriment when in a soluble state. As we have said, the soil itself is composed of particles through which air-spaces abound. The water must be just sufficient to keep these particles moist, and the air in the spaces is thus kept in the condition of moist air. The roots traverse these air-spaces, and it is, therefore, moist air which roots want rather than water. If it were water simply which plants wanted, we should cork up the hole in the flower-pot, and prevent the water getting away. Instead of this, we try to hasten the passing of the water through as much as possible, by not only keeping the hole as clear as possible, but often by putting pieces of broken material over the hole to act as drainage.

That plant will generally be the healthiest, therefore, which wants water most often. This will show that there are plenty of air-spaces, and that the roots are making good use of them. If it does not often want water it is in a bad way, and less water rather than more must be given.

The frequency of watering, then, should be according to the rapidity with which the water passes away. If when you pour water on earth it disappears almost instantaneously, it would be safe to water such plants every day. There are several methods adopted by professional gardeners to determine when a plant requires water :

1. By the general appearance of the soil, or feeling it with the finger.

2. Tapping the pot with the knuckles. The pot has a sharp hollow sound or "ring" when the earth it contains is dry, and a dull, heavy "thudding" sound when moist. Take a pot of dry soil and one recently soaked with water and try this experiment.

3. By lifting the pots and testing their weight, wet soil being, of course, much heavier than the same quantity when in a dry state.

Fill two pots with soil, water one only, and then lift them both for comparison. A little practical experience will soon enable you to tell when your plants are dry by each or all of the above methods.

Always use soft (*i. e.*, rain or river) water in preference to that from wells or springs. In towns where water is supplied by the corporation, expose it to the sun in a wide tub or other vessel for a day or two before using it for your plants.

Never use cold water. Water for plants should be equal in temperature to the atmosphere of the room in which they are growing.

Never water a plant that is already wet; but when a plant is dry give it sufficient to moisten the ball of earth thoroughly.

Plants require water less frequently during dull, damp weather than during the summer, when the sun is power-

ful and the light intense. Water for syringing or sprinkling should be quite free from mechanical impurities, as chalk or lime. Muddy water leaves spots and patches of dirt on the leaves after it has evaporated, and necessitates their being sponged clean.

If you notice a pot that does not get dry, but that appears to be in a wet and stagnant condition, turn out the sickly plant at once. Examine the crocks or drainage and displace it (without breaking the ball) if it is clogged up with wet soil. Look out for worms. If you see the holes and tracks, but no worms, tap the soil until they appear and remove them. Now take a perfectly clean and dry pot of the same size, or even less, drain it, and turn your plant into it, pressing and shaking it down by gentle taps on the bench or table. If the surface of the ball is moss-grown, remove it with a blunt stick and put a little fresh earth round it. Now your plant is in a fair way for recovery, and in nine cases out of ten, if carefully watered, it will recover its freshness and beauty.

REPOTTING.—If you take a few turnip or mangold seeds and plant them they increase in weight and size very rapidly, so that what in the spring-time was a pound of seed may, after growth for some months, become changed into several tons weight of produce. This increase of substance and weight is mainly the result of root action—that is to say, the plants have absorbed all this weight of material from the soil in solution. It naturally follows that the soil becomes less rich every time a crop is removed, and to supply the deficiency the farmer adds, every year or two, more plant-food in the shape of manures. Now, what is true of the farm is true of the smallest plant in your window. The formation of every leaf and every blossom leaves the earth in your flower-pot poorer than it was before; hence, after some few months' growth, one of two things becomes necessary. You must either place the plant in a larger pot, adding at the same time more fresh earth, or you must add manure or plant-food to the pot in which you wish the plant to thrive still longer. Sometimes it is convenient to retain plants in small pots, and then a pinch of guano or sulphate of ammonia in a quart of water makes a first-rate stimulant, adding new life and vigor to any plants which had begun to show signs of stunted growth, owing to their soil having become exhausted. I have alluded to plants as being perfect chemists in their way, selecting from the elements in the soil what they most require for building up their cells and fibres—their leaves and flowers. I have also alluded to some of our native wild-flowers; and now I want you to distinctly understand that all the species or distinct types of plants, even most of the rare ones of our hothouses, are also wild in the temperate and tropical countries of the world. Again, every known plant has a Latin name given to it by botanists. This name is given along with a description of the plant, and is often accompanied by a plate or drawing; and the reason the name given is a Latin one is because Latin is understood by all scientific men throughout the world. But there is no necessity for you to call your pet plants by their Latin names, although fuchsia, geranium, calceolaria, and many other Latin names are now firmly fixed in our own tongue.

The plants most useful to window-gardeners may be naturally and conveniently divided into two groups. First, Virginia and Japan creepers, ivies, hardy bulbs, annuals, and other plants, which will thrive outside a sunny window; and secondly, the little dragon trees, small palms, acacias, india-rubber plants and many of the begonias, which require more heat and shelter, and so thrive best inside the room.

For the outside or window-sill a stout wooden box is by far the best receptacle for plants. It should have a few holes in the bottom to let out the waste water and an inch or two of broken crockery or bricks for drainage. Such a box, two feet or four feet long, may be a foot broad and eight inches deep. Plants in boxes of this kind require far less attention than those in pots, which become parched up in hot or windy weather; besides, boxes of this size and weight are not so easily toppled over and broken by that most energetic of anti-gardeners in town—the domestic cat. Here and there in town you may now and then see whole windows quite full of healthy plants, but not often, for I notice that in most windows their health and beauty are in inverse proportion to the numbers. My advice is, do not grow too many plants; few and good is the watchword, especially for a beginner. One of the

BEST EVERGREEN PLANTS for a room is *Aspidistra lurida*, green and variegated. A specimen here has been grown in a shady window in the Haddington Road for the last three years, and when first brought into the house it had six small leaves only, and it has never been repotted or manured during that time. No other plant I know does better, and it is an especial favorite in France and Holland, where fresh and healthy evergreen room-plants are highly appreciated. The india-rubber (*Ficus*) is another good room plant, as is also the graceful *Acacia lophantha*. Several kinds of green-leaved dracænas are thoroughly reliable, as also are small plants of the Australian "fever tree." I have seen a fine plant of this in the window of a drawing-room in Clare Street for the past two or three years. Some small palms grow well in warm rooms, and none better than the *Corypha australis*. Another favorite, especially at this season, is the arum lily, while the Scarborough lily (*Vallota*) is very attractive when it throws up its cluster of scarlet lily-like flowers in the autumn months, just before the chrysanthemum comes into bloom.

Fortunately, there is a good deal of healthy emulation among window-gardeners, and a little ingenuity will enable any of you who may so desire to become possessed of plants not generally to be met with in rooms or windows. Orange and lemon trees are very easily reared by sowing the seeds in a pot of earth and watering them now and then with warm water not hotter than the tea you drink, if so hot. It is most interesting to watch the growth of seeds of all kinds, and I recommend you to sow every seed you can obtain. I once saw a healthy little date-palm which its owner, a dock laborer, had reared from a stone. It obtained a prize at a flower show in London, much to the delight of its owner, who had grown it in a dingy little room in East London for nine or ten years. An old lady living in an almshouse once

asked me to name a plant she had grown for five years in her room, and it was none other than a real tea-tree (*Thea bohea*), the seed ("a little round thing," as she described it) of which, she had accidentally found at the bottom of her tea-caddy.

Last year I was one of those appointed to make the prize awards at a flower show at Litton Hall, Leeson Park, and the perfection to which geraniums, fuchsias, petunias, cactus plants and annuals had been brought was really surprising, when one remembers the difficulties and makeshift contrivances under which they had been grown. What most surprised me, however, was the little garden belonging to an inmate of the Blind Asylum—a little sunny corner, gay with flowers and creepers. This little plot had been made, planted and tended by a blind woman, a Mrs. or Miss Morgan, and nothing could well be neater or show more loving care than did her flowers. She knew the position of every plant, and could actually tell me, by means of the tips of her fingers, the names of them, and could show me each treasure almost as well as if she had had her sight. Now, great as your difficulties may be, you will own that those which this blind gardener surmounted were greater than any you may expect to encounter. It would not be quite fair to conclude without making some reference to the sanitary or health question in relation to window-gardening.

I am sure I need not tell you that plants in reality belong to Nature's scavengers, and benefit us by eating up decomposing matter which, if left unutilized by them, would become a source of extreme danger to ourselves. Apart from such direct gifts as corn and wine, or fruit and timber, we must not forget the draining and disinfecting value of vegetation. So that now we come to the

USES OF VEGETATION.—The proper function, or one of the right uses of all vegetation, is to produce food and clothing for us from the refuse matter of our large towns. Every little green leaf, apart from its individual beauty, has a share in the great work of purification which all leaves carry on. In malarious countries the blue or fever gum tree is now largely planted, because it grows rapidly, and its roots and leaves suck up moisture so quickly that a few of these trees actually drain any swamp or marsh near or in which they are planted. It is so with our own poplar trees, which in wet, low-lying places act most efficiently as the best of natural drains for a stagnant bit of marsh or land. Now, if you drain a swamp in the ordinary way you simply carry pollution from one place and deposit it in another place; but tree roots suck up offensive matter, and tree leaves actually purify it. The leaves throw off pure water by evaporation, and with it life-giving oxygen, instead of the poisonous gases of the atmosphere. What is true of large trees is in degree equally true of the smallest window plant. The highest mission of plants is not merely to please our eyes with color, our mouths with delicious fruits; not only do they do this and more, but they are ever silently but surely eating up what is impure and injurious to ourselves in the atmosphere and in the earth all around our homes; and any dwelling in which plants are well and healthily grown will be more likely to be a clean and healthy house than if the plants were not there.

TURBAN BELL-FLOWER (*Campanula turbinata*). Flowers deep blue.

CAMPANULAS.

CAMPANULAS are fine features now of the hardy garden, and the older kinds are in no way discounted by their commonness. A list of the campanulas now in flower is not needed, but we must mention a few that are of special interest. The bearded hairbell, *Campanula barbata*, is a true alpine of small growth, with sky blue or pure white flowers, which are truly bell-shaped, with spreading bearded limb, and a distinct yellow clapper for the ringing of the bell. Another interesting species is *C. caespitosa*, a dwarf form of which is labeled *C. pumila*. Here we have a traveling plant of most beautiful character, producing light blue or pure white flowers, which also are truly bell-shaped, with an elegant five-lobed limb. The foliage is like that of *C. hederacea*, a watery Britisher, now ignominiously catalogued as *Wahlenbergia hederacea*. *C. carpatica* is one of the best of border plants, but one seldom seen, for the bedding system knocked it out of the game years ago. *C. Hosti* claims at least a word; it has a character

reminding us of *C. rotundifolia*, which, in all its forms, is now flowering freely, both having a true bell form. The colored calyx bell-flower, *C. medium calycanthema*, is beginning to acquire the attention it deserves, for it is a fine thing, and has never been grown in quantity, as it should be in all places where showy subjects are required. We pass over many popular kinds to make special mention of *C. nobilis*, a relation of *C. punctata*, which latter gives us white flowers, spotted inside, while *nobilis* gives us what is rare in the family (save *C. medium*), a shade of soft rose, or of purplish chocolate, or of creamy white. None of the late flowering kinds are more useful than *C. turbinata*, which has salver-shaped flowers that are always showy whatever their color, the variety running through the gamut of blue, with white for an accidental note, but never as yet having shown any red or rosy tint. The normal form gives flowers of a deep blue, and will flower twice if not allowed to produce seed.—*Gardener's Magazine*.

GOLDEN-RODS AND ASTERS.

AS we take our walks and drives in the late summer and early autumn we find the yellow of the golden-rod, the purple, white and violet of the aster, giving beauty and brightness to roadsides, fields and woods. Many a hill and dale present pictures far beyond the most finished works of art.

Golden-rod hill, where I find eight or nine species of solidagos, and Aster dale, where the starry flowers delight to dwell, are among the pleasant places of the land. And does it not add to the enjoyment of the flowers to be able to call each by its true name? As Emerson says of the shells: "How hungry I found myself the other day at Agassiz's Museum for their names!" And don't you always feel that you are somewhat acquainted with a plant if you can call it by name?

I know of no more entertaining vacation work than to see how many different golden-rods and asters you can find. It will, of course, depend upon the locality; but you will be able almost anywhere to find from twelve to sixteen species of each.

I found last year fourteen solidagos that I felt quite sure were correctly named and sixteen asters. I had before found twelve solidagos—possibly thirteen; but you may be sure I was pleased when I could add two more that there was no doubt about.

"How did I find them?" I had them in my mind, for I was very desirous to seek out all that grew within the limits of my botanical trips. And experience has proved to me the truth of what John Burroughs says about the walking fern, "No one ever yet found the walking fern who did not have the walking fern in his mind." Literally translated—You need to know what you want to find, and you must also be persistent in your seeking; no lukewarm enthusiasm will accomplish the result.

I have to-day found the smooth winterberry, *Ilex lævigata*, not very common, because a day or two ago I learned just how it differed from *Ilex verticillata*, the more common black alder or winterberry. I knew that the flower stems were longer, but supposed that I must examine it closely to perceive the difference; but when I was told that the pedicel was half an inch long, I was ready to recognize the shrub at sight, and lo! and behold! there it was waiting, to make my acquaintance.

The earlier golden-rods are *Solidago canadensis* and *Solidago arguta*; according to the revised nomenclature, *juncea*. They appear at about the same time, and are so distinct you will have no trouble in placing and remembering them.

It is fortunate for all learners that the flowers do not all appear at once, for they would be entirely bewildered, as I was on being told the names of the streets in a Southern city. We landed from the steamer in the evening, and in the morning as we rode through the city, my friend, who was very familiar with the names, thought he was doing me great service by pouring into my ears an

avalanche of words, quaint, strange and unfamiliar—Tchoupitoulas, Melpomene, Euterpe, Felicity Road, Prytania, &c., &c. If one had ever heard the names of the Muses with one syllable eliminated and the accent anywhere but in the right place, the unfamiliarity of the words would have been very apparent.

Finally, I ventured to say, "You are very kind, but if you would give me two or three names at a time, I might have some chance of remembering them."

I often think of this when quantities of information are hurled at people with no time given them to fix even one fact in their minds.

Is it not better to know one thing thoroughly than a dozen superficially? And as Confucius says: "To know that we know what we know, and that we do not know what we do not know, that is true knowledge."

Now, with regard to the golden-rods and asters, do not try to learn all the names at once, and, fortunately, as I have before said, Nature does not show them all to you at the same time.

You will find *Solidago canadensis* and *Solidago juncea* (remember that the name in Gray's Manual will be *arguta*) in the fields and by the roadsides as early as the latter part of July. The stems of *S. canadensis* are rough-hairy, the leaves lanceolate and pointed, while the stems of *S. juncea* are smooth and the leaves much broader and very smooth; the panicle of *S. canadensis* being erect, that of *S. arguta* usually becoming one-sided. If you are in doubt as to the species study carefully Gray's Manual or some other good botany, or, better still, consult if you can the revision of solidagos and asters which you will find in Vol. I., Part 2, of the Synoptical Flora of North America, by Professor Gray, published last summer. Both names and descriptions have been changed to some extent, corrections having been made where names, &c., had been found upon further research to be erroneous.

I can do little more in a paper like this than give a list of the golden-rods and asters in the order in which I found them last summer, only mentioning when I can some salient point.

Aster corymbosus appeared about the same time as the two earlier golden-rods. I could always tell it by the slender zigzag stem and the lower heart-shaped leaves with naked petioles, and these points always made me able to distinguish it from *A. macrophyllus*, which somewhat resembles it, but appears later. The stem of *A. macrophyllus* is stout, leaves thickish, and some of them with margined petioles. Both of these asters are showy and beautiful and are found in moist woods.

Next I find on my list *Solidago lanceolata*. *S. tenuifolia* appears about the same time and is in the same descriptive section, but was not within my reach. The heads of these are so different from the other golden-rods it is very easy to distinguish them—small, sessile and crowded into little clusters. *S. lanceolata* has narrow leaves,

three to five-nerved, while the leaves of *S. tenuifolia* are one-nerved. The former is found in moist places and the manual says the latter in "sandy fields and common near the coast." How many times have I examined the particularly narrow leaves of *S. lanceolata*, hoping to find only one nerve, and although I know *S. tenuifolia* I have never seen it in its own home.

S. odora (sweet golden-rod), with its shining sweet-scented leaves (when crushed), appears early in August with *A. linariifolius*, the "double-bristled aster"—this you will find under *diplopappus* in the manual, but the genus is now classed with the asters.

S. sempervirens, the seaside golden-rod, is unmistakable with its thick, bright green leaves and large showy heads. This you find by the seashore and tidal streams. I find it (August 23) in abundance by a tidal stream.

S. bicolor (white golden-rod) you will readily know by the color, cream or nearly white.

S. rugosa (old name *altissima*), with its rough stem and leaves is found almost everywhere.

S. serotina, now called *var. gigantea*, with its smooth stem and leaves, found in moist or rich soil, somewhat resembles *S. canadensis*, except in smoothness, but can readily be distinguished by a little study.

S. nemoralis, with its grayish leaves and bright yellow flowers, is common on the hills and by the roads, and in the sphagnous swamps you will find the pretty *S. neglecta*.

The asters for this date were *A. Novæ Angliæ*, the beautiful bright purple New England aster; *A. patens*, with its clasping leaves and deep violet rays; *A. miser*

and *A. tradescanti*. In the revision *A. miser* is named *A. diffusus*, and *A. tradescanti*, *A. vimineus*.

The week following I found *Solidago puberula*, with its showy pyramidal panicle—though sometimes small and spike-like; *S. latifolia*, with its angled stem, thin, large and coarsely serrate leaves, on the shaded bank of a brook, and *S. casia*, with its long slender branches—flowers clustered in the axils of the leaves—and a glabrous appearance, so that its common name is "blue-stemmed golden-rod." It is common in the edge of woods. This is the latest of the golden-rods in this vicinity, and is, I think, one of the most attractive.

The asters were *A. macrophyllus*, *A. undulatus*—wavy-leaved aster; *A. cordifolius*, with its heart-shaped leaves; *A. simplex*, now called *paniculatus*; *A. longifolius*—new name *A. Novi Belgii*—with its bright green leaves, and *A. umbellatus*.

Later I found the charming *A. lævis*—no Eastern varieties given now; *A. puniceus*—stem rough and purple, often found by brooks; *A. linifolius*—now called *A. subulatus*—found by a tidal stream, and *A. multiflorus*, with its small, abundant flowers and slightly rigid aspect. The latter is usually plentiful by the roadside.

Solidago ulmifolia—smooth form of the *rugosa*—was the last found, simply because I did not discover it until late in the season. It probably is in flower at about the same time as *S. rugosa*.

The old *S. Muhlenbergii* (new *S. arguta*) will be sought for this year, as I feel quite sure it must grow somewhere along the woodland paths.

LOUISE DUDLEY.

A NEW INDUSTRY.

AT the recent meeting of the American Pomological Society, held at Grand Rapids, Mich., E. T. Field, of Red Bank, N. J., read a very interesting paper on the suitability of the climate of the southern part of Florida to the successful growth of the cocoanut palm, and from experiments already made argues that there is every reason to believe that the production of the cocoanut will form an important industry.

To the question "Will the cocoanut palm grow in the United States?" he replies:

"Yes, a sufficient number of trees are in the different stages of growth, from the planted nut to the age of forty or more years in South Florida, to fully demonstrate the certainty of success. It is a safe estimate to place the average number of nuts per tree at 100 now on the bearing trees, and these trees compare most favorably with those grown in other countries. Not until recently was attention called to this industry. About half a dozen years since a few thousand were planted at Lake Worth, a part of which are now in bearing. Since that time some of the residents of Key West have planted several thousand on the Keys. A tree will thrive equally as well on a space of 400 square feet, and an acre will support over one hundred trees at this distance.

"Nearly all the Keys are of a coral composition, having a strip of coral sand varying in width from a few hundred feet down, a large proportion of which has been planted with the cocoanut.

"From Cape Florida north, for a distance of ninety miles running parallel with the coast, there are bays, rivers and sounds disconnected by narrow strips of land, but themselves connected by inlets to the ocean, through which the tide ebbs and flows. Between these and the ocean lies a strip of land varying in width from about twenty rods to a little over a mile, the formation of which is largely of coral sand, the greatest elevation being nearest the ocean with a gradually-descending grade to the west. This chain of inland waters, receiving the fresh water flowing from the everglades, prevents its leaching through this strip of land. The temperature of the Gulf Stream at Cape Florida is from 79° to 80° Fahr. Easterly winds frequently drive the Gulf Stream waters against the beach along the coast as far north as Lake Worth, thus producing a tropical climate and growth of vegetation.

"The growth of the cocoanut palm where the situation, soil and climate are suited to it, is sufficiently vigorous to outstrip all other vegetation. The plant grows from the

nut ; the trunk or body of the tree is a strong, tough wood, from eight to eighteen inches in diameter, and attains a height of from fifty to eighty feet ; it is liable to be more or less crooked, caused by the action of wind against the leaves and fruit on the top of the tree ; the leaves are pinnate, growing from fifteen to twenty feet long and are a dark glossy green ; the blossoms come out near the crown of the tree and are encased in a spathe (sheath shaped) the same color as the leaves, about three feet long, ten to twelve inches in circumference in the centre, tapering to a point on the outer end and to the stem on the other end ; the spathe opens, and you see the fruit-spur covered with yellow bloom, and the nut (about one inch in diameter) set upon each branch of the fruit-spur about three inches out from its junction with the central or main stem. The number of these small nuts on a fruit-spur is sometimes forty, but part of them drop ; the number remaining to maturity varies from five to twenty, depending upon the condition of the tree to support its fruit ; these fruit-spurs appear about one each month, and as the nuts gain in size their weight causes them gradually to droop until at full size the spur is bent in a curve, the outer end having turned down so that some of the nuts rest against the body of the tree and base of the leaves. The fruit is encased in a tough fibre husk varying in thickness from one to two and one-half inches ; the next covering is a hard shell about three-sixteenths of an inch thick, then the kernel is reached inside the shell, which, when matured, is from three to five eighths of an inch in thickness, this being filled with the milk.

“The consumption of coconuts in the United States amounts to many millions annually. They are obtained from all the West India islands, the Central and South American coasts and from islands in the Caribbean Sea. The importation of them has increased from 1869 to 1884 about fourfold. At the same time the price has been steadily advancing. There is considerable difference in the quality of the fruit, and some command better prices. They are received principally at the following cities :

New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans, Savannah, Boston and Charleston. There are great numbers preserved, so that they can be shipped all over our vast country at little expense (even by mail). The table can be supplied with the prepared nut put up in packages which are easily transported. Eight firms in this country are engaged in desiccating the nut. Vast quantities are stored in different stages, from the sack of nuts to the labeled package boxed ready for shipment. In the process of manufacture the shell is removed with hatchets, the brown coating next is pared off from which oil is extracted, the kernel is then ground, dried, sweetened and packed in barrels, boxes, pails, packages and cans. Oil is extensively imported from almost the entire tropics. Vessels have gone to the islands in the Pacific, remained for months pressing out the oil, returning with a very small cargo, and yet made it pay handsome profits. When improved machinery is used for manufacturing all the products of the cocconut palm into useful articles the demand will be greatly increased.

“From the requirements needed for the success of the cocconut it appears that there are a few thousand acres in South Florida suited to its successful production, the climate and soil being what is desired, a perfectly healthy location, with the advantage of being much nearer the markets of the United States (one of the best the world affords) than any tropical country. The advantages of this fruit grown in Florida are numerous, some of which are : handiness to market, healthy location ; it will keep for months, hence none need be lost ; inexpensiveness, as little attention is required. There is not sufficient territory to produce enough to overstock the market, for the number will not exceed, probably, over one million of trees. It is now a luxury ; the demand is increasing, which will eventually make it a staple. In a few years it will be used during the summer in its green state, in the same manner as it is now used in the tropics. Experiments are now being made to separate the fibre with machinery ; when perfected this will utilize the husk, a valuable part of which is now thrown away in America.”

WHEN THE GENTIAN'S BLOW.

Not in any garden close
Where the lily and the rose
In stately sweetness grow ;
But in some waste field, or nook,
Where you'd never think to look,
Do the gentians blow.

Radiant plumes of golden-rod
'Twixt the purple asters nod,
Red the sumacs glow,
All the corn is heaped in shocks,
And the bluebirds fly in flocks,
When the gentians blow.

High o'er rustling sedges dun,
Swaying sunflowers watch the sun,
Fearing signs of snow ;
And the wandering cricket's note
In the chill air seems to float ;
When the gentians blow.

—*Wide Awake.*

OUR AUTUMN FIELDS.

“The wind-flower and the violet, they perished long ago,
And the brier-rose and the orchis died amid the summer
glow ;
But on the hill the golden-rod, and the aster in the wood,
And the yellow sunflower by the brook, in autumn beauty
stood,
Till fell the frost from the clear cold heaven, as falls the
plague on men,
And the brightness of their smile was gone from upland,
glade and glen.”

SO sings the poet near to nature's heart, while each succeeding autumn paints his scene anew. It was recently the writer's privilege to take a twenty-five-mile ride through the New Jersey meadows, where the landscape vividly realized Bryant's description. We may affect the raconteur's reticence, and refuse to divulge the exact point from which the aforesaid expedition started, only admitting that it is a locality where the fragrant musk-melon and toothsome Lima bean are the farmer's tutelary deities. The myriads of flowers we saw are not by any means the exclusive heritage of New Jersey, though that State may be regarded as a botanist's paradise ; autumn is our prodigal season, and every hillside, every old pasture, is blazing with purple and gold. Every meadow becomes a veritable “Field of the Cloth of Gold.” The golden-rod (*solidago*), in its almost countless varieties, is the most noticeable flower, especially in old pastures ; indeed, it becomes a most troublesome weed, extremely difficult to extirpate, as it produces countless numbers of seeds, which are blown about like thistle-down. In the lower and damper ground the prevailing golden tint is produced by the autumn sneezewort (*Helennium autumnale*), sometimes called “swamp sunflower” or “false sunflower.” It is one of the

“last pale flowers that look
From out their sunny nook,
At the sky.”

and it turns its bright flowers upward even during November, if the season is not excessively severe. All the heleniums are noticeable for their late flowering. It was formerly the custom to dedicate to the saints some flower that opened about the days consecrated to them, and we find that the plant under consideration was dedicated to Edward the Confessor, whose festal-day was the 13th of October. It seems irreverent to call a flower with such saintly antecedents “sneezewort,” but the name is derived from its medicinal properties ; it is used like snuff to induce sneezing. The flowers are most efficient in producing this effect. The whole plant is intensely bitter, with an aroma similar to camomile ; indeed, the sneezewort would probably answer all the purposes of that flower. Our plant was described by earlier botanists both as an aster and a chrysanthemum, and the latter name, meaning literally “golden flower,” seems very appropriate, did not stern science banish it to another family.

The gatherer of simples will find another herb to be medically respected growing near the sneezewort—the common boneset or thoroughwort (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*). It is regarded in malarial districts as “kind nature's restorer” from the pangs of fever and ague, and it is undoubtedly a useful tonic and febrifuge ; but apart from these properties it really deserves admiration for its beauty, showing a large corymb of downy-white flowers, fully as handsome as any of our garden species. *E. purpureum* (trumpet weed) is a coarse but showy species, with deep pink flowers ; it grows from two to twelve feet in height, and makes a brave show along the roadside, raising its tall head above the golden-rod. Here, too, is the iron-weed or flat-top (*Vernonia Novaeboracensis*). We must apologize for inflicting upon our readers such a terrific specific name as this plant possesses, and explain that it is Latin—rather monkish Latin, we should judge—meaning, “belonging to the State of New York.” The first specimens known to science were procured in that State ; but the title is a misnomer, as the plant is very widely distributed. It is tall and vigorous of growth, bearing a head of purple or rosy-purple flowers, somewhat similar in shape to a thistle. It is a very conspicuous plant, growing two or three feet high. The stems are very coarse and hard, whence the name “iron-weed,” and it receives little favor from our botanists. Dr. Michener says it is “a worthless and troublesome weed in moist bottom lands unless carefully disposed of. Being a rank perennial, the proper means is to destroy the root either by ploughing or grubbing.” Not a very complimentary description ; but a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, and Mr. Robinson gives the *Vernonia* a high rank among hardy flowers for English gardens, praising it for its stately habit as well as its handsome flowers.

The far-reaching salt meadows, with their wealth of rigid and æsthetic cat-tails, are now brightened by quantities of rose-mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*), strongly resembling our old-fashioned rose of Sharon, of which, indeed, it is a variety. They are tall-growing, shrubby perennials, bearing large and showy flowers, either rose-color or white with a crimson eye. They are a very familiar flower at this season all along the Atlantic coast, extending up the course of rivers or through brackish marshes. The word *Hibiscus* is an old Greek or Latin name of obscure meaning ; the most reasonable solution seems that it is derived from *Ibiscum*—with the ibis—as, like that bird, it is a frequenter of marshes.

The poet who gave us an opening for our paper tells us that—

“The brier-rose and the orchis died amid the summer glow,”
but we find an occasional brier-rose even now, sturdy of growth and bright of face, while if the orchis proper is absent it has left us its daintiest congener, the spiral ladies' traces (*Spiranthes cernua*). This is one of our

most charming orchidaceous plants, wax-like and fragrant, though too often it

"Wastes its sweetness on the desert air,"

for though not uncommon in some localities it is an unknown plant to the majority. Relative to the popular name of this flower, Professor Meehan says: "The old English name was 'ladies' traces,' from the resemblance of the twisted spikes to the silken cords or laces, formerly called 'traces,' with which fair dames used to gird themselves and fasten their various articles of dress before hooks-and-eyes, buttons, pins and the like were invented. The word has become almost obsolete now in this connection, being applied only to the straps by which horses are attached to vehicles. The original meaning of the word having thus been forgotten, modern authors spell the name of our plant 'tresses,' and suppose it to have been adopted from the resemblance to a tress or curl of hair; and perhaps the two words may originally have been derived from one root, for certainly many flowing tresses have proved to be the traces by which masculine hearts were chained to the triumphal car of Beauty." Down in the meadows we see great masses of bright rose-purple, turning the sober-hued grass into a surface of glowing color—it is *Gerardia purpurea*, one of the false foxglove tribe, with large bell-shaped flowers, or rather more like the conventional cap of Liberty. *Rhexia*

virginica, the little meadow beauty, is usually found with it, and these two flowers make a charming addition to an autumn bouquet.

In the water we find a belated *Sagittaria* or *Helonias*, shaded by the melancholy cat-tails; but autumn offers us few attractions in aquatic plants.

But the asters! Who can give them their full meed of praise, as they shade from deepest purple to purest white? They form a most variable family, running through numberless varieties of color and growth. The smallest flowered form, with pure white petals, is known as "Michaelmas daisy," from the fact that it flowers near the Feast of St. Michael—indeed, this name is often applied to the whole tribe. The deepest purple form (*A. spectabilis*) forms a gorgeous contrast with the golden-rod.

Taking all in all, Dame Autumn is a kindly season to us, whether, when the meadows are gay with blossoms, or later, when—

"Red leaves trailing,
Fall unfailing,
Dropping, sailing,
From the wood,
That, unpliant,
Stands defiant,
Like a giant,
Dropping blood."

—E. L. TAPLIN.

A RETROSPECT.

THIS is bracing weather. The dandelions have donned their white frizzes and gone on a visit. They will reappear next spring down near your door-step, or laugh at you when the water ripples by a moss-grown rock.

"O dandelion, you are a gay fellow,
With your spotless coat of downy yellow!"

The apple and cherry blossoms mingled with the incense of lilacs over the graves of dead heroes. The war brought an increasing fondness for flowers, those blooming the best and longest proving the most satisfactory. The annuals are a long time coming up, until one learns by experience how to start them on the road to Blossomland. To have success in raising them, sow in drills, with a slight covering of dirt, then lay boards over the drills and in three days they will be sprouted; uncover and do not allow them to dry out. One can have a great variety started this way, thinning and transplanting until there are just enough to take care of pleasantly. To have flowers grow successfully one must study their various needs, and watch as carefully after their welfare as does the mother robin her featherless nestlings.

Spring was a long time coming to Northern Illinois, but came suddenly one day and staid only long enough to awaken the crocus, and left with a bound before our work was half done. The April days were short and cold, but May came and the work went bravely on. June bloomed with roses for the sweet girl graduate, and which was the

sweeter would be hard to decide. July came with its tornadoes, wind-storms and sultry breezes, the rain filled each flower cup, beating it down to the earth. August was unusually cool and wet, a few sunny days, and just as the flowers were looking like a gorgeous pageant, flaunting all the colors of the rainbow in ribbon beds and borders, down went the curtain and the scene was dissolved in a mist—one would declare a waterspout suddenly bursting had swept out the gold and left the green.

But the weeds throve apace, neither storms nor hoes could down them; eternal vigilance wins the prize in every contest. The author of "Back-Yard Studies" in *Harper's* for October would have needed only a glimpse at my flower-garden when I returned from a trip to the North this summer to have found food for his pencil-sketches for all time. I left everything spick and span clean, but it was a wonder and a wilderness of weeds and grass when I returned. It all looks very pretty in a picture, but in reality the trailing purslane and the feathery grasses are not so pretty, at least when you come in contact with them among the flowers, and you know it is either death to one or the other. Some very hard rains had produced a quickening into life of trash not set down in the catalogues. It took two days to set things to rights again. I told John that the next time I left him to keep house I should leave my garden in care of a *professional* weed-killer.

M. LOU. MEDLAR.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Broccoli.

THE improved sorts of broccoli bear so close a resemblance to the cauliflower in all respects that they can scarcely be distinguished from each other. Broccoli is not as delicate in flavor as the cauliflower but is more hardy, and can be cultivated with a greater certainty of its heading. It is also taller in growth and the heads are more divided.

It is invariably grown for fall use, and requires for its perfect development a moist and cool atmosphere, such as we usually get during the months of October and November, but it occasionally happens that owing to heat or dryness during August or September the crop becomes an entire failure.

In order to grow broccoli to perfection it should be given a deep, well-enriched soil. If the ground can be trenched to the depth of at least two feet and a liberal supply of manure thoroughly and deeply incorporated with the soil, it will do much to insure a satisfactory crop, although this is practicable only on a limited scale. The most practicable method is to mix thoroughly with the soil a liberal supply of well decayed stable manure, and after leveling it off as nicely as possible, mark off into rows two feet apart each way, and at each intersection let a little concentrated cabbage fertilizer be scattered and thoroughly incorporated with the soil by means of the hoe, at the same time forming a slight hill in which, about the middle of July, the plants should be placed.

The seed should be sown very thinly on a nicely prepared border in shallow drills about one foot apart, the first week in May, and the young plants should be well cared for and kept clean and free from weeds until they are wanted for transplanting, which should be done just previous to or after a rain; the plants should be carefully

removed from the seed-bed and the ground well firmed around their roots, and it is also important that the plants be set down to their first or seed leaves. As soon as the new leaves appear they should be dusted with lime or tobacco-dust in order to protect them from the attacks of the cabbage-flea, and this dusting should be repeated two or three times a week until the plants become three or four inches in height. In the Southern States the sowing should be delayed until June or July, and the transplanting, accordingly, from August to October.

After transplanting, and growth commences, they should be well and thoroughly cultivated, and at each hoeing let a little fresh earth be drawn around the plants, and when the flower-heads commence to form break a few of the larger leaves over them in order to protect from sun and rain, and use them before they begin to run up to seed.

In England, where the broccoli is much more generally grown, some forty or more varieties are enumerated in the seedsmen's catalogues, but only a few succeed in this climate, and these are the most certain to head.

White Cape.—This produces heads of medium size, but close and compact and of a creamy white color.

Purple Cape.—Similar in all respects to the White Cape except in color, which is greenish purple. This is by some considered to be quite objectionable, but when properly prepared for the table there is but very little difference between the two varieties in appearance, and none whatever in flavor.

In parts of the country where the thermometer does not fall below twenty or twenty-five degrees, broccoli may be had in perfection from November until March.

QUEENS, N. Y.

CHAS. E. PARNELL.

THE GRAYS' FRONT-YARD.

“WELL, Hester, I'm in for making some money this summer,” remarked George Gray, as he rose from the supper table and prepared to settle himself for the enjoyment of his pipe.

“Something new?” queried the busy wife, with kindly interest.

“Yes; Mr. Lester has had more applications than usual from city people who wish to board in the country through the hot weather, and he cannot accommodate them all. I told him we'd take some of them, and he says Green and Sheldon are going to take some. We'll fill up all the empty rooms, and this fall you may have the new washing-machine you have been wanting so long.”

Mrs. Gray expressed her thankfulness very meekly, the thought never entering her mind that a long siege in the

heat with the extra work which the addition of fastidious city boarders to her family would bring, would (or should) shift the obligation quite to the other side. Still she knew that it was not necessary that their income should be increased to allow her the washing-machine.

“We'll have to get a few things,” she ventured, as cautiously as a mariner sounds his depths.

“A few things; yes, I suppose we will,” assented the husband, dubiously, and when a carefully and economically selected list of the “few things” needed for the expected “boarders” was given him, she was surprised to find that it was not so much above his expectations, yet a few deductions must be made.

Indeed, Mr. Gray's state of unwonted good-nature seeming to increase, Mrs. Gray ventured to broach a subject the pros and cons of which had been running

through her mind for many a day. Now seemed as good a time as she would ever get, so she spoke bravely out :

"George, will you let James wheel gravel for me a little while to-morrow, or some day this week? Just enough to cover a pathway from the front door to the gate."

"Wheel gravel for nonsense like that when the spring work is coming on so fast that we can't half see to it? you must be crazy! I took you for a sensible woman and not one to bother with such folderol as that. A path clear through all that nice grass, too; I guess not!" And Mrs. Gray said no more, knowing it would be useless. A little later, Jennie, aged fourteen, the only daughter of the house, came in. Recalling her father's unusually kind manner at the supper table a half hour before, and not knowing that her mother had already ruffled his temper by an unfortunate request, she thought it a favorable opportunity to put in a plea for something about which she had long been building beautiful hopes.

"Father, may I have some flower-beds in the front-yard this summer?"

This was a still more preposterous request than his wife had made, and was received accordingly.

"Cut the soil up and waste the grass so that you can waste your time and money on trashy posies! No! and don't you ask me again."

Jennie persisted, however.

"But Lettie Green has *such* a pretty yard; Bennie has helped her make gravel paths all around the beds, and they have got a lot of seeds which they sent away to Michigan for, and she will divide with me, she says, if I want them, and it won't cost me a penny, and—"

"I tell you I won't hear another word! There's grass enough cut from that yard to half winter a cow every year, and I'd like to see myself throwing it away on foolishness like that. Besides you and your mother'll have enough to do this summer without spending your time in fussing with flowers."

That settled the matter; Jennie was silenced, and, after finishing the work about which she was helping, went upstairs to cry a little over her disappointment, and then to go on as before, doing her manifold duties, brave, patient child that she was, hopeful that "by and by" a blessed change of some sort might come into the lives of her mother and herself, who, it seemed to her, were always required to give up something which, but for a selfish, tyrannical will, might easily be theirs. That is what the feeling in her mind amounted to, although she was scarcely aware of it herself.

All harmony was destroyed for the evening, and, urgent duties being done, the mother, too, left the kitchen with its gruff, grumbling occupant enveloped in a cloud of smoke, and stole out the door; and though she shed no tears—she had given that up long ago—she was deeply hurt.

There was a full, beautiful moon and the exterior of the great old farmhouse was lit up brightly, and also its surroundings, which were practical enough in their nature. The wide front-yard lay spread out under the moonlight in all its barrenness of aspect, and, spite of her strict ideas of wifely duty, a host of rebellious thoughts

crowded through her mind. This for many years had been the old homestead of the Claysons, her mother's family.

The time had been when that great square of level ground lying between the house and the road had been all ablaze with dear old-fashioned flowers, pinks, peonies, sweet-williams, ragged robins, in gorgeous clusters; thrifty and beautiful lilacs and sweet syringas, here and there, and beautiful trees of feathery foliaged tamarisk and of mountain ash, which lent the blaze of their brilliant red berries in the fall to atone in part for the loss of the summer flowers which lay withered at their feet.

While the father and mother had lived the flowers and shrubbery had been left undisturbed, but first the father, then the silvery-haired mother, gave up the reins of government for robes and palms and a home in their Father's mansion, and then an immediate change came over everything about the old place, but nothing hurt like the desecration of the old front-door yard. Never would Hester Gray forget the day that the hired man was set at tearing up the lilacs and syringas and cutting down the tamarisk and mountain-ash trees preparatory to the ploughing and planting of the ground. The broken roots seemed to upbraid her as they were torn from the mellow soil which had nurtured them so long. Only two maples standing in opposite corners of the fence at each side of the gate were left, and many times she had trembled at threats of their being cut. Since then the yard had been alternately planted with vegetables or sown to grass seed, for several seasons, until now, when there was a prospect of a more than usually prosperous season, it had seemed just possible to Mrs. Gray that a sort of compromise might be effected in the making of a gravel path through the old yard, which fortunately had borne a crop of hay last season and was designed for the same purpose this year. But she must give up the plan, for the will of her husband was her law; the springing grass was lovely, to be sure, and later it would be still more beautiful in its waning luxuriance, but nothing like the beauty which had once existed there when she as a child had played "go seek" among the lilacs and syringas, or that which might still exist there if she were only allowed to work her own will for a little while, with Jennie to help her.

Poor little Jennie! so she had been cherishing plans too; that knowledge made her own disappointment all the harder to bear, and when Hester Gray turned to enter the kitchen again she would have been ashamed to have anyone read the bitter thoughts in her mind.

In the kitchen door sat her husband, still smoking. He had not noted her unusual absence and the silence round about, neither was he aware that he had been cruelly mean toward his wife and daughter in his denial of their requests. He was merely calculating the profits on ten or a dozen boarders at a given price per week apiece, and scarcely knew when his wife passed in and lighted the lamp preparatory to taking up her work for the evening.

The months of early spring passed away and the increasing warmth of the weather warned those who were to leave the city for the summer that the time of their

migration was drawing nigh, and it also warned those who meant to receive them that it was time all extra preparations were finished. The house of the Grays was spick, span clean from garret to cellar, and its inmates were in daily expectation of applications from people in search of accommodation for the summer.

Several other houses and their inmates were in the same state of immaculate neatness and expectation, and one by one, two by two, the seekers after the refreshing and invigorating advantages of country life for the hot season came into the little town of N—, and, after a brief tour of inspection and inquiry, settled themselves to the enjoyment of their needed vacation.

Several called at the Grays', examined rooms, exclaimed at the neatness and order of everything and went away, saying they were unable to decide till later whether they would come to stay.

Subsequently it appeared that they had called elsewhere, been better suited and forthwith engaged rooms and board.

This mortified Mrs. Gray exceedingly, yet was only a confirmation of certain misgivings which she had all along entertained.

The front door was always kept locked, that the grass might not be trampled down by the children running out and in. "One door was enough," Mr. Gray said, and of course that decided the matter for the family. This rather gloomy peculiarity was always noticed, and though Mrs. Gray's explanation was always smilingly received, she knew it had the effect of putting a damper upon her husband's money-making chances with city boarders, which fact did not displease her very much, as they were not in need of the addition to their income which boarders would afford, and her cares were already too numerous; yet she could not help feeling hurt at the superiority for beauty and pleasantness of her neighbors' places over her own, and the consequent choice of them by those in search of accommodations, as long as they had signified a desire to take summer boarders.

She did not see fit to inform Mr. Gray of the cause of the failure of his plans, however, and his rather obtuse mind did not grasp it readily, so he remained in a state of grumbling ignorance and wonder, till one evening Louie came running in, full of indignation at something which had happened. He seemed to see no one but his mother, and to her he was accustomed to confide all his

griefs. Besides, this was a family matter, and he felt she should be immediately informed.

"Mother! Bennie Green says we're 'stingy old fogies,' and that we keep folks away by locking up our front door and making a meadow of our front-yard, and that's all the reasons the folks wouldn't board with us, and—"

Mrs. Gray, fearing the effect of the disclosure upon her husband's temper, tried to soothe the excited boy.

"Bennie Green is not worth minding, Louie; don't pay any attention to him," she said; but Louie took breath and went on:

"And he says we never go anywhere, and haven't anything to wear, and no flower-beds, and—it isn't *us* to blame, is it, mother? We'd like things different, but—"

"Louie, *hush!* don't let me hear anything more that foolish little Bennie Green has said. When boys speak like that to you, come home, and do not listen to them."

But the lesson went home. Mr. Gray had a certain sort of pride which had become buried beneath a crust of avariciousness, for which he was not so much to blame after all (for in his youth he had felt the need of money), and he was deeply touched by the knowledge which Louie's indignant recital had brought to him—that his neighbors were talking of his miserly ways of living, and though he did not indicate by word or manner that he had heard anything of what Louie said, a change began to come into the lives of the family before long, which the mother was quick to ascribe to the true cause. The crowning joy of all was the giving over, the succeeding spring, of the old flower-garden into the hands of Jennie to do with as she pleased, and she was not slow to put into effect the cherished plans which had once been so summarily crushed.

The next summer sunshine fell upon many improvements about the Gray homestead, and the washing-machine and other facilities for the performance of work which they could well afford, but which had never been allowed, were now given them freely, and never a word was said as to the necessity of taking summer boarders to help pay for them.

And rejoicing in the change which brought so much true happiness into the lives of her loved ones, Hester Gray did not think it worth while to regret anything which belonged to the past.

MRS. C. M. POTTER.

THE THISTLE.

In the grass and the clover meadows,
In the orchard among the trees,
We see you, O thistle, all purple-robed,
Too stately to nod to the breeze.

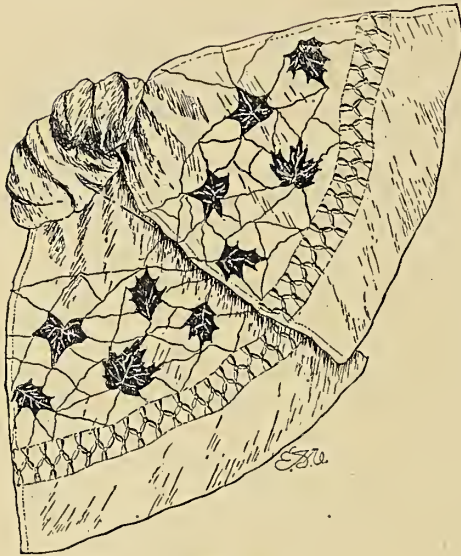
You bristle with spines that are wonderful;
Like the delicate green of spring
Is the shade of your leaves, with royal flowers,
But I know you can fiercely sting.

But when over the fragrant meadows
Adversity's winds shall pass,
And the flowers will bend their sturdy heads
As they bloom in the orchard grass,

Then you'll change to a lustrous whiteness,
O flower of the thorn that day!
Your petals will fade from the angry spines
And heavenward vanish away.

ANNIE L. JACK.

HOME DECORATIONS.



SCRIM TIDY.

Tidy or Scarf for a Chair.

ONE of the prettiest and most inexpensive tidies that has come under my notice for some time is shown in this design.

It is made of linen scrim with leaves cut out of velvet and appliqued to it with tinsel. The tinsel is also carried from leaf to leaf, forming a network between them, thus giving it a very bright, pretty appearance.

The scrim costs twenty cents a yard, and half a yard is sufficient for one tidy. The tinsel comes in balls at fourteen cents each; it does not take quite a ball for one. Shades of red, brown or green are used for the leaves; you can get a pattern for them from the natural ones; those of the running blackberry are very pretty, and the smallest of the oak leaves as well as many of the maples will furnish suitable shapes for application.

Make the hem on the ends of the tidy two inches deep, and draw out threads to the space of one inch above the hem; fasten the loose threads together as is done in drawn work, and finish the sides with a half-inch hem. Cut the leaves out of the velvet and baste them on the scrim; vein them and go all around the edges and between the leaves with the tinsel, which is fastened to the material by catching it down with fine white thread.

E. S. WELCH.

Shell Pen-Wiper.

FOR the case which holds the pen-wiper, two clam-shells, large or small, as one may wish, are used. Hinge the shells together by means of a strip of cotton cloth, which must be strongly gummed to the back, to hold the halves together.

When perfectly dry the shell should be gilded, both interior and exterior, with gold paint, or better still, with gold-leaf, as this will not change color.

The gold paint is applied with a brush, but for the gold-leaf the shell must first be coated with gold sizing, and the gold-leaf applied when the sizing is nearly dry.

Each leaf must be taken up with a piece of cotton batting, and allowed to fall smoothly on the shell, padding it softly to make it adhere. Then carefully brush from the edges the surplus gold.

The pen-wiper is of black and colored cloth; two strips of black and one of blue, scarlet, or any shade one may wish.

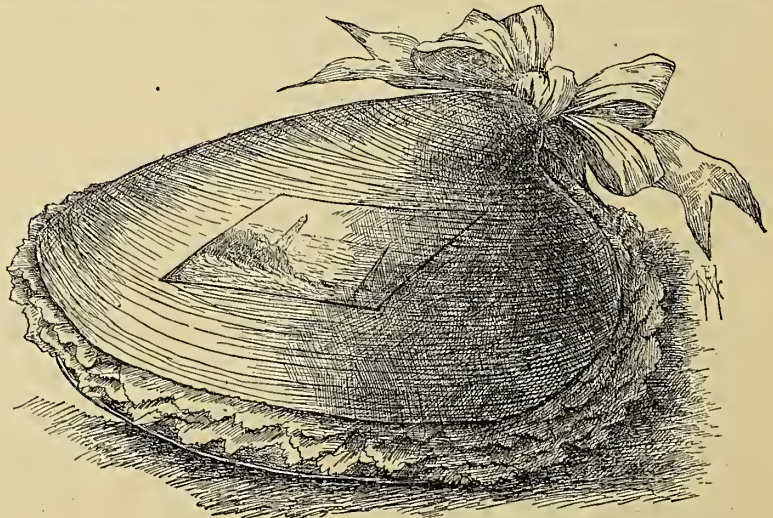
Each strip should be twice the length of the shell, the corners rounded, and the edges pointed or pinked.

Then box-plait each strip, place the colors together, the blue in the middle, with black above and beneath.

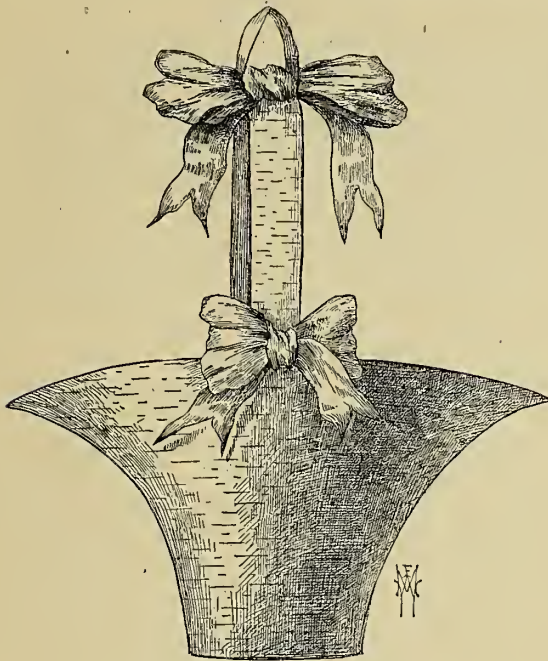
Sew them through the cotton cloth which serves for the hinge, place a bow of ribbon where the shells are joined, paint a pretty design on the upper shell, and the pen-wiper is finished and forms a pretty little ornament for the library table.

These clam-shells gilded make very pretty receptacles for small sprays of wild-flowers. One which was made to serve this purpose, held two or three harebells, with a bit of delicate fern, and a more dainty little flower cup could scarcely be found.

Another use to which they may be put is that of an ash receiver, and after coating with gold, silver or bronze,



SHELL PEN-WIPER.



SCRAP BASKET.

they can be ornamented with grotesque figures in black or color.

Other pretty and novel uses will, perhaps, suggest themselves to those who have shells to decorate.

M. E. WHITTEMORE.

Scrap-Basket for Sewing-Machine.

ONE of these little baskets hung beside the sewing-machine will be found a very convenient receptacle for the ends of thread which collect when one is sewing.

These baskets can be made of many different materials, such as birch-bark, plush, burlaps, or they may be the dainty little baskets which one often finds in a willow-ware shop. The last merely require a pretty lining of silk or satin. A small screw-hook is fastened in the under-side of the table, and on this the basket is hung by a ribbon loop finished with a bow.

If made of birch-bark, or any of the materials before named, the basket must first be cut from pasteboard, shaping it as one may fancy. Then cover with whatever material is to be used, and line with a color which will make a pretty contrast. The handle, also of pasteboard, is covered with the material which is used for the basket. A bow of ribbon finishes the joining of the handle at each side, and another is fastened on the top of the long loop of ribbon by which the basket is hung on the hook beneath the table.

They can also be made of crochet-work, and a soft basket of olive-green macramé thread is very pretty if lined with scarlet, or any other shade of thread can be used with some gay-colored silk or satin for lining.

They will be found most serviceable little things for holding the scraps and threads which are cut from the work while sewing.

M. E. W.

Bag for Duster.

EVERY housekeeper knows how necessary it is to have a duster near at hand; for this purpose a pretty bag is made in the manner of the one shown in the illustration.

Gray linen is a suitable material. A piece three-quarters of a yard long and twenty-four inches wide should be folded together the long way (to make it twelve inches wide when doubled) and sewed in a seam. The lower part of one side should then be embroidered; a simple little design of grasses and daisies is very suitably worked in outline and then filled in with long darning stitches. Twelve inches from the top of the bag make an opening six inches long in the front, in which to slip the duster, and face each side neatly. Sew the ends of the bag together on the wrong side, turn it, and slip the upper end through a brass or nickel ring far enough to cover the opening made to receive the duster. Ornament the lower edges of this upper piece with a row of little crescents; above these a few disks can be outlined with some bright color and filled with darning stitches, if more decoration is desired. Fasten the bag at the top so it will not slip through the ring, and make the duster of a yard of cheese-cloth, button-holed around the edges with pink worsted.

E. S. WELCH.



BAG FOR DUSTER.

English Fancy-Work.

SO much pretty and handsome needlework is now done by English ladies that I think the fair readers of this paper may be glad of a description of some of it. Cross-stitch is, I am sure, thoroughly well known now by all "fancy-workers," but it is *not* everyone who knows what extremely effective embroidery can be done on cross-stitch linen material (sometimes called *toile carrée*) in properly selected shades of crewel wool. Choose a handsome pattern of flowers—such a one as was once used for Berlin wool work. The background should *not* be worked. Mats, cushion-covers, wash-stand splashes,

sideboard and table cloths are very rich looking worked in this manner.

Bandanna work is very popular with us now. Take a cotton bandanna with as large and handsome a border as possible. Cut it roughly the shape and rather larger than the size you require (as it always pulls up in working). Line it with a soft cotton material. Trace round the outlines of the pattern in tinsel, sewing it on with tiny black cotton stitches. Then between the tinsel fill in the pattern in crewel wool or silks, if desired, in French knots. The background of the handkerchief should be worked in one color (a darkish one). At least a dozen skeins of wool, each of a different color or shade of color should be bought and the pattern worked in about the same colors (but not *shades* of color) as those in the handkerchief. When finished this work is like the richest Oriental embroidery—indeed, it is called “Anglo-Indian.” Silk should be but sparingly introduced, as the additional effect produced does not outweigh the greatly additional expense. Most people know how to make French knots, but for the benefit of the ignorant I volunteer the following directions. Draw the wool through the stuff and hold it firmly with the finger and thumb of the left hand, wind the wool two or three times round the needle below the fingers and push the needle back in about the same place. [Illustrated directions for making the knot-stitch were given in THE FLORAL CABINET for January, 1883.—ED.] Repeat putting the little “knots” as close together as possible—the handkerchief should not show other fancy stitches; herring-bone, feather and chain-stitch, &c., *can* be introduced in this bandanna work, but when French knots only are used it is more effective. This embroidery is suitable for brackets, fire-screens, mantel valances, table borders, chair backs, &c.

To turn from embroidery in general to knick-knacks for presents in particular, let me first describe how to ornament a flower-pot. Choose a small one and paint it with Chinese white in water-colors—this will, probably, nearly all sink in. When dry put on coat after coat of indian-ink, each being allowed to dry. Then trace out a pretty pattern with a brush full of white paint. Whiten this over until the black has disappeared. Then lay on other tints and varnish the whole with a waterproof (crystal) varnish. Of course, the saucer should correspond.

English ladies now paint almost anything, drain-pipes, gallipots, plate and looking glass, wood, leather and even empty butter tubs.

Covers for the keys of pianofortes are now used in England. These covers are flat pieces of work, very lightly wadded, and are laid along the keys to prevent dust. Any handsome embroidery is suitable, and choosing suitable designs would exercise the taste as well as the skill of the worker. Plush, velvet, satin, embroidered in crewel work, and tinsel all look well in the drawing-room, while for schoolroom or nursery pianofortes, flannel, merino or any soft material serve the same purpose, and are in their way more suitable.

LEIRION.

Silk Purses.

THE quaint long purses of olden time have become so popular that many will be glad to know how to make them. For knitting one the following directions are given in “What to Make with Eureka Knitting Silk:”

“Take a pair of No. 18 needles, 3 spools dark-brown purse silk, 2 spools dead-gold color. The full length of the purse is to be knit.

“Cast on 156 stitches with brown; knit 18 rows plain.

“NINETEENTH ROW.—Take the gold silk, *k (knit) 1, p (purl or seam) 1; repeat the full length of row from*.

“TWENTIETH ROW.—*p 1, k 1, repeat from*.

“Knit 9 rows in this manner, then repeat the brown stripe.”

“Work in alternate stripes of color until you have knitted 10 stripes, finishing with gold. If this is not wide enough (people knit with different degrees of tightness), then continue the knitting. The middle, when doubled, should be $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Sew the two ends together (drawing them tightly) and the side, leaving an opening in the middle. Any other colors may be used. A purse begun at the end should have from 54 to 64 stitches cast on to be knitted a length of 9 inches. Slip a steel or gilt ring, fitting rather tightly over the purse and complete with either silk or steel bead tassels at both ends.”

To make a crocheted purse use dark crimson knitting silk, No. 300, and a fine steel needle. As this purse differs in shape from the knitted one, being square on one end and rounded on the other, commence on the square or straight end with a foundation chain of 80 stitches, join these in a round and work in a single crochet 55 rounds. For the next round, which commences the middle portion of the purse, work alternately 1 chain and 1 double crochet (dc) in every second following stitch; make 33 open-work dc rounds, always working the dc in the chain of the former round. The first five of these rounds are also worked around the purse, as were the former ones, but the remaining rounds are worked backward and forward, so as to form the opening. The part now following is again worked around, continuing in this way 50 more open-work dc rounds, after which work 25 single crochet rounds. In the last 6 of these round off the purse by narrowing at regular distances; this is done by working a short double crochet in two consecutive chains and then working off with one thread 3 stitches together. Line the square end worked in single crochet with crimson silk; border the opening with a row in double crochet, and with single crochet fasten together the foundation stitches on the open end to make the square finish. Five tassels, made of small cut-steel beads, are attached to this end, and a large tassel is fastened on the opposite end. The tassels are made by stringing the beads and fastening in a large bead, three loops about an inch in length when doubled. Two flat steel rings serve to keep the purse closed.

FEATHERS can be bronzed or gilded by dampening them with weak gum-water, over which sprinkle bronze

or gilt powder. Artificial flowers are also often improved by adding in the same manner a little bronze.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

THE first cool days of autumn naturally suggest warmer wrappings than those that have been used merely as a protection from the mild breezes of summer.

First in materials. Plush is more worn than ever, rivaling velvet in popularity and only second to sealskin for very rich garments.

The English fancy is to use rough finished cloths for jackets and other outside wraps, but French tailors prefer the smooth cloths, even for short and jaunty jackets, using rough cloths merely for borders, collars and cuffs.

New jackets are shorter in the back, and longer in front, sloping to a point. The back usually has two side forms on each side, unless the wearer is very slender, when one is preferred. The fronts are provided with darts, and are more nearly tight-fitting than last season's coats were. The middle-back forms are either finished in box-pleats, or fitted smoothly over the tournure.

The fronts of rough jackets are very often double-breasted, and lap from right to left, buttoning diagonally as far as the waist line—and are finished around the edges with a piping or cord of mohair braid. The standing collars are about two inches high. The front edges of the jacket are straight and are intended to meet, being held in position by a linked button passed through button-holes worked in the edges of the collar. If the buttons and button-holes are not used, small clasps of wood or metal, or a mammoth hook-and-eye of fanciful design fasten the collar. Straight-band cuffs and collars are of rough cloth, velvet, plush or fur. Slit pockets bound with braid are on the sides.

Buttons are much larger than they have been and more fanciful in design, and correspondingly higher in price. Many of them are plaques or cup-shaped disks of bright

metal two inches in diameter, which are varied and enriched by designs of fans, flowers, stars, &c., of darker metal.

The fancy for vests and revers fronts still continues. They are most often seen on fine broadcloth jackets of French make. These are often made with the fronts turned back in revers, lapping only at the waist-line, and disclosing both above and below a vest of either cloth, plush, velvet or satin. Braid is still used in points and diagonal rows on the sleeves, collar and vest, and for a border on the lower edge of the jacket.

Short mantles with sleeves will be used as dressy wraps for autumn and winter. Being short, they are not as heavy as long cloaks. They give the required warmth about the shoulders and arms, where it is needed, but do not conceal the handsome costume beneath. Shapes are very similar to last winter's garments, so that a mantle made last winter need not be altered.

Long cloaks are made with the backs closely fitted, but half-loose fronts and square sleeves. The back is cut off just below the waist-line, and the skirt adjusted to it in French gathers, or large pleats, which give the desired fulness. The fronts may be either double or single breasted, and are usually closed only as far as the waist. The trimming is confined to the fronts, collar and sleeves, as trimming around the bottom adds very much to the weight, and for the same reason wadded and quilted linings are confined to the upper part and sleeves. All sorts of materials are used in these cloaks, from velvet and plush down to blanket cloths that need no lining. For traveling cloaks, checked or striped homespuns are liked. If the upper part of these is lined simply with satin it adds greatly to the comfort of putting on and off.

MELUZINA.

HOUSEKEEPING.

Canned Tomatoes.

So much has been said in the newspapers of late against buying tomatoes put up in tin, that if one really wishes to enjoy them and feel perfectly safe in eating canned tomatoes, there is no alternative but to buy glass cans with glass tops and put up the fruit at home. The best and easiest method of preparing them is to wash and drain the tomatoes, and put them into dishes, as if you were going to bake them, and heat them in the oven just enough to cause the skins to pull off easily. Do not try to save the juice that will collect in the pan while in the oven, and it is well to give them a shake occasionally as you are skinning them to dispose of the superfluous juice that adds nothing to their value, and only has to be boiled out before they are finished. Boil them in porcelain or granite-iron until they are almost ready for the table, but put in no seasoning. Then when you come to

use them they will only require heating and seasoning. One can of tomatoes put up in this manner will be equal to two boughten ones which contain a few fine tomatoes swimming in a sea of juice. When they are finished the cans must be carefully kept from the light, as it will injure their color and flavor.

Another way to can them is to wash the tomatoes, cut them in halves, shake out what juice you can and boil till the skins separate, then rub them through a sieve or colander and cook them till nearly thick enough for the table. Catsup is made in this way, only it is seasoned with salt, pepper and cinnamon—cloves make it dark—and a little vinegar added. Then boil down till it is thick enough for use. Catsup is usually put in bottles, corked and sealed with wax.

Fried Egg Plant.

Select one that is dark in color and firm to the touch.

Cut it in slices a little more than a quarter of an inch thick and peel them. Put the slices in a flat dish and let them lie at least an hour in salted water poured over boiling hot. For a small one a tablespoon of salt and a quart of water will be sufficient. When it is time to cook them put them in a colander to drain, and then dry them in a towel. Dip in beaten egg and then in cracker crumbs and fry on a griddle, using just enough fat to moisten the cracker and keep it from burning. Cook about ten minutes.

Queen of Puddings.

One pint of bread-crumbs, one quart of milk, one cup of sugar, the yolks of four eggs well beaten, a piece of butter the size of an egg; flavor with lemon, and bake as you would a custard; beat the whites of the eggs thoroughly with one cup of powdered sugar; spread over the pudding, as soon as baked, a little currant or raspberry jelly and over this the beaten whites of the eggs; put it in the oven just long enough to brown it lightly.

Chocolate Marble Cake.

One cup of butter, two cups of sugar, two cups of flour, one cup of corn starch, four eggs, one even teaspoon of soda, three scant teaspoons of cream tartar and one cup of sweet milk. Cream the butter and stir the sugar gradually into it. Beat the yolks thoroughly and add them, then the cup of milk. Pulverize the soda with a knife and sift it and the cream tartar with the flour

twice. Beat the whites to a stiff froth and add them after the flour has been stirred in. When all is mixed take out a cupful of the batter and stir into this a heaping tablespoon of grated chocolate. Fill your baking-pan an inch deep with the light batter. Then drop upon this small spoonfuls of the dark, then another layer of the light, and so on, reserving some of the light for the top. The flavoring for this cake should be vanilla.

Coffee Cake.

One half cup of butter, one half cup of brown sugar, one half cup of molasses, two cups of flour, one cup of strong coffee, one egg, one cup of raisins, two teaspoons of cinnamon, one of allspice, a scant teaspoon of cloves and one level teaspoon of soda in the molasses. Cream the butter, stir in the sugar, then the molasses and spices, the egg well-beaten, the coffee, and last the flour. The cup used in all THE CABINET recipes should measure just one-half pint. Most tumblers hold that amount and are easier to measure a half cup, as they are not flaring.

Italian Cream.

One-half box of gelatine, one quart of milk. When dissolved, add the yolks of three eggs with three tablespoonfuls of sugar. Boil until as thick as boiled custard, then remove from the fire and stir in the whites of the eggs beaten to a stiff froth.

MRS. C. G. HERBERT.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

American Institute.—The opening of the Fifty-fourth Annual Exhibition occurred September 30, and its most interesting feature was the beautiful horticultural display, embracing plants in pots, gorgeous cut-flowers, ornamental designs of new and old forms, funeral pieces and some charming collections of wild-flowers. As the entries were designated by numbers only, until the judges could make awards, we cannot at this hour give individuals credit for anything there shown.

* * *

Massachusetts Horticultural Society.—Its Fifty-seventh Annual Exhibition was held September 15-18, and proved a great satisfaction to visitors, and the attendance should have given equal satisfaction to exhibitors. The central feature was a magnificent plant of *Cocos Bonnetii*, from Samuel R. Payson, who also contributed a large stand of plants, among which was a remarkably fine specimen of *Croton variegatum* and another of *Alocasia Thibautiana*. The tank of water-lilies from our contributor, E. D. Sturtevant, of Bordentown, N. J., attracted great attention. The tank also contained specimens of nymphæas from N. Simpkins, of Yarmouthport. H. H. Hunnewell contributed two large groups of plants; in the centre of one a superb specimen of *Cissus discolor*, and the other comprised a plant of *Asparagus plumosus scandens* in flower, the first time it had blossomed in Boston. F. L. Ames had two large groups, in one of which a large plant of *Anthurium*

Veitchii was the crowning feature; the other included two new crotons of remarkably fine color, *C. Montfortiensis* and *Dayspring*. Mr. Ames also contributed a plant of *Ataccia cristata*, or devil flower, which certainly had rather a diabolical look. But to balance this there were two orchids, which are always eagerly inquired after, the *Odontoglossum grande*, or baby flower, from D. Allan, and the *Peristeria elata*, or dove plant, sometimes called Espiritu Santo or Holy Ghost flower, from H. P. Kidder. Mr. Kidder had a large stand filled with plants, among which were some fine fuchsias and the rare *Croton illustris*. G. A. Nickerson, a new contributor, sent, besides other fine plants, an excellent specimen of *Croton Queen Victoria*. David Allan, gardener to R. M. Pratt, had three large stands of ferns and other plants, including two new foliage plants, the *Croton Chelsonii* and *Alocasia Sanderiana*, besides *Ixora Westii*, a new flowering plant. Among the orchids we noticed a plant of *Saccolabium Blumei*, with a most beautiful spike of flowers, from E. W. Gilmore. John L. Gardner had a fine specimen plant of *Eurya latifolia variegata*, and C. M. Hovey filled the stage with a great variety of fine plants. We can only allude to the cut flowers of dahlias, asters, glad-ioli, marigolds, petunias, pinks, cockscombs, nasturtiums, all of which were represented by the best specimens that nature and art in co-operation can produce, or of the wild-flowers which loving hands had brought from their native haunts.

Important Sale of Orchids, &c.—The world-renowned collection made by the late Mrs. Mary J. Morgan, of this city, of orchids and other rare plants, was put on sale Wednesday, September 30, just as this issue of THE FLORAL CABINET was going to press, and we can only briefly allude to the transactions of the first day.

Four hundred and twenty-five plants sold for a trifle under \$7,000. The buyers were from all parts of this country, Canada and England. Among them were Charles Pratt, of Brooklyn, the petroleum merchant; Jay Gould, William S. Kimball, of Rochester; Charles J. Osborn, J. M. Ferry, D. W. Smith, of Lee, Mass.; our contributor, William C. Falconer, representing Charles A. Dana; C. H. Schiller, of Utica, N. Y.; Robert Garrett, of Baltimore; William Barr, of Orange; Francis L. Ames, of Boston; Isaac Buchanan, the Fifth avenue florist; S. S. Bain, of Montreal; Erastus Corning, of Albany; William Matthews, of Utica, N. Y.; Veitch & Sons, of London, England, who originally sold Mrs. Morgan the bulk of her collection; G. W. McKenzie, representing F. Sander & Co., of St. Albans, England, another of Mrs. Morgan's former agents; Henry Graves, of Orange, N. J.; Frederick Scholes, of Brooklyn, and Seibrecht & Wadley, who bought largely for wealthy customers of this city.

The highest price of the day, \$750, was received for the last plant sold, the *Cypripedium Morganianum*. This plant, which was nearly sold at private sale a few days ago at about \$500, was given to Mrs. Morgan by Mr. Robert Veitch, of London, some years ago; it is supposed to be the finest specimen in the world, and will go back to its original hothouse in London.

The following were among the plants sold at \$50 and upward:

Plant.	Purchaser.	Price.
<i>Angreacum sesquipedale</i>	W. S. Kimball.....	\$60
<i>Aerides expansum</i> Leonie.....	Veitch & Sons.....	70
<i>Aerides Schroederi</i>	G. W. McKenzie.....	80
<i>Aerides Schroederi</i>	Veitch & Sons.....	55
<i>Cattleya Skinneri</i> Alba.....	Veitch & Sons.....	200
<i>Cattleya Exoniensis</i> , 16 bulbs.....	D. W. Smith.....	240
<i>Cattleya Exoniensis</i> , 15 bulbs.....	G. W. McKenzie.....	250
<i>Cattleya Exoniensis</i> , 15 bulbs, dark.....	Veitch & Sons.....	130
<i>Cattleya crispa eburneusa</i> , 150 bulbs.....	W. S. Kimball.....	90
<i>Cattleya trianae bonnyana</i> , 20 bulbs, No. 1, Veitch.....	Jay Gould.....	80
<i>Cattleya trianae bonnyana</i> , 30 bulbs.....	Erastus Corning.....	50
<i>Cattleya trianae bonnyana</i> , 20 bulbs, No. 2, Veitch.....	F. L. Ames.....	50
<i>Cattleya labiata</i> , 25 bulbs.....	C. J. Osborn.....	55
<i>Cattleya Dominana</i> , 20 bulbs.....	Veitch & Sons.....	55
<i>Cattleya labiata</i> , 10 bulbs.....	Veitch & Sons.....	90
<i>Cattleya iricolor</i> , 20 bulbs.....	W. S. Kimball.....	50
<i>Cattleya Schilleriana</i> , 50 bulbs.....	Jay Gould.....	55
<i>Cattleya labiata</i> , 8 bulbs.....	G. W. McKenzie.....	160
<i>Cattleya labiata</i> , 5 bulbs.....	Veitch & Sons.....	65
<i>Cattleya labiata</i> , 10 bulbs.....	G. W. McKenzie.....	95
<i>Cattleya Fausta</i> , 9 bulbs.....	G. W. McKenzie.....	90
<i>Cattleya Fausta delicata</i>	Veitch & Sons.....	50
<i>Cattleya Fausta delicata</i>	Veitch & Sons.....	95
<i>Cattleya Fausta crispa</i>	F. L. Ames.....	75
<i>Cattleya Marstersoniae</i>	John Wallace.....	90
<i>Cœlogyne cristata alba</i> , 30 bulbs.....	G. W. McKenzie.....	210
<i>Cœlogyne cristata grandiflora</i> , 125 bulbs.....	F. L. Ames.....	61
<i>Cymbidium Lowianum</i>	G. W. McKenzie.....	60
<i>Cattleya Wagneriana</i>	F. L. Ames.....	57
<i>Cattleya labiata</i>	G. W. McKenzie.....	55
<i>Cattleya Exoniensis</i> , 13 bulbs.....	G. W. McKenzie.....	80
<i>Cattleya Exoniensis</i> , 8 bulbs.....	F. L. Ames.....	70
<i>Cattleya Exoniensis</i> , 10 bulbs.....	Jay Gould.....	50
<i>Cattleya Chelsoni</i>	F. L. Ames.....	50
<i>Cypripedium Morganianum</i>	Veitch & Sons.....	750

* * *

a strange freak of a plant: "A night-blooming cereus, one of two plants in the possession of Mr. Bainbridge E. Howard, of 233 Dudley street, Roxbury, played a curious caper on Monday morning, and one that surprised everybody conversant with the habit of the species in regard to blooming. The plant had thirteen buds, which on Sunday gave indications of unfolding their hidden beauties during the night. They were watched with intense expectancy owing to their number, but from the cold or some other cause they did not open at the customary hour, and the watch was reluctantly abandoned. After the sun had risen, however, the astonishment of the family can be easily imagined when the discovery was made that ten of the thirteen buds had begun to unfold, and ere an hour their magnificence was displayed to many admiring eyes. They held their vigor and beauty far into the day, and some of them that were cut off were beautiful even in the afternoon, when their sweetness gradually ran out at the stem."

* * *

Gladiolus and Lily Exhibition.—Peter Henderson & Co.'s annual exhibition of gladioli, lilies, dahlias, &c., was held in their warerooms, No. 35 Cortlandt street, commencing August 17, and continuing during the week. The display was finer than ever before, and much more extensive. All of the best French and English varieties, besides thousands of American hybrids, were on exhibition. The attendance was very large, and the interest manifested great, as was to be seen by the numbers with note-book and pencil in hand, taking down the names of such varieties and collections as they must have in their gardens the coming season. Many of the more cautious visitors gave their orders on the spot, so that they might know what they wanted, and secure the same while the bulbs were in stock. Among the many that attracted the most attention were "Henderson's Select Twelve," which were as follows: *Africani*, very dark slaty brown on scarlet ground, streaked with scarlet and pure white, with conspicuous white blotch; *Princess Mary of Cambridge*, pure white, with very large light carmine blotch on lower division; *Meyerbeer*, brilliant scarlet, flamed with vermilion, amaranth-red blotch; *La Candeur*, white, lightly striped with carmine-violet; *Giganteus*, very tall spike of large, well-opened flowers of a fine rose-color, shading off to cherry, upper petals transparent rose, blotch dark carmine, veined white; *Hesperide*, profusely blotched and flaked bright rosy salmon on a pure white ground; *Shakespeare*, white, very slightly suffused with carmine-rose, large rosy blotch; *E. M. Stanton*, large spike of well-arranged and well-opened flowers, deep crimson-scarlet, outer edges blended with purple, with a pure white blotch on each variety—a remarkable variety; *Martha Washington*, a tall growing variety, spikes much branched, flowers large, clear light yellow, with lower petals slightly tinged with rose; *Emma Thursby*, a fine flower, pure white ground, well-defined carmine stripes through the petals, with heavy blotch on the lower divisions; *Gen. Phil. Sheridan*, lone spike of fire-red flowers of large size, and well arranged, a distinct white line running through each petal, and a large pure white blotch

A subscriber at Boston Highlands, who has a large collection of cacti, sends us the *Transcript's* account of

on the lower division—a remarkable and showy variety; *President Lincoln*, an exceedingly showy variety, spike very long and correspondingly strong, flowers large and well arranged, blush white ground with the edges of the petals suffused with bright rose, the lower division heavily blotched and finely lined with crimson.

“Henderson’s Twelve Selected Seedlings” embraced striking and well-defined colors of every shade, from pure white to dark crimson and clear yellow, with clear and distinct markings.

These annual exhibitions are very useful, as they enable those unacquainted with the different varieties to make such selections as are most desirable, or at least the most pleasing to their tastes.

* * *

We cut the following obituary notice from the *Gardener’s Magazine* of August. Mr. Chater was personally known to many of our older florists, and his name was familiar to all who have made the hollyhock a specialty:

“The death of William Chater—a king among hollyhock raisers and cultivators—which took place at the Grove Nurseries, Saffron Walden, on July 21, at the ripe age of eighty-four years, is one of those events in the annals of floriculture that cannot be allowed to be passed over without adequate notice. To the last almost he took a deep interest in the flowers he loved so well. A failing memory, naturally enough, characterized the few last years of his life; but it sometimes flashed up with quickened powers, and when he was able to talk, his floricultural reminiscences were of a very interesting character. He was ever a kind, hearty, straightforward, genial man—one that you could fully trust; there was about him a simplicity that charmed, and a shrewdness that compelled admiration. He lived an honest, manly life, and died amid many regrets.”

* * *

Gladiolus for 1885.—The season just drawing to a close has not, as a whole, been a favorable one for the gladiolus. The excessive drought and exceedingly hot weather of July and the first half of August was very trying to them, for the first flowers appeared in the very hottest weather. These were smaller than usual, and the flower stalks were mostly crooked and not well furnished with flowers, not more than half the usual number appearing at one time, making, indeed, very poor spikes. The hot weather hastened the larger bulbs into bloom and dried up the smaller ones, which usually give us the finest flowers. The loss has partly been made up by the remarkably fine flowers we are now having (September 6), the weather being cool and partially cloudy; these two conditions, together with plenty of moisture, being essential to the perfect development of the gladiolus.

The new varieties that have for the first time flowered this season are numerous, although but few have points of excellence not already possessed by others. That there are not more really good sorts is probably due to the unfavorable season, which has not allowed them to fully develop. In Messrs. C. L. Allen & Co.’s nursery we noticed several which give very fair promise, and which

have been set aside for further test and to be awarded variety names should they merit it. They are at present under numbers only.

“A” is a plant of great promise; flower spike very long and vigorous, flowers well arranged, of good shape and remarkable for their great substance. This is a seedling of *Shakespeare*, and partakes very much of the character of its parent, only the flower is much larger and the blotch on the lower division more nearly round and of a deeper color.

“B” is a fine yellow, deep rich canary, with the well-defined crimson blotches on the lower divisions that are so conspicuous in *Bayard Taylor*, and which gives that flower such an attractive appearance. The spike is long, flowers of good size and well arranged.

“C” is another good crimson-scarlet a seedling from *Meyerbeer*, and has all the good properties of that justly popular variety, and the addition of being a stronger grower, with a longer spike, and the flowers bordering more on the light instead of crimson scarlet.

In this nursery there are nearly 100,000 seedlings flowering for the first time this season, many of which are remarkably fine, and but few of which would doubtless have created a sensation a few years ago.

At Hallock & Thorpe’s we noticed some seedlings of the Lemoine section that are decidedly pleasing. We do not particularly admire the form of these flowers; in fact, it is objectionable, but their rare colors class them with some of the strange orchids whose colors are so remarkable. They have also a new class of seedlings which originated with Max Leitchlin, of Germany, which for size and shape of flowers, together with length of spike, have no equals. It will be a number of years before this class will have increased in numbers sufficiently large to warrant their offering it for sale. But when that time comes the lovers of the gladiolus may expect such a treat as their eyes have never feasted upon.

* * *

Before the Linnean Society, of London, Mr. A. Taylor has sought to prove that plants have a dim sort of intelligence, and are able, at least, to exert as voluntary power as certain lowly organized animals. One proof of this, he claims, is the plant’s avoidance of obstacles—placed artificially in their way—by bending aside before touching.

Books, &c., Received.

Chapters on Plant Life. By Mrs. S. B. Herrick. Illustrated. 206 pages. Cloth, \$1.

This interesting book is a recent addition to “Harper’s Young People Series,” but will not fail to prove instructive to older readers, as a variety of plants, from the simplest fungi to the wonderful orchid, are pleasantly and clearly described. If the question, “What is the difference between a plant and an animal” were asked, a great many grown persons would be likely to pause a few minutes before giving an intelligent answer, for in some cases the two kingdoms are so nearly allied that a careful study

is required to decide whether the object be animal or vegetable. The chapter devoted to this question, as well as the one upon "Plants caught napping," will be found full of interest and instruction.

"Fruit Pastes, Syrups and Preserves" is the title of a little book for housewives to be published soon by Cupples, Upham & Co. There is money for intelligent, home-loving women, who want to earn a living, but shrink from the life that store or factory hands must lead, in the fruit-preserving business, and "Fruit Pastes, Syrups and Preserves" is designed by the author to show them just how it can be done. The same firm now publish Mr. David Mason Little's justly-celebrated yachting views, including his recent photographs of the Puritan, Priscilla and Genesta.

A circular from the Division of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been received, which requests the co-operation of farmers and those having knowledge of such birds whose food-habits are beneficial or detrimental to agricultural or horticultural interests. Communications should be addressed to Dr. Merriam, ornithological agent, Washington, D. C.

F. E. McAllister, 22 Dey street, New York.—Autumn catalogues of bulbs and seeds for winter flowers.

John R. & A. Murdoch, Pittsburgh, Pa.—Descriptive catalogue of fruit and ornamental trees, flowering shrubs, roses, &c.

Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y.—A descriptive catalogue of select roses for 1885, containing complete

cultural instructions, with the varieties alphabetically arranged and classified.

H. S. Anderson, Union Springs, N. Y.—Wholesale trade list of the Cayuga Lake Nurseries for fall of 1885.

Doellstaedt & Richter, Frankfort on the Main.—Wholesale price list of German lilies-of-the-valley, roses, everlasting flowers, &c.

W. C. Wilson, Astoria, N. Y., and 45 West Fourteenth street, New York city.—Annual wholesale catalogue of greenhouse plants, bulbs for fall planting, orchids and rare stove plants.

Joseph E. Bonsall, Salem, Ohio.—Fall catalogue of winter-blooming plants, hardy bulbs and seeds.

De Veer & Boomkamp, 19 Broadway, N. Y.—Treatise on Dutch bulbs, by Ant. Roozen & Son, Overveen, Holland. Price, 10 cents.

William S. Little, Commercial Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y.—Semi-annual price list of fruit and ornamental trees, shrubs, &c., for autumn of 1885. Roses a specialty.

The Storrs & Harrison Company.—Catalogue of bulbs, winter-blooming plants, roses, fruit and ornamental trees, small fruits, &c., for fall and winter of 1885. With directions for the culture and management of bulbs, roses, &c. Address Painesville, Lake County, Ohio.

Massachusetts Horticultural Society.—Special list of prizes for spring flowering bulbs, to be exhibited February and March, 1886.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Calycanthus—Mrs. A. Brown, Washington Territory.—Treat this like any hardy shrub. It does not require special treatment.

Azaleas—Same.—If yours are the tender sorts they should have the protection of a cold frame or any place where they will not get frozen. In summer give them a partially shaded situation, and where it is airy and cool, and in winter keep them as cool as possible, away from frost. The less artificial heat they have the better they will bloom. The hardy varieties may remain out in the open border during winter.

Erythrina—Same.—Plant out in the summer and keep in a dry cellar, free from frost during the winter, in a box of earth.

Lilies—Same.—The *Lilium candidum* and *auratum*—in fact, all other lilies—will endure the rigors of your winters with a slight protection. If the ground is covered with snow they will be sufficiently shielded.

NOTE.—This correspondent says that glass broken up quite fine and scattered around the roots of herbaceous plants is a sure protection against gophers and other rodents.

Dutchman's Pipe.—H. C. G.—No, this will not succeed in the house, nor out of doors in your hot, dry

climate. The *Cobaea scandens* would fill the place in your house very satisfactorily; it is a rapid grower and will flower freely. The water-lily your friend brought you is the *Nymphaea carulea*, a very beautiful aquatic. We cannot name your plants from the leaves sent. Must have flower, or at least a stem, with description. The specimen with berries is a solanum. Cannot give the species. We cannot tell you where you can obtain the Cherokee rose; probably from some of the Southern nurseries.

Amaryllis—Mrs. Dr. Leed.—There are two or more distinct classes of amaryllis, each requiring different treatment. One is an evergreen sort and requires but little, if any, rest—at least it should always be kept in the house, or plunged in a frame out of doors in summer and kept watered. Prominent in this class is *A. Aulica* and its immediate hybrids. Among the latter is *Williamsi*, *Stenophylla*, *Defiance* and *Ackermani*; also some of the hybrids of *Leopoldi* where *Aulica* has been used either as the pollen parent or as the seed parent. All of these are easy of management, requiring only to be potted in a strong loam and kept growing. Do not use too large pots, and only shift when the offsets completely fill the pot. When repotting becomes necessary, do it imme-

diately after flowering. The second and by far the more common class is *A. Vittata* and its hybrids, of which the best known are *Johnsoni* and *Graveana*. Many of such hybrids are easily detected by the foliage growing more erect than does those of the *Aulica* section. To sum up the cultural instructions of this class in a few words we should say keep them hot and dry when at rest, and cool and wet when in flower. It is safe under all circumstances to grow this, like the former class, in pots, and to observe the same rules in regard to repotting. The observing cultivator will soon learn to distinguish the difference in variety, and will, for himself, judge what is the best to do. It is well to state that at whatever period a series of new leaves commences to develop it should be encouraged to completion as thoroughly as possible, after which a period of rest is actually necessary. Sometimes bulbs of the *Vittata* section will rest for months, others again only for a short period, according to the conditions of health and vigor. If well handled, most of the *Vittata* section will bloom twice a year.

The *Aulica* section, although evergreen, require rest after perfecting their annual growth; at such times water only sparingly until they show signs of growth either by flower spike or new leaves.

In amaryllis culture it is highly important to secure good drainage; if this becomes stopped a loss of roots will be the result, which will, in turn, ruin the bulb.

The *A. Vallota purpurea*, the most pleasing of the whole tribe, delights in the same treatment as we have recommended for the *Aulica* section.

We thank this correspondent for her high appreciation of THE CABINET as a guide to floriculture.

Insects—*Mrs. J. O. Hibbard*.—Your insect enemy is the scale, and the most deadly foe of our choice plants. About the cheapest remedy is to throw the plants away and start anew. It can, however, be removed by considerable trouble, and the only way is to rub the scale off with a smooth stick, then wash the plants with diluted carbolic acid, after which rinse with clear tepid water—but a constant watchfulness will be required to destroy this pest if once it gains access to a plant.

Achania Malvariscus—*Mrs. Wm. Groger*.—This is an evergreen, and ever-blooming plant, and one of the easiest to manage. Give it the same treatment as you would a geranium, and keep it in, say, a six-inch pot, or it will grow beyond bounds. Train to suit your fancy, but for bloom keep it well cut back. *Ixias* and *sparaxis* you will find listed in all fall bulb catalogues.

Plant for Name.—A correspondent at Thetford, Vt., writes: "I take the liberty to send you by mail flowers and leaves from a plant sent me by a lady from Rochester, Minn. She did not know the name. It has thrown up a stalk about four feet high, a branch coming out at each leaf, covered with bloom. If not too much trouble please give me name through THE CABINET."

[We should judge from specimens received that the plant was *Platycodon grandiflorum*.—ED.]

Plant to Name—*Callie Osborne*.—*Goodyera repens*.—An orchid commonly known as "rattlesnake plantain."

Carnations—*Same*.—No, you need not strip the leaves from the cuttings when pulled from their sockets, but they should have bottom heat to make them root.

PREMIUM ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 1886.

IT is our pleasure to present below the selection of premiums made for 1886, and it embraces in Premium No. 1 as rare a collection of flower seeds as has ever been offered to the readers of any publication. The varieties enumerated will afford abundance of bloom throughout the season, in as many different colors as such a list could furnish. Six of the number are summer-flowering, two for the late fall, and two everlastings for winter floral decorations, so that our subscribers need not be without bouquets during the coming year, if cultural directions are faithfully followed.

A bulb of the *Tigridia grandiflora alba*, which gave so much satisfaction last year, constitutes Premium No. 2, and the popular *Amaryllis rosea* Premium No. 3.

All who renew for 1886 are entitled to choice of either number and an extra premium will be sent to any subscriber who gets us a new subscriber.

Premium No. 1.

Seeds.

Asters, Paeony-flowered.—One of the best in every respect; mixed colors.

Calliopsis lanceolata.—A perennial and constant blooming variety. Colors: shades of yellow.

Candytuft.—One of the most popular hardy annuals. Mixed colors: white, rose and carmine.

Delphinium Chinensis (Larkspur).—Flowers blue.

Dianthus Chinensis (China Pink).—Hardy annual; very desirable for cut-flowers.

Mignonette, Golden Queen.

Pansy.—Fancy varieties mixed.

Phlox Drummondii.—Mixed colors: white, red and purple.

Acroclinium.—One of the most valuable of the everlastings, with daisy-like flowers; white, pink and rose colors mixed.

Helichrysum.—Another desirable everlasting; flowers, white, yellow and dark red.

Premium No. 2.

One Bulb *Tigridia grandiflora alba*.—Pure white, spotted with crimson in centre; gold-banded petals. This is one of the most showy and beautiful of all the summer-flowering bulbs.

Premium No. 3.

One Bulb *Amaryllis rosea* (*Zephranthes*).—Rose colored.

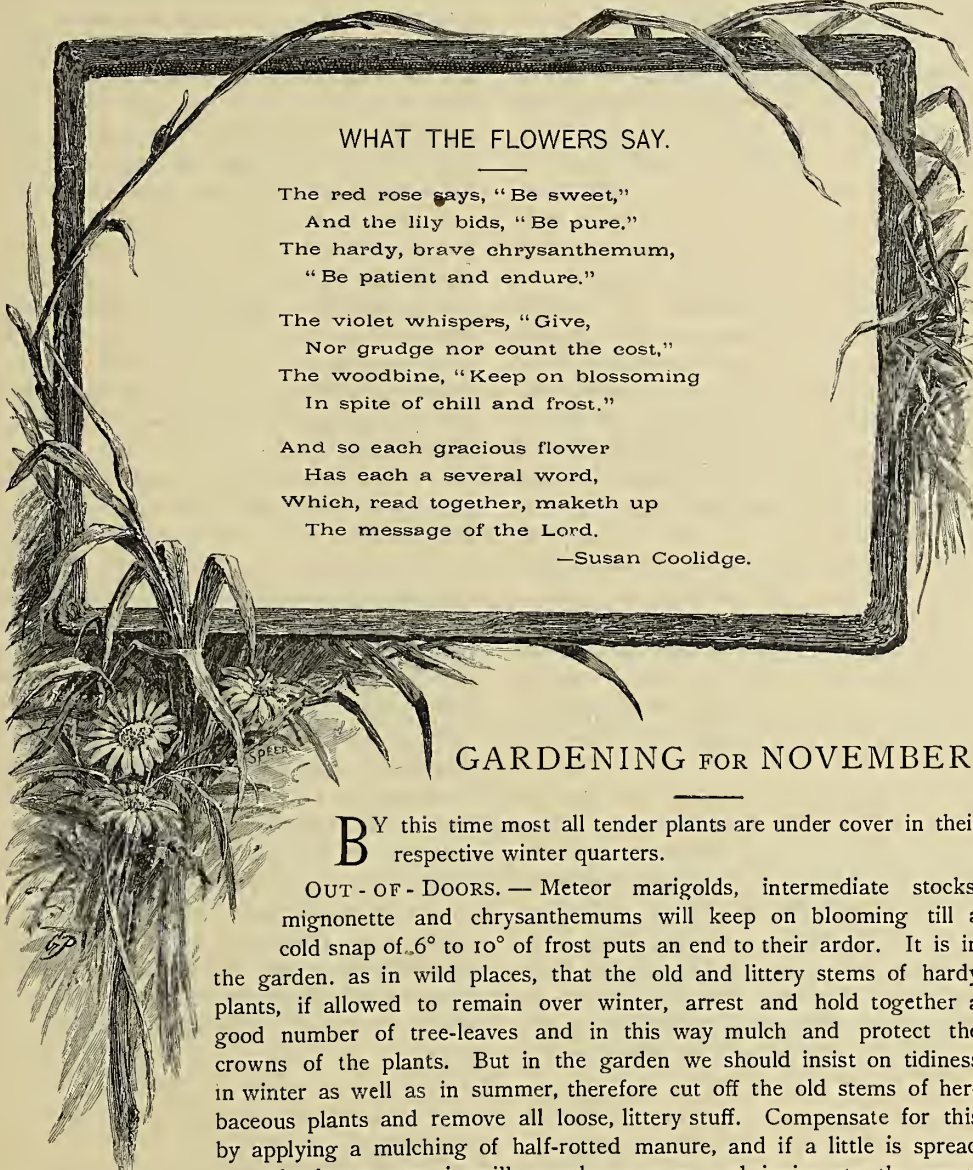


LADIES' FLORAL CABINET.
H.W. TRAY

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NOVEMBER, 1885.

No. 11.



WHAT THE FLOWERS SAY.

The red rose says, "Be sweet,"
And the lily bids, "Be pure."
The hardy, brave chrysanthemum,
"Be patient and endure."

The violet whispers, "Give,
Nor grudge nor count the cost,"
The woodbine, "Keep on blossoming
In spite of chill and frost."

And so each gracious flower
Has each a several word,
Which, read together, maketh up
The message of the Lord.

—Susan Coolidge.

GARDENING FOR NOVEMBER.

BY this time most all tender plants are under cover in their respective winter quarters.

OUT-OF-DOORS.—Meteor marigolds, intermediate stocks, mignonette and chrysanthemums will keep on blooming till a cold snap of 6° to 10° of frost puts an end to their ardor. It is in the garden, as in wild places, that the old and littery stems of hardy plants, if allowed to remain over winter, arrest and hold together a good number of tree-leaves and in this way mulch and protect the crowns of the plants. But in the garden we should insist on tidiness in winter as well as in summer, therefore cut off the old stems of herbaceous plants and remove all loose, littery stuff. Compensate for this by applying a mulching of half-rotted manure, and if a little is spread over the lawns now it will greatly preserve and invigorate the grass,

but do not use it too freely. Where the land is light and sandy I get better results by using good loam and manure composted together as a top-dressing.

COLD FRAMES.—These contain violets, pansies, double daisies, forget-me-nots, polyanthuses, anemones and ranunculuses, which are intended to bloom where they are; also Larpent's plumbago, hybrid pentstemons, Canterbury bells, foxgloves, stokesias and other somewhat tender perennials and biennials for next summer's garden, which we winter in frames for safety's sake. While there is no need of letting these plants get much frozen.

still we should guard against coddling them, for if we nurse them too tenderly now, they will suffer considerably in severe weather. In the case of such plants as pansies and violets, which we are growing for blooming in the frames, we should ventilate freely, or uncover them altogether in fine, sunny weather, and shut up against cold snaps, rain or snow; also stir the earth about them every week or two, to keep them clean and healthy and prevent decay. For the plants you wish merely to winter over, if you are not troubled with field-mice, fill up the frames with dry oak leaves, and put the sashes on to keep them dry. In this way I keep plants in good condition all winter, and so long as the leaves are dry it will take a very hard frost to penetrate below them.

A COLD PIT—Is usually a deeply sunk cold frame, in which are wintered such tall-growing plants as azaleas, camellias, fig-trees, hollies, araucarias, bamboos, fever-tree, and several others. It should not rise any higher above ground than is the case with a cold frame. In such instances frost is easily kept out. Ventilate freely in mild, sunny weather, but in the event of sharp frosts the pit should remain covered for several days.

THE GREENHOUSE.—Scarlet geraniums, *Speciosa* and Earl of Beaconsfield fuchsias, carnations of all sorts, bouvardias, nasturtiums, chrysanthemums, Paris daisies, "shrubby" begonias, oxalis, and some others are in full bloom. They want light, airy quarters. Keep Chinese primroses and cinerarias cool, near the glass, and slightly shaded from warm sunshine, and never allow them to suffer for lack of water. Cyclamens should have a place as near the glass as possible; they may be kept cool, or a little warmer than cinerarias. Remove all decaying leaves and flowers. Tobacco stems may be obtained at any cigar factory; they cost about a dollar per hundred pounds. Spread a lot of them under the benches in the greenhouse as a preventive against green-fly. It is better than fumigating, except in severe cases. Perennial nasturtiums (varieties of *Tropaeolum lobbianum*) run along the rafters and tied to strings will blossom all winter long.

THE CELLAR.—In a frost-proof cellar we can with safety keep century plants, cactuses, oleanders, sweet bay, tender rhododendrons, pomegranates, crape myrtle, lemon-scented verbenas, fuchsias at rest, and many others. It is also the usual storehouse for hyacinths, tulips, narcissi and other bulbs for forcing; we keep these in the cellar till they become well rooted or start to grow, when we bring them forth to the light. Dahlias, cannas, caladiums, gladioli, tigridias, tuberoses, amaryllis and other bulbs at rest are usually kept in the cellar. We should ob-

serve that they are kept dry and free from decay, that the tuberoses have the warmest quarters and the tigridias are kept beyond the reach of rats or mice. Gloxinias, achiemenes and such summer-blooming, "bulbous" tender plants may, if kept dry, be wintered in the cellar, providing the minimum temperature is not less than 45° to 50°.

THE WINDOW.—Give blooming plants, such as carnations, bouvardias, petunias, roses, heliotropes and oxalises the sunniest places; Chinese primroses, cinerarias and calceolarias a place near the glass in a window shaded from bright sunshine, and ferns a shady window. Dew or sprinkle the plants overhead occasionally. Ventilate freely in mild weather. It is best to open the windows at the top rather than at the bottom, and do it early in the day and close them early. A dry, parching atmosphere is injurious to plants. There is an impression that plants do not thrive in rooms heated by a furnace, but my observation does not justify this idea; it is true, however, that plants seldom thrive in rooms where gas is burned.

WATERING PLANTS.—Carnations, callas, cinerarias, and other plants in active growth need lots of water, but at this time of the year be very particular not to over-water anything. Geraniums, fuchsias, cuttings of all kinds, and other plants that we are merely keeping over winter, should only get water enough to keep them from shrivelling or wilting. Never allow an evergreen plant of any kind, except "succulents," as the cactus and century plant, to get dust dry.

STIMULANTS.—Manure water is capital for vigorous growing and root-bound plants, but it is an objectionable thing to use for house plants. Better remove some of the surface earth and replace with rich compost, say one-half good loam and one-half well rotted manure.

INSECTS ON PLANTS.—Green-fly may be troublesome on the young growths of most any plant; mealy bugs will thrive anywhere; thrips are partial to ferns, callas, and, in fact, most plants; so is that most destructive little rascal, the red spider. There are many kinds of insecticides that will kill these insects, and as likely as not your plants as well. But tepid water, a soft sponge and a little exertion on your own part, will dislodge the pests without hurting the plants. Fumigating with tobacco will destroy green-fly and thrips, but is harmless so far as mealy bugs, red spider and scale are concerned. But fumigation in a dwelling-house window is impracticable, I don't care what some people write to the contrary; neither in the window can you ever get rid of the red spider by syringing; you have got to wash it off.

WILLIAM FALCONER.

MILLA BIFLORA.

IT is evident this charming summer-flowering bulb does not do as well in England as with us. "J. C. C.," in the *Garden*, says of it in reply to an inquiry: "I am glad to be able to say that my previous experience is quite confirmed this season, and I might add considerably strengthened, for the imported bulbs were not so

large as those which I had planted this year after one season's growth in our own garden; consequently, the flower spikes this year are not only stronger but more numerous than hitherto. We have several throwing up three stems, with three flowers on each, but, unlike Mr. Pois, we have only one flower open at a time on each

spike. The more one sees of this plant and understands what little trouble it gives in order to grow it successfully the better he likes it. I feel fully persuaded that as those bulbs get stronger it will be more valued. I believe it will go on flowering for fully six weeks or two months at a time, and this with only the trouble of planting it in April in rather a warm bed, when the soil is fairly light and rich, and taking it up again in November and storing it in a dry place during the winter. If, therefore, we can get a white, fragrant flower, but a little inferior to a eucharis, with so little trouble, I think we must admit that our gardens have substantially gained by the introduction of this plant."

Our experience is as follows: Last year we bought at auction a large quantity of *Bessera elegans*, which we found after growing were mixed with *Milla biflora*. The two flowered freely together, making one of the most showy and finely contrasted flower-beds on our place. The *Milla* soon showed its specific name, *biflora*, misapplied, for many of the stems had as many as four

flowers each. We carefully separated the bulbs and planted them, by themselves this season in rows, in the same manner as we recommend for gladioli, without giving special attention either to manuring or to cultivation. They commenced to bloom early in July, and, notwithstanding we have suffered from excessive drought the plants were never so full of bloom as at the present writing, October 10, and they will continue to bloom as long as the frost holds off. Some of the bulbs have thrown up ten flowering stems each, and we have had as many as eight flowers on a single stem, and not infrequently as many as three open at the same time.

We do not know of a plant that gives so much satisfaction as this, as it is constantly in flower for at least three months in the summer. It grows as freely as the gladiolus, increases rapidly by offsets and delights in dry, sunny weather, which it can usually have here in abundance. It seeds freely, and if the seeds are sown in pans as soon as ripe they will flower the following summer.

NEW INTRODUCTIONS AND TWO NEW PLANTS.

I HAVE often wondered if there was any criterion by which we could judge of the real merits of new introductions of plants before we purchase. Although I always try to form a candid opinion about them, I often fear my judgment may not be truthful, biased, like many others, by my estimation for old favorites, so that I am unable to see the real merits. Old associates have a wonderful influence and controlling power over opinions, and, no doubt, this is very frequently unsuspected and unknown. Many gardeners and amateurs will be found to tell you they cannot see in most of the new plants any improvement over the old kinds. This reminds me of what an old workman of mine once said: "I have been married over fifty years to that woman you saw pass. People of the present time would call her ugly, and I have no doubt she would not be considered pretty at any time; but you see I do, and the longer I look at her I think the prettier she becomes." I expect many persons are affected in a similar way in regard to plants. That very many new introductions are, perhaps, superior to the old ones, I will admit; but when we think of the vast amount of inferior ones thrown into the market every year with high recommendation, it makes us cry for some remedy, so that purchasers may have a sure guide by which to judge of plants before purchasing, and to give more confidence to those who procure them every year only to find a slight change in the color of the flower, or some insignificant feature in which the difference consists. Ofttimes, I dare say, the one who recommends them is perfectly honest in his opinions, but we cannot share them with him; tastes differ as much in this as they do in fashions, and we can see at once just how this is, for there is an immense difference observable to every one in the appearance of a well-made garment and one poorly made. The same difference can be seen between a well-

cultivated plant and one improperly cultivated. This has no doubt, in many cases, resulted in the lack of appreciation of some valuable things, and I therefore say never cast away any plant until it has been subjected to several trials, nor lose confidence in the recommendation until this is done. But what I wish to ask is, can any way be suggested for establishing reliable information, so that purchasers can be protected from what many call frauds? Any one purchasing as great a number of the new things introduced as I do has good reason to complain that many of them are very unsatisfactory—even worthless. I have, however, always found that the recommendations of the Royal Horticultural Society in England were a safe criterion by which to judge, although much diversity of opinion exists even on this, but their awards to me have come most true as a general rule. Now, I would make no suggestions as to what could be done in this matter, preferring to leave it here for abler heads to offer a remedy, which many will admit is needed for this state of things; but I am always willing to give any ideas that I think would benefit the public. The reverse seems to be the case with many persons, who seem to think because they have been sold others may as well be sold also, which is rather a bad state of things.

I shall now refer to two introductions that have been placed in the market within the last two or three years, and which I think worthy of the highest recommendation that can be given to them. They are the *coleus Firebrand* and *Golden Bedder*. The first is a grand object; inside, from the brilliant fiery appearance it represents, its name is most appropriate; and when outside, although the sun extracts this delicate appearance, yet it holds sway as a dark bedder over any other I have tried, and is a grand addition to our bedding plants. The second, *Golden Bedder*, inside I would con-

sider it had no particular attraction, as it is what might be termed a greenish white of very robust growth; but outside the rays of the sun reduce this to a bright golden yellow, in the distance most attractive and pleasing to the eye, and makes a splendid contrast with the other, either planted alternately or in lines. This Golden Bedder is much dwarfed with me in outside planting and requires to be kept on the front line. I had a bed of coleus this season planted in the centre with mixed varieties,

and on the outside the two varieties mentioned above planted alternately, which had a very pleasing and fine effect and was much admired.

There are several other plants of late introduction that I would like to notice, but shall leave them until some future time. Nothing can do more to increase floriculture than true notices of valuable new varieties.

N. ROBERTSON,

Superintendent Government Grounds, Canada.

INTERESTING VEGETABLE FORMS.

TO the thoughtful observer almost every vegetable form has something of interest, but to the masses they are generally only weeds or common plants. Even those that have some striking peculiarity soon lose their interest by familiarity. The vegetable kingdom is full of unique forms, many of which, to the common reader, are almost, if not entirely unknown. Some of these, from their form, habits or productions, are quite curious and interesting.

The gourd tribe furnishes some interesting species. One of these, the *Cucurbita claviformis*, grows in the vicinity of Constantinople, and is believed by the people of that country to be the real Jonah's gourd. It forms an almost impermeable shade, under which the Orientals delight to sit and smoke. The curious fruit hangs down in long, delicate clubs, somewhat resembling large, overgrown candles. This fruit is prepared for food by scooping out the central portion and filling it with force-meat. It is then boiled, when it forms a very palatable dish.

Another member of this family is the squirting cucumber, *Momordica Elaterium*, which is remarkable for the strange property it has when ripe of throwing its seed contents to a considerable distance on being touched or shaken. As the fruit approaches maturity there is an accumulation of fluid in it till it can contain no more, when, on the least touch or jar, the substance about the stem gives way, and the contents are thrown out with force sufficient to carry them several yards, and a report, as of a popgun, that may be heard at a considerable distance. Persons passing near them often find themselves at such times suddenly bespattered from head to foot by the pulpy contents of these vegetable popguns.

In the valley of the Chagres there grow whole forests of the candle-tree. From the stems and branches of these depend the long, cylindrical fruits of a yellow wax color that so much resemble huge candles as to have suggested the popular name. The fruit is from two to four feet long and an inch in diameter. The tree grows to the height of twenty-four feet, and blooms all the year round, though most abundantly during the rainy season, but the principal harvest of the fruit is during the long, dry season. The fruit serves as food for cattle, which, when fed on it and some of the native plants, soon grow quite fat. The meat of cattle fed on this fruit has a peculiar though not disagreeable apple-like odor.

A tree known as the "rain tree," *Pithecolobium Saman*,

is found in the drier parts of South America. This tree grows to the height of sixty feet, and its leaves have the peculiar property of condensing the moisture from the atmosphere. So copious is this condensation that a continual shower falls from the leaves and branches until the surrounding soil is converted into a veritable marsh. Places that would otherwise be barren desert are by this means covered with the most luxuriant forests. It is said the British Government is introducing this tree into India to counteract the aridity of portions of that country.

Queensland furnishes a shrub that would certainly make a very unpleasant neighbor. It is the stinging tree, a very luxuriant, pleasing-looking shrub, varying in height from two or three inches to ten or fifteen feet. Though pleasing to the eye, it is dangerous to the touch, as the pain it produces is maddening. No mark is left, but for months afterward the place is tender to the touch in rainy weather, or when wet by washing, or other means. It exhales a peculiar, disagreeable odor that gives notice of its proximity, and enables the experienced and cautious to avoid contact with it. So excruciating is the pain caused by contact with this plant that a man of ordinary fortitude when stung will roll on the ground in uncontrollable agony. A horse will, after passing through a grove of these trees, rush with open mouth at any one who dares approach him. A dog under such circumstances will rush around, whining in a piteous manner, biting and tearing the flesh from the parts affected by the sting.

A recent German publication contains a description of a new electric plant that has been christened *Phytolacca electrica*, which possesses strongly marked electro-magnetic properties. In breaking a twig the hand receives a shock that resembles the sensation produced by an induction coil. Experiments made on this plant with a small compass showed that the compass was affected by it at the distance of about twenty feet. On a near approach the needle vibrated and finally began to revolve quite rapidly. The phenomena was repeated in reverse order on receding from the plant. The energy of the influence varied with the time of day, being strongest at about two o'clock P. M., and becoming almost nothing during the night. It was also greatly increased during stormy weather; and when it rained the plant seemed to wither. It is said that no birds or insects are ever seen on or about this plant. The soil where it grew contained

no magnetic metal like iron, cobalt or nickel, and it is evident the plant itself possessed this electrical property.

A bush, the fruit of which is called "soap berry," is found in great abundance throughout Alaska. The fruit, when ripe, is a small red berry of a juicy and quinine taste, and is generally biennial. If a quart of these berries be placed in a tub capable of holding a bushel, and well stirred, they will form a suds or froth that will completely fill the tub. The more it is stirred with the hand the thicker it becomes, till it can be cut with a knife. A whole family of the natives will gather around the tub and eat this frothy substance with horn or wooden spoons. The taste for it is, doubtless, an acquired one, but the article is quite popular. The red color of the berries gives a beautiful pink color to the froth. The froth may be made from the green berries, but it is not so highly flavored, and is white in color. Foreigners mix some of the froth with their wine, sweetening with sugar, when it is claimed to be quite a luxury.

The melon tree (*Carica Papaya*), a native of South America, is of interest both for its manner of growth and its usefulness to man. It is a rapidly growing tree, attaining in its fourth year a height of twenty feet; it then enjoys a short maturity and dies. From its quick growth, broad, umbrella-like shade and rapid decay some have seen in this or some near relative the melon tree of the Prophet Jonah. From the time it attains the height of six feet it produces at all seasons flowers and both green and ripe fruit. The fruit grows around the base of the

tree crown, as do the nuts of the cocoa palm. When mature it is of a yellow color, and has the appearance of belonging to the cucumber family. The fruit grows to a weight of fifteen pounds, is shaped like a melon, and is striped longitudinally like that fruit. Both the green and ripe fruit are used for food; the former as pickles and the latter with salt and pepper or sugar. The seeds have a strong flavor, and are used as a spice. The leaves are used as a substitute for soap, for which it answers the purpose well. They are also used to wrap around tough and stringy meat, which it renders tender and palatable in a short time. The tree is of easy culture, and is extensively raised in tropical parts of both America and Africa. It requires but little care, and produces ripe fruit before it is a year old.

The Mahwa tree (*Bassia latifolia*) is a product of the Manghyr district, India, and is much resorted to as a source of food for both man and beast. The part eaten is the succulent corolla of the flowers. These fall from the trees in great abundance during the early spring. This is a season of general feasting among the lower animals as well as man. Birds, squirrels, and other small animals crowd to the feast during the day, and near night jungle fowls and peacocks come out and dispute their possession with the deer and the bear. As a wholesome, nutritious food the Mahwa flowers possess superior merit. As an article for feeding stock this seems to excel in cheapness and abundance, the supply being unlimited, the yield certain and the keeping qualities good.

L. J. TEMPLIN, in *Gardener's Magazine*.

A REVIEW OF THE SEASON.

NOW that the garden is in the sere and yellow leaf, the frost having taken all but the chrysanthemums, asters (natives), gentians and the cosmos, it is well for us to look over the field where our loved ones have fallen in order to better prepare for next season's work, or rather pleasures. The first objects that attract our attention are the pansies, which we omitted in our list of flowers that withstood frost's relentless hand. Here they are, all over the garden, cheerful *weeds* that nature has put on because of the loss of her more delicate friends. Weeds they are, because they have come unbidden and are filling the places designed for other forms. But we will not call them weeds, since they are the only living occupants of the soil and far more beautiful and cheerful than those whose places they now occupy. How strange it seems to have them come to us like ministering angels when the garden of our hearts is full of tombstones. We did not notice their tiny forms, securely hidden beneath the foliage of the annuals, now dead, but they were there, and have been for a month or more, slowly growing in the shade, their native habitat. The distribution of pansy seed is one of the most interesting operations in gardening, the mother plants know so well how to do it. Self-preservation is said to be the first law of nature, and nowhere is the law more strictly obeyed than with the pansy family. The seed capsule is so arranged that in drying it throws

the seeds a distance of several feet, and should the wind be blowing strong at the time they are carried still farther. They are thrown, too, in every direction and in almost every out-of-the-way place in the garden. So here we find them among our lilies, where the balsams stood, nestling under the strong arms of the dahlias. Some have found the rich mellow soil of the potato patch and are making the most of so favorable a situation. In fact, they are all over the garden, some as large as ever grew, others small and pinched, showing their struggle for life under difficulties. But everywhere they manifest a cheerfulness and teach us lessons that cannot be learned from any other plant.

Again, here is life and victory where we thought all was dead or dying. Our golden mignonette, the Frenchman's little darling, too, still lives and sheds its delicious fragrance over the graves of its and our dear friends. Although we have had several degrees of frost, beneath the shade of the eulalias and among the tritomas we find some nice strong clumps with flowers, as perfect as in early autumn, although the leaves are slightly cut by the frost. Like a true mother, the plant has sacrificed its leaves, in order that the infant forms in the flower might live to perpetuate the race. The mignonette has ever been welcome to our gardens, and doubly so now that we have so many forms that in size and color far surpass the

mignonette of our childhood, which we then thought, perhaps partly from its associations, the real charm of our gardens. We would say here that the florists and seedsmen seem to have run mad on varieties, and each seems to think himself the fortunate possessor of the

We have not a class of plants that shows greater variety of form and color than is to be found in the China pinks. They make splendid autumn flowering plants, if the seed is sown in May, in the open border. Those now in flower will bloom again in June; and by sowing seed in a hot-



DIANTHUS CHINENSIS (China Pink).

“largest” and the “best of all.” We have given each a fair trial, and until something better presents itself we shall be content with the *Golden Queen*.

But surprises never come singly. Here we find our China pinks alive and vigorous, some of them in full flower; the unopened buds defied the frosts, and on sunny days they open as beautifully as in summer. The pink family is a large one, and its members are all useful; they not only show off well, but they are enduring. There is a substance to the flowers that harmonizes with colors.

bed early and again in the open border in May, these useful flowers may be had from June until November.

Our balsams—where are they? Dead. There is no mistaking the condition of a balsam. When in life, and the season is favorable for it, there is no annual more showy and cheerful; but the first frost kills it completely—no half-way work—no compromise. It is dead, root and branch; and, what is still worse, if the plant is loaded with ripe seed, not one will be found on it or under it the next morning after frost has visited it. The constitution



CANDYTUFT.

it inherited in its tropical home abideth with it forever. In life it is an object of beauty; in death it is the other extreme. But in every garden there should be seen a bed of balsams.

Single dahlias, too, are dead, but their pleasant memories will keep them alive in our hearts. This flower has had its ups and downs in public favor. It was hailed with delight when first introduced, but at once sank into insignificance when the double form was introduced, and it had not a friend or advocate; it was not even tolerated in the company of popular plants. Again it has attained to great popularity. This is mainly attributable to the improvement it has undergone in the hands of a few able growers. We have grown the single dahlia in large quantities and with great satisfaction. Some of the varieties have no equals in our garden, either for show or for their uses as cut-flowers. While the tops are dead the tubers still live, and are true prophets of the life that is to come next season, if we so elect. The single dahlias are readily obtained from seed, which should only be saved from the very choicest forms and colors. It is worse than a waste of time to save seed from a poor strain, while the seed saved from a good strain is likely to produce flowers of great excellence.

Asters have adorned our garden this year that fairly put to shame those forms usually called good. But few persons, relatively, have any conception of the perfection to which this handsome flower has been brought, or of its value for ornamental purposes in the garden and its uses as a cut-flower. There is of them an almost endless diversity in size, form, habit and color, and nearly all of them, where well grown, are not only creditable but profitable. Ordinary cultivation, while it will yield fair results, will not meet the requirements of the aster, which to be brought out in perfection must have a heavy, deep, rich soil, which must be thoroughly worked. Such soils should be dug deeply now, and made rich with well de-

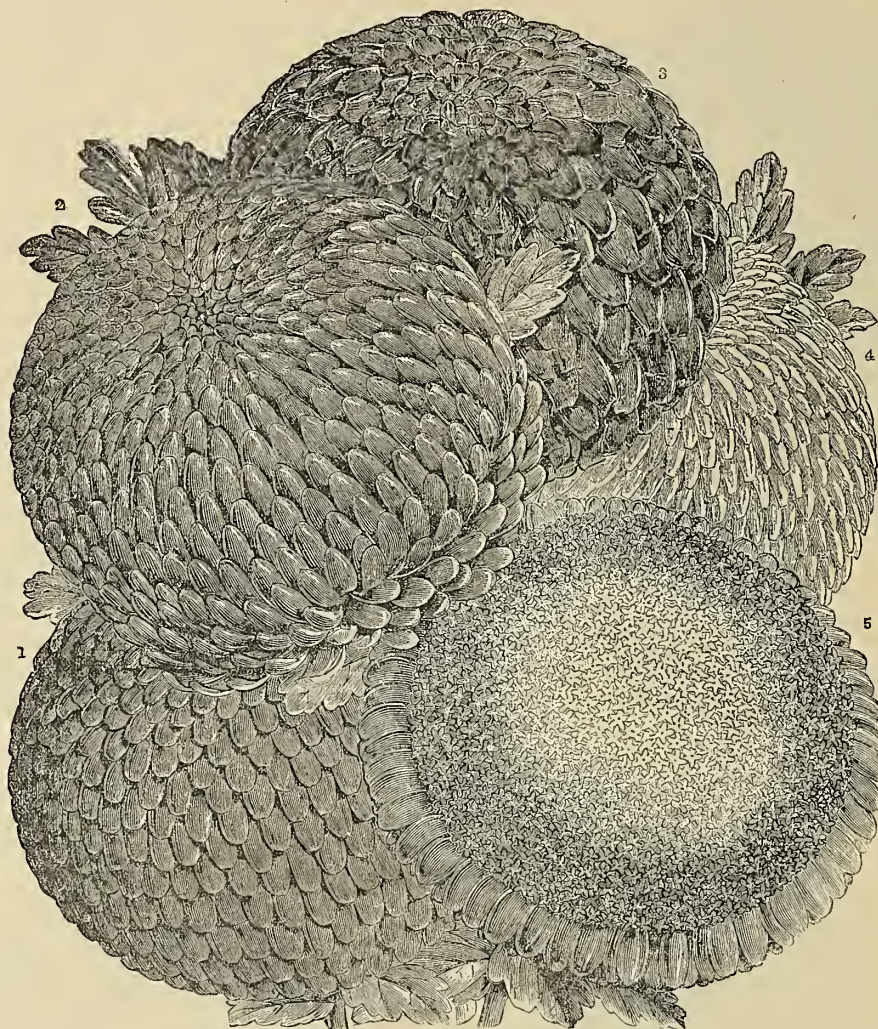
cayed manure, left in a rough state until spring, then dug over again, and for the best results put a layer of manure eighteen inches below the surface. If the ground is in a friable condition the roots will soon penetrate this depth for the storehouse of food below, and the result will be asters of magnificent size and color. There will be nothing gained by starting them too early; they are a September flower, and they can be had in perfection in October. Sow the seed from the middle of May to the first of June in seed-beds and transplant into the beds in which they are to bloom. While most of the forms are desirable for the garden, the *Pæony-flowered* class is by far the most profitable. We would like to add another word for the aster, and for the *Pæony-flowered* section in particular. It is this, there is nothing better for the window-garden during the fall than asters in pots, and for this purpose sow the seeds in the open border, transplant, when they have made the second pair of leaves, into a good rich soil, set the plants a foot apart each way; as soon as the buds begin to show color carefully take them up and put into six or seven inch pots, use as small pots as possible without injury to the roots by crowding, water thoroughly and give them a shaded situation for a few days, then bring them into the house and they make splendid flowering plants, lasting until the regular occupants of the window have become well established.

The candytuft that has made the garden so cheerful during summer, and that has been so useful for cut-flowers, has gone the way of most flowers, but not without providing for the future, which makes it a provident plant. Young plants are coming up by the thousand around the graves of their fallen parents. These, with a slight protection of newly-fallen leaves, will make a fine display early in the spring, in fact nearly as soon as the ground is ready for the seed, which when sown will make a succession of bloom. Old-fashioned as the candytuft may be, it is a showy and useful annual.

In looking over the garden we find some noble speci-



HELICHRYSUMS (Everlasting Flowers).



GROUP OF ASTERS.

1. Improved Victoria. 2. Pæony-flowered Perfection. 3. Dwarf Chrysanthemum-flowered. 4. Victoria Quilled. 5. Improved Prize Quilled.

mens of *liliums lancifolium*, *album* and *roseum*. These are or were mistakes. We overlooked a box of bulbs when we made our final planting in May, and did not find them until June, when they presented a forlorn appearance; however, we planted the dry and shriveled bulbs, and now we not only have some beautiful lilies, but we have an experience of considerable value. We shall in future set aside a number of bulbs expressly for autumn flowers; it will well repay the trouble, even if we lose some of the bulbs.

The Chinese delphiniums are among the beautiful things that were, but we shall not soon forget the pleasures they gave us, when in arranging a bunch of loose flowers we had a spray of delicate blue to mingle with the pink and white, and without which a vase of flowers lacks an important element. While not much blue is needed in the vase, a little is absolutely required by way of contrast. The same may be said of yellow—too much spoils the effect, but a little is required to give effect. For any arrangement of loose flowers we have no yellow more use-

ful than the *Calliopsis lanceolata*, a hardy herbaceous perennial, which may, however, be treated as an annual, as it flowers freely from seed the first season. We do not know of a yellow flower that will compare with this for display, or for use as a cut-flower.

The connecting links between autumn and spring are the helichrysum and acroclinium, two everlastings that are exceedingly ornamental in the garden, but doubly valuable for their flowers for winter bouquets. These are found in a variety of colors, white, rosy pink, crimson and yellow. For winter's use pick just as the flowers begin to open, and dry in the shade. While they cannot fill the place of fresh flowers in winter, they can do much toward making home cheerful, particularly where plants cannot be successfully grown. We do not know of any annual plants that we prize more highly than we do these.

As we inventory the garden, we find the *Eulalia Japonica* one of its most valuable assets; it is one of the most ornamental plants for a large lawn, it is valuable for a mixed border, and it has no equal as a hedge plant

when protected by a light wire fence in front. It has an additional charm, its graceful plumes as "dried grasses" for winter bouquets. They keep well for years, presenting somewhat the appearance of an ostrich feather.

Phlox Drummondii grandiflora is another of the choice annuals that has given us great delight in the past, and one of the first we shall select for our next season's work. The attention which has been devoted to this flower in the way of selection has rendered it one of the most varied and brilliant half-hardy annuals we possess. There are several classes of the *Phlox Drummondii*, but the *grandiflora* section surpasses all others for brilliancy of colors and for its free-flowering habit. Sowings should be made as soon as the ground is in good working order, and another about a month later. A great mistake is made with this, as with most other annuals, by leaving the plants too close together in the border. For the best effect thin out to a foot apart each way, then the plants will completely cover the ground, and their free branching habit will furnish innumerable trusses of flowers the entire season, if seed is not allowed to ripen.

In our review of the garden let us leave plenty of space to note the mistakes we have made in every department. While we have been successful as a whole, there have been many errors that should be corrected now, if they have not already been. A list of wants should be made, in order that we may secure at the proper time such seeds, bulbs and plants as may be necessary to make the garden what we have fancied it. Yet, much work can be done to advantage; one hour's work now will be worth two next spring; then we will have so much to attend to that something will probably be neglected, and nothing spreads like neglect; it is the parent of all horticultural miseries, and it is rarely, if ever, called by its true name, at least by the ones that suffer from it. Commence now to put the garden and lawn in order, leave nothing for the future that can be done now. If neglect has given you a crop of weeds they will be loaded with seed and should be burned at once, in order that there may arise from the ashes forms so lovely that neglect will not dare to disturb them.

TREES AS POT PLANTS.

MANY trees indigenous to a warm climate, if brought here to the cold regions of Maine, where we are obliged to give them the protection of a cellar during the winter season, may be utilized as pot plants, and very pretty ones they make, too.

The idea of having the *Schinus Molle*, or pepper tree, the *Melia Azedarach*, or "Pride of India," grace our windows in summer, and sleep in our cellars in winter, may seem ridiculous to those who can have the pleasure of sitting beneath their shade, but to us who have never had ocular proof of their possibilities, we are glad to have them, even in miniature form.

The seeds of the pepper tree germinate readily, and the growth is rapid; one year's culture, if kept at the window constantly, makes a beautiful miniature tree, with its graceful pinnate foliage. The flowers are very unassuming, but the fruit is bright scarlet, and quite persistent, and the leaves possess an aromatic, agreeable fragrance. In descriptions of it we read that "in many of the South American villages it is used for shade and ornament. It was introduced into Southern Europe from Peru in the latter part of the sixteenth century, and is now quite common in South France, Spain and Italy. It is also found in gardens in California, where it is much admired by travelers. In its native country the tree grows thirty feet or more in height, but in less congenial climates it scarcely attains half that height." The genus *Schinus* belongs to the sumac order, *Anacardiaceæ*, which is noted for the medicinal properties of almost every one of its members. The leaves of the *Schinus Molle* abound with an essential oil which is used in diseases of the eye. It is this oil which produces the aromatic fragrance which is so noticeable when the leaves are disturbed, and it is owing to the escape of this oil in globules that the bruised leaves or fragments of leaves are propelled when placed in

water, and appear to possess the power of spontaneous movement.

The *Schinus Molle* can be trained into a pretty weeping shrub, if grown in the shade away from the window, the branches or whole top bent and confined while flexible; when they harden they will remain in their drooping position and they are very ornamental for a corner bracket. Of course, they should have strong light, for no plant, however hardy, can remain healthy in a dark corner of a room.

The *Melia* is said to be a favorite shade-tree of the South, where it attains to the height of thirty or forty feet. It bears smooth bi-pinnate leaves, ovate, and pointed toothed leaflets, of a beautiful green color. It blooms in spring-time; the flowers are lilac-colored, quite pretty and fragrant, and these are followed by a yellowish fruit. The seeds require a longer time to germinate than the *Schinus*, but after it becomes well established it grows rapidly. This tree is deciduous, so while it is resting under bare poles the cellar is a fitting place for it.

In the same way, from seed, I have cultivated the catalpa and cucumber tree. I sometimes plant them out in summer, and re-pot in autumn before the ground freezes; for while they may not be classed among the tender varieties, they are not hardy enough to endure the rigor of winter in this latitude, not even with protection.

The catalpa belongs to the bignonia family and is sometimes called "Indian bean." *Catalpa bignonioides* has large heart-shaped, pointed leaves, downy beneath, and open panicles of white flowers, variegated and dotted within with purple and yellow, and pods one foot long. It blooms in summer.

Catalpa Kaempferi has smooth leaves, many of them three-lobed, or angled, and the flowers are much smaller.

The cucumber tree, *Magnolia acuminata*, is a stately tree in a congenial clime, but here it does not get beyond a shrub. It bears thin, oblong leaves, pointed at both ends, somewhat downy beneath; the flowers are pale yellowish green, and open late in spring.

Magnolia cordata, or yellow cucumber, is but a small tree in its native habitat; it has ovate leaves and yellow flowers. These two magnolias bear fruit that when young closely resembles a cucumber, hence the name "Cucumber tree."

Liriodendron tulipiferi, familiarly known as "tulip

tree," is another member of the magnolia family that is easily grown from seed, and a most beautiful shrub it makes for a large pot on the lawn. The leaves have short side-lobes, and the end is blunt, as if cut off; the flowers are like an orange-and-green tulip, and open late in spring.

This variety is said to be a tall, handsome tree when grown where the climate is favorable, and to it, I believe, we are indebted for the white wood of commerce so extensively used in cabinet work.

MRS. G. W. FLANDERS.

FAMILIAR FRUITS.

"What wondrous life is this I lead!
Ripe apples drop about my head;
The luscious clusters of the vine
Upon my mouth do crush their wine;
The nectarine and curious peach
Into my hands themselves do reach;
Stumbling on melons, as I pass,
Ensnared with flowers, I fall on grass."

QUAINT old Andrew Marvell gives a very pretty and poetic impression of a fruit garden. How much more he might have said had he known that we are indebted to the Queen of Flowers herself for many of our familiar fruits—but botany and poetry rarely go hand in hand, more's the pity!

The natural family Rosaceæ, of which we take the rose as the most prominent type, includes all the most important fruits of the temperate zone; thus the apple, pear, plum, apricot, peach, nectarine, almond, quince, strawberry, raspberry and bramble. Of all the fruits of the colder latitudes the apple is most serviceable. It is cultivated to the sixtieth degree of north latitude, and under favorable circumstances attains a great age. We read of some trees in Herefordshire that lived a thousand years and were highly prolific, but some authorities give two hundred years as the duration of a healthy tree grafted on a crab stock. In the extreme North the apple is scarcely known: the people of Lapland showed Linnæus what they called an apple-tree, which they said bore no fruit because it had been cursed by a beggar-woman to whom the owner had refused some of the apples. The botanist, however, found it to be the common elm, a tree very scarce in that severe climate.

The apple, like most other European fruits which now appear native, is probably indigenous to the East. The prophet Joel, speaking of the trees of Syria, says, "The vine is dried up and the fig-tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple-tree, even all the trees of the field are withered." Pliny speaks of the cultivation of apples near Rome, and gives enthusiastic praise to the art of grafting, while Hesiod and Homer make no reference to the process. Grafting has done much to multiply varieties, of which more than a thousand are now known, and all presumably from one stock. Henry VIII. of England did much to encourage the cultivation of this fruit. One of his statutes makes barking

an apple-tree a felony. By the way, this fruit gives the origin of the English name for a street-vender, "costermonger," since the familiar old English apple was the "costard" and the vender thereof was a "costard-monger."

Shakespeare speaks of the improvements in apple culture, as when Justice Shallow says to Falstaff,

"You shall see mine orchard,

Where, in an arbor, we will eat a last year's pippin,
Of my own grafting."

In the latter part of Elizabeth's reign, Gerarde, the herbalist, says, "I have seen about the pastures and hedgerows of a worshipful gentleman's dwelling, two miles from Hereford, called Mr. Roger Badnome, so many trees of all sortes, that the servants drink, for the most part, no other drink than that which is made of apples. The qualitie is such that, by the report of the gentleman himselfe, the parson hath for tythe many hogsheads of cyder." The original of the cultivated apple (botanically *Pyrus malus*) is the wild crab, a thorny tree, bearing acid fruit, indigenous in most parts of Europe. The pear (*Pyrus communis*), like the apple, is armed with thorns in its wild state, but it differs from the latter tree in having naturally a pyramidal form of growth. It is found in a wild state all over Europe, including Russia as far north as latitude 57°. We find the pear among the fruits described by Homer as forming part of Laertes' garden, while Pliny mentions several sorts grown in Italy from which fermented drink was made. It is probable that the Romans introduced the fruit to England, where it was at first chiefly cultivated by the clergy. Tradition says that King John was poisoned by a dish of pears given him by the monks of Swinstead, while an old account-book of Henry VIII. makes an item of twopence "to a woman who gaff the kyng peres." Marco Polo states that the Chinese have pears, white, melting and fragrant, weighing ten pounds each. The ingenious Venetian's statement, however, is not borne out by fact, or our California growers might hide their diminished heads, for the Californian fruit too often seems to lose in flavor what it gains in size.

The old city of Worcester, England, and its environs have ever been noted for pear culture; three of these fruits are borne in the arms of the city.

We may imagine that the original of the apple of the

Hesperides was the quince (*Pyrus cydonia*), for the orange was unknown to the Greeks, while the quince is indigenous to the Cretan isles, and its size and oftentimes brilliant color might well suggest a golden apple.

But of all the fruit contributed by the Rosaceæ, the peach and its allies are doubtless the most delicious. We are indebted to Persia for our ordinary peach (*Amygdalus Persica*), whence it was first introduced to the Roman Empire during the reign of Claudius. We may reasonably suppose that the original peach was merely a variation of the almond, in which the stone was diminished, while the outer pulp was increased. It is found in this condition in Media to the present day, where it is considered unwholesome, owing to the amount of prussic acid contained in the pulp, which is also the case with the almond. From Rome the peach made its way into England, where it is always grown against a sunny wall, or under glass. The nectarine is merely a smooth-skinned peach. It is an unfamiliar fruit in this country, as it seems impossible to protect it from the ravages of the curculio. The most singular of the peach tribe is the flat peach of China, which appears to have been flattened at the head and stalk till it resembles a ring of flesh with the stone in the middle. We are all sufficiently acquainted with the original ancestor of the peach—the almond (*Amygdalus communis*)—cultivated in this country for its lovely rosy flowers, the dwarf and double-flowering sorts being preferred. Like most of our spring shrubs, it produces flowers before the leaves, as Arnold says:

“ Blossom, clouding all the tree
With thy crimson 'broidery,
Long before a leaf of green
On the bravest bough is seen.”

The almond is probably a native of the Orient, being plentiful in Syria and Canaan; it is also found in Barbary and China.

The genus *Prunus*, belonging to the same natural order as the foregoing, comprises the apricot, plum, cherry, sloe and many ornamental shrubs. The most noticeable characteristic of them is that they all possess, to a greater or less degree, a portion of prussic acid, many of them being deleterious in the extreme. An old writer says that the Persians originally sent the peach to Egypt to poison the inhabitants, and one species of apricot is called by the people of Barbary “*matza Franca*,” or the killer of the Christians. However, the poisonous quality is diminished or destroyed by culture, as in the case of the solanums.

The apricot (*Prunus Armeniaca*) may be considered the most delicious of the tribe, though it is familiar to many only in the preserved form. We have heard it described as a glorified peach, not an inapt comparison. The apricot is very widely diffused through Asia, growing extensively on the barren mountains west of China. The Persians call the fine fruit of Iran “The seed of the sun.” It was known to the Greeks in the time of Dioscorides, and was called “*precocia*,” from its early ripening. The early writers on horticulture called it “a precoke,” of which our modern name is evidently a corruption. The Arabic name is “*berikach*.” It obtains its specific name *Armeniaca* from the fact that it covers the slopes of the Caucasus and Ararat in Armenia. It is grown with much success in California, though, like the nectarine, it is a failure in the Eastern States. It grows profusely in the oases of the Great Desert, where it is dried in great quantities for the Egyptian market, the fruit being small but of exquisite flavor.

E. L. TAPLIN.

STORING VEGETABLES FOR USE IN WINTER.

IT matters not how much skill or care has been bestowed upon a crop of vegetables for winter use; unless they are properly stored we may rest assured that they will not prove to be satisfactory in all respects. It is customary with most persons to place all their vegetables in heaps on the cellar floor, and the result is that they are found to be wilted, tough and inferior in quality, to say nothing of the great loss sustained by the ones on the outside of the heap becoming dried up and thus rendered entirely useless.

Where vegetables are grown on a limited scale, or by amateurs, I think it preferable to store them in barrels or boxes; not only do they keep better, but the cellar is given a much neater appearance. The best place for keeping vegetables intended for winter use is to place them in a dry, cool, frost-proof cellar, where a low temperature can be maintained. The best material to use for packing is clean sand, like that used for building purposes. In packing, let the box or barrel be about one-third filled with the roots, then fill with enough sand to cover all, and continue in this manner until the entire box or barrel is filled.

Do not become impatient and take up all of your vegetables on the approach of the first light frost. Nothing is gained by so doing, and it is always best to let them remain outside as long as possible. In this vicinity it is time enough to commence about the first week in November; so with these few remarks I will endeavor to offer a few suggestions as to the proper storing of some of the principal garden vegetables, and would here remark that all of them should be gathered and stored in dry, pleasant weather, and not when wet or damp.

Beets and Radishes—Should be taken up early in November. Take them up carefully, so as not to injure or mutilate the roots in the least, as this will materially injure their keeping qualities, and it also injures the cooking qualities of beets. Carefully remove all decayed leaves, and trim the others to within an inch of the roots, and store in sand in boxes or barrels.

Cabbages—Should be pulled up by the roots, turned upside down, placed close together in rows, and covered up to the roots with earth in the form of the letter V inverted. When wanted for use they can be easily obtained, and it is well to remove a dozen or so to the cel-

lar at a time, so that they can be readily procured when wanted. In the cellar they do best placed in boxes with damp sphagnum moss around their stalks.

Carrots and Turnips—May be treated as advised for beets; or, if they are grown in quantity, they can be stored and brought inside, as advised for cabbage. They should, however, be placed in conical heaps, and covered with about a foot or more of earth, according to the situation and exposure of the heap.

Celery.—Full directions for storing this most important crop were given in the August CABINET, to which the reader is most respectfully referred. I presume that all carefully preserve their numbers for reference. If they do not, then I propose to let them go without celery for one season.

Horseradish and Parsnips—Can be taken up and stored in heaps outside, as recommended for carrots,

and, if desired, a portion of the crop may be allowed to remain in the ground for spring use, and should then be dug as early as possible. As these roots are perfectly hardy they are usually gathered last.

Onions—Should be placed in a dry, cool situation, where they are not likely to freeze. If by any chance they do, do not handle them when frozen and they will not be injured in the least.

Potatoes—Can be easily preserved by placing them in barrels in any dry, cool, frost-proof cellar.

Jerusalem artichokes, salsify and scorzonera may be treated precisely as parsnips.

Pumpkins and squashes should be carefully gathered before frost, with a portion of the stem adhering, and placed in any dry, cool situation, but on no account permit them to freeze.

CHARLES E. PARNELL.

QUEENS, N. Y., October 9, 1885.

GARDEN ART IN CALIFORNIA.

THERE are some months when the usual profusion of bloom on the California hillsides fails almost entirely—the spring flowers (unsurpassed, I think, in any country of the world) are followed by the less profuse but more gorgeous summer flowers; then the summer blossoms fade, and an appreciable pause occurs before the autumnal yellows appear. If one could first establish all the desirable native plants of the coast in a wild ravine near his house, and then add to the list the best of similar plants from other parts of the world, he would certainly have a wild or half-wild garden of unapproachable beauty. Moreover, no season of the year would seem to lack for fullness. We should especially aim to balance the overwhelming preponderance of yellows in our autumn fields by the judicious use of blues, whites and scarlets from autumn-bloomers of other lands.

Objection to the wild-garden system, herein commended, is made by horticulturists wedded to seemingly unalterable laws of geometric formalities and strictly-tiled borders. But the "new school" gardeners claim, and justly, I think, that hundreds of fine plants thrive better in rough and wild places; that they look much better there than in tame gardens; that as plants pass out of bloom in wild gardens they are unnoticed and overshadowed by later bloomers, so that their decay is not an eyesore; and that grouping of "colonies" of small, delicate, and beautiful plants never seen at present in California gardens is thus rendered practicable. Lastly, and of immense æsthetic importance to the State, it may be claimed that the work of acclimating and naturalizing the hardy plants famous and treasured in other countries is a task that might well occupy the best thought of garden-lovers. The English sparrow builds his nest in California orchards, and the Eastern shad swims in California rivers; why not have the choicest wild plants of Spain, Bohemia, Greece, Crete, Italy, Persia, naturalized here? Why not make those plants that are most famous in song and story a part of the California hillside in their season?

In order to show how wide is the range of work proposed, and to display still more exactly the character of the typical "wild-garden," I shall now proceed to mention a few of the plants adapted to this sort of work, and adapted also to the Californian climate. Many, if not all, of them will thrive in Oregon and the Territories also. First, the *borage*, or forget-me-not family, may be considered. It contains many weeds, but the tropics have furnished some most elegant species that few gardeners use one half as much as they should. The *Omphalodes verna* is of a deeper blue than the true forget-me-not, and planted out anywhere will take care of itself for years. The Caucasian comfrey has dozens of blue and pendulous flowers; the Bohemian comfrey is of a deep crimson; the white or Oriental comfrey is equally desirable, and all three will thrive if severely let alone—after the manner of a wild thistle. There are other comfrees, some twenty species in all; and some are trailing vines, while others are tall plants fit only for backgrounds. *Myosotis dissitiflora* is like blue April skies for color, and one can naturalize it under an oak tree or on a sloping northern exposure. The delicate gentian-like gromwell (*Lithospermum prostratum*) loves sunlight and rocks, and hates to be cultivated about. The Virginian pulmonaria only asks to be set by a spring or a moist spot, and left there for years. The *Mertensia sibirica*, also a lungwort, is one of the loveliest of newer plants, but never at its best under cultivation. The blue borages, the perennial Cretan borage, the dwarf boragewort and the evergreen alkanet, are also plants of this extensive family, whose best place is along the lanes, copses and shrubberies, or on the hillsides, in chosen nooks, where they can become a part of the scene in quite other fashion than if they were set in prim lines according to the old school of gardening.

Suppose there is shrubbery about the homestead, and it is all level ground, with no waste, no bits of descent and slopes where blackberry and clematis vines and wild-roses grow. Even here a large amount of plant-beauty

is possible, if only one forswears the digging of the surface. The whole space can be filled with bulbs and plants that thrive in such localities, until the earth is carpeted with green and alive with flowers. The white arabis, the trailing savin, the dwarf cotton-asters, the aubrietias, alyssums, fragrant *Daphne cneorum*, large white achilleas, narcissi, the white Japan anemone, and the superb *Anemone fulgens*, the clematises (of which more than a hundred desirable species can be chosen) are all suitable for growth in shrubberies. We must study the California woods for our models of work here. A week spent by the Russian river headwaters, or in the cañons of the Gualala, will do more to teach one how to fill up the shrubberies with thrifty plants than a year of study of garden manuals.

Mr. Falconer, of Massachusetts, some years ago described the way in which plants grow in the New England woods. "I go into the woods in the springtime," he writes, "and find them carpeted with dog's-tooth violets, wood anemones (blue and purple), hepaticas, spring beauty, trilliums, blood-root, star-flowers, false Solomon's-seal, gold thread, trailing arbutus, wild ginger, and a host of other pretty little flowers, all bright and gay, arising from their bed of decaying herbage and tree leaves; and many of them are in perfection, too, before a tree has spread a leaf; and thus they glow and revel in their cosy bed, fed and sheltered by their tree friends. And early as the earliest, too, the outskirts of the woods and meadows with hosts of violets are painted blue and white, and speckled everywhere with bluets, or "little innocents" as the children call them; woodsias, tiny aspleniums and other ferns, are unfolding their fronds along the chinks among the stones; the common polypody is reaching over the blocks and boulders, and even the exposed rocks, with their rough and lichen-bearded faces aglow with vernal pride. Every nook and cranny among them, and little mat of earth upon them, is checkered with the flowery print of the Canadian columbine, the Virginia saxifrage and the glaucous corylus. But to the carpet. What can be prettier or more appropriate than the partridge-berry, the twin-flower, creeping winter-green, bear-berry, cow-berry, dwarf cornel, fringed polygonums, the common pipsissewa, the spotted pipsissewa, the sombre-hued pyrola and smilax, and the bright and easily-grown club-moss? Add to those such plants as winter aconite, Apennine anemone, creeping forget-me-not, and the like, together with a few of the most suitable kinds of the host of bulbous ornamental plants we now possess, and our shrubbery carpets may be replete with garden jewels!"

All who remember and love the woods of New England will recognize the faithfulness of Mr. Falconer's description, though it may at first seem that he expects impossibilities when he would naturalize all these in his home garden. It has been done often, and will be done again and again. In the upper Maryland woods the scene is far different; pipsissewas and bluets disappear, kalmias crowd the thickets, and the trilliums are of a darker hue. The wild-garden of the South or of the West would differ much from the wild-garden of New England. Here, in California, what garden, costly though it be, could help being made fairer by a copse of moun-

tain azaleas, sheltered from burning heats and fed by living waters?

I have seen five things in the wild-flower line that are worth remembering a while, and each of them contains a lesson for those who would add nature's fairest charm to their gardens. I have seen azaleas on the eastern slope of Mt. Howell, where redwoods formed the background. The copse was a hundred yards square, and one splendid mass of white and gold and rose-color such as no man ever saw in a garden, and such as one would do well to ride a hundred miles to see again. I have seen mountain lilies in Mariposa county growing in a hollow in the hills; hundreds and hundreds of tiger lilies swaying in the sunlight and taller than the manzanita bushes about them. I have seen the San Joaquin sand-plains, years ago, blue with larkspurs as far as the eye could reach—one sea of deep color, fringed with royal purple and gold and crimson and orange of other flowers. I have seen the wild-gardens of the heights near Shingletown, Shasta, and of the ridges beyond San Juan, Nevada county, and about Truckee—hollows snow-fed and grass-green all summer, and radiant with rich and manifold bloom. And, lastly, I have seen the sand dunes by the Pacific rosy-purple with abronias for miles, and golden with grindelias and blue with lupines.

We must group and mass plants as nature does, in natural fringes and clusters and combinations, so as to give distinct effects. In the midst of shrubbery we can plant crocuses, blue anemones, scillas, grape-hyacinths, tulips, and tigridias, to mingle naturally with our wild California brodeas and alliums. The Turk's-cap lily, the white garden-lily, the martagon (lily of Palestine), and almost all of this most attractive group of plants are easily naturalized in the wild-garden. As for sunflowers, hollyhocks, cannas, gladioli—no better use can be found for them than massed where they need little attention. I spoke of the clematises, such as the fragrant virgin's-bower (*Clematis virginiana*), the *Campaniflora*, and the *Clematis Montana*, white-flowered and a very free grower. The Mediterranean species, *C. Cirrhosa*, flowers in winter here. Then there are the wind-flowers, or anemones, several times before alluded to; and here one can hardly go astray. We can sow Alpine anemones over the grass; we can plant the blue anemone on the sunny slopes, to bloom at Christmas, and the *Anemone coronaria* on sand-banks, and the *Anemone sylvestris* in shrubberies, and the blue and white Apennine anemones in copses and sheltered nooks, also the yellow *Anemone ranunculoides*. We can find a dozen or more varieties of the common garden anemones as easily at home here as mallows. The winter aconite, the rare old Christmas-rose, *Helleborus niger*, the tall and vigorous monk'shood, the tall perennial larkspurs, white and blue, the old-fashioned herbaceous peonies, even the large-flowered meadow-rue, are plants a wild-garden can use to great advantage.

The subject deserves a far more extended treatment. There are wild plants fit for brooksides and marshes; others suitable for hedge-rows and fence-corners; and still others for wild ravines and rockeries. Intelligent skill devoted to the wild-garden can adapt plants to any position, and produce results quite impossible by any other

system. The gardeners who garden on but one method, that of the Roman, or the Italian, or the Frenchman of the days of Louis XIV.—are not capable of using rightly the wealth of material lying unheeded about them. An hour's walk into the hills, where godetias cluster in pur-

ple masses on the slope, and azaleas bloom by the river's edge, ought to furnish suggestions for many wild-gardens of California homesteads by the streams of Yolo, the ravines of Santa Cruz, or the slopes of Berkeley.—*Charles Howard Shinn, in The San Franciscan.*

A WHISTLING GIRL.

HALLIE MCGUIRE sat on the window-sill whistling "Nancy Lee" and swinging her heels. They were pretty French heels, and belonged to the daintiest pair of slippers imaginable. Her dress was dark gray, plainly made, yet fitting exquisitely to her rounded curves and delicate outline; a jaunty little apron, with scarlet bows on the pockets; scarlet at the throat and nestling amid the waves of her dark hair completed her costume, and out of this pleasant combination of color arose her charming, piquant head.

No one had ever called Hallie beautiful; her skin was too pale, her scarlet mouth too wide, her "tiptilted" little nose too aggressive to merit such an adjective; but she was so bewitching, so original, that she possessed greater influence over others than if she had been an "orthodox beauty." Women, half envious of a charm they could not analyze, yet loved her for her sunny, merry ways: while men—surrendered unconditionally.

Hallie possessed an accomplishment quite rare in the quiet village where she lived; loving music with passionate fervor, but denied by nature a voice for singing, she could whistle as sweetly and clearly as any mocking-bird. Other girls vainly tried to imitate her; proper mammas spoke of the habit as highly indecorous and unladylike, while Jack, her merry, teasing brother Jack, gave up in despair at being excelled by a girl. And so she sat there, on her high perch, whistling, and trying to solve the perplexing problem—would she make custard or chocolate cake for supper. It was a golden morning in the last of May, the kitchen door stood widely open, and through it came sunshine and vague perfume, and the humming of bees. Outside, over the window, a scarlet creeper was growing, its leaves and gorgeous blossoms forming a gleaming frame for the unconscious picture within.

Sauntering down the sidewalk came three young men in earnest converse—Jack, Hallie's loving, teasing brother; Fred Evans and a Mr. Hamilton. Fred was an old college chum of Jack's; Mr. Hamilton a stranger until that morning—both had come down to the quiet little town for a few weeks' fishing and hunting among the ferny streams and woods.

Just now they were planning for a day's sport, and discussing tackle, bait and other necessities. A few steps farther, and the pretty little tableau came in view; for a background the dusky shadows of the quaint old kitchen, where, framed in by scarlet and green, sat the unconscious Hallie, saucy, bewitching, with the clear sweet whistle ringing out on the fragrant air. All three paused instinctively; then Jack in his cheery fashion, forgetful of

forms, spoke out: "That's my sister, come in and be introduced."

"Thanks, no," murmured Mr. Hamilton so stiffly that Jack looked up surprised, until Fred, breaking into a laugh, explained, "You see Hamilton's particular aversion is a woman who attempts anything in the least masculine, and whistling, I believe, he considers a thing unpardonable. As for myself, I would consider it a great pleasure, but promised to be at the station to meet a friend at nine, and," looking at his watch, "I've just ten minutes to make the run. Ta-ta, old boy, we'll see you further." So saying the young men disappeared around a corner, Jack rushed up to his room, and Hallie, having decided in the same breath that "a sailor's wife his star should be" and that chocolate cake was the nicest, dismounted from the window and plunged into the mysteries of the cook-book.

"Hallie," said Jack, at the dinner-table, with his mouth full of potato, "when does Motherkin give you your birthday party?"

"On my birthday, of course, Mr. Brilliancy; or, to be explicit, next Wednesday evening, from eight to twelve P. M. Why?"

"May I bring up two friends that I met to-day? Strangers in town—want to do the handsome thing—charity begins at home, you know," rattled on the glib-tongued Jack.

"Of course," assented Hallie, serenely, "you are always at liberty to bring your friends."

It was a warm evening in the early part of June; indoors all was light and motion and music, as became Hallie's birthnight, and among the gay groups of friends she moved a demure and graceful little hostess. Presently she was confronted by two new faces, and heard Jack's cheery voice—"My sister—Mr. Evans—Mr. Hamilton."

Both men were in evening dress, and both fine-looking, but in Fred Evans she saw, even in that passing glance, a man of intellect and strong will, genial yet reticent, keeping back his best. The other seemed to her superficial, and yet a man of immense conceit, who considered himself as belonging to a superior order of beings.

The evening passed, as all such evenings do, with music and gay, sweet laughter, and at midnight the company divided.

Hallie, tired little queen, lost herself in slumber the moment her head touched the pillow. Fred Evans sat long on the balcony smoking his fragrant Havana, musing over the frank brown eyes that had looked into his

own, but silent, as was his wont, while Mr. Hamilton had made a new discovery—that a girl who whistles, and probably does other unladylike things, can yet be cultured, charming, refined.

This was a small village, and the new acquaintances were thrown much together. Every few days the two young men found their way to the McGuire cottage, Fred more frequently, as he was Jack's chum.

As the summer wore on Fred became almost indispensable, he was so versatile in talent and so full of pleasant plans for enjoyment. He was a fine performer on the piano, playing often dainty little arias of his own composition. One of these in particular attracted Hallie's quick ear, and she was soon warbling it with her own clear note; but as she was rather shy of her accomplishment Fred was none the wiser for many a day. Once, though, he accidentally heard her beautiful rendering of his own favorite air, and softly whistled a harmonious alto, making as lovely a combination as you would wish to hear.

Jack, from an unseen corner, loudly encored, and "The Duet" became from that day a family institution. Once or twice, at different times, Hallie met Fred's eyes fastened on her, with a look that made her heart throb. A strong yearning shone out of them, only kept down by pride and a resolute will. But that mute language never found outlet at his lips; his manner to her was as frank and unembarrassed as that of Jack himself.

As the weeks gilded by Mr. Hamilton came more frequently, and there was a certain impressiveness in look and tone and a grand consciousness of being irresistible that often set Hallie into gales of laughter. The two gentlemen were sitting together on the balcony of the hotel one radiant night in September. The next week they were to separate for their winter homes. Both were smoking—Evans more silent even than usual; Hamilton inclined to be confidential.

"The fact is, Evans," he said, rather pompously, "I shall offer myself to Miss McGuire before my departure; I may, in fact, have an opportunity to-morrow. With my wealth and acknowledged position, she can hardly refuse. She is a charming girl, and though she has some glaring faults, I am convinced that once my wife I shall be able to correct them."

Fred replied only in monosyllables, and finally leaving the placid Hamilton to his complacent reveries, strode away moodily to his room. Once alone, he buried his face in his hands, and gave himself up to bitter thought. "So to-morrow is the end of it all, and I must quietly stand aside and see another obtain what I would be so proud to win. This cursed poverty! Were I rich I would make one struggle for her love; but what could I offer, save the humblest home, the simplest pleasures. Hamilton is right—she is made for fairer surroundings. The least I can do is to keep out of the way." Then, speaking huskily, he added, "God bless you, my darling, even though you are not for me." And rising, he took down his books for an hour's hard study.

Two squares away, in a dainty rose-hung room, lay Hallie. She had been tossing wearily for an hour or more, thinking sadly to herself, "To-morrow it will all be

over—my happy summer." Then reading her own heart, and finding she had given its love unsought, crushed back her tears, and proudly resolved to hide her secret from all prying eyes.

The next day dawned clear and bright—the perfection of picnic weather. Every one was early at the "Cliff," and none more charming than Hallie, who with true philosophy resolved to extract every possible drop of honey from this her last sweet day.

But what was the matter with Fred? Silent, absent-minded, almost morose, he had no gay banter for any one. Hallie felt her heart grow heavy as lead under this unexpected change; but, womanlike, to shield herself seemed to be in her wildest, gayest mood.

"Hallie, dear," called out a pretty blonde, "won't you please braid some oak-leaf cups to hold these lovely raspberries—one for each plate?—nobody can make them as pretty as you."

And so Hallie, the others being busy, strayed off by herself, got her overskirt full of oak-leaves, sat down in a mossy corner, while with deft fingers she wove the pretty trifles, as she had often done before for the tea-table at home.

As she worked her eyes filled slowly with tears, but determined that she would *not* be so foolish, she began to whistle a rollicking little jig; and so occupied did not hear the step behind her. It was Mr. Hamilton.

"That odious habit again," he thought in displeasure, which made him appear stiffer than ever, as he seated himself by Hallie's side.

"Pardon my intrusion, Miss McGuire, but opportunities are few to-day, and I wish to speak to you on a matter of importance."

Hallie made round eyes of astonishment at him. Clearing his throat he pursued:

"Before leaving for the winter I wish to make you a formal offering of my heart and hand. I can give you wealth and position such as you never enjoyed before. You please me, and I think that under my careful guidance your impulsive, and perhaps too pronounced, nature will be molded into a refined womanhood."

Hallie's face was a study; incredulity, a struggling desire to laugh, and vexation at such free criticism succeeded each other. But then, remembering that the man was evidently in earnest, she rose, saying with gentle dignity:

"You do me much honor, sir, but I can never be what you wish," and was leaving, when Hamilton, astounded by her answer, forgot his usual good-breeding and confronting her, said angrily:

"Ah! I see Mr. Evans has forestalled me."

And then how Miss Hallie blazed! Stamping her small foot she haughtily replied:

"You have no right to make such a statement! You are"—high and clear through the woods rang a gay young voice.

"Where are you, Hallie McGuire; you promised to tend to the fire;" and hastily obeying the whimsical summons, Hallie fled, leaving the discomfited Mr. Hamilton to console himself as best he might.

At sundown there was a gathering up of wraps and baskets, and a sauntering homewards.

"Where is Hallie?" queried two or three. Some one answered that she had gone home with a near neighbor, and nothing further was said. Instead of this the young girl, restless after the conflicting experiences of the day, had wandered away by herself for two reasons—to think it all over, and to get a clump of maidenhair fern for her Warden case at home. She saw a tantalizing bunch growing far out over the edge of a swampy pool, and in reaching for the treasure slipped and fell forward. Poor little girl! The mud and water was deep, reaching almost to her waist; but, worse than all, a sharp pain through one slender ankle and an ugly cut on her wrist proved all too truly that she was severely hurt. She called again and again, loud and clear, but only a mocking bluejay answered her; she tried for the hundredth time to get out, but the banks were slippery. Two hours went on. Hallie, naturally courageous, was getting depressed and frightened, and the pain in her ankle was sickening. Almost despairing she was about to make one more effort to free herself, when on the crisp twigs sounded a quick step, and a cheery whistle rang out on the air. It was a difficult strain from "The Duet." Instantly Hallie took up the other part, and the sleepy birds above her must have been surprised at such a burst of melody. There was a moment's astonished pause, and then an anxious voice called: "Hallie, where are you?" and guided by her cry of joy, Fred came springing over logs and bushes till he stood by the swampy pool. It was the work of but a few moments for him to rescue her from her dangerous position. As she felt the firm ground under her once more, the

relief, the reaction, the pain, together, proved too much, and she sank in a little quivering heap at Fred's feet. Not in a faint—it is only heroines in novels that faint, so easily—but white, sick and unable to stand. Fred, though not knowing the extent of her injuries, was frightened at what seemed to him a deathly swoon. In an instant he was on the ground beside her, chafing the limp, wet fingers and resting the tired little head on his shoulder. As he gathered her so close to his heart all the weary longing of the summer, all the sternly-repressed passion of this hateful day, found utterance at his lips:

"Oh! Hallie, my darling, speak to me." A faint, pink flush crept into the white cheeks and the brown eyes met his with shy, sweet meaning in their depths.

* * * * *

There was a wedding at the merry Christmastide.

Mr. Hamilton so far recovered from his defeat as to send Hallie for a wedding present a lovely little escritoire, inlaid with mother-of-pearl. In one of its small compartments, wrapped in tissue paper and small enough for a charm to a lady's watch-chain, was a tiny silver whistle. The full significance of this Hallie hardly understood, until Fred laughingly explained.

They were standing by the sparkling fire in their cosy parlor; suddenly Hallie faced him gravely:

"Now that I am a married woman, Fred, do you want me to give up whistling?"

"Why, of course not, if it's any consolation to you." Then drawing the curly head close to his heart, he added: "Oh, blessed little talent! except for that I might never have found you!"

LOUISE.

TIME TO GO.

They know the time to go!

The fairy clocks strike their inaudible hour
In field and woodland, and each punctual flower
Bows at the signal an obedient head,
And hastes to bed.

The pale anemone

Glides on her way with scarcely a good-night;
The violets tie their purple nightcaps tight;
Hand in hand the dancing columbines,
In blithesome lines,

Drop their last courtesies,

Flit from the scenes and couch them for their rest;
The meadow lily folds her scarlet vest
And hides it 'neath the grasses' lengthening green
Fair and serene.

Her sister lily floats

On the blue pond and raises golden eyes
To court the golden splendor of the skies.
The sudden signal comes, and down she goes,
To find repose

In the cool depths below.

A little later, and the asters blue
Depart in crowds, a brave and cheery crew;
While golden-rod, still wide awake and gay,
Turns him away,

Furls his bright parasols,

And, like a little hero, meets his fate.
The gentians, very proud to sit up late,
Next follow. Every fern is tucked and set
'Neath coverlet.

Downy and soft and warm,

No little seedling voice is heard to grieve,
Or make complaints the folding wood beneath;
Nor lingering dares to stay, for well they know
The time to go.

Teach us your patience brave,

Dear flowers, till we shall dare to part like you,
Willing God's will, sure that his clock strikes true,
That his sweet day augurs a sweeter morrow,
With smiles, not sorrow. —*Selected.*

TASTEFUL SITTING-ROOMS.

THERE is a great difference between sitting-rooms. Did you ever go into a room when everything was topsy-turvy even in the middle of the afternoon? Books, clothes, papers, everything thrown into a chaotic mass. The mistress, with hair still uncombed and wearing her morning dress, comes forward to greet you with profuse excuses.

"Oh, it's of no consequence," you hasten to reply; "pray don't mention it," and you sit down in the midst of the disorder. Nevertheless you are embarrassed, the hostess is embarrassed, and the call is rendered unprofitable and unpleasant, because of the slovenly habits of this woman who calls herself a housekeeper.

Now, no sitting-room need look like this; everybody may not be able to keep a room in apple-pie order the whole of the time, but it can be made fit to receive company in a part of the twenty-four hours. It may be fancy, but it seems to me that this chronic disorder must extend to the mental as well as to the material; that such a woman cannot be a good housewife. If she cannot keep an orderly sitting-room, nine chances to one if she is a good cook. Of course she cannot be economical, because she has not learned to systematize.

We have visited other sitting-rooms. One reminds you of an old-fashioned church, with its straight-backed pews and its box pulpit. Everything is placed against the wall with the most careful regularity. The entire room impresses one with its solemn and funereal air. Its occupant, too, partakes of the hue of her surroundings, as with grave mien she ushers you into the room.

Another room looks tawdry with tinsel and ornament, and glitters like a gin saloon. You do not feel at ease in it, and you are relieved when you go away. The owner is mostly tinsel, too. There is no grace, no elegance, no comfort where she is.

Once in a while we find the model room, the cheery, cosy, comfortable, yet orderly room. When you enter, the occupant gives you a greeting full of cordiality. Her room is clean, healthy and artistic. We can scarcely imagine her other than a healthy, cheerful, artistic mind. We stay a great while longer than we ought, perhaps, and depart with regret.

We human beings are a sort of chameleons after all. Not only do our surroundings exhibit to some degree our taste and character, but these latter cannot help being influenced by our surroundings. The hue of our circumstances is apt to be transmitted to our mental condition. If we would cultivate orderly and systematic habits of labor, we must also cultivate orderly and systematic habits in other things as well.

The wise man has said, "There is a time for everything." Surely we ought to take time to make home cheerful and happy, and of the many things which go toward doing this nothing is more essential than a tidy, cosy, pleasant living-room. Here is where the family

meet in the social circle; here the busy housewife sits after the labors of the day are over; here is where friends are received who make an informal call. It should be made to reflect the hospitality, the taste, the love, the ease of the household. Some degree of order and a little artistic taste will make the humblest sitting-room as comfortable and as inviting as the costly drawing-rooms of palaces.

Not a few sitting-rooms are unlovely from a lack of artistic ornamentation. I do not mean that every housewife can, or should, even were her means sufficient, adorn her walls with paintings of the old masters, set up statues in every niche and corner and place Henri Deux ware on her mantel-pieces. "Art," says a great critic, "is never more supreme than when it fashions from the commonest materials objects of the greatest beauty." It seems to me an obvious truism, that the beautiful is equally beautiful, however much or however little it may cost, and that the lilies of the field, though every village child may pluck them, are yet arrayed in purer loveliness than an Eastern emperor in all his glory. A vase of flowers in a room goes a wonderful way in making it attractive. Mere pictures are nothing if not beautiful. I remember a sitting-room, two or three years ago, in which hung a framed woodcut of the death-bed scene of Abraham Lincoln, and on the opposite wall was a colored picture of a tomb embowered in weeping willows and two kneeling mourners before a marble monument, which was "Sacred to the Memory of N— D—."

Now, this housewife was an excellent woman, but she had no more taste than a Patagonian. Why did she not banish these rude, unartistic copies to the garret and hang upon her wall some pretty landscape or a child's lovely face, some photograph or chromo? She would then have had a thing of beauty before her eyes forever. Not that I am partial to chromos, though I must confess that to my mind a pretty chromo is superior to an ugly painting, even though the last is bounded by a showy, gilded frame. It costs but little to be graceful and artistic, and with the means that are now open for simple but pure ornamentation, no mistress of a house has an excuse for an unlovely sitting-room.

Again, in the rage for virtuoso, which has been prevalent several years, the well-to-do have filled their parlors and cabinets and mantel-shelves with articles of genuine value, indeed, but in many cases, of no artistic grace. A museum is one thing and a dwelling-house is another. The two are sometimes confused, even among the most cultured classes. Let us religiously preserve curiosities by all means, just as we preserve Phœnician jars, Benares metal work and Chinese bronzes; but don't let us imagine, that because they are curious or ancient they are necessarily decorative. Above all, don't let us assent to the converse proposition, that because pretty things are cheap and modern they are necessarily unworthy of artistic consideration.

F. M. COLBY.

HOME DECORATIONS.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Souvenirs for the Holidays.

AS the Christmas season draws near, a few suggestions for preparing sundry pretty, small articles will, perhaps, not be amiss.

Many new and dainty little things are now exhibited in the various shops, some useful and pretty, others for ornament only. Baskets of all sizes and shapes, and for every imaginable purpose, are displayed. One of the prettiest shapes is almost like a ball with an opening at the top,

and reminds one of a huge sea-urchin. The size is eight inches in diameter, but larger or smaller sizes may be used if desired. A pink satin bag is gathered around the opening of the basket, the upper edge of the satin hemmed and edged with fine white lace, and just below the hem a casing is placed, through which a narrow satin ribbon is run for a draw-string. Rows of the same lace which trims the bag are placed diagonally on the basket, either four or five rows, according to the width used, leaving quite a space between each one. A narrow gilt braid

serves as a heading to the lace. Just above each row of braid are three or four small drops of pink silk, or chenille balls, and small gilt coins are hung about an inch apart over the portion of the basket not covered with lace. The baskets are used for holding fancy work.

An odd little match-holder is made of a diminutive pair of Dutch shoes (about three inches long) carved of some soft wood; they can be obtained for thirty-five cents a pair, ungilded, at most of the stores where fancy work is sold. The shoes should be securely glued or riveted side by side, the toes downward, to a small wooden plaque, or panel, which should be painted dark blue or crimson, and the shoes gilded either with gold paint or gold-leaf.

Bore a hole through the top of the plaque or panel, and run in a satin ribbon, which, tied with bow and ends, is used to hang the plaque against the wall.

A thin board, six inches square, covered with dark blue velvet, also forms a pretty background for the little shoes to rest against. After gilding, they are fastened on the centre of the board in such a position as to be upright when it is hung by a screw in one corner. On the toe of each shoe the word "matches" is written in black, grotesque letters, and there is sufficient roughness on the sole, where the shoe turns up at the toe, to easily light the matches. They are novel little things, and if well made prove very pretty ornaments.

A cushion for the toilet table is made in the shape of two diamonds. Each cushion is six or seven inches square, made of cloth, satin, velvet or plush, a different color for each one.

Crimson and gold are pretty, or blue and gold, olive and pink or blue, in fact, any colors which contrast well and are suitable for the room in which the cushion is to be placed.

They can be decorated with designs in tinsel, embroidered with silks, painted with water-colors, or they may be of satin with lace covers. A long and rather stiff wire is then run through the cushions from point to point, the ends which must slightly project, are bent to form a loop, and then sewed securely to the cushions to hold them together.

The sides are trimmed with a full box-plaited satin ribbon edged with lace. A feather, which has been gilded, is thrust through a bow of ribbon tied between the cushions. The feather, besides being gilded, may be decorated with any pleasing design in oil-colors.

A novelty in the way of a frame for photographs is made by drawing, or, it may better be termed, etching on wood with a hot steel point.

The pretty white-wood frames, which can be purchased for a trifling cost, answer well for the purpose. Three or four steel points of various sizes are necessary. Crochet needles, with bone handles, will be found convenient—first breaking off the hooks with a pair of pinchers, then point the metal by filing or rubbing it on stone until there are four grades of points. A small alcohol lamp is also necessary in which to heat the needles. With a pencil lightly sketch on the frame any pretty design of birds, flowers, landscape or marine, according to fancy; or, simpler still, use an appropriate transfer pattern, such as is

furnished by Briggs & Co., which requires only a warm iron pressed over the wrong side to transfer the design. Then heat one of the fine points to burning heat, and with it trace over the sketch as if using a pencil.

When the deeper shadings are desired a larger point must be used, going, when this is necessary, over the lines which have previously been made.

Of course the points require heating every minute or two, as they cool very quickly, and will then make no mark. The work is very interesting and pretty, and many other uncarved white-wood articles can be decorated in this way.

M. E. WHITTEMORE.

Knitted Knee-Caps.

IN response to the request of a subscriber we give the following directions for knitting knee-caps to be used in case of rheumatism:

The ends of the caps are ribbed, as most wristlets are knitted, to give elasticity and keep the caps in position. Between these ribbed ends is a gore, knit garter-stitch to enable the knee to move freely.

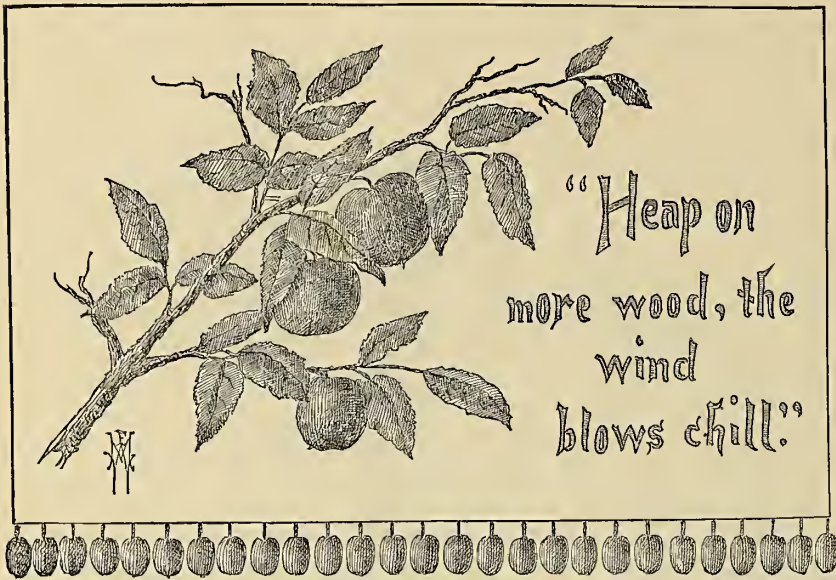
With fine yarn and two No. 17 knitting-needles commence the gore by casting on eighteen stitches; knit fifteen rows plain garter-stitch; then widen by making one stitch after the first and before the last nine stitches. To avoid leaving a hole when widening, make the stitch by knitting the first side of the old stitch in the usual manner; then before removing from the needle knit a stitch in the other side (that portion of the loop on the back of the needle which gives you a new stitch from each side of the old loop). After making the two stitches as directed, knit four rows plain, and in the fifth widen again in a similar manner as at the first. Continue knitting in this way, widening in every fifth row until you have eighty stitches on your needle. The gore is now half made, and should measure about five and one half inches in length. Complete it by narrowing two stitches after the first and before the last nine stitches in every fifth row, to make this half of the gore correspond in size and shape with the first. When reduced to eighteen stitches, knit fifteen rows, as at the beginning, without narrowing; then bind off, and sew these two ends of the gore together.

Take up the stitches on the edge of the gore. Four needles will now be required, as the ends are knit in rounds alternating two plain and two seamed stitches to form the ribs.

The gore is thus knit first, and the stitches on its sides taken up to knit the ends. The size of the gore and the number of stitches required for it must be regulated by the size of the knee to be fitted, as well as size of yarn and needles.

Cover for Wood Basket.

THE design given for wood basket, or rather the pieces for decorating its sides, may be embroidered in silks, crewels or tinsel, as one may please, and the material to which it is applied is also a matter of choice, for



DESIGN FOR WOOD-BASKET COVER.

the work is pretty on plush, velvet, cloth or less expensive fabrics.

The branch of an apple-tree, with fruit and foliage, is embroidered with tinsel upon plush. The leaves are of gold, the apples deep crimson, the motto or words in orange or gold tinsel; the directions for this work are given in a former number of *THE CABINET*.

Should silks or crewels be used for the embroidery, the leaves and fruit should be colored with their natural tints, and the words only embroidered in tinsel or wood colors. The baskets are made of willow, with sides, but open at each end. They can be purchased at any willow-ware or house-furnishing shop. They are exceedingly pretty when decorated in this way to place beside an open fire-place, where the wood can conveniently be kept with which to replenish the fire.

A bow of satin ribbon is tied at each side of the handle, and the lower edges of the side-pieces trimmed with fringe or the small silk balls which are so often used in place of fringe.

One of the common splint market-baskets, twenty inches long by ten inches wide, will be found more durable, however, and can be decorated in a very tasteful, pretty way. Color the outside of the basket either by using shellac first and a coat of copal varnish when this is dry, which gives it the appearance of light-polished wood; or, what is prettier still, color the slats with

metallic or lustra paints, using two shades, as, for instance, bronze and blue, alternating the colors on the slats. When dry, a branch of pine, with its needles and cones, may be painted across the side and the same motto, already suggested, put on in gay lettering.

The basket may then have a full lining of cardinal, or light-blue cambric, and bows of broad satin, or grosgrain ribbon, tied at each side of the handle.

M. E. WHITTEMORE.

Decorative Notes.

A NOVELTY in decoration is a tinsel-like material called "filogrette," which is made into leaves and flowers, and then arranged in sprays and clusters for

trimming scrap-baskets, wall-pockets, screens and mantel lambrequins. Water-lilies and buds are very beautiful of this material, as a metallic colored tinsel is used for the leaves, and forms a delightful contrast to the silvery white of the blossoms and buds. A straight mantel drapery of deep wine-colored plush, caught up only at the mantel corners and hanging quite long at the ends, was trimmed with a long spray of these silvery blossoms, which stand out in relief as the natural flowers would be fastened. A row of triple plush balls finished the edge of the lambrequin. The separate flowers, buds and leaves of the filogrette can be purchased at Bentley's for from ten to seventy-five cents each, according to size and quality.

Japanese fans have served a good purpose in many kinds of decoration, but, even when highly colored, the ugly designs printed on most of them detract very much from the beauty. This objection is overcome by covering the paper portion with plush, velvet, or satin. Treated in this way and arranged in a half-open position, they form very ornamental shields for wall-pockets. The folding fans are the ones chosen, and they should have few sticks and not very small folds, or when covered they will seem clumsy and the pretty effect be destroyed. A pasteboard pocket, just large enough to be hidden by the fan, is made in the shape of a quarter circle, the part to be against the wall a trifle smaller than the front, so the latter will round out a very little and



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give room for the contents. Cover the pasteboard with pink silesia, the lower part of the front, for about six inches in depth, with pale pink satin. Cover the fan, as far as its original covering extends, with garnet velvet, cut to fit exactly and carefully gummed to the face of the fan, which must be kept wide open, flat and smooth until entirely dry; then press the fan together in its natural folds and fasten it half open to the face of the pocket, so as to completely hide it at the top and only show the pink satin between the sticks. At the handle of the fan, a full bow of ribbon, two inches wide, in pink and garnet colors, is gracefully tied, and similar ribbons are used to suspend the pocket. When the fans are covered in this way, they are so ornamental they do not need further decoration, but if more is desired a bunch of the filogrette flowers, or a delicate floral design painted in oil, is appropriate and elegant.

Very dainty catchalls can also be made with these covered fans. One with black sticks was covered on the outside with pink velvet and lined with satin of the same color. A bow of ribbon, with long loops, finished the bottom, and it was hung by other ribbons fastened at the top.

The fans are exceedingly pretty covers for shaving papers when arranged to hang by the handle; the shape renders them so convenient for this purpose, as the tissue paper cut in small points on the edges is fastened by a cord running through it at the point where the handle comes, and each sheet is then easily loosened when wanted for use.

The new material called "braidene," and described in the August number of THE FLORAL CABINET, is also known as "ribbosene," and is extensively used for embroidery. An oblong shaped pincushion of peacock-blue velvet shown at Bentley's Art Store has a bunch of buttercups worked on it—the petals with ribbosene and the leaves and stems with filo-floss. A ruching of ribbosene loops (sold by the yard for such purposes), of two

shades of yellow, bordered the cushion. The toilet bottles to go with this were low in shape, six-sided, and to correspond with the cushion, covered plainly with the velvet, which at the top was edged with the ribbosene ruche; a pale yellow ribbon, one inch in width, was tied around the neck of the bottle and held the cover snugly to it.

A simply made, yet very pretty and serviceable dressing-case cover consists of two strips of congress canvas five inches in width and whatever length you wish the cover to be. Run a narrow hem in each edge; overhand the two strips to a handsome piece of antique lace insertion of the same length and three inches in width; then pull out enough lengthwise threads in each canvas strip, to run in three ribbons three-quarters of an inch wide and leave a plain space between them. The ribbons should be of different colors—two of peacock-blue and one of yellow for each strip, and woven in the canvas by passing over six threads and under six. The cover is bordered with antique lace, and mats are made to correspond. The ribbons can be easily removed when the cover needs to be laundered.

Brass standards with rod and rings for holding bannerets to serve as lamp screens can be obtained at very reasonable prices. The banneret should be six inches wide and nine long if the standard is of medium size. One recently made was of green silk covered over with bolting cloth, on which a spray of arbutus blossoms was embroidered; the pink petals worked with ribbosene consisted of only one stitch each, the stems and leaves in outline with silk floss in shades of green. As the bolting cloth is very open and thin, it softened the color of the silk beneath, giving it a very delicate, silvery appearance. A band of green velvet was placed across the top and bottom of the banneret and the lower edge trimmed with three tassels of quaint, coin-like metal in which green twist was tied.

CYNTHIA.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

THE month of November brings to us the anticipation—often the reality also—of storms and cold, drizzling days, and of evenings when it is comfortable to "draw in" to the fire, typically the blazing wood or cannel coal, but more often, in our days of improvement—or the reverse—the hole in the floor or wall yecept "register."

As a fitting accompaniment to storms and fires, at least to our fairer readers, is a discussion on dress and what to buy for the winter. So we join the cosy circle, and, with the wisdom of years and experience, offer a few suggestions.

There is a decided innovation in materials for walking and traveling dresses. A material called "homespun" seems to be the favorite. It is often made up by itself, and quite as often with velvet accessories, usually cuffs and a collar; sometimes, in addition, a panel on the skirt, and a revers on the front drapery.

There is also a decided change as to the use of pleat-

ings on skirts. The long pleats have almost entirely disappeared, which will be a blessing both to the makers and the wearers, as it detracts materially from the weight of a skirt to have only a narrow pleating at the foot and a plain skirt above it, either with or without draperies.

Collars are universally worn higher and closed entirely in the front. They are designated either as "officers' collars," "dog collars," or "chokers."

Equally fashionable with homespun are the "bouclé cloths," which slightly resemble astrachan. The style of making is almost identical with the homespun goods. If drapery is used in the front, it is often raised high, just above the right knee, and held in position by a buckle, slide, clasp, or any suitable ornament of silver, oxidized or plain, bronze, shell, jet or steel, according to the fancy of the wearer or the modiste, and, of course, as may best suit the material.

Basques are often closed with hooks and eyes on the

vest, and then from the edge of the jacket, lacets are passed through eyelets worked in its edge across the vest. Lacets are more used every day, though they are a troublesome way of closing a dress, and probably never will come into general use on this account.

Ribbon is extensively used, not merely in bows, but whole panels are formed of it, terminating in loops and ends, which are finished with tassels of jet or cashmere colored beads, according to the color of the dress material. There are also ribbons made of plush, astrachan and wool, which are very effective as borders and revers on different parts of the costume.

For a bride, a pretty traveling dress is of brown cloth and velvet, with a jacket, which is lined with satin for convenience of putting on and off. It fits easily to the figure, and the pockets are slits in the sides. It may be either single or double breasted, but *must* have a high collar. If the buttons are large and showy, the collar

may be closed by clasps to match. The drapery on the back of the skirt is long and bouffant at the top, and the front drapery is turned up, with a wide velvet revers.

The basque may be made with a very narrow velvet vest, and three or four pleats from the neck to the bottom, merely laid and pressed as far as the top of the darts, or a little lower, and from that point stitched on the edge. For slight figures they are not to be pressed, and the stitching begins lower down.

The bonnet to be worn with this costume is of the cloth and velvet, merely a soft cap, but trimmed with a high-looped bow of moiré ribbon, which in its turn is decorated with a tiny bright bird, which is set on with a little bow of narrow ribbon, in some contrasting color, giving the effect of being tied there.

The gloves are of undressed kid in the same color, or else dogskin gauntlets.

MELUZINA.

HOUSEKEEPING.

Potato Fritters.

Boil three large potatoes and rub them through a colander, then add to them four well beaten-eggs, one teaspoon of rich cream, a little lemon juice, a little nutmeg and some salt. Beat all very light, then drop from a spoon into hot lard and fry the same as doughnuts. Serve hot.

Macaroni with Cheese.

Break a quarter of a pound of macaroni in pieces an inch or two long, and wash quickly in cold water. Cook it in boiling water in a stew-pan for thirty minutes. When it is half done, throw in some salt, and when quite done turn it into a colander. Butter a pudding-dish, put in the macaroni and pour over it a white sauce made of two tablespoonfuls of butter, one of flour, a little salt and pepper, and a pint of cold milk. Warm the butter, stir the flour into it smoothly, add the milk gradually and let it come to a boil. Have ready a half cup of grated cheese and an equal quantity of bread-crumbs; mix them together and spread over the top of the macaroni, and bake fifteen or twenty minutes in a quick oven. If more cheese is liked a cupful can be used. In that case put a layer of the macaroni in the bottom of the dish and pour over it the proper proportion of the sauce, then a layer of cheese, and so on, ending with cheese. Cover the top with bread-crumbs and dot it with bits of butter.

French Dressing for Fish.

Four pounds of white or other fresh fish. Boil and remove the skin and bones; rub together one quarter of a pound of butter and the same weight of flour; have ready one quart of hot milk; chop one quarter of a bunch of parsley and the same of thyme; boil two eggs; grate a small onion until you have obtained two teaspoonful of juice. Now stir the hot milk gradually in the butter and flour, making a smooth sauce; stir into it the other in-

gredients, with salt and pepper to season; put it back on the stove, and let it just come to a boil, as in a smooth custard; lay the fish in a baking dish in layers, seasoning each with salt and pepper; pour the dressing over it; cover the top with grated bread-crumbs, mixed with a little grated cheese, and bake half an hour.

Thanksgiving Pie.

Four lemons, three eggs, two teacups of seeded raisins, three cups of sugar, two cups of water and a pinch of salt. Grate the yellow part of the rind of the lemons, cut off the white part, remove the seeds and chop the remainder with the raisins. Beat the eggs thoroughly, then stir the other ingredients together and bake with two crusts. This will be sufficient for four pies.

Hasty Cake.

One tablespoon of butter, one cup of powdered sugar, one egg, two level cups of sifted flour and three small teaspoons of baking powder. Sift the baking powder with the flour; stir the butter and sugar together, add the egg, well-beaten, then the milk and last the flour. Bake immediately in a quick oven. It is nice baked in a dripping pan or in patty pans, and is best while fresh.

Tapioca Cream.

Wash thoroughly four tablespoonfuls of tapioca and let it stand over-night in an earthen bowl, with one cup of cold water. In the morning, drain off the water and put the tapioca into a double boiler with one quart of milk; let it cook until it is clear, and then stir in the yolks of four eggs, thoroughly beaten, with one cup of sugar and half a teaspoonful of salt. Stir this mixture constantly until it thickens like soft custard. Season with a teaspoonful of lemon extract, and serve perfectly cold.

MRS. C. G. HERBERT.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

About Chrysanthemums.—We heard several times during the summer that chrysanthemums had about had their day, but there is as much reason to believe that the snowdrop and crocus would be forgotten as to assert that chrysanthemums are no longer favorites. Each day our affection gets stronger, and when we see by frost and storm each one of our summer favorites laid low, then is the time our hearts are full of praises for our last and constant entertainer.

There cannot be any of Fashion's fickle mandates considered where a flower so constant and true has our affection, and when one so easily grown as the chrysanthemum is the subject. If proof is wanted that there is less interest taken in the chrysanthemum to-day than there was a year since, we have only to note how many new chrysanthemum shows are being gotten up this season. Raisers of new varieties are prepared to surprise us with many new forms and several new colors. We have seen a few of the newer kinds, and though it is as yet early to give a full list, the following are entirely novel and distinct Japanese: *Cœur fidèle*, silvery white violet centre; *Jupiter*, deep maroon; *Lakmé*, golden salmon; *M. Boucot*, rose-striped violet; *M. Ghys*, white with yellow centre; *M. Raoux*, amaranth, with white points, and *Souvenir de Haarlem*, violet and gold. Among the Chinese which flower later we note: *Exposition de Chalons*, violet and white; *M. V. Morel*, white and yellow; and *New York*, amaranth, gold and white, a magnificent variety. The best new pompon is *Cœur-joie*, deep crimson, each petal lined with golden yellow.

* * *

The Chrysanthemum Appreciated.—At a recent wedding in this city, where several hundred dollars were spent for floral decorations, not a flower was to be seen but the chrysanthemum. Had this been one of the dictates of fashion it would not have been worthy of note, because fashion has complete control over its devotees, and it matters not what the decree may be, or how ridiculous one may appear in its compliance, *society* never objects. In this case fashion was not consulted, and the chrysanthemum was selected for its true loveliness, and for its reasonable fitness.

* * *

New York Horticultural Society.—After a long season of rest this society shows remarkable vitality and has announced a Chrysanthemum Exhibition worthy the name. The exhibition will be held in Horticultural Hall, November 4, 5 and 6. The premium offered are exceedingly liberal amounting to nearly one thousand dollars, and are nearly equally divided between the professional and amateur classes. The display promises to be the finest ever seen in this country, as the principal growers have been actively and systematically at work for the past year in growing the noble specimens that are to compete for the prizes. The secretary says: "The specimens, too, will be finer

than ever, especially the Standard or Tree Chrysanthemums with wide-spreading heads and as many as three and four sorts growing on a single stem.

"The cut-flower department will be represented by 700 varieties, some single blossoms measuring 21 inches in circumference, and the Japanese sorts will be queer and enchanting, more so than any ever before seen outside the gardens of the Mikado in Tokio."

Among prominent exhibitors will be Mr. James R. Pitcher, of Short Hills, N. J., who, as an enthusiast in chrysanthemum culture, has over six hundred specimen plants, and will send to this exhibition 175 varieties, a number of them his own seedlings, never before shown. Mr. Pitcher intends exhibiting at the chrysanthemum display in the American Institute. To the November chrysanthemum shows in Boston and Philadelphia he will send cut-flowers.

* * *

American Institute Floral Exhibition.—A new departure in the arrangement of the exhibition, held September 30 and October 1, 2 and 3, was a special hall set apart for the display, which added much to the effect of both plants and flowers, and was appreciated by the exhibitors and public alike. The exhibition of plants was quite large; a fine group of palms, staged in an alcove, was well done. Some fine specimen agaves and a few curious cacti had many admirers. The general collection of plants consisted of nicely-colored crotons, dracænas, ferns and small palms. There were special classes for zonal pelargoniums (geraniums), coleus and ferns. Some tuberous-rooted begonias were very handsome, the flowers on some being quite four inches in diameter. A group of fancy-leaved caladiums, of the latest new kinds, were most exquisite; words can hardly express the interest centred in this lovely piece of vegetable tracery. Some dracænas and a few other miscellaneous window plants were also an attraction. Hanging baskets and wardian cases were well shown, also a few orchids, among which were the curious butterfly-like *Oncidium papellio* and the scarce *Cypripedium Spicerianum*, with its slipper and sandal flowers.

The cut-flowers were well shown in goodly quantities; especially fine were the dahlias, gladioli, zinnias and verbenas. A seedling dahlia, "J. S. Burgess," rich maroon crimson, of fine shape and depth of petal, was awarded the medal of excellence; another, "The Genesta," nearly black, with lustrous blush tips of the finest form and of medium size, was well shown.

The display of "made-up," or "pieces," as designs in flowers are known, was considerably above the average and on the whole meritorious. A very handsome panel of moss, 30x20 inches, covered with *Statice maritima* lightly draped over it, with a grouping of fine roses interspersed with *Asparagus tenuissimus* and other foliage, was a very excellent piece, as was a "picture,"

34x22 inches; the frame of this was also of moss, the corners being decorated with Japanese honeysuckle and brilliant maple leaves; the centre was a crescent of lilies, roses, gladioli, with other flowers of slight forms. The hand-bouquets (the ones which obtained first prize) were enormous, being twelve or more inches in diameter and ten inches in height. One of them consisted of Perles des Jardin and the other of Mermet roses, each being tied with broad ribbon to match the color of the flowers. The bride's bouquet, as well as that for the corsage, was of the Niphetos rose and lilies-of-the-valley. A funeral design, representing a very large heart, laying flat, with an anchor of ivy leaves leaning on the point and a chain of purple immortelles, with links three inches long, was also worthy of notice.

* * *

The show of coniferous plants and evergreens at the American Institute Fair will be continued until the second week in November, when the grandest and largest display of chrysanthemums ever seen in this country will be inaugurated. The specimens of these beautiful flowers will include hundreds of plants in pots and several thousands of cut-flowers, and will embrace a very large assortment of different species imported from Japan, China, France, Germany and England, as well as home-grown seedlings, the whole forming a show that cannot fail to be a great attraction and of great instructiveness.

* * *

The Exhibition of the Queens County Agricultural Society was a very successful one, and spoke well for the management. All departments were fully represented, but a description of the fruits and flowers will be of most interest to the readers of THE FLORAL CABINET.

The display of fruit was very large and creditable to the county. Apples and pears were seen in great variety and of fine growth. The native grapes were very fine, and kept the exhibitors busy answering the many inquiries as to the merits of the different kinds, and a marked improvement was observed over exhibits of previous years.

A very noticeable feature of the fair was its floral display, and, to regular attendants, was a marked improvement in its different departments—that set off to the amateur particularly so. The plants in pots were better grown and in greater variety.

But in the department of designs and bouquets was to be seen the greatest advancement. A few years back the monstrosities called designs were most lamentable exhibitions of how beautiful flowers could be debased. We remember a framework three feet at the base and perhaps four feet high, surmounted by a series of hooks and points which, by a gentle push, revolved on a pivot, to the great pleasure of the designer. The flowers were all tied closely, no green, a simple mass, with no harmony of color, and only showed what patience could accomplish. At another time a cradle was shown—a mass of flowers—perhaps as an indication that designing was yet in its infancy. Bouquets were made by providing yourself first with a basketful of all kinds of flowers, a stick and a string. You were to start at the end of the stick and tie on a top flower, then keep putting on flowers and wind-

ing the string, enlarging as you proceeded, until your basket was empty. A row of green was fastened at the base, standing at right angles to the stick, and you had your bouquet, as full of beauty as though cut from turnips, and about as graceful. But such arrangements are, I trust, things of the past, and in their places we have designs that show both taste and skill.

Those who saw the beautiful designs of a year ago will not soon forget their exquisite grace and beauty, and cannot help but have learned from them that it is not masses of flowers that tell, but the tasteful arrangement of them.

This year the same hands finished a frame of autumn leaves and ferns with a facing of moss; within this was a crescent of flowers so gracefully arranged that at a distance the whole might easily have been taken for an oil-painting.

Another beautiful arrangement was a vase or urn of graceful shape, covered with gray moss, and fastened on its side was a cluster of flowers and ferns that would put to shame the finest painted pottery.

The bouquets and vases of fine flowers and ferns were also arranged with taste and grace; no crowding and massing, but things of real beauty that would grace any occasion.

N. H.

* * *

Rosa rugosa, the Ramanas Rose of Japan.—There seems to be a strong disposition on the part of the rose growers, both in this country and in Europe, to call this a new rose, and to entirely ignore its first introduction into this country, which was about 1844, it having been brought here by Commodore Perry on his return from Japan after negotiating a commercial treaty between this country and that. At Queens, Long Island, on the grounds of the late Mr. Manice, there is a large clump of it growing from the plants originally sent by Commodore Perry, who also brought to this country at the same time the *Polygonatum giganteum*, var. *Macranthum*, which has since been brought out as a novelty.

* * *

Cosmos.—This is an exceedingly interesting tuberous-rooted perennial, with flowers not unlike those of a single dahlia, and will thrive with precisely the same treatment. It may be also grown as an annual by starting the seeds in the greenhouse or window-garden in February, and plant out as soon as the ground is warm and dry. It grows to the height of four feet, is much branched, each branch bearing a flower at the apex. The petals are eight in number, about two inches in length. There can be but one objection to this plant for the border; that is the period of its flowering. It does not come into bloom until about the first of October; consequently its period of beauty in this latitude is short, although it will stand as much frost as the chrysanthemum, for which it is a fitting companion. It is a more delicate and graceful plant, as well as a more imposing one. Thus far we have only known it to be grown as an annual, but if the roots were kept over winter, the same as the dahlia, we think it would come into bloom much earlier, possibly as early as the dahlia. We have seen but two species under cultivation, and they probably truly represent the whole family. These are *C. bipinnata*, with purple flowers, and *C. parvi-*

flora, with pure white flowers. Loudon, in the *Gardener's Magazine*, 1838, said: "The genus *Cosmos* abounds in beautiful species. *C. tenuifolius* has large, bright, rose-colored flowers, and others, with bright yellow, pink or rich purple blossoms, still unknown in gardens, may be expected to appear from among the many valuable collections of Mexican seeds now in course of importation to this country. They are more particularly deserving attention, because they will probably become double, like the dahlia." The idea that this flower will become double is probably an error of judgment, as it does not in the least show any indication of a double form. We should like very much to see the rose-colored and yellow sorts, which, if as beautiful as the two species noticed, and which may now be seen in their glory on the grounds of Mr. Childs, Floral, N. Y., must be truly desirable.

* * *

The Morgan Sale of Orchids.—Last month we gave particulars of the opening day of the auction sale of the late Mrs. Mary J. Morgan's collection. The succeeding days were repetitions of the first day in the attendance, the interested watchfulness for bargains in rare specimens and the wide range of destinations to which the treasures went. From the detailed reports published we summarize as follows:

The highest price ever paid for an orchid in this country was for a *Vanda Sanderiana* in bloom. Florist Siebrecht bought it for \$900, for, it is understood, Broker Charles J. Osborn, of Wall street and Mamaroneck. It cost Mrs. Morgan about \$2,000. One of the orchid hunter's agents for Sander & Co., St. Albans, England, found it. The plant was sold by Sander & Co., whose name was given to it, to a Mr. Backhouse, a collector in York, for \$500, and from him Veitch & Son purchased it for \$1,500, as agents for Mrs. Morgan. The expense of importing the plant made it cost Mrs. Morgan about \$2,000.

Auctioneer Elliott made a speech when the orchid was lifted on a box to be sold. It was in moss, in a square wooden crate, 1½ feet square, and was about a foot high. The weight of the plant itself was not half the weight of \$900 in gold. The bidders delayed, and then Louis Menand, of Albany, said \$100. Isaac Buchanan, an old collector, added \$150 more, and Florist Siebrecht bid \$350. In five seconds William Court, for Veitch & Son, had bid \$500, John Bergman, for Sander & Co., \$600, and Mr. Court sent it up to \$750. Mr. Bergman tacked on \$50 more, and there was a lull in the bidding.

Mr. Siebrecht bid \$900, and took the flower out of the building in his arms.

The odontoglossums found in cool climates, and hardy for Orchids, were sold first. The first sold was an *Odontoglossum Roezlii album*, very fine specimen, for \$26, to Henry Graves, Orange. Sander & Co., of St. Albans, bought its duplicate for \$12. A *phalænopsis* went to Mr. Graves for \$14.

Of the *Odontoglossum crispum Alexandræ* variety there were seventy plants. They went to Henry Graves, of Orange; John S. Bush, of Tremont, and Gen. William H. Barnum, of Live Rock, for \$2 or \$3 apiece. A dozen specimens of *Odontoglossum Pescatorei* were taken by

Mr. Graves for \$19.50 for the lot. The remainder of the principal odontoglossums were sold at prices ranging from \$1 to \$50 each.

Specimens of *oncidium*, with their delicate blooms, from the Philippine Islands and from South America, brought from \$2 to \$37.

The genus *Phalænopsis*, which often remains in bloom for six months at a time, was next reached. Java, Borneo, Sumatra and Manilla are its homes. The most important prices obtained were as follows:

Phalænopsis intermedia Portei, very rare, \$55; W. S. Kimball.

Phalænopsis intermedia Portei, \$25; Erastus Corning.

Phalænopsis grandiflora Borneo, \$21; W. Siebrecht.

Phalænopsis grandiflora Borneo, \$20; Jay Gould.

Phalænopsis casta, \$20; De Witt S. Smith.

Phalænopsis leucorrhoda alba, \$50; Erastus Corning.

Next came the *saccolabium*, found only in the hottest districts of India, where they grow on the branches of trees. The best prices were as follows:

Saccolabium giganteum, \$27; George Such.

Saccolabium guttatum Holfordianum, \$26; W. S. Kimball.

In the sales of the "Vandas" we found the following of most importance:

Vanda Sanderiana, eight plants, largest specimen in cultivation, \$900; W. Siebrecht, as noted above.

Vanda Lowii, four feet high, largest specimen in cultivation, \$400; W. S. Kimball.

Vanda Batemanii, four feet high, very fine specimen, \$100; W. S. Kimball.

Vanda Batemanii, six feet high, \$40; George Such.

Vanda suavis, nine plants, five feet high, fine specimen, \$70; George Such.

Vanda tricolor superba, \$50; John V. Cockroft.

Vanda suavis Holfordii, \$25; John S. Bush.

Vanda tricolor aurca, two plants, \$50; C. J. Osborn.

Vanda insignis, two plants, \$25; W. Siebrecht.

Vanda insignis, two plants, \$30; W. S. Kimball.

Vanda Denisoniana, \$35; same buyer.

Vanda tricolor, fine specimen, \$25; W. Siebrecht.

Vanda tricolor, variety *planilabris*, \$22; W. S. Kimball.

Thirty-one plants of the *Vanda suavis* order went to H. G. Marquand, William Falconer, W. Siebrecht, W. S. Kimball, C. J. Osborn, Frederick Scholes, Robert Garrett, William Matthews, W. C. Wilson, and John Slocum from prices varying from \$5 to \$40 each.

Other Vandas bought were:

Vanda Sanderiana, \$36; W. S. Kimball.

Vanda insignis, \$16; Mr. Cockroft.

Vanda tricolor, \$33; D. W. S. Smith.

Vanda Boxalii, fine specimen, \$14; William Falconer.

Vanda gigantea, \$9; William Matthews.

Vanda Parishii variegata, \$14; Sander & Co.

Vanda cærulea, \$39; C. J. Osborn.

The aggregate of the sales was very small compared with the cost to Mrs. Morgan of the collection; but she paid extravagant prices, and such as few, if any, collectors have ever equalled.

Helianthus argophyllus.—Last spring a miscellaneous lot of flower seeds were sent us to test. Among the number was a package of the *Helianthus argophyllus*, the silver-leaved sunflower, a native of Texas, which, after a fair trial, we find possesses several advantages over any other sunflower we have had under cultivation. It has a graceful habit of growth, while its silvery gray foliage adds greatly to its beauty. It grows from four feet to six feet high, and branches to the very base, the branches themselves being much ramified—an arrangement which insures an abundant supply of flower heads, as each branch terminates with a flower. These are about three inches across, the ray-florets being a bright yellow color, and the disk of a blackish purple. The whole is densely clothed with a soft gray pubescence, especially the younger branches, which gives it a silvery aspect, to which its specific name alludes. In saving seeds of this variety careful selection is necessary, as some of the plants are inclined to lose their pubescence, which takes from them their real beauty and distinctive features. Select seeds from the most hairy plants and those of the most compact habit of growth.

* * *

Gumming Flowers is practised to a considerable extent by the English florists, and E. A. Arnold thus describes, in the *Nineteenth Century*, the manner in which it is done: "Gumming flowers is another simple but useful trick of the trade. It is applied to pelargoniums, azaleas, and all flowers which have a tendency to drop off. A single drop of gum is inserted with the end of a sharp pointed stick into the centre of each calyx, and by this means the conformity of the bloom may be preserved for two or three weeks. Although they bear no marks of the process, all the cut-flowers and blooming plants of the kinds specified are thus treated before they are brought to market, the composition of the gum being such as to dry up and set immediately, becoming invisible even to the closest scrutiny."

The same writer, in speaking of the cultivation of flowers as a business, makes the following remarks, which may seem strange to a people who are taught to think that it is what a man *is*, and not what he *has*, that makes the man:

"Before any decisive steps are taken toward entering a business of this kind, there is another matter which claims equal consideration with that of profit and loss. The question of social position is an important factor in the case, which ought not to be lightly disregarded. No doubt in London the 'status' of business men is fully recognized, but much of the old exclusiveness still prevails in the country, where connection with trade is by no means a good passport into society. A man who settles in a fresh neighborhood, without introductions and with nothing but unpretentious business to recommend him, will do wisely not to calculate upon being received with open arms at the outset. In the long-run he will be sure to find his level, but it will require great tact, patience and steadiness to live through an inevitable period of isolation, with but little to relieve the monotony of work. Nevertheless, if a man is genuinely devoted to the pursuit, so that it can serve him at need both for

business and pleasure; if he possesses that resolute determination to succeed which asserts itself in spite of difficulties, making the most of every opportunity and refusing to recognize an impossible, then there is but little fear of his being disappointed with horticulture or regretting his choice of such a novel profession. He will appreciate the value of having secured a country life, amid the fragrance of flowers gathered from all quarters of the globe to bloom at command beneath an English sky; he will rejoice in the manly feeling of independence and freedom unknown to 'men about town' and he will have the satisfaction of believing that his work consists in ministering to one of the purest and most refined tastes of a civilized community—the newly-awakened love of flowers."

* * *

Pompones Zinnias are coming into favor and justly deserve all the compliments that are bestowed upon them. For massing purposes they are preferable to what are popularly known as bedding plants, as they are constantly in bloom, little or no trouble to cultivate, and there is no class of flowers that make a greater display. The flowers are far better than those of the taller growing varieties, not only in form but in variety and intensity of color. The florets are perfectly imbricated, forming a symmetrical cone perfect to the tip. The colors are indescribable, being so subtle in gradation of tints. They range from pure white, through delicate creams and buffs, and from the most delicate pink to the richest crimsons and reds. There does not appear to be the same difficulty in keeping the colors separate in this as in the old type. We have recently seen growing for seed purposes several rows of 400 feet each in length, each row being of but one color, and we have never seen the color line drawn more evenly, not a variation in the whole lot, and the grower said the seed was saved from plantings made in the same way last season.

Literary Notes, Etc.

With the November number, *Harper's Magazine* concludes its seventy-first volume. The most striking paper of this number is the illustrated article on that most remarkable of our metropolitan institutions, the New York Stock Exchange. While Dr. Wheatley's purpose does not seem to be the presentation of the evils of speculation, he clearly shows that a great portion of the brokerage business consists of fictitious sales. "The Defense of Our Seaports" sounds a note of warning, and the article entitled "An Indian Journey," with its illustrations, vividly reproduces the attractions of a New England autumn and many scenes of early conflicts with the savages. For the December number is announced among other attractions, a contribution by Rev. Henry Van Dyke, Jr., D.D., on "The Nativity in Art," to be illustrated by thirteen engravings from paintings relating to the subject by both old and modern masters. The frontispiece is to be an engraving of Raphael's "Madonna del Granduca," and with the illustrated stories and poems

especially appropriate to the Christmas season, the new volume promises to open with unusual attractions.

Harper's Bazar spreads weekly before its readers a feast of stories, poems, art illustrations and a constant variety of beautifully engraved fashion plates. The articles exclusively devoted to fashions contain a fund of practical suggestions, and consisting as they do chiefly of information furnished by the best known dry-goods houses can be depended upon for accuracy. With such aids as are here furnished and the pattern-sheets accompanying the *Bazar*, dressmaking at home is not a difficult matter.

"The Canadian Foresters' Illustrated Guide." By J. Chapais, of the Department of Agriculture, Quebec, Canada. This publication is gotten up in the interest of forestry, and treats the subject in a masterly manner. The book is divided into four separate parts under the following heads: The Preservation of our Forests; The Restoration of our Forests; The Creation of new Forests, and Special Subjects connected with Forestry. It would be difficult to get more information in the same space than is to be found in this volume of 170 pages, while the illustrations are excellent.

Parker & Wood, 49 North Market street, Boston, Mass.—Descriptive catalogue of Dutch and American bulbs and roots for fall planting. Fully illustrated and complete in cultural instructions.

"Lovitt's Guide to Fruit Culture." J. T. Lovitt, Little Silver, N. J. This is a complete catalogue of all that pertains to the orchard and garden.

"Landreth's Rural Register for 1885." A complete catalogue of vegetable and farm seeds. Sent free to all applicants by D. Landreth & Sons, Philadelphia, Pa.

John S. Collins, Moorestown, N. J.—Wholesale price-list of plants, vines and trees grown at the Pleasant Valley Nurseries.

Hooper & Co., Covent Garden, London.—Annual illustrated bulb catalogue for the fall of 1885. A complete list of bulbs and plants for the open border and the greenhouse.

William H. Moon's priced quotations of fruit and ornamental trees, shrubs, small fruits, grape-vines, &c., cultivated and for sale at the Glenwood Nurseries, Morrisville, Bucks County, Pa.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Plant for Name.—*J. W. Briggs*.—*Artemisia Abrotanum*, commonly known as "Southern-wood" or "old man." It is a hardy, low growing shrub. Its leaves, when held up against a strong light, appear full of transparent dots. These are the vesicles containing the fragrant oil that gives out the scent, and when these are broken by rubbing the leaves, it causes them to give out a more powerful odor.

Bermuda Lily.—*Old Subscriber*.—The growth and flowering of this lily is almost continuous; after flowering, give a partial rest by gradually withholding water. In a short time it will throw up new stems, when it should be grown on rapidly. A peculiarity of this lily is, that its bulbs mature while its flowers are developing.

Asparagus tenuissimus.—*Same*.—This plant is rapidly increased from cuttings, and should have ordinary greenhouse temperature. When fully grown it makes a splendid plant for the window-garden. Young plants do splendidly in tubs or vases out of doors, in a partially shaded situation.

Pachyphytum.—*Subscriber*.—These are stout-growing succulent plants allied to echeverias. They are commonly used for bedding-out in summer, usually in geometrical beds. The leaves are thick and fleshy, and form rosettes, and the whole plant has a whitened tone which gives it a distinct and ornamental character. They are readily propagated by pulling off the leaves and placing them in pans or pots of clean sand and keeping them in a warm situation. The plants will keep well during the winter in a dry, warm cellar, or in the living-room. They should be watered only sparingly.

Cotyledon.—*Same*.—This is a plant of similar habit as the above and should be treated in the same manner. They are plants of no great beauty, but interesting from the manner in which they are supposed to feed; the surface of the leaves is covered with myriads of pores or mouths, through which they are supposed to take their nourishment, the roots, seemingly, are only required to hold them in position. The ornamental species are all natives of the Cape of Good Hope.

Zephyranthes candida.—*Emily*.—This is not, as you suppose, a native of the United States, as is *Z. Treatea* and *Atamasco*. It is a native of Peru, and is popularly known as the Peruvian swamp lily. It is one of the most beautiful flowering bulbs we have for the border. The flowers are pure white and bear a strong resemblance to the crocus; it is a persistent bloomer and not injured by a few degrees of frost.

Crab Cactus.—*Miss Kate Adams, Louisiana*.—The crab cactus, *Epiphyllum truncatum*, delights in a rich, well-drained, sandy soil, and should have plenty of air, water and sunlight when in a growing condition, and kept nearly dry when at rest. It is likely you gave yours too much water when dormant. You can have no better guide for its cultivation than to follow the example of that unskilled hand that succeeded so well with it.

Plant for Name.—*Same*.—The slip you sent is not a cactus, but a *Stapelia*, commonly known as the starfish flower, a plant belonging to the milkweed family. It grows readily from cuttings, and makes a very interesting house plant.

OUR ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 1886.

THE LADIES' FLORAL CABINET approaches the close of the Fourteenth Year and the opening of its Fifteenth Year with more than usual satisfaction. The record for 1885 has much in it to make glad; the outlook for 1886 is bright with promise.

THE FLORAL CABINET leads as The Magazine of Floriculture for Amateurs, giving more pages of reading matter and more illustrations than ANY OTHER PUBLICATION devoted to the same topic; maintaining its high position as an authority on questions arising in Floriculture: introducing to its readers' attention Novelties in plants while they are Novelties, and treating every subject from an independent position; being entirely dissociated with all trade alliances, having no ends to serve except its own interests as a Magazine, and those interests are best promoted by securing for its subscribers authentic information upon all phases of Floriculture, and thus attaining a constituency highly valued by a rapidly increasing number of First-class Advertisers. Upon this latter point, one of our advertisers wrote last month: "I inclose check for \$95.16. * * * I cannot but say that I have received as many inquiries from the FLORAL CABINET as all the other papers in which I have advertised the past year."

OUR SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS.

During 1885 we have had articles from CHAS. L. ALLEN, PETER HENDERSON, JOHN THORPE, WILLIAM FALCONER, E. D. STURTEVANT, GEO. F. WILSON, F.R.S., Weybridge Heath, Eng.; C. E. PARNELL, F. LANCE, E. P. POWELL, HENRY S. RUPP, EBEN E. REXFORD, F. M. COLBY, WM. BENNETT, WARREN H. MANNING, E. L. TAPLIN, MRS. SUSIE A. BISBEE, MRS. G. W. FLANDERS, MRS. T. L. NELSON, ANNIE L. JACK, MRS. M. D. WELLCOME, MRS. M. J. PLUMSTEAD, MAGGIE THORPE, LOUISE DUDLEY, MRS. J. S. R. THOMPSON, &c., &c.

We hope to add materially to this list during 1886, securing new writers as fast as they can be obtained.

In the departments of Domestic Arts the original designs by MISS M. E. WHITTEMORE and MRS. E. S. WELCH, with accompanying descriptions, may be looked for, and the valued Housekeeping articles of MRS. C. G. HERBERT will continue to be a feature.

OUR PREMIUMS FOR 1886.

It is our pleasure to present below the selection of premiums made for 1886, and it embraces in Premium No. 1 as rare a collection of flower seeds as has ever been offered to the readers of any publication. The varieties enumerated will afford abundance of bloom throughout the season, in as many different colors as such a list could furnish. Six of the number are summer-flowering, two for the late fall, and two everlastings for winter floral decorations, so that our subscribers need not be without bouquets during the coming year, if cultural directions are faithfully followed.

A bulb of the *Tigridia grandiflora alba*, which gave so much satisfaction last year, constitutes Premium No. 2, and the popular *Amaryllis rosea* Premium No. 3.

PREMIUM No. 1.

FLOWER SEEDS.

Asters, Peony-flowered (1).—One of the best in every respect; mixed colors.

Calliopsis lanceolata (2).—A perennial and constant blooming variety. Colors: shades of yellow.

Candytuft (3).—One of the most popular hardy annuals. Mixed colors: white, rose and carmine.

Delphinium Chinensis, Larkspur (4).—Flowers blue.

Dianthus Chinensis, China Pink (5).—Hardy annual; very desirable for cut-flowers.

Mignonette, *Golden Queen* (6).

Pansy (7).—Fancy varieties mixed.

Phlox Drummondii (8).—Mixed colors: white, red and purple.

Acroclitium (9).—One of the most valuable of the everlastings, with daisy-like flowers; white, pink and rose colors mixed.

Helichrysum (10).—Another desirable everlasting; flowers, white, yellow and dark red.

PREMIUM No. 2.

One Bulb *Tigridia grandiflora alba*.—Pure white, spotted with crimson in centre; gold-banded petals. This is one of the most showy and beautiful of all the summer-flowering bulbs.

PREMIUM No. 3.

One Bulb *Amaryllis rosea* (*Zephyranthes*).—Rose-colored



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LADIES'
FLORAL CABINET.
H. W. TROY

Volume XIV.

DECEMBER, 1885.

No. 12.



Santa Claus as a Florist.
His Favorite Species.

ROSE GOSSIP.

THE meeting of the Society of American Florists, in August last, was a great event. It presented novel, if not unique, features, amply sufficient to distinguish it from humdrum societies of a kindred character. For instance, it deliberately killed off its worthy president with the most refreshing *sangfroid*, simply for the sake of getting up in his honor a glowing obituary, exceeding in pathetic unction anything that Mr. Dana, of the *Sun*, has ever quoted from the efforts in that line of his friend, Mr. Childs, of the Philadelphia *Ledger*. Subsequently, a committee was formed to restore the president to life again, which magic feat was successfully accomplished by the skillful administration of an elegant gold watch, and the meeting again assumed its normal aspect, the smiling president looking none the worse from the sanguinary ordeal through which he had passed. It is quite possible that suspicion may arise as to the absolute fidelity of these succinct details; therefore, let doubting readers be convinced by procuring a copy of the extraordinary proceedings, one of which was kindly sent me by an esteemed friend, a prominent member of the society, who, with a solitary exception—he admires roses in a perfunctory way only—is an epitome of human perfections, natural and acquired. He, having been present as a moving actor in the exciting scene, is fully prepared to testify to the correctness of my sketch. On the whole, the society is an organization full of promise for the future, it is destined without doubt to accomplish useful work and to introduce needed reforms in the floricultural field. Among the many good things contained in the spicy and attractive pamphlet, I was specially drawn to a paper read by Mr. Halliday on “The Disadvantages of Cultivating and Advertising Innumerable Varieties of the Same Plant.” It was gratifying to observe that Mr. Halliday did not treat this important subject solely from the florist’s point of view, but with most commendable unselfishness pleaded the cause of the amateur grower as well.

His idea, he explained, was to prevent “unnecessary time and labor to be lost by the grower, as well as bewilderment and dissatisfaction to the purchaser,” and to “make selection less complicated to the amateur cultivator.” Among the leading flowers whose lists, he argued, should be abridged were Hybrid Remontant roses, for the reason that the distinction between many of the varieties was one without a difference. Just here, as an amateur grower, grateful for the consideration accorded by Mr. Halliday to amateurs in general, I shall venture to make a suggestion which is of the highest importance in our interests, and would, I feel confident, add very much to the standing and prestige of the professional growers. The suggestion I offer is this: That the Society of American Florists exact from all its members correctness in naming the flowers they offer for sale. Could strict obedience to this simple edict be enforced, then the difficulty of which Mr. Halliday deprecates the existence would

be summarily solved, and the long, imposing (in every sense of the word) and untruthful lists of many catalogues would be wonderfully and radically curtailed. I know from painful experience that an exceedingly restricted stock of varieties offers no obstacle to many dealers to send out long, varied and tempting descriptions of sorts that when ordered prove to be fraudulently named. In these remarks I refer exclusively to the rose. Having cultivated it for many years I naturally have had dealings with several prominent houses—a dozen or more—that make a specialty of the rose. I do not wish it to be understood that I bring sweeping charges against the entire confraternity as a class, for I am aware that among the hundreds who follow the profession there are many who, by infinite care and energetic personal supervision, send out plants accurately named. My remarks apply to that portion of the profession who, from culpable negligence, lack of a thorough knowledge of the rose, or from some less avowable cause, are in different degrees provokingly untrustworthy.

My own experience, as well as that of every rose cultivator of my acquaintance, convinces me that this intolerable abuse is widespread, and to confirm this view I have had quite recently the unsought testimony of a florist who carries on an extensive business. He has dealt in roses quite largely for years, although up to a recent date his trade has been principally confined to monthlies. He decided to increase his stock of Hybrid Remontants, acquired a large collection and propagated from them in immense quantities. He issued a seductive catalogue, containing an extensive list of select sorts, which included all the newer varieties, such as Merveille de Lyon, Queen of Queens, William Francis Bennett, &c., &c.

As he was one of my favorite dealers I was delighted at the new departure, and immediately on receipt of his catalogue sent him an order for fifty plants. They arrived in excellent condition about the end of April, having been shipped by express with the earth surrounding the roots intact. They were planted in open ground after having passed a quarantine of two or three weeks in a hotbed. The season proved singularly favorable and they made exceedingly vigorous growth, many of them forming bushy plants three feet in height at the end of the summer, and with few exceptions all bloomed; as they did so my disenchantment began. I had already received Merveille de Lyon on its first appearance in this country and was so charmed with it that I ordered three additional plants from him. These were the first to bloom, and to my great disgust proved to be a Hybrid Noisette, Coquette des Blanches, thus proving false to class as well as name. This was followed by the appearance of Agrippina, who had the audacity to personate Madame Isaac Periere; and Sydonie, not at all a rare sort, eventually emerged into the still more commonplace Pæonia; Mme. Gabriel Luizet, on whom I had lavished extra care and attention, turned out to be a very

vigorous La France, a result I half suspected from her peculiar habit, even before blooming. Auguste Mie manifested lofty aspirations in styling himself Climbing Jules Margottin, a pretension his sprawling, prostrate habit failed to corroborate. Prince Camille de Rohan, of kingly lineage, by some inexplicable freak, contrary to all evolutionary precedents, degenerated into the plain plebeian, Paul Ricant. A little later on I found that an insignificant Hybrid Noisette had had the vaulting ambition to assume the royal role of Queen of Queens, whose ample charms and regal bearing were ludicrously represented by the puny, faded-out impostor. But the impertinent versatility of Antoinette Strozio went beyond all bounds, for she pertly attempted to pass off her meagre charms for those of half a dozen veritable court beauties, not to mention the unpardonable indelicacy of donning male attire, and aggravating that impropriety by galivanting round as E. Y. Teas, a highly respectable gentleman, who in his capacity as a rose is also refined and elegant, and has carried off the highest honors at scores of foreign rose shows; honors which no doubt are fully equalled by the respect he has won in the more material state of his dual existence. At all events it is only just that he should be duly warned of the compromising manoeuvres of the artful Antoinette. Achille Gounod, with irreverent effrontery, assumed to be in holy orders, and in the stolen cassock of the Rev. J. B. Camm proved to be that saddest of all libels on humanity, a clerical fraud.

But to record in detail each disenchanting metamorphosis would occupy too much space; suffice it to say that more than one half of the consignment turned out arrant humbugs, while two of the plants gave up the ghost before showing their colors, no doubt from a morbid fear of the ignominy of ultimate detection, or perhaps they had the redeeming grace to die of remorse of conscience. I discovered, by taking away the earth, that another whose foliage had begun to wilt and turn to a sickly yellow, had been overtaken by Nemesis, in the shape of a white grub, which had remorselessly eaten away all its roots, thus bringing its career of duplicity to an untimely close. I had dealt with the florist who furnished me with this masquerade of the roses for years and had found him trustworthy and liberal, and my previous orders had usually been filled with care and accu-

racy. Consequently, I came to the conclusion that this particular lot had been made up by some heedless and incompetent assistant, who would probably have replied, to any remonstrance as to the intricate confusion of identity in the roses as satisfactorily as did the old showman in *Punch*, who, when requested by a verdant patron to point out "which wax figger is the Duke of Wellington and which is Napoleon," replied with bland suavity, "You pays your money and you takes your choice."

It is all in vain that flippant florists quote Shakespeare in justification of their crooked tricks, involuntary or otherwise, "What's in a name, &c.!" Let some courageous florist suggest to Miss Rose Cleveland the fitness and altruistic (or whatever it is) propriety of styling herself "Dorcas Mehitable Cleveland." The result of such temerity would, in all probability, be that the Bard of Avon would evermore cease to be an authority for that particular florist (not to mention the mark of the broomstick). No, no, a rose decked with a fraudulent name does not, by any means, smell as sweet.

But now the damaging testimony is to come. Of course I was surprised and indignant at the result, and wrote to the florist, giving him an unvarnished account of the unsatisfactory shipment. He replied, expressing great regret at my discomfiture, and offered to make amends another season for the glaring confusion in which my order reached me. He explained that in forming his collection of Hybrid Remontants from which to propagate he had obtained the stock plants from the *various leading dealers* in roses, and believing them to be correctly named had sent them out to his customers in good faith, carefully labeled as he had received them.

I have no reason to question his statement, for I believe him to be an honorable man, and, although my wrongs were aggravated by the fact that he replied by a type-writer (I cordially hate type-written letters; the entire get-up, not excepting the ideas, has a mechanical turn), I accepted his explanation. In conclusion, I think I may be permitted to say that this incident proves pretty clearly that the abuse complained of is a general one, and that the Society of American Florists can earn lasting honor by making straight the crooked paths by which an important minority of American florists attempt to find the way that leads to fortune. F. LANCE.

SEEDLING CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

THE seed was the choicest American, raised and saved from the finest hand-fertilized flowers by John Thorpe. The packet was a small one, but I raised from it 114 plants, all of which have grown and flowered.

SOWING.—I sowed the seed last March, in light soil in a flat (seed-pan), and placed it in a warm greenhouse. In from seven to eleven days the seedlings appeared, and in a few days more I pricked them off into other flats and still kept them in the greenhouse. When they grew enough to begin to crowd each other in the flat, I trans-

planted them two to three inches apart into shallow boxes filled with rich soil and placed them in a cold frame till planting-out time, toward the end of May. I think every seed must have germinated.

SUMMER CARE.—They were planted in very sandy but highly manured land, in rows a yard apart each way. From the first they grew away kindly and never halted in their growth till flowering time. I mulched over their roots with rotted manure, and as the summer advanced and drouth began to be felt I made basin-shaped hollows

LARGE-FLOWERED PLANTAIN LILY (*Funkia grandiflora*).

over the roots of each plant and filled them with coarse manure. These hollows not only served as a basin to retain water, but the manure acted as a mulching to preserve the moisture in the ground. I never pinched them any, as I wanted to get them into flower early, and also to observe their natural habits. In August, however, so heavily branched had many of them become that I had to put a few stakes to each plant and run a piece of string around them, hoop fashion. During the dry weather I watered them heavily two or three times.

TRANSPLANTING.—About the first of October I lifted and transplanted them to a position where they would

show to better advantage when in bloom. As soon as planted I gave them a thorough soaking of water and afterward, for a few days, sprinkled them overhead once or twice a day. Very few of them wilted at all.

HABITS.—They differed considerably. Some were inclined to be tall and straight, others broad and sprawly; some were high, broad and compact, others low, broad and cushion-shaped; some were weak and others strong. In the foliage, too, they differed a good deal.

FLOWERS.—Some showed flower-buds early in September, others not till October; some were in full bloom about the middle of October, and others have now (No-

vember 10) only opened their earliest flowers; but the great mass came into bloom between October 18 and 28. Some of the flowers are single, others half-double, and many of them full-double. In color, they include every shade found in chrysanthemums. The flowers of no two plants are alike, and not one of them, except one, is like any other variety that I know. The one exception has double white flowers exactly like those of Mme. Desgranges, but two weeks later and the foliage is different. Their profusion is extreme; indeed many of the plants are solid masses of bloom, two feet and one-half to four feet across. The individual flowers are one inch and a half to four inches and a half across, and all except four or five, are over two inches and a half.

AS COMPARED WITH OTHER VARIETIES.—All are beautiful. After discarding a dozen, all are fine; discard fifty and those left would be very fine. But I shall keep only about twenty-five of them; these are so beautiful and showy, both as garden plants and for cut-flowers, that I must give them another year's trial before I can submit to reduce them farther. Five or six are as fine, in their way, as any old varieties I know; still I shall designate them by numbers only and not by names.

WHY I WILL NOT NAME THEM.—Because I have no white as good as Elaine, White Dragon or Snow-storm; no yellow as good as Gloria Mundi, Gloriosum or General Gordon; nothing as good as Mr. Gladstone, Ceres, Rubrum Striatum, Admiration, M. C. Andiguieur or M. Delaux. I don't approve of flooding the country

with a host of flowers that are not of most superior merit. There is a multitude of chrysanthemums raised from seed every year, and the chances are that this host shall increase a hundredfold within a few years; most all of the seedlings are beautiful; most every raiser wishes to have some of his own raised plants named and spread upon the market; and so the varieties of chrysanthemums shall increase in names faster than will the varieties of gladioli, geraniums, roses or any other flowers.

By all means grow seedlings, but please use some discrimination in naming them, and name only those that are better than any other variety of the type that you know. And have mercy on your friends and relatives! It is no credit either to you or to them that you should name plants after them this year which shall be discarded from cultivation next year or within a few years.

FOLIAGE.—The foliage of the seedlings is, as a rule, robust and fleshy and retained better than that of plants raised from slips, and there is very little mildew.

BEEES AND FLOWERS.—My single flowers are "alive" with honey-bees, and it seems the white and pale-colored flowers are more frequented than the dark-colored ones. The interior of the full double varieties is almost inaccessible to the bees. Mr. S. Nichols, of this village, and who has a large number of beehives, has been much interested watching the bees on our flowers and is now convinced that chrysanthemums are not only ornamental but useful.

WM. FALCONER.

THE PLANTAIN LILY.

(*Funkia*.)

THIS is a handsome genus of hardy herbaceous plants from Japan, having bundled, fibrous roots. The genus is closely allied to *Hemerocallis*, and some of the species first introduced were included in that genus, which has caused no little confusion in names. The species are all remarkable for their neat habit and the fine character of their foliage, while the flowers of some of them are deliciously fragrant. They are all useful plants for the border or for massing in the garden, and delight in a rather moist, heavy soil and in a partially shaded situation.

They are all rapidly multiplied by division in either spring or autumn. The most desirable species are:

F. Fortunei.—This is a strong growing species with small leathery leaves of a bluish or glaucous tint. The flowers are pure white or pale mauve.

F. grandiflora (see illustration) is the largest flowered of the species. It grows from twelve to eighteen inches high, producing large, handsome, pure white, sweet-scented flowers in August and September. This is frequently used as an edging plant, but it is seen to the greatest advantage when planted in large clumps or masses. The young leaves are a favorite food of slugs and snails. This species has a variety of names, as *Funkia Japonica* and *Hemerocallis Japonica*. Popularly it is known as "day-lily."

F. lancifolia is a small growing species, producing

tufts of lance-shaped leaves, narrowing toward both ends from the middle. There are some interesting varieties of this species, chief among which are the white-flowered variety, *F. alba* (or *speciosa*, as it is more commonly called—a beautiful plant), *F. spatulata* and *F. plantaginifolia*, with long narrow leaves. There are some very pretty varieties with leaves of different forms of variegation, all of which are well worth growing; notably, *F. albo marginata*, having a narrow line of white along the margin of the leaf; *F. undulata variegata*, in which the leaves are undulated on the margin and variegated on the greater part of the surface, and *F. unvittata*, with a broad white midrib to the leaf.

F. ovata produces large tufts of broad, deep, shining green leaves. Flower-stems one foot or eighteen inches high, terminating in a short raceme of lilac-blue flowers, which appear in late summer or autumn. This is one of the strongest growing species, and when in flower is very handsome. There is a variegated form of this species.

F. Sieboldi is the most ornamental of all the species. It grows from eighteen inches to three feet high, and has large, somewhat heart-shaped, glaucous leaves that often measure over one foot across. The flowers are borne in tall, one-sided racemes, well above the foliage, and are of a creamy-lilac color. There is a variety with yellow-tinged foliage, which is interesting. This is an admir-

able plant in tasteful hands for picturesque groups or massive edgings.

F. subcordata.—A handsome species having heart-shaped leaves, slightly glaucous on the upper surface, but not so deeply ribbed as *F. Sieboldi*. It is a rapid grower, forming dense spreading tufts in a few years. This species yields many interesting varieties, the most notable

being *F. marmorata* and *F. argentea*, two variegated kinds. The flowers are white, borne in slender racemes eighteen inches or more high. These are very desirable for cut-flowers, particularly in all natural arrangements. Florists also find them very useful in set-pieces. This species is the best known in our gardens, in fact, being the one most generally cultivated.

THE MIKADO'S FLOWER.

JUST now we are nothing if we are not Japanese. Grosvenor Gallery attitudes and "greenery-yellow" gowns have been relegated to the eternal shades, together with the lordly sunflower and aggressive thistle; we must decorate with embroideries whose crawling dragons suggest a delirious dream, while our houses and our gowns alike must be adorned with the Mikado's own flower, the many-hued chrysanthemum. We can very well forgive the latter craze, and wish it may prove more than temporary, for this flower gives us autumn's own unrivalled tints in our gardens when all others are gone.

"When the maple turns to crimson,
And the sassafras to gold;
When the gentians in the meadow
And the aster on the wold;
When the noon is wrapped in vapor
And the night is frosty cold."

Our own flowers have deserted us, but the sturdy stranger from Japan or China holds his own, undismayed by chill winds or even a touch of Jack Frost's icy fingers.

The chrysanthemum—literally golden flower—belongs to the Compositæ, an order which furnishes so many showy autumn flowers of the sunflower type. Our plant was introduced to European gardeners some two centuries ago, being first brought to Holland from Japan under the name of *Matricaria*. However, so much discussion arose as to whether it was properly a *matricaria*, an *anthesis* or an *artemisia*, that a new family was set apart, under the name of *Chrysanthemum*. It is probable that the first form introduced was the single variety, as the double form is undoubtedly the result of cultivation, which has so changed the primordial form that the founder of the family would have much difficulty in recognizing his descendants. The essential form of the Japanese is a wild, ragged, fluffy-looking flower, while the Chinese is very regular and globular in shape. The pompons, or button-shaped, were introduced by Robert Fortune in 1845, being known as "Chusan daisies." Then we have the anemone-flowered type, whose name explains itself, and the marguerite form, strikingly like the real Paris daisy, but possessing more substance. The range of color is most extensive, especially among the yellows, sulphur, golden, chrome, amber, buff, with countless variations of tint, some wonderfully æsthetic reds and red-browns, soft mauve and dazzling snowy white. But there is one color missing; we want Mr. Thorpe, who is a veritable wizard where chrysanthemums are concerned, to wave his magic wand and produce us a

real salmon pink without a tinge of mauve. After close scrutiny of two great chrysanthemum shows the writer is unable to find such a color. Mauves there are and pale terra-cotta, and even a rosy red nearly approaching the color of *Nymphæa devoniensis*, but there is not one real "Simon-pure" pink, though described as such.

After the wonderful possibilities suggested by the recent shows in New York and Philadelphia, of course every woman who had the pleasure of seeing those magnificent prize plants is seized with a longing to go and do likewise, and really there is no very great difficulty in the way, for the chrysanthemum is equally at home in a roomy country garden or a cramped city area-way. And what a mass of beauty it makes of a small balcony or window. A well-known Chestnut street restaurant in Philadelphia has its window filled with these plants, making a glowing mass of red and yellow.

The culture is simple in the extreme. The young plants may be set out in April or May. When the strong shoots are about six inches long they may be pinched short until July, when they should be allowed to grow. The buds begin to form in August and September. If they are wanted for decoration indoors, the plants may be taken up early in October and potted or placed in boxes. After they have done flowering they may be cut down and the pots or boxes placed in a light cellar or outhouse, where they are protected from the extreme rigor of the winter. If planted out they may be covered slightly, though in most cases the snow is sufficient protection. The older sorts are usually perfectly hardy, some of the newer ones seeming more tender from high cultivation. Of course the climate of their native habitat is similar to our own.

The most attractive habit of this plant is undoubtedly its natural bushy form, though some of the standards are very handsome. They are grafted on single stalks, like standard roses. At the New York show much interest was excited by standards about ten feet high, with four or six distinct sorts and colors grafted on the one stem; a feat never before performed out of Japan, as the grower proudly told us. The effect was most extraordinary, like a vari-colored bouquet "all a-growing and a-blowing." The Japanese are very clever at all these horticultural freaks—oddities of grafting, variegating, and especially dwarfing. The writer recollects of having seen in the Japanese exhibit at the Centennial Exhibition a pine-tree three feet in height, said to be more than *one thousand* years old; though flourishing, it had a gnarled, seamed and discontented expression, which gave one the idea

that, could it but speak, it would give a very unamiable opinion of Japanese horticulture.

The chrysanthemums give us such very artistic tints and so many forms that the most fastidious may find flowers to their fancy, either for house or garden. If one is gifted with large, deep window recesses, nothing is more charming or, as an added inducement, more fashionable, than to fill such spaces with a rustic box of these flowers; or a large single pot may be placed on a stand. It has long been a regret that we could get no really artistic, ornamental flower-pot without a deficiency of drainage, the glaze preventing the smallest escape of water. But this difficulty is now obviated; Haviland and those Greenpoint manufacturers of so-called Limoges faience make beautifully artistic jars, into which you may slip an ordinary, commonplace flower-pot. It is upheld by a sort of inside rim, so that waste water drains into the outer vessel, from which it may be readily emptied. A dull blue jar, painted in a shadowy design of browns and dull reds, makes a South Kensington design worthy of Miss Dora Wheeler, when filled with Golden Dragon or Hero of Magdala chrysanthemums.

I must confess to a personal weakness for the Japanese varieties; their fluffy, ragged masses are very attractive, but many admire the regular, globe form of the Chinese, with their incurving petals, often showing two distinct colors. The pompons are hardly as showy as the larger sorts, though they are usually a mass of flowers. Golden Pheasant looks just like a yellow-plush button, and is certainly bright and attractive; but of all the pompons one of our old favorites, briefly named Bob, seems best. It is a rich Pompeian red, a very free bloomer and perfectly hardy. In a window-box it would be charming in company with George Glenny—a beautiful Chinese, of an exquisite pale sulphur tint. The Golden Dragon, mentioned above, is an immense

Japanese flower of brightest gold; Hero of Magdala is a rich red. After a careful study of two exhibitions,² it seems well-nigh impossible to declare which are the best sorts; they are all lovely or eccentric in appearance, and, as one enthusiastic young woman was heard to declare, "just too perfectly æsthetic for anything." This was at Philadelphia, where, in addition to a well-arranged and well-lighted hall—which, alas, we New Yorkers do not possess—the display was finer individually than at New York. We can never forget the gorgeous *coup d'œil* presented on entering the hall; a blazing mass of reds and yellows—a complete gamut of these colors, toned down by snowy-white and soft mauve. Many odd seedlings were shown; among them a red-rayed flower, "Yum-Yum," that child of nature who blushes at her own loveliness, while the Lord High Executioner himself is commemorated in a similar flower, Ko-Ko. By the way, the management of the Fifth Avenue "Mikado" Company showed their appreciation of the popular craze by expending a considerable sum in these plants, at the Horticultural Society's auction, for use in the garden scene of that opera. So "The flowers that bloom in the spring" was sung with the rather contradictory adornment of autumn's latest blossoms.

"I've got a little list," like Ko-Ko, of specially beautiful flowers, but if we give all those worthy of culture we must give a complete transcript of Messrs. Hallock & Thorpe's catalogue. So we can only say that Gloriosum is a superb yellow, and so is Grandiflorum and Ben d'Or; Robert Walcott is a superb orange red; Bras Rouge, dark red; President Cleveland is a beautiful white, and so is Ceres; Mrs. Mary Morgan, mauve-tinted white, and Jeanne d'Arc soft blush. Pompons and marguerites are endless in variety, and we should say of each plant "this is most beautiful" if we did not find that its neighbor was equally worthy of praise. E. L. TAPLIN.

RURAL ÆSTHETICS.

A Paper read before the Farmers' Club of the American Institute, New York, November 24, by C. L. ALLEN, ED. FLORAL CABINET.

THE æsthetic is, properly speaking, the science of the beautiful, either in art, literature or nature. It strictly signifies that which relates to sensible impressions. It is the soul of the beautiful—that influence which it exerts, and which can neither be seen nor described. Its influence is relative, depending upon the mind and the object with which it comes in contact. No two persons receive the same impression from any given object, simply because of the different degrees or qualities of the mind upon which it acts. It is an established fact that men see and find what they look for; if it is the beautiful in nature they will not only find it, but they will receive impressions that would never be made on the minds of those deficient in ideality or those who have no knowledge of the development of the beautiful. The botanist or entomologist goes into ecstasies over the beauties seen on the mountain's side, in the objects he secures for observation and study. The man of toil finds the same mountain hard to climb. The one uses his muscles in the

development of taste and for the gratification of all that is noble, beautiful and pure in his aspirations; the other merely for the sustenance of animal life. In the one the body is the agent of the mind, and is a freeman; in the other the mind works alone for the body, and is a slave. It is the object that industry has that makes it beautiful or servile.

Rural æsthetics may be defined rural tastes in distinction from rural pursuits. It is that taste which views a plant or flower from the inner, the creative side, instead of the outer or effective side. The beautiful in the plant, like the beautiful in human character, consists in what it is and not in its external appearance or grandeur. Flowers, like friendships, are rarely valued for their intrinsic worth, or cultivated with that tender care their excellence deserves. The business world inventories a man's houses, lands, bonds, merchandise and stocks. Man's true inventory consists in what he *is*, not in what he *has*. It is manhood that makes a man! It is brains, not bullion

character, not chattels, that makes a man rich. The true beauty of a flower is not the flower we see with its perfect form, exquisite color and delightful fragrance; these reach the senses only. It is the influence that evolves from our understanding of the flower, the wisdom and goodness that called it into existence, and its uses in the economy of nature. It is not the *Cypripedium Morganianum* that nestles in the lap of the wealthy, and commands an exorbitant price because of its rarity, that is beautiful. A miserable cur would bring as high a price in the market if there were no other curs. It is the little violet that emits such a delightful fragrance when we carelessly trample it under foot that is truly beautiful. Like that elegant Aga couplet, which pronounces the duty of a good man "not only to consist in pardoning, but also in benefiting his enemies, as the sandal-tree, at the moment of its overthrow, sheds the sweetest perfume on the axe that fells it."

To judge flowers and plants correctly, to inventory them for what they are worth, one must occupy a position midway between the scientific botanist and the practical gardener. The former—the man of thought, the inquisitive mind—is too eager in search of facts in regard to structure, or possibly in tracing up the origin of the plant, to appreciate its real beauty, which evolves from the emotive rather than the reasoning faculties. The practical gardener, on the other hand, is too mechanical in his operations and too much absorbed in his efforts for display in the effects that the various styles of planting will produce. He does not encourage a natural form, which is the only perfect one, and the only way a plant can be seen in its integrity. He takes a collection of plants and robs them of every attribute except one, in order that he may form an unbroken line of color, or combinations of color, which he designates a ribbon border. This style of gardening is attractive in the same sense that a garden fence would be if painted in stripes of primitive colors; it is simply noticeable, not beautiful. A horse mutilated in mane and tail is noticeable, but not beautiful; it symbolizes the "ring" rather than the lyceum—the lower rather than the higher feelings of man's nature. He who mutilates a plant robs it of its true beauty; in fact, he never sees a plant as friend sees friend, giving it a hearty welcome in the morning and regretting when night hides it from his view.

The professional florist, as a rule, has not the slightest conception of the real beauty of a plant; he cultivates it for what he can make of it, not for what it can make of him. Plants are educators, if we listen to their teachings, and at the same time they exert a refining influence if we but bring ourselves in contact with them. The florist takes the Bennett rose and says, "I have a fortune here; it has the color that is so much desired; it has form that cannot be improved upon; it keeps well, and is not injured in carrying; in addition to all this it emits a most grateful and delicious perfume. And what is more important still, it propagates freely." He takes the Crested Moss and says, "Yes, this is a charming rose, but it won't propagate." Again, he shows us the Cloth of Gold, a jewel of a rose, but it is not a free bloomer, there is not enough money in this to make it popular. We ask

him about the Safrano or Bon Silene, the only roses we had for winter blooming but a few years ago, "Oh! they don't sell now, excepting in the Bowery or on Second avenue; they are of no use any longer." What a sad prostitution, to estimate the "most beautiful gifts of God's goodness" by what they will bring in the market.

The amateur's garden is, in a great measure, as void of heart and soul as is that of the professional florist. Occasionally we go into a garden where the plants are loved and cared for; you see the indications on every side. The plants are properly trained, well fed, clean, vigorous, rampant growers; they have a cheerful, happy look, as does everything that is loved. In this garden, plants exert an influence for good that cannot be over-estimated. There is a vast difference between admiring flowers and loving them, although it is rarely known or understood. It is a common expression that the man or woman does not live who does not inherently love flowers. This is a mistake, although I fully believe there is scarcely a person living who does not admire flowers. The admiration of an object and a love for it do not evolve from the same faculties of the mind. We all admire a noble-looking, beautiful man or woman, but this admiration is simply of an external character. A love for the same person is quite a different matter, and can only come from the influence they exert over us. It is the same with flowers; we admire their gorgeous colors, beautiful forms and delicious fragrance, and we delight in the possession of such attractive objects; we gloat over them as a miser does over his gold, not because they benefit us in any way, but because they are external evidences of wealth or taste. We love the display they make and the notoriety they give us. Our love of approbation is feasted when our gardens make such a display as to attract the passers-by.

A true love of the flower is quite another sentiment, and is in proportion to the knowledge we have of its inner life, of what the plant does for us, the mission it has to perform in the economy of nature and the refining influences that the beautiful and pure have on character. We find scattered through the Persian literature many chaste and poetical allegories illustrating in a most elegant form these influences, among them as follows: "A traveler, in passing through a country in Persia, chanced to take into his hand a piece of clay which lay by the wayside, and, to his surprise, he found it to exhale a most delightful fragrance. 'Thou art but a poor piece of clay,' said he, 'an unsightly, unattractive, poor piece of clay; yet how fragrant art thou! How refreshing! I admire thee; I love thee; thou shalt be my companion; I will carry thee in my bosom. But whence hast thou this fragrance?' The clay replied: 'I have been dwelling with the rose.'"

Of the plant's influence we shall speak farther on, while for the moment we describe our experiences in the garden where there is but little to be seen excepting weeds.

In the well-ordered garden each season brings a full crop of pleasure, varied as the human taste, much of which is harvested, but by far the larger part we fail to secure. In winter we plant our flowers in imagination, and usually have a good crop; and certainly there are no

flowers so beautiful as those we are going to have. In spring the flower garden begins to assert its importance, and our real interest commences. The summer comes with its profusion of bloom, and autumn follows, richly loaded with vegetables and fruits. Now these are gone, save a few sorrowful remembrances, and we can profit by the lessons we have learned. While each season is laden with the pleasures we find in its vegetables, flowers and fruits, it also furnishes an abundant weed crop. Weeds are to be found almost everywhere and in every condition of life, and wherever found they are regarded as a nuisance. Vegetables, fruits and flowers are the legitimate products of the garden, and they may always be had in abundance if weeds are not allowed to grow.

But the garden is not the only place where weeds are found—in fact, there they are only results. If roses are first in the heart before they can be seen in the garden, so, too, will weeds first appear. A weedy garden is anything but an object of beauty, but it is not half so despicable as a weedy head and a weedy heart, its legitimate parents. Intelligent, clean heads and pure hearts are the results of careful cultivation, and the garden to be beautiful and clean will require the same care and attention. Chemically there is no difference between brains and beans, and the law of development is the same for the two. A good crop of either is the result of well directed industry, and without which both crops get weedy. Men with weedy heads are very common and readily distinguished; they are chronic, silly grumblers, never satisfied with anything; they never recognize the blessings that are constantly showered upon them, but are always in search of those they know not of. They see nothing in the soil upon which they tread but dirt, and a place where plants will grow, while the rock is only an impediment to the plough. They see nothing in the flower excepting color and fragrance, and when these are gone there have been no lessons learned. To them the summer's sun brings only perspiration, and a cloudy sky gloom, while the rain has no other mission than to soil their clothing and bring general discomfort; dust and destruction accompany a drought, and the winter's snow, which is always heavily laden with blessings, has only coughs and colds for them, and extreme cold is the extent of miseries. Insects, winged and creeping, the common enemies of mankind, are doubly so to the man of weeds. How strange this seems when they are as necessary to our own existence as the air we breathe.

This is the season that delights the weedy man, for he can now put on artificial mourning for the loss of the plants he cared not for, and only cultivated to keep up an appearance of taste and refinement. But we must not think strange of this peculiarity; it permeates every phase of life. The weedy man always reserves his kind words for the dead, when they would have been of much greater value had they been given to the living. So, when we see the neglected garden mourned over after the frosts have blackened and destroyed, we cannot but trace the analogy between our gardens and our friends.

It may seem out of place to refer to these kinds of gardens and gardeners in connection with the beautiful. We only do it in way of contrast with the clean, well-

ordered gardens to which we now wish to call your attention, although they usually speak for themselves, leaving for us only to narrate the lessons they teach and the pleasures they afford. There is much in the garden in autumn that is truly beautiful, if rightly understood—in fact, more than at any other season of the year; but we must not look at it as a farmer would look into a well-filled granary or cellar, which shows the consummation of a season's industry and its probable value in the market. We must view it with the imagination—the soul—which sees farther and more clearly than the eye. 'Tis true there are no flowers, excepting the gentians and the chrysanthemums, which nature has kindly sent to decorate the tombs of the fallen leaflets, and those tender forms that cannot endure the rigors of their adopted homes. The chrysanthemum is an admirable flower to be used on such occasions; its fitness is one of the harmonies of nature; it doesn't put on black, but has colors, mostly selfs, perfectly appropriate for the season, fit associate for autumn leaves, those varied forms that are so perfect in their lives as to become the most beautiful in old age and death.

Many plants have their springtime in autumn. Already there are thousands of buds and flowers, in field and garden, quietly tucked away in their tiny homes, loaded with fragrance and most richly adorned, ready to awaken into full life when our spring bids them come. The crocus has its flowers fully formed and perfectly colored now; November is its spring, but it will patiently await ours, sweetly resting in the bosom of its mother earth. What the crocus during winter is in the earth, the flower-buds of many trees are upon the boughs, some of which cannot even await the coming of spring, but open on sunny days in midwinter. The branches of the common hazel-nut soon will be, if not already, hung with innumerable gray-green clusters, as will be the alder and willow-buds with leafy effort; the latter often burst and disclose their silky contents before Christmas. We should not wait until spring or summer to see the flowers of our trees, shrubs or plants. Then their colors will be so attractive that we can only see them with our eyes; we should behold them now, when their full beauty is reflected upon the imagination, and through the imagination to the understanding.

It is, therefore, proper to make all our arrangements for the future while the objects of our love and admiration are at rest. There is but little now to interfere with our plans, which should be so laid and their execution at the proper time so perfect, that *we* may be seen in our gardens as well as to have our gardens seen by us. Our thoughts, tastes and feelings should be represented by the plants we select and the manner in which they are cultivated, and let it be remembered that others will, in a great measure, see in us what they see in our gardens. If briars and burdocks usurp the place of the rose and the violet, the verdict will be, "there lives a man with burdocks in his soul." Let us, therefore, make such arrangements in our grounds and such selections of plants as will ennoble and beautify our characters when the garden reveals the treasures with which we have intrusted it. And in this work we need not depend altogether upon

popular tastes or the florists' catalogues, although they may materially aid us. We may, however, under certain circumstances, reject both, with pleasure and profit. Perhaps other and important duties will not permit of gardening, excepting on the most limited scale; if so, act accordingly. Good gardening does not depend on bedding or flowering plants or vegetables. A clean, well-kept grass-plot is a beautiful garden of itself, but that is soon spoiled if dandelions and plantains are not kept in check. Trees well cared for are the highest types of beauty, and are evidences of skillful gardening, and these need not be what are popularly known as ornamental, as a tree is no less beautiful when heavily laden with rich, luscious fruit; neither is a garden any the less beautiful if the plants are to produce vegetables for the dining-table instead of flowers for decorating the library. A garden is beautiful just in proportion as it accomplishes the purposes for which it was intended. The beautiful is useful, and the useful is beautiful. Victor Hugo said "the beautiful was as useful as the useful, perhaps more so." Let us, therefore, wherever practicable, combine the two. A combination of flowers and vegetables in the garden is like a man with business ability happily blended with literary tastes, the one ministers to the other.

It is said that when the goddess of Wisdom competed with the other divinities as to which should produce the most perfect work, she triumphed over her rivals by calling into existence a fruit-tree. We might add that when she brought forth the apple-tree she surpassed any of the creations of the goddess Flora, at least any of those creations that are esteemed for their beauty only. The poet's imagination never conceived anything more beautiful than the apple-tree in full blossom, and for an ornamental tree the Chinese crab is the summit of perfection. It rivals in beauty the acknowledged queen of flowers—the rose—when in early spring it puts forth its deep red buds and large semi-double flowers of tenderest texture, and flushed with a tint of pure, though pale carmine, the charm of its rosy clusters all enhanced by their setting of freshest vernal green. The common apple-tree, when in blossom, is a thing of no ordinary beauty. There are other trees of more lofty and noble growth, but their scentless flowers cannot compare with those which glorify the crooked stem and irregularly jutting branches of their orchard neighbor with such delicate fragrance and tender hue, "Less than that of roses and more than that of violets," as Dante described it, and which more justly merits Ruskin's testimony, that "of all the lovely things which grace the springtime of this our fair temperate zone, I am not sure but this blossoming of the apple-tree is not the fairest."

Our experience teaches us that if we wish to enjoy flowers in the spring we must prepare for them in the fall. While they are at rest—asleep—we must be awake and at work. Trees, shrubs and hardy herbaceous plants, which includes bulbs, must be planted now in order to have flowers in the spring, and both fruit and flowers in summer and autumn. If we have neglected our gardens and lawn, lose no time in correcting the mistake. Recompense the earth for what it has given us by a liberal supply of plant-food. If any weeds of the perennial sort

remain, take them out root and branch. But it is not of gardening operations of which we wish to speak, but of the effect they have upon us; and at the same time we wish our remarks to be useful, and to be so they must be practical. This is called a farmers' club, although I do not know that there is a farmer here other than myself. But admitting that you are all farmers, as I hope for your own happiness and independence you are, then the question that will arise is: How shall we make our farms yield a satisfactory profit on our investment and a suitable reward for our labor, and at the same time derive as much pleasure from our industries as can be found in other pursuits? In all business operations pleasure and profit are proportionate; that which affords the greatest profit affords the greatest pleasure. Farming to be pleasant must be profitable, and if profitable must be pleasant.

The most profitable industry the farm affords is the development of character, of manhood in your boys and womanhood in your girls. No farmer ever raised a crop half so valuable as a large number of sons—honest, intelligent, industrious, fond of home and all its endearing associations, avoiding, as though a crime, the race-course, the dram-shop, the gambling-den and allied places of infamy. The richest mother is the one that has the largest number of affectionate daughters; daughters that know of no place so dear as home and no name so sweet as that of mother. Here let me say that I am a farmer simply because the farm affords more real pleasure than any other pursuit for which I am fitted. My pleasures do not evolve from what I make from the farm but from what the farm makes of me. I do not cultivate cereals, vegetables, fruits or flowers wholly for what they will bring in the market, but rather for what they will make me worth in the market. It is not the number of gladioli, the bushels of corn, or the barrels of apples that I have harvested in the year, but it is the crop of manhood, the yield of domestic happiness, that shows the true productiveness of the farm.

Your most profitable industry is that of the education of your children in order that they may make good farmers and good wives of farmers. We do not pretend to say that farmers' sons and daughters are not educated, quite the reverse; on the contrary, they are educated too much, at least, in the wrong direction; they are educated away from instead of to the farm. They see nothing but the hardships that labor brings, without any of the beauty there is in all of nature's works. Farmers rarely teach their children that in agricultural pursuits can be found a business both profitable and honorable, and one which, if properly conducted, will afford the greatest opportunity for knowledge to be pleasantly employed; a business in which, if their children shall receive a suitable education and will give it as much study and thought as they will be compelled to apply to become successful in other pursuits, will make for them a more luxurious living, with less care, and afford them more time for pleasant recreation than can be found in any other walk in life.

Where are we to look for the proper education may be asked. We answer on the farm and at home. We fully believe there have been a score of young men ruined,

in a business way, when sent from home for an education, to every one that has been benefited. The first step toward a useful education is to inoculate the minds of our children with noble thought. Teach your children to think for themselves, and they will be apt to act wisely. If a child gets the impression that there is nothing on the farm but hard work and little money, he will very soon come to the conclusion that he will find an occupation where there is, but little work and much money. But let a child learn and feel that home is the pleasantest spot on earth, and that his highest ambition should be to secure one and surround it with all the luxuries that rural life affords, and a useful education has been entered upon. A child should be taught quite as much from the heart as from books. The knowledge he obtains from school alone is usually of a character that draws the mind of the student from agricultural pursuits. His studies are such as tend to so direct his thoughts and feelings that when he leaves school he has no sympathy for the business he is expected to follow for a living.

But it was not my intention to dwell so long on this part of my subject, but rather to call your attention to the pleasures to be found on the farm; pleasures I would that all could enjoy, for there is not a more pitiable object in life than a man following an occupation in which there is no pleasure. Schools are indispensable to the welfare of the community, yet they do not accomplish the purposes for which schools were intended, neither can they until the teachers are taught the importance of thinking as well as of reading. If you desire your children to love farming let them study the farm and its products. Not from books, but from the farm itself. Books exert either a good or a bad influence, as you may will. If you can discriminate and make an application to your business pursuits of the truths laid down in the book, it will be of great value to you, as the book is but the record of someone's practice and theory. If it feeds you, very well; if it absorbs you, it were better never to have seen it.

The book for every farmer's boy to read is the open book of nature. There was none ever written that contains one-half of the information, none other half so fascinating, none so perfect and pure. Nature teaches us to dwell as much as possible upon the beautiful and good, and to ignore at all times the evil and the false.

Let us take a single tree for an object lesson and see what it will teach us. Time will not permit of our discussing the phenomena of plant life, and we will only say that vegetable and animal lives in no way differ in principle; there is a perfect analogy between the two. But in order to show you the pleasure there is to be derived from the study of the tree, we would say that all plants possess a real life—they eat, drink, feel and think; they sleep, breathe and secrete—in short perform all the functions of supply, repair, development and reproduction. The intelligence they manifest in searching for food is simply wonderful, while the actions of climbing plants in search of supports are equally strange. All these wonderful peculiarities of plants are but little seen or appreciated. In fact, not one man in ten ever saw the true roots of a tree, or knows that they are put forth in spring

simultaneously with the leaves and are shed with them in autumn.

To make the farm attractive, show the child its attractions; how plants know when there has been a storehouse of food placed within their reach, and will immediately turn their attention to it. Show how each and every plant takes from the earth and atmosphere different elementary substances, and how they are stored up for our use. Show the child the plant's adaptation to the necessities of other living organisms in the localities where they are indigenous; how that in every locality the animal and plant support and sustain each other, and in the end consume each other. The breath of the ox is the food of the plant upon which he fattens.

How interesting it is to watch the plant industries as they are carried on side by side, each doing its own work wisely and well and without exciting in the least the envy of its neighbor, and without contention or strife. We see the maple collecting saccharine juices; the pine, rosin; the poppy, opium; the oak, tannin, and so on through the list. In our gardens the aconite collects a deadly poison which it stores up in its tubers, and by its side the potato gathers in starch for the sustenance of man. The plant's adaptation to the soil and climate in which it is to grow is one of the most beautiful and useful studies for the old as well as the young.

The form, variety and extent of the vegetation of a country depend altogether upon the existing elementary substances which they were created to utilize for the benefit of other creations. A remarkable instance of this adaptation is to be found in the *Cinchona calisaya*, a strong, rapid-growing, ornamental evergreen shrub, or low-growing tree, which abounds in the malarial districts of Peru, and which has a world-wide reputation for the medicinal properties contained in its bark. The active principle in the bark of this tree is an alkaloid which abounds in the atmosphere of its native home. The traveler in passing through the districts where this tree abounds soon becomes enervated, and in a short time fever-stricken, the result of inhaling the impure atmosphere of that country, the atmosphere upon which the cinchona subsists, and from which, by a chemical process of its own, it elaborates the valuable medicinal property, an almost universal remedy for malarial fevers. This is one of the strongest proofs of the science of homœopathy. It proves beyond question the Hahnemann theory, *Similia similibus curantur*, not alone because of the fact that this tree abounds in those malarial districts and stores up in its bark the drug that allays malarial fevers, and which is besides so powerful a tonic, but because of the fact that the same tree planted in situations where malaria does not exist does not have in its bark any of that active principle known as quinia, one of the forms of which is quinine.

So valuable is the bark of this tree as an article of commerce that its cultivation in other countries, where climate and soil were favorable for its production, has been attempted. Large plantations were made in the South of France, in Spain and in Italy, and in each case the attempt proved a failure, from the fact that the drug in an elementary state did not exist in the soil of its

adopted home. The trees grew luxuriantly, but could not yield a product that was not in the atmosphere upon which the plant fed, any more than the metallurgist can extract the precious metals from the rock that does not contain them.

The cinchona is now grown in India, where malaria abounds in its most violent form, and there the tree produces a bark more valuable than that obtained in its native home.

The same principle is applicable to every plant and under all circumstances. It is the reason why the plum is an abundant crop in a given locality, and why the peach is not, and the reverse. It is the reason why either will thrive for a time in a certain locality and for a successive period fail; then again thrive and produce their rich fruits with all their former vigor. It is the reason why the rotation of crops is an agricultural necessity. When one kind of grain, vegetable or fruit has consumed all the food provided for its use, it will no longer succeed, and the practical horticulturist wisely accepts the situation and cultivates some other crop.

I have said this much to show you how much pleasure there may be derived from rural pursuits when properly directed. There is not a blade of grass, a plant of any kind, but which furnishes food for thought or is loaded with instruction. The study of plants is more fascinating than any pleasure to be found away from the farm. But it must be taught aright. Show our children the beautiful there is in the plant, and they will never see the work that it costs to produce it. On the contrary, show them the work first and they will never behold the beautiful, but will leave rural pursuits for others requiring more labor and care without the certainty of a competence in life, and with it independence and contentment.

In conclusion allow me to quote from a book by Coultas, entitled "What May be Learned from a Tree"—a book that every tiller of the soil should have.

"If you wish for peace and contentment of mind, study nature. You will be brought into communion with the infinite and the eternal. You will become temperate in your desires. You will love truth and righteousness. The contemplation of this majestic system of continuous and eternal change will give loftiness to your thought; free your mind from a groveling and ignorant superstition; give you just, confiding, worthy views of your Creator, and enable you to march through life with a firm, with a manly step. This world is full of beauty but little understood or appreciated. An overflowing goodness has covered the earth with flowers and glorious forest trees, yet how few, comparatively speaking, care to know anything about them. We invite you to this grand and ancient library; to the study of these volumes overflowing with wisdom and instruction. It is not the mere study of nature, but the impressive lessons which she teaches. Thoughts of infinitude and eternity come to me from the distant stars and from the forms of vanished life laid up in the rocks, reminding me that my own life is fleeting and evanescent as the vapor of morning. The lofty tree with its wealth of branches and foliage perishes alike with one of the lowly, undistinguished blades of grass which it overshadows; so none are so high or well known but they shall, ere long, lie low and be forgotten. And herein is seen the wisdom and equity of the arrangements of nature that all must submit to the same great laws of decay and dissolution. She shows, in this respect, no partiality. Superior talent, energy or social position may for a while elevate some fragments of humanity above their fellows, but all in the end are reduced to the same level."

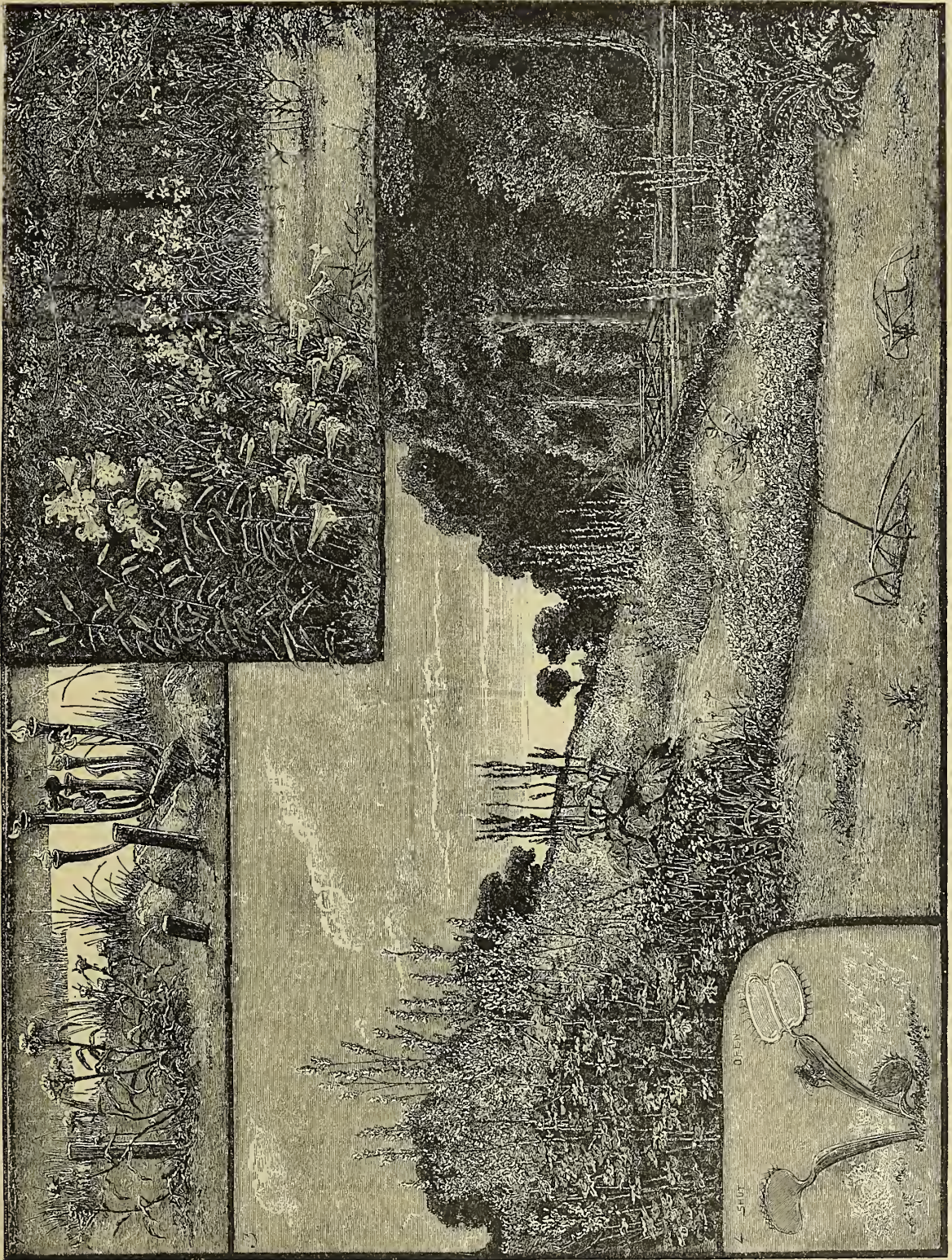
A WILD GARDEN.

MR. GEORGE F. WILSON says of his wild garden, which is situated at Heatherbank, Weybridge Heath, England, "When I retired from a business which required close observation, many experiments and some invention, I had to seek fresh, healthy, useful occupation, and chose gardening, an old hobby, but which I had hitherto had little time to ride. In 1878 I bought a farm, a small part of which affords facilities for experiment, as it has many varieties of soil and different degrees of moisture. The land had not been thought much of in the neighborhood, as the rent was only 13s. 4d. an acre, and this not always paid. Indeed, the field where an important part of the garden now is had the reputation of growing nothing, but to a gardening eye it presented such capabilities that I determined, if I got possession of it, to make such a garden there, as had not been seen before."

Canon Ellacombe, whose garden at Britton, near Bristol, has been the headquarters of hardy plants for more than sixty years, wrote in 1883 of Mr. Wilson's garden as follows:

"It is quite marvelous to see the vigor with which many plants are growing which have been a puzzle to gardeners for many years; and this vigor is not confined to one or two classes of plants, for Mr. Wilson is ready to welcome strange plants from all parts of the world, and though I do not say everything will succeed there, yet whatever does grow there seems to grow luxuriantly. Many things combine to produce this happy result. There is a great variety of soil and situation, so that a fitting place can be found for any plant, whether it requires sun or shade, dry soil or moisture, good friable loam or peat, or even a marsh. When to this is added plenty of water, and over all the practical knowledge and the careful tending of Mr. Wilson and his son, the secret is explained."

The garden has made good progress since Canon Ellacombe's visit, adds Mr. Wilson, and, thanks to the kindness of amateur friends and the authorities of botanic gardens, both at home and abroad, it is being filled up with interesting plants.



1. EDELWEISS AND SARRACENIA DRUMMONDI (Pitcher Plant). 2. LILIES IN THE WOOD. 3. GENERAL VIEW OF THE GARDEN. 4. DIONEA MUSCIPULA (Fly Catcher).
A WILD GARDEN AT WEYBRIDGE.

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM EXHIBITIONS.

WE are indebted to John Thorpe, Esq., the chrysanthemum's able advocate, for the following lists of the various classes which were awarded the highest honors at the New York and Philadelphia exhibitions. For illustrations of different varieties see THE FLORAL CABINET for February, 1885 :

JAPANESE VARIETIES.

Admiration.—Soft rose, white centre ; distinct in character, and a charming variety.

Ben d'Or.—Pure golden yellow ; centre of petals broad ; as the flowers mature the petals wrap over, forming ribbon-like balls.

Bouquet Fait.—A most beautiful variety, with delicate rosy lilac flowers of immense size. The flowers are shaded silvery rose.

Bras Rouge.—Velvety crimson-maroon, with reverse of petals deep bronze.

Ceres.—Beautiful blush pink color, fine flower ; a distinct variety.

Chang.—Very large, with broad twisted and curled florets of dark orange red color.

Comte de Germiny.—Among all the Japanese varieties this is one of the most conspicuous ; very large flowers and remarkably broad petals of a rich orange brown ; reverse of petals silvery bronze.

Earl of Beaconsfield.—One of the best of the newer kinds ; flowers very large and of a rich bronzy-crimson color, resembling some of the shades of crimson found in zinnias.

Elaine.—Pure white, back of petals slightly tinted when old ; an exceedingly useful flower, with broad petals, very full ; extra fine.

Fantasia.—Flowers of bluish-white and of good size ; each petal has a convex surface and is slightly twisted, being two to three inches in length.

Fair Maid of Guernsey.—Flowers in clusters, very large and of the snowiest white ; one of the very best varieties.

Fr. Delaux.—Dark red, reverse of petals golden yellow ; very large and double ; very early.

Grandiflorum.—A magnificent variety ; flowers of immense size, often six inches in diameter ; petals very broad, incurving, so as to form a solid ball of the purest golden yellow.

Hero of Magdala.—Blood-red, reverse of petals orange-buff ; the flower reflexed, showing two distinct colors in the same flower.

Hiver Fleuri.—Flowers large, much fringed and of good size ; early and very free ; creamy white and bluish.

J. Delaux.—Flowers large, color very dark brown, reverse of petals bronze.

Julius Scharff.—On first opening very large, flat and smooth, of the richest violet amaranth, lasting a long time. This is of the very finest.

Lady Selborne.—Another very large pure white variety of the greatest merit, and quite early in flowering ; the

flowers are remarkable for their flaky and snowy-like whiteness.

Mme. C. Audiguier.—Flowers of the largest size, of the purest rosy pink.

Mme. Lacroix.—Flowers of a light rose, changing into pure white ; this is a superb variety.

M. Desbrieux.—Compact flat flowers, of peculiar brassy-amber color ; fine and distinct.

M. Moussillac.—Enormous flowers ; the color is dark crimson, with fiery-red centre ; the nearest approach to scarlet.

M. Planchenau.—Mauve, shaded rose and silver ; flowers large, free and early.

Mrs. R. Brett.—A distinct variety, differing from all other varieties in its peculiar plume-like flowers and rich coloring of pure gold.

Perfection.—Immense flowers, seven inches across, somewhat flat ; petals ribbon-like, incurving to the centre, irregular in outline ; shaded pink, white and lavender ; fine.

Rubra Striata.—Ground-color creamy, lined with rosy-salmon on each side of the petal ; flowers six inches across.

Striata Perfecta.—White, very large ; perfect shape, mottled and lined with rosy-lilac.

Thunberg.—Flowers very large, petals long and much incurved ; of a pure primrose shade of yellow.

Triomphe de la Rue de Chatelets.—One of the largest and most distinct of all chrysanthemums ; petals five inches long, arranged in whorls, *silky* and flossy in appearance, of a rich buff, shaded nankeen ; a superb variety.

Viceroy of Egypt.—Deep rosy crimson, white back ; first row of florets quilled, the rest very broad and curved inwards.

CHINESE VARIETIES.

Angelina.—Golden amber ; very large and finely incurved.

Aureum Multiflorum.—Flowers of medium size and rich deep golden yellow ; very free ; incurved.

Duchess of Connaught.—One of the most beautiful of all ; very rich silvery-blush of great size, globular in form and perfectly incurved.

Empress of India.—Immense flowers ; pure ivory white ; incurved.

Faust.—Rich deep purple, shaded red ; large and finely incurved.

Fingal.—Violet purple ; broad petals, flowers quite globular ; incurved.

Golden Beverley.—Flowers large and perfectly incurved.

Golden Empress.—Primrose yellow ; fine show flower ; incurved.

Golden Queen of England.—Very large, rich lemon yellow ; one of the best ; incurved.

John Salter.—Bronze red, shaded brown, with golden tips ; fine habit ; incurved.

Jardin des Plantes.—Bright golden yellow; splendid color; incurved.

Lady Hardinge.—Delicate rose pink, tipped with creamy white; incurved.

Le Grand.—Silvery rose and pink; a pleasing and distinct kind; incurved.

Lord Derby.—Dark purple, finely incurved; distinct.

Lord Wolseley.—A grand variety; rich deep bronzy-red, shaded purple; one of the very finest.

*King of Crimson*s.—A good-sized flower of the most intense rich crimson, and of fine globular shape; this is an entirely new shade.

Mabel Ward.—Lemon-yellow, shaded silvery pink on back of petals; flowers very large and globular; a truly beautiful variety.

M. Elie.—Rich amaranth, with silvery reflex; of good size and fine habit; incurved.

M. Brunlees.—Indian red, tipped with gold; incurved.

Mr. Gladstone.—Deep chestnut red; incurved, fine shape.

Mrs. George Rundle.—One of the most beautiful white chrysanthemums in cultivation; incurved; a popular sort.

Nil Desperandum.—Dark red pink, orange shades; large; incurved.

Progne.—Richest purple-amaranth; medium-sized flowers of the most intense color; fine.

Sir B. Seymour.—Deep bronzy-red on upper petals, finely incurved; light rosy shade on the outside.

Tragedie.—Rather small, of a new shade of color—rose, pink and blush; a neat and pretty flower.

Temple of Solomon.—Rich golden yellow; large, incurved.

Venus.—Lilac-peach; large and beautiful; incurved.

POMPON VARIETIES.

Arbre de Noel.—Rich bronze and chrome, slightly fringed.

Bob.—Dark brown-crimson, fine color; a great favorite.

Capt. Nemo.—Rich plum-purple, medium size; early, fine and fine.

Eleonore.—Brown-crimson, tipped with gold.

Fanny.—Resembling *Bob*, but when at the best the colors are more intensely bright.

Golden Mlle. Marthe.—Flowers of the richest and brightest gold color; of perfect shape and fine habit.

Lucrèce.—Bronzy-red and deep gold in dense heads; flowers flat and much fringed.

Mlle. Darnaud.—Rosy-violet-purple, pointed golden-yellow; a little gem.

Montgolfier.—Maroon, tipped rich gold; one of the most beautiful pompons.

Mlle. Marthe.—Pure white flowers of the most perfect shape, like miniature dahlias, in large clusters; fine habit.

Orange Beauty.—Dwarf grower, free bloomer; flowers orange-yellow, somewhat fringed.

Princess Meletia.—White flowers of good size, very much fringed, and borne on very long footstalks; a beautiful variety.

Sec. Dancel.—Pink, tipped creamy-yellow; very pleasing and early.

ANEMONE-FLOWERING VARIETIES.

(Varieties with large flowers.)

Acquisition.—Petals silvery-white, with creamy-yellow centre; very large.

Duchess of Edinburgh.—Of the Japanese type, with curved petals of white and rose; centre lemon, rose and white.

Fabias de Medina.—Another Japanese variety with long and curiously twisted petals of white and pink; centre lemon and pink.

Fleur de Marie.—A superb flower; pure white with high centre.

Gluck.—Rich golden yellow; very large.

George Sands.—Red, with gold centre; fine and free.

King of Anemones.—Rich crimson petals; very high centre.

Marguerite d'Anjou.—Nankeen yellow and buff; fine.

Princess.—White, shaded delicate lilac; large and handsome.

Queen Margaret.—Rosy lilac; very pretty and showy.

(Varieties with small flowers.)

Antonius.—Splendid canary yellow, high centre.

Calliope.—Brassy red; large centre of orange.

Dick Turpin.—(Seedling.) Deep magenta; high centre of lemon yellow.

Eugene Lanjaulet.—Deep yellow, bright orange centre; a superb variety.

Marguerite de Coi.—Blush; pale creamy yellow centre.

Marie Stuart.—Nearly white, with lemon centre; a lovely variety.

Sidonie.—Distinct; silvery lilac and deep rose, with blush centre.

SINGLE VARIETIES.

(With single and semi-double flowers and rich golden disks.)

Septimus Lyon.—Flowers seven inches in diameter, opening in a broad, flat, even head, without showing the disk; the petals are of a pure golden-yellow on the upper surface, lower surface of peculiar apricot-red; when fully expanded the petals are curved and fall back, showing the yellow disk.

Zephyr.—A most distinct variety, nearly double, with roundly twisted petals of a delicate straw or cream color, curved so as to form distinct filament-like surfaces; disk large, bright-gold color; a remarkable variety, lasting a long time in perfection.

James Y. Murkland.—Petals purest snowy-white, very long, much reflexed on the outer edges; inner petals arranged in irregular shape, resembling the wavy-like curls found in the most beautiful ostrich plumes.

John W. Chambers.—Flowers very large, four to six inches in diameter, of the purest golden-yellow; late.

Mrs. Gubbins.—Very large, snow-white, much twisted; large yellow disk; fine habit and very handsome.

Mrs. C. L. Allen.—Handsome plant, with bold flowers of deep rose, with pure white ring around yellow disk.

Peter Henderson.—Very fine flowers, four and a half inches in diameter, pure lemon yellow; fine habit; early.

President Arthur.—Outer rays most intense crimson; bright golden-yellow ring around disk; flowers large; of very fine habit.

THE WISEST AND BEST OF THE TWO.

A person who felt interested to know,
Questioned once a philosopher thus :
"When a man and wife quarrel, pray which of the two
Should be foremost to make up the fuss?"

'Twas plain that the wise man had long ago found
That no rule in such cases would do,
For he answered, quite briefly, with wisdom profound,
"The wisest and best of the two."

'Tis a test of the metal of which we are made,
But 'tis vastly well pleasing to know
When we've meekly retracted harsh words we have said,
We're "the wisest and best of the two."

—MRS. C. H. POTTER.

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND.

"MOTHER! Mother! Come quick, Dolly has got something in her throat!" exclaimed Tom Ingalls, putting his head in at the kitchen door one winter morning while his mother was getting the breakfast. Mrs. Ingalls, a sad-faced, weary-looking woman, hastily put down the pile of plates she was carrying to the table, and, catching up a shawl, threw it over her head and shoulders and went out.

Dolly was the widow Ingalls' one cow, and it would fare hard with the little family if that fountain of milk and butter should be choked up! The steps were icy, the daylight was yet dim, and Mrs. Ingalls slipped and fell. She rose with difficulty and limped along the path toward the barn. She had sprained one ankle slightly, but Mrs. Ingalls was not one of those who can lie down and be waited on if any harm comes to them. She entered the barn and went anxiously toward Dolly's stall. That mild-eyed animal was peacefully munching hay, while Tom, by the light of a lantern that hung on a nail against the wall, was calmly engaged in milking her.

"I don't see that anything ails Dolly, Tom; was she choking when you came for me?"

"No, ma'am," replied Tom, demurely, "I didn't say she was choking; I said there was something in her throat, and so there was: cows can't eat without their food goes down their throats, can they?"

Mrs. Ingalls made no reply, but turned away and limped slowly back to the house, while a crest-fallen look came over Tom's face. He had expected a sharp scolding, and, not getting it, felt defrauded of the best part of his joke.

"What's the matter with you, Ellen?" asked Aunt Martha half an hour later as the little family were sitting down to breakfast, "seems to me you walk lame."

"I slipped on the ice and hurt my ankle as I was going to the barn this morning," replied Mrs. Ingalls, with a look of gentle reproach at Tom.

"Why, mother!" exclaimed Tom, "that's why you didn't scold me, is it? That's just like women; if there's nothing the matter but a little fun, we fellows just catch

it; but if there's something worth scolding about, they are meek as lambs."

"Then you're at the bottom of your mother's mishap, are you, Tom?" said Aunt Martha. "Ah, well, if you keep on, you'll reap the whirlwind some day, as I've always told you."

"That's so, Aunt Martha; if I ever reap half as many as you've prophesied for me, I shall be blown into atoms twice over—cyclones will be nothing to it," rejoined Tom.

Tom Ingalls' father had been a steady, quiet farmer, and his mother was a meek, gentle woman, who to her gentleness had added an abiding sadness since the death of her husband a year previous to the commencement of our story. Mr. Ingalls had inherited the small farm on which his widow and sister and Tom now lived, but the old house had burned down while Tom was a baby and he had built, not a new house, but an L, intending as soon as his circumstances would allow to build in front of it. But he had not been prosperous and the small dwelling still consisted only of a kitchen, which was also the living-room, one bedroom, and a tiny room under the eaves which was occupied by Tom. The small farm yielded a comfortable living for the two women and boy, and Mrs. Ingalls looked hopefully forward to the time when Tom would carry on the farm himself and perhaps build for a younger Mrs. Ingalls the house his father had meant to build for her. Tom was but ten years old when his father died, but was strong and active for his years and overflowing with boyish fun and mischief. He could not be induced to take anything seriously, but looked upon life as a gigantic joke which no amount of preaching or disciplining could turn into a reality.

Tom continued to grow in mischief as well as in strength and stature, and at eighteen carried on the farm alone and kept his mother and Aunt Martha in comfort with the proceeds of his labor and the neighborhood awake with his harmless frolics and practical jokes.

The farm that joined the Ingalls' place on one side was owned by Elkanah Watkins, who was probably Tom's only enemy, except one Horace Scudder, who was Wat-

kins' hired man. For Tom's inexhaustible good-nature and cheerfulness were quite irresistible, while his industry and freedom from bad habits or petty meannesses had gained for him a considerable degree of respect from his townspeople. But Mr. Watkins had a pretty and spirited young daughter, Lizzie, now about fifteen years old, who had grown up on friendly terms with Tom, and had laughed at his mischievous pranks and taken his part when others censured him. And as Tom's attention now began to be more than mere neighborliness demanded, Mr. Watkins' parental anxiety was roused to such an extent that he forbade all intercourse between the women of his household and the Ingalls family. Tom still met Lizzie at singing-schools, neighborhood parties and other rural gatherings, but as she was usually escorted by Horace Scudder she scarcely dared to treat Tom with any show of friendliness, well knowing that any civility on her part would be reported to her father by the watchful Scudder, who had his own designs on Lizzie, as she was an only child and would naturally inherit her father's large and valuable farm. But Tom's wit was sometimes a match for Scudder's watchful pertinacity. One day Tom chanced to learn that Lizzie was to spend the evening at the Kents', about a mile away, and that her father was to send Scudder for her at nine o'clock. That night at supper Tom could not keep his face sober. His mother wondered what ailed the boy, and Aunt Martha sighed dismally and mentioned the whirlwind. But nothing could depress Tom's spirits, and after awhile he went to his room, and coming back with a small bundle under his arm, left the house, telling his mother not to sit up for him, as he might be out late. A few minutes after nine Lizzie Watkins left the Kents' under the escort of her father's hired man, and they had walked about a quarter of a mile when they heard a low groan by the roadside. They stopped to listen :

"What do you suppose it was, Lizzie?" asked Horace, nervously.

"Some animal, probably," replied Lizzie, carelessly. "Come, don't stand here."

But just then the groan was repeated. It was a blood-curdling sound, and struck terror to the heart of Horace, who was naturally inclined to superstition.

"I say, Lizzie, we'll go back and get Mr. Kent to go home with us."

"Before I'd be scared by a noise!" exclaimed Lizzie, scornfully, "go and look over the fence and see what it is; the sound seems to come from that clump of bushes just over there."

"I tell you, Lizzie, it isn't anything mortal that makes that noise, and I'm going back for help," said Horace, as the groans continued.

"And I shall go and look over that fence," declared Lizzie.

But she was spared the trouble, for at that moment a tall figure, robed in a flowing white garment, appeared to rise from the ground, and gliding rather than climbing over the fence came slowly toward them. Horace gave a yell more unearthly than the groans and ran back toward the Kent farm, leaving Lizzie to the "tender mercies" of the "sheeted dead," as he supposed.

"Oh, Tom! how dare you!" cried Lizzie, half-choking with laughter. But the triumphant ghost had thrown himself down on the grass by the roadside and was rolling over and over in spasms of laughter.

"Oh, didn't he scud though!" cried Lizzie, with a fresh outburst, as she looked back over the road where her recreant escort had disappeared.

"Why shouldn't he scud?" demanded Tom, "he is a Scudder, you know—a lively one, too, when he is thoroughly scared. Don't ever call him Horace again, Lizzie. Call him Scudder forever!" And Tom and Lizzie roared in concert.

The ghost arose, folded his sheet in a bundle, and gave Lizzie his arm, saying :

"If I find you alone in the middle of the road at this time of night, I suppose your father can't blame me for taking you safely home."

"We won't care if he does, Tom," answered Lizzie, with pretty defiance.

It was late in the autumn and Farmer Watkins had got out his sleigh for repairs, and two handsome wolfskin robes were hung in the orchard to air, and the family went to bed, forgetting to take them in. It was a little past ten when Lizzie got home and went up to her room, which was over her father's. He was awakened by the sound of her steps and lay awake some time, and was dropping off to sleep about eleven when he thought of the robes. He got up and went out to get them, but they were gone, and he came back, supposing Horace had taken them in. In the morning Mr. Watkins asked Horace if he took in the sleigh-robes the night before, but Horace said he had not thought of them.

"Then some scoundrel has stolen them!" said Mr. Watkins.

"Did you know that Tom Ingalls was prowling round here last night?" asked Horace, suggestively.

"No I didn't; did you see him?"

"I should think I did. You sent me over to Kent's to bring Lizzie home and he cut in and came home with her himself."

"How did that happen? haven't you pluck enough to hold your own?"

"I wasn't going to quarrel with him," said Scudder, evasively, "but if you don't want him to run off with Lizzie, as well as the sleigh-robes, you had better look out, that's all."

"Confound him! I wish he was in Jericho with the rest of the thieves," said the irate farmer.

"If I were you I would get rid of him some way," suggested Scudder, who was thirsting for revenge, "Suppose you charge him with stealing those robes; you know his joking way; he would own to it, likely as not."

"That's worth thinking of; we'll make an errand over there this noon."

About noon, as Tom was busy in the yard, cutting his winter's supply of wood, Watkins and Scudder came along, and stopping at the fence the former said :

"Good morning, Tom; have you seen my steers go by? They've strayed off somewhere since chore-time this morning."

"No, I've not seen them," replied Tom, answering Mr.

Watkins, but beaming on Scudder with great apparent friendliness. "How did you find yourself last night, Scudder, when you stopped to look? Bless me, how you did scud!

"When a Scudder is scudding

He scuds like the wind! Ha, ha, ha!"

roared Tom.

"Shut up your mouth," cried Scudder, angrily.

"Shut up yourself, Scudder," said Watkins, good-naturedly. Then turning to Tom, with a twinkle of fun in his eye, he asked, as if in joke, "See here, Tom; what have you done with those two wolfskin robes you stole from my place last night?"

"Took them over to Easton and sold them this morning," replied Tom with his accustomed readiness. "You didn't suppose I should keep them and use them before your face, or sell them here in the village where everybody knows me, did you?"

"Well, I hadn't thought much about it," returned Mr. Watkins, with a queer laugh. "So you haven't seen the steers?"

"No, but if they've run away just send Scudder after them. There is no doubt he could overtake them. I'd match him against a trotting-horse any day!" And Tom laughed again. Scudder gave him an ugly look, but made no reply, and the two men went on.

Before night Tom Ingalls was arrested and taken to jail on charge of having stolen a pair of valuable sleigh-robes from Mr. Watkins. A more completely surprised fellow than Tom could not have been found, and it was not until his trial came on, and evidence began to accumulate against him that he could realize that the affair was anything but a most preposterous joke. Every circumstance was against him. Mr. Watkins testified that Tom had confessed the theft to him, and Scudder was witness to the confession. The robes were actually traced to Easton, and the man who bought them, though unable to swear to Tom's identity as the one from whom he purchased them, admitted that he looked like the one. Unfortunately for Tom, he had gone to Easton that morning, and although his presence there was accounted for by other business, no one could prove that he did not also take the robes there. His mother reluctantly admitted that he was absent from home until eleven o'clock on the evening of the theft, and Scudder testified to having seen him on the premises after ten o'clock. The case went against Tom, and he was sentenced to three years in State prison. He was taken back to the jail to pass the night, and was to be removed to prison the next day. Tom was buoyant and undismayed. He sent word to his mother to keep up her courage and the farm, and to Aunt Martha that she must excuse him for not calling to bid her good-bye, as he was too busy "reaping the whirlwind" to have time for such formalities. In the morning, when the jailor brought his breakfast to the cell, the inmate had flown. On the wall, in great letters that could be read afar off, were scrawled, with a coal, the words: "Ye shall seek me, but ye shall not find me!"

When Lizzie Watkins knew that Tom had been convicted and sentenced her indignation knew no bounds.

That Tom was innocent and that her father and Scudder had wilfully ruined him she felt sure, but had no proof. If anything was needed to ripen and mature her budding love for Tom, this had supplied it. But her love and indignation were alike too deep for words.

After the Watkins household had settled into quiet that night, Lizzie stole softly out and went over to Mrs. Ingalls. Aunt Martha had gone to bed, but Mrs. Ingalls, as Lizzie had expected, was still up, and nearly crushed with sorrow and disgrace. Lizzie went down on her knees to Tom's mother, and, clasped in each other's arms, the two mingled their tears of sorrow and indignation. Midnight came, and they had scarcely moved when a face appeared at the window behind them; after looking a minute it disappeared, the door softly opened, and the next moment Tom had his mother and Lizzie both in his arms. There were low cries of joy and ejaculations of surprise, and rapid questions and answers, and then Mrs. Ingalls hastened to put up some food and a small bundle of clothing for her son. Meanwhile Tom, still holding Lizzie to his breast, said:

"I never thought of finding you here, Lizzie."

"Who should comfort your mother if not my father's daughter? Oh, Tom! I wonder you do not hate me!" was Lizzie's answer.

"But I don't; I love you to distraction! You are very young, Lizzie, and I will not ask you to wait for me, but if ever this theft is cleared up I shall come back for you, and if not, I shall send for you when I have made my fortune somewhere else; and if no one else wins you in the meantime you will be mine, will you not?"

"Tom," said Lizzie, solemnly, "young as I am, I know my own heart; I shall wait for you until you come or send for me, if I wait my whole life!"

There was no time for more. Tom took the bundle his mother had prepared and there were more tender words and tearful kisses and good-byes, and the two women—for Lizzie had left her girlhood forever behind during these few hours—were left to their lonely vigil.

They could not sleep for anxiety, and toward morning Lizzie stole softly into her father's house, from which she had not been missed.

Years passed on and nothing had been heard from Tom Ingalls. When he had been gone five or six years, Aunt Martha died and Mrs. Ingalls was left alone. She was not an old woman, but she had never been very strong, had always overworked, and now she was laid up with rheumatism. The Kents came over for a day at a time and did for her what they could, but she needed to have some one with her constantly. When Lizzie Watkins heard of her helpless condition she went to her father and began:

"Father, I was twenty-one last spring. I have worked faithfully and been obedient, but now I am my own mistress, am I not?"

"Why, yes, I suppose so," replied her father, "but what do you want to do? Aren't you well enough off? I've never found any fault with you since you gave up about Tom Ingalls, and your stepmother treats you well, and I'm sure you have every thing you want."

"You've been very kind in most things, father," replied

the girl with a trembling voice; "I have had everything a girl could want, but—you're mistaken about Tom Ingalls, I have never given him up, and now his mother is sick and alone I am going to stay with her."

"You're not going to do any such thing!" thundered Mr. Watkins, bringing his fist down on the table near which he sat with an emphasis that jarred the room.

"I am my own mistress, and I shall go and take care of Tom Ingalls' mother," repeated Lizzie, with unshaken firmness.

"Then you'll never cross my threshold again or get a dollar of my money, dead or alive!" said he passionately.

"That will be as you please, father," was Lizzie's quiet answer, and before night she and her few belongings were under the widow's roof.

Mrs. Ingalls dropped all her cares on Lizzie's plump young shoulders and soon regained a portion of her health, and with it more of cheerfulness than she had known since Tom's father died. Aunt Martha had always had a depressing influence on her, but Lizzie had a bright, buoyant nature akin to Tom's, and the girlish companionship was like a tonic to the lonely woman.

A few years later there was quite a sensation in the little community about them. A notorious burglar had been captured in a neighboring town, and, after his trial had resulted in a ten years' sentence to State prison, he had cleared Tom Ingalls' reputation by confessing to the theft of Mr. Watkins' wolfskin robes nearly ten years before.

The greater part of the community had always believed that there was a mistake somewhere, and had never really credited Tom with the theft in spite of his conviction, but now his innocence was proved, and the two women who had been true to him all these years were glad and triumphant.

The night before Christmas they were sitting before the cheerful fire that burned in the old-fashioned kitchen fireplace. Mrs. Ingalls was a sweet, motherly looking woman though pale and thin, while Lizzie was blooming as a rose, still girlish and handsome, though she had passed her twenty-fifth year. They had been talking of Tom as usual and wondering where he might be.

"If he is alive—and I believe he is—and has heard that his name is cleared, we shall see him soon," said Lizzie.

"You are always hopeful, Lizzie," said the other; "no other girl would have waited for him all these years or given up a good home to take care of his feeble mother."

"I could not do otherwise," answered Lizzie. "Tom was innocent and my own father had prosecuted him. It was for me to make such reparation as I could. I think I always loved Tom from the time when he used to carry me—a five-year-old tot—to school on his sled in winter, but my father's injustice bound me to him irrevocably."

At this moment an unusual noise about the premises made the two women start nervously. The noise seemed to be overhead and presently a voice called down the chimney, saying,

"Look out down there, good friends!" and with this warning down came a mass of snow on the fire smothering the flames and scattering the ashes about the hearth.

Then the voice called down again, "Did you think Santa Claus was a salamander that he could go down such a hot chimney as this?"

The voice sounded high and thin coming so far down the chimney, but there was a tone in it that acted on Lizzie like an electric shock. She sprang from her seat and caught hold of Mrs. Ingalls, crying out, "Mother, it's Tom! We might have known he wouldn't come home like anybody else!" Then with momentary reaction she sank back in her chair, white and faint.

"More likely it is some of the village boys up to mischief," replied Mrs. Ingalls, yet trembling with excitement at the possibility of its being Tom.

But there was the greatest scratching and squeaking in the chimney, and in another moment a live turkey hung before them, struggling and fluttering.

Lizzie sprang from her chair and released the fowl from the rope to which it hung and shut it in a basket.

"Well, I never!" exclaimed Mrs. Ingalls; "who ever heard of a Christmas turkey coming down the chimney before, and alive, too!"

But now there was more racket and a terrific squealing and in a moment more a live pig, as large and as white as a two-year-old baby, hung before them. Lizzie had fed too many living pigs, and salted down too many dead ones to be seriously dismayed; so she laughingly released the pig and dumped him into the wood-box for temporary safety. Then there was more squeaking and fluttering, and a pair of chickens reluctantly appeared, which were consigned to the same basket that harbored the turkey, and Lizzie stood by the hearth expectantly, but the voice called down the chimney once more, saying:

"Your chimney is too small; the rest must come in at the door."

Then followed a scrambling on the roof and a step at the door, which Lizzie flung open, and there stood Santa Claus in a great fur coat with a big pack on his back, and venerable white hair and beard. But Lizzie flew at him "like a wild-cat," as he said afterward, and presently, before Mrs. Ingalls could collect her scattered wits, the fur coat and the pack were on the floor and the white wig and beard were in Lizzie's hands, and there stood Tom, stout, hearty and laughing, holding Lizzie tightly to him with one arm and reaching out the other to his mother!

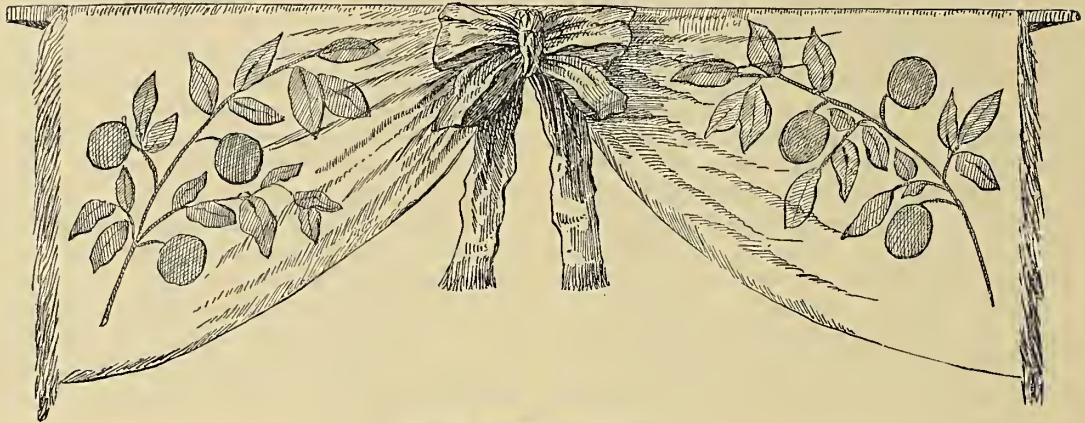
Tom and Lizzie were married on Christmas Day. There should be no more waiting, Tom said; and the pig and his companions helped to furnish the wedding feast.

Tom had done well in those ten years and had come home much richer than he went away. He added more land and stock to their farm and built the pretty new house for which his mother had always hoped. Tom was prosperous and respected and held responsible offices in his native town, but he never lost his relish for fun and practical jokes.

But Mr. Watkins could not hold out against Tom's exuberant good-nature, and the two families were soon on the best of terms. In fact, Tom's father-in-law became so fond and proud of him that at his death he left his whole property to him, thus keeping his word to Lizzie.

MRS. SUSIE A. BISBEE.

HOME DECORATIONS.



DESIGN FOR MANTEL DRAPERY.

Mantel Drapery.

A SIMPLE yet very pretty mantel drapery is made of a piece of soft silk or pongee in the form of a scarf fringed out at either end, and stretched across the front of the mantelpiece.

It may be used on a marble or wooden mantel, and requires no board as the lambrequins do, for small weights are fastened at each end and in the middle, on the wrong side of the upper edge of the scarf, and these resting on the shelf hold the drapery in place.

The silk or pongee, after having the design stamped or sketched upon it, is fringed out at each end about three inches deep.

Painting and outline work combined make a pretty decoration, and a branch of oranges with their foliage is a pleasing design. The outline of the fruit is filled in with a solid color or wash of chrome orange; but do not let

the color flow beyond the lines. The foliage is painted in the same manner with green, but no shading is required for either fruit or foliage. The stems should be painted brown. After it is dry the entire design, stems, leaves and oranges should be embroidered in outline stitch with embroidery or filling silk, matching each portion of the work—yellow for the fruit, green for the leaves, and brown for the stems.

The weights are placed, as already directed, at each corner and in the middle of the upper edge of the scarf. A small piece of the material is sewed over each weight, to keep it in place. The middle of the scarf is then gathered or drawn up, and a full bow of broad satin ribbon with ends is sewed at the gathering.

The design should be stamped on the ends just above the fringe and extend about half-way toward the middle of the scarf.

These draperies are very much less expensive and far simpler to make than lambrequins, and yet give a pretty, graceful finish to the mantelpiece.

Pongee, or any soft silk which can be easily draped answers well for the purpose. M. E. WHITTEMORE.

Star Calendar.

WHAT can I make for papa's Christmas present? is the question so often heard asked by little girls about this time of year; so we have designed something for that purpose that is easily made and will be both useful and ornamental. The calendar you will have to buy and can find one at a book or stationery store. Cut out of heavy pasteboard a star that measures eight inches from point to point; also cut a layer of cotton the same shape, to be placed underneath the plush cover. Spread sachet powder over the cotton and baste it on the star. Then cut the covering of red velvet or plush half an inch larger all around than the pasteboard star; lay the calendar on in the centre and put a white basting thread around it to mark the place it is to occupy.



STAR CALENDAR.

Decorate the star with sprays of holly, which are made in this manner: Cut the leaves out of green velvet and the berries out of bright red, and baste them on the dark-red velvet in the position of those seen in our illustration. The stems and veins in the leaves are made of tinsel and it is sewed around the leaves to conceal the raw edges. The tinsel comes in balls at fourteen cents each, and a single thread is simply laid on and caught to the material with fine white cotton. When decorated, baste the cover carefully on the pasteboard; draw it smoothly over and glue it down on the back; cover the back with paper and fasten a loop on the top. Glue the calendar in the space marked out for it.

E. S. W.

Crocheted Border for Shawl.

FINE cashmere or albatross cloth of any light shade is a suitable material for the centre; it should be a yard and a half long and twenty-two inches wide for a shawl of medium size. Split zephyr or two-threaded Saxony is used for the crocheted border. Make a narrow hem around the four sides of the cashmere, and button-hole it with the split zephyr for a foundation in which to crochet. Our illustration shows the manner in which the corner, the only difficult portion of the border, is made. The shells are composed of four double crochet stitches, followed by two double crochets separated by one chain, and this is the only place in the border where a chain stitch is made, until you reach the pearling which completes the last row of shells. These shells consist of six long



CRESCENT KEY-RACK.

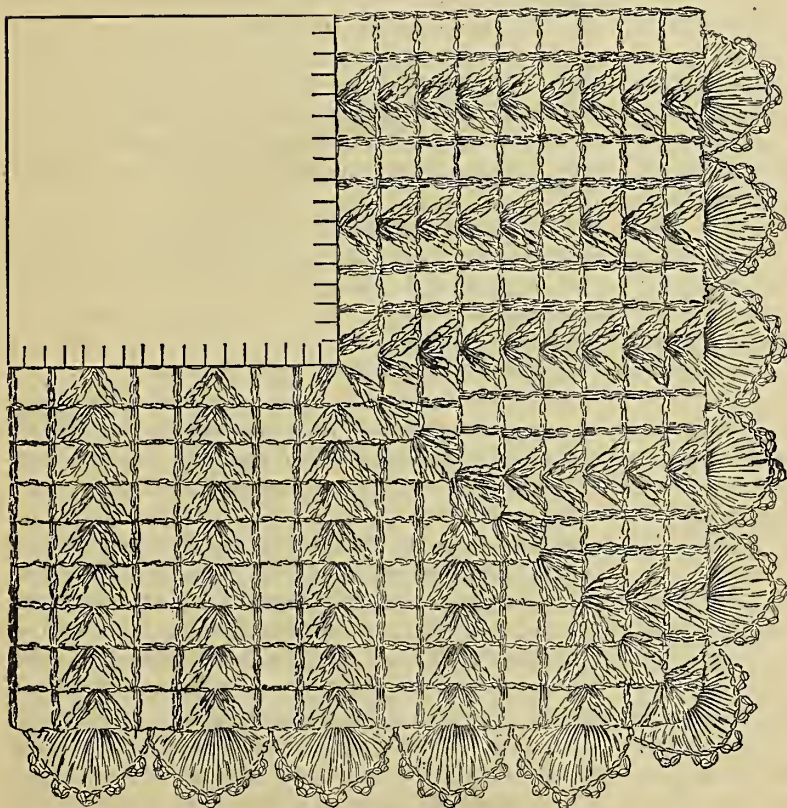
double crochet stitches and the pearling is formed on the edge as follows: The first double crochet stitch in the shell is worked, and then four chain stitches which must be fastened back in the top of the double crochet stitch just made; this forms a little loop or pearling and one of these is made after each double crochet in the shell, except the last one, and a single crochet fastens the shell between the two rows of double crochets in the main border.

If a deeper border is desired than the one illustrated, repeat from the sixth row, thus working twelve rows in the border. A heavier border can be made by doubling the number of stitches in each shell and working one chain, one double crochet, one chain and then another shell of eight stitches.

MARY L. THAYER.

Crescent.

THIS odd little receptacle for scarf-pins, collar and cuff buttons, to hang at the side of the dressing-case is made of a couple of wooden butter-plates sawed or cut in the shape of a crescent. Select for the purpose the thickest plates you can find; draw the form of the crescent on them, and cut them out carefully with a sharp penknife. Gild or varnish the pieces and join them together, the concave sides in, with six small brass hooks, which are screwed through the lower edges; these are to hang keys and button-hooks on, and will be found very convenient for such things. Cut notches at each end of the crescent to tie the ribbon around; place a bow at each end and at the top, making one side of the ribbon shorter than the other, so it will not hang straight. Instead of gilding, the crescent can be covered with plush and lined with satin. Cut the wooden



CROCHETED BORDER FOR SHAWL.

plates as already described and cover the pieces on the outside with garnet plush; draw it smoothly over and glue it down on the inside. To get a pattern for the lining, lay one of the crescents on a piece of paper and draw a line around it; cut two pieces of pale pink satin to correspond with this diagram, and sew them together with the seam on the wrong side. With the hooks fasten together the two pieces covered with plush. Turn in the top edge of the lining and overhand it to the plush, using a gilt cord around the top to conceal the stitches. The words "Merry Christmas" can be painted or lettered with the liquid gilding.

E. S. WELCH.

A Few Hints for Christmas.

TO begin with the "tiny baby," which, if not in your house, may be in the home of some dear friend, get a little pair of soft-soled "first" shoes, either white or pearl-gray, and on the toes paint a tiny design of small flowers, either pink or blue; as baby grows and needs a larger shoe these dainty little ones will be laid aside as precious souvenirs.

If you wish to give a home-made doll to some older child, make first a rag body, well stuffed with cotton; then on a piece of white or cream-colored satin paint in oil-colors a little face (or, if not able to do this, a pretty silk decalcomanie face can be transferred). Sew this on the front of the head; then make a little cap with a full border of narrow lace around the face; dress the body in a long white slip and add either a flannel or worsted sack, in pink or blue. Such dolls are really pretty and will stand any amount of rough play.

Perhaps, however, you say, "Not any more dolls, if you please, the house is overrun with them now!" And true enough it may be, but these very dolls are in such a forlorn and dismembered state that the children hardly care to play with them. Is there among the ruins the remnants of a handsome doll, with, perhaps, a bisque head? If so, why not remodel it in the following manner, and my word for it, the little girls will love it more dearly than a new and costly one. If the blonde, woolly hair is all moth-eaten and falling out, carefully trim it close to the sheepskin scalp and proceed to make a new wig. A discarded set of false frizzes make a very pretty wig; rip carefully from the foundation, and after making a close-fitting cap of black net, sew on the frizzes neatly, and when done glue the wig on the head with strong glue. This finished, attach a suitable pair of arms and legs to the body and fasten on the head securely. Now, with a set of dolls' paper patterns, costing ten cents, and sundry small bits of material, a very pretty outfit can be made.

Do not forget a jersey, made from a cardinal or navy-blue stocking-leg, and a little fez cap crocheted from worsted to match.

If at Christmas-time you have any illuminating or fancy lettering to do, either for church or home, a package each of cardinal, blue, green or seal brown "Diamond Dyes" will give you as many pints of brilliant colors, which are easier to use and fully as effective as water or oil colors.

Here is a pretty receptacle for scraps. Take an old paint-keg, scrape the outside smooth and paint it to harmonize with your room. Either gild the hoops or paint them black. Make a lining of scarlet silesia, slip it on the *outside* of the keg; tack it strongly around the edge of the keg with good-sized tacks; then turn, gather the end, and push the lining down into the keg, just in the same way that you line the crown of a hat.

If you are artistic, one of the prettiest gifts for a friend is a calendar, as then you are sure of being remembered nearly every day in the year. The loveliest one I have ever seen was simply twelve five-pointed stars hung up together by a ribbon. They were at least ten inches across from point to point, and exactly the same size, one being for each month of the year. They were made of stiff bristol-board, the background of each a different tint, the calendar neatly printed near the centre, and a spray of appropriate flowers painted at the left-hand corner.

If you wish to ornament a table prettily at holiday or birthday time you can do so simply with paper and a pair of scissors. Get some paper, either white or tinted; take a piece, say fifteen inches square, or about the size of a square doily; fold diagonally from point to point, then again, and again once more. Then with a pencil mark some deeply curving lines from one edge to another. Now follow the lines with the scissors, and when done cutting open out the paper and see what a pretty geometric pattern you have made. A little practice with pieces of newspaper will enable you to make some very pretty patterns.

Put gay-colored ones under fruit dishes or vases, and the white ones over cake, bread, &c.

Almost everyone has ornamented a screen with Christmas cards, and although not new it still continues to be one of the most pleasing ways, especially if you use black enameled cloth for the background. But a new idea entirely for screens is to use galvanized wire-cloth.

This material can be beautifully embroidered in worsteds by using the ordinary cross-stitch patterns, taking care, however, while working to bind the edges with soft cloth, that the hands may not be scratched. When finished tack securely to the frame, and line with cloth of a color that will throw out the embroidery well.

A painted design also looks very beautiful executed on this fine netting, and there are many articles where canvas and perforated board are often used that will be both novel and pleasing made of this odd material.

I began with the babies and will end with the old ladies. Why not make a pair of "foot-muffs" for grandma? Get double chinchilla wool and a pair of wooden needles. Set up a strip a little wider than the length of a medium-sized foot, and knit backward and forward till the piece is about twenty inches long; cast off and sew the ends together, making a little bag; run an elastic in the top, so it will fit the ankle easily. Then make another strip in the same way to complete the pair, and many a cold night grandma will gratefully appreciate the simple gift.

LOUISE.



INITIAL LETTERS—No. 5.

Decorative Notes.

NOVELTIES in scrap-baskets are three-sided, or else the globe-shaped Japanese basket, fastened securely between three upright heavy bamboo canes, which serve as a standard. Two long spruce cones and a full bow of ribbon are arranged at the three places where the basket is fastened near the top of the canes. One cone of each pair is gilded and the other bronzed, and the basket and its supports decorated to correspond.

Some very pretty covers for lamp-shades are shown at the commodious rooms of the Woman's Exchange. The newest design consists of a strip of antique lace three inches wide and just long enough to lie smoothly around the shade and allow the ends to be neatly sewed together. Pale pink or blue knitting silk is then used to crochet shells in the top of the lace. Eleven rows of these shells, composed of four double crochet stitches, will make it deep enough. Finish at the top with a row of full shells and run in a narrow ribbon of the same color as the silk, and tie in a bow to draw the cover to the shade. A heavy fringe of the silk is tied in the lower edge of the lace.

Other handsome covers are made of strips of yellow satin ribbon one inch and a half wide and five inches long, put together with rows of lace insertion. The ends of each piece of ribbon are folded in to form a point to which a small satin ball is sewed. A full ruffle of deep Oriental lace is fastened underneath the ribbon strips and a very narrow ribbon confines the cover at the top.

Tiny Japanese fish-net baskets are arranged on a wooden plaque with their handles crossed and tied with a narrow ribbon; a little strip of sand-paper is tacked underneath and the whole affair, when bronzed, makes a very convenient and pretty receptacle for matches. Not at all artistic but decidedly novel are the little washboards intended for the same uses. An opening is made at the top to receive the matches, and the words,

"I'm not matchless in my beauty,
But I always do my duty,"

are lettered on a bit of satin and fastened in the space just above the corrugated portion where the matches are to be scratched. C.

A Pretty Paper-Holder.

PROCURÉ a common wire broiler from the tin-shop; the largest size is preferable, though the tiny ones make very cunning little letter-holders. Gild the wires with gold paint or bronze powder and then weave gay ribbons through them, basket fashion. Black and yellow with red are popular and serviceable colors. Pale blue and pink are especially dainty. Place two or three bows at the bottom of the rack and also at the handles, which are held slightly apart by ribbon loops. These little articles may be made very elegant by the use of velvet and brocaded ribbons, adding plush and gilt pendants at the bottom, with gold cord to lace up the sides.

LUCIA M. HARVEY.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

THERE has been much talk lately about economy, and among other fields for its exercise that of ladies' dresses has not escaped.

But whatever some ladies may do in the privacy of their own sewing-rooms, those who patronize our fashionable shops and have the fabrics made by a stylish modiste, make up for this economy of their careful sisters.

The present style of dress, far from being economical, seems to advocate extravagance in every detail. Bonnets and hats must be *en suite*, stockings should match the dress, and all colors and materials must harmonize, unless the wearer cares nothing about being considered a woman of fashion.

There was never more variety, richness, and even extravagance in materials. The silk novelties, just opened,

are both rich and costly. Velvets in the most exquisite colors; plush, both striped and plain; the exquisite material known as *velours de Gènes*, or Genoa velvet, in all colors, and still another variety called *velours frisé*, are all used, both for wraps and dress trimmings.

The wool fabrics are in great variety and profusion. They look coarse, but are not cheap, and they drape admirably. Many of these materials bear a resemblance, near or more remote, to Astracan. Some look as though lace of one color was laid over the plain fabric of another. For instance, blue over red.

Stripes are combined with plain materials, the latter being used for the upper portion of the costume and the draperies and the striped goods for the petticoat.

Another pretty style of goods is called *bouclé mohair*,

which is very soft in texture; and still another is *cache-mire craquelé*, which looks much like the crackle-ware china with which we all are familiar.

Colored jackets and waistcoats are to be great favorites this season. They are as different in cut as they are numerous, but always open over a pleated plastron, usually of foulard, surah or satin.

Nearly all dresses, of whatever material, are enriched by a panel on the left side, either in velvet or plush, Egyptian galoon or embroidery.

Little misses just in their teens have their dresses made from all these varieties of wool goods and even more. The range of materials is from fine cashmeres to all the rough goods worn by their mothers, beside velveteen and corduroy, which are liked for youthful toilets.

There are also elaborate combinations of silk or satin with velvet and plush, for dressy occasions; but tasteful mothers prefer simple white muslin dresses, or costumes of white, or light delicate colors in wool goods, for school-girls who appear at Christmas dinners and small parties.

A soft, gathered vest of a bright contrasting color is greatly liked for misses, worn with an Eton jacket of the color of the skirt. This vest has a belt or sash crossing it at the waist-line. A belt is finished without ends, but a sash may be tied in a bow at the back or at one side.

Misses wear, principally, long Newmarket cloaks of beaver or bouclé cloth. They are made to cover the dress skirts entirely. But a good many short jackets are worn. They have loose diagonal fronts and short fitted backs, and are trimmed either with fur and large buttons or wide braid and plain buttons.

The hats are of felt, either high in the crown and close in the brim, or like turbans, lower in the crown with the brim turned up all around. The trimming on all shapes is high in front and is varied by birds, wings and quills.

Standing linen collars and ruffles are now worn in the necks and wrists of misses' dresses, and even by quite small girls. But for street wear we see the white embroidered necktie revived, tied in a large bow. Tiny children still wear large embroidered collars. MELUZINA.

HOUSEKEEPING.

Christmas Turkey.

Large turkeys are not apt to be as tender as small ones, but it is less trouble to prepare one than two, and surely the carving of two is more laborious than one. There are two methods of treating a turkey that is past its most tender age that will make it quite as acceptable as a younger one roasted in the usual manner. One method is to steam the turkey an hour and then roast it; but that requires a much larger steamer than most families possess. The other is to sew the fowl up in a clean and perfectly sweet piece of old muslin and then roast it in the usual manner, basting often. If it does not brown sufficiently through the cloth, remove it half an hour before the turkey is done. When it is served even the legs and wings will be tender and juicy, and not dry and hard, as is usually the case. It is an improvement to add some oysters to the dressing and save the liquor of the oysters to put in the gravy.

Chicken Pie with Oysters.

Boil the chicken until almost done, it will finish cooking in the pie. Make as much gravy as the size of the fowl will warrant, add a half cup of milk and thicken it. The quantity of crust will depend on the size of the pie you wish to have. One quart of flour will make enough for a large pie, and will require three heaping teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, one level teaspoonful of salt, and three small tablespoonfuls of butter pressed down and smoothed level with a knife. The baking-powder and salt must be sifted with the flour, and the butter worked through with the hand. It will need nearly a pint of wetting, all milk or half milk and water; stir it in with a spoon and roll the dough out just large enough to fit the top of the baking-dish; place the chicken in the dish, which must be hot, scatter the raw oysters among the pieces of chicken, pour over all enough gravy to fill the

dish to the depth of one inch and cover it with the crust, which must be pressed against the edge so it will adhere. A vent for steam can be made in the middle; bake half an hour and serve with remainder of the gravy.

Fruit Glacé.

Oranges and grapes are the most readily obtained of any fruit at this season, and make a nice variety for the New Year's table if treated in the following manner: Boil together one cup of granulated sugar, the same quantity of cold water, and the juice of one lemon. Do not stir it while boiling. A small granite-iron saucepan is best to cook it in, and it is ready for use when a little, taken up on a fork, will form a brittle thread if exposed to the cold air or dipped in water. While the syrup is boiling pare the oranges, divide them into small sections and lay them on a dry towel, as there must be no moisture on the outside. Keep the syrup hot by placing it over the teakettle or setting it in a basin of boiling water. Then take each piece of fruit on a fork or skewer, and, dipping it into the syrup, lay it on a buttered platter and set in a cool place.

Boston Brown Bread.

This favorite loaf is sometimes a mystery to the inexperienced housekeeper, and unskillful servants frequently fail after being supplied with the plainest directions. It is, therefore, a great convenience to be able to purchase a mixture so nearly prepared that the most ignorant servant can be left to complete and steam it with certain success. In using Holmes' brown bread mixture nothing is required but the addition of two cups and a half of water and a half cup of molasses, so there is no possibility of failure. It is also a convenience to any housekeeper to purchase all the ingredients in one package.

MRS. C. G. HERBERT.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

INDEX FOR 1885.—We have prepared an Index with Title Page for the current volume of "The Floral Cabinet" and will mail a copy free upon receipt of a request from any Subscriber.

* * *

Roman Hyacinths.—These bulbs are grown in immense quantities by florists for the cut-flower market, and, like all other flowers, the first have the advantage of a quick sale at good prices. Consequently there exists among the florists a rivalry as to who shall win the race. John Henderson, Esq., of Flushing, N. Y., won the "cup" this year in a fair race over all competitors, coming in a few days ahead with flowers on the 7th of November, ten days in advance of last season. The flowers sold readily at \$1 per dozen spikes.

* * *

The Chrysanthemum.—We have devoted considerable space this month to the chrysanthemum, but no more than its excellence deserves. We now wish to say a word about the chrysanthemum exhibitions. The New York Horticultural Society took the lead with one of the finest exhibitions ever seen in this country. Not only was the display large in every department, but it was decidedly rich in standards and dwarf specimens. Its great merit was in the fullness and richness of the cut-flower department. Here were specimens seven inches in diameter, absolutely perfect in form, and in such colors as the chrysanthemum was never supposed to possess. As a matter of course, in the professional line, Mr. Thorpe, popularly known as "Chrysanthemum Thorpe," took the lead, while Mr. Childs made a fair second. In the amateur department there were specimens of marvelous beauty, showing the interest now felt in the development of this flower.

Had the society a hall worthy the name, a hall where flowers could be seen by daylight, as they should be, the exhibition would have been highly appreciated. As it was, no one supposed it could be equalled in this country; but when the Philadelphians opened the doors of Horticultural Hall, on Broad street, on the evening of November 10, the New Yorkers were simply amazed, for there, in a hall perfectly adapted for the exhibition of flowers, was a display that fairly distanced the New York exhibition.

Again comes a surprise, this time in Boston, where the chrysanthemum is also known and loved. In the large hall of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, there was an exhibition (opening on the 12th) which for beautiful and well-grown plants far surpassed those shown in this city and Philadelphia. The plants were grown in an entirely different manner, being mostly what might be called half-standards—single stems, with a crown of bloom that for symmetry and fullness could not have been better. The number of plants, and possibly the number of varieties, may not have equalled the other exhibitions, but the beautiful forms of the plants by far surpassed them.

This pleasant rivalry is very interesting and useful for educational purposes. It shows what well-directed effort in any given direction will accomplish. The chrysanthemum fever is now well marked, and those who are making a specialty of this flower are already arranging to grow plants for the next season's exhibitions that will, if possible, far surpass anything seen this year.

* * *

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the oldest existing horticultural association in the United States, makes the following announcement:

"At the monthly meeting, on Tuesday evening, February 16, 1886, the medals of the society will be awarded as ladies' premiums, to be competed for by ladies only:

12 Hyacinths, grown in glasses, first premium, gold medal.

12 Hyacinths, grown in glasses, second premium, silver gilt medal.

12 Hyacinths, grown in glasses, third premium, silver medal.

6 Hyacinths, grown in glasses, first premium, silver medal.

6 Hyacinths, grown in glass, second premium, bronze medal.

At the spring exhibition, to be held March 16 to 19, 1886, the General Union of Holland for the Promotion of the Cultivation of Bulbs, under the patronage of the King of the Netherlands, offers the following special prizes to be competed for by nurserymen, seedsmen and florists only:

Hyacinths, 50 named bulbs, in 50 pots, forced in pots—

First prize Gold medal.

Second prize Silver gilt medal.

Third prize Silver medal.

* * *

Cut-Flower Trade.—The prospect of a prosperous cut-flower trade the coming winter is very flattering. Notwithstanding the season is so warm that the market is flooded with chrysanthemums grown out of doors, the trade in roses and other choice flowers is very brisk, much better than at the same season last year. Good roses are now bringing satisfactory prices, and choice carnations are scarce. This is probably due to the fact that the carnation has a disease in most parts of the country that threatens its destruction. Many of the florists have entirely given up growing it.

* * *

Calendula Meteor.—This hardy annual is not grown to the extent its merits deserve, probably from the fact of its being a variety of the old pot marigold, which gives it a common name, and anything common cannot be tolerated in the garden of to-day. Yet it is one of our most beautiful hardy annuals, and is now (November 14) in full bloom, seemingly as cheerful and happy as though it were early spring instead of early winter. Our plants

are from self-sown seed, and have been in flower since the middle of July. The flowers are double, beautifully imbricated; they are striped, the colors being deep orange on a pale straw-colored ground. We have also a new variety of calendula, the "Prince of Orange," a novelty of the past season. The only difference we notice is that its markings are a little more distinct. Had we either, we should not require the other.

* * *

We are often called upon to defend insects, or at least to speak a kind word in their favor, believing they have a useful mission in the economy of nature. That they have such there is abundant evidence on every side, and there is no more interesting study than to watch their operations. The following query shows how well they know their work and how faithfully they perform their tasks:

Why is it that the bee-like fly did not appear among my chrysanthemums before the 10th of October? Last year numbers were to be seen by the 2d or 3d, but then I had several varieties in flower, notably Madame Des Grange, Fleur Parfaite and Alex. Dufour. This season my first flower, a single seedling, opened on the 10th, that is, the disk or true florets opened at that time; a single row only were perfect, and sure enough two of my welcome friends—the flies—were there also.

How comes this busy family to know the exact day when they would find food and employment and why came only two at first?

As the chrysanthemum season progresses they will increase in numbers, so much so as to fill the houses with as much buzzing as do a colony of bees in a cherry-tree in May.

JOHN THORPE.

* * *

Missouri State Horticultural Society.—It is the desire of the officers of the society that this twenty-eighth annual meeting, to be held at Warrensburg, December 9, 10, 11, shall be the best one ever held in the State, and every member is requested to be present, if possible, and to come prepared to give his experience, as successes or failures are alike valuable. A "Question Box" will be upon the secretary's table, where any questions may be put. Among the many interesting topics for discussion indicated on the programme are the following:

"The Fruit Business from a Commission Man's Standpoint," E. T. Hollister, St. Louis.

"The Nurseryman's Duty to His Patrons," C. H. Fink, Lamar.

"The Yellows, the Rust and the Mildew," B. F. Gallo-way, Columbia.

"Best Six Varieties of Apples for Profit and Best Twelve Varieties for Family," E. P. Henry, Butler.

"Best Three Varieties of Strawberries, Raspberries and Blackberries, and Why?" P. Ames, Carthage.

"Parasitic Fungi," Prof. S. M. Tracy, Columbia.

"The Greenhouse Work," Prof. L. R. Taft, Columbia.

* * *

Plant Life.—It has been shown by Professor Schubertler, a Norwegian plant-geographer, that most plants in high latitudes produce much larger and heavier seeds

than in warmer regions near the equator. This effect he attributes to the prolonged influence of sunlight during the long summer days of the high latitudes. The difference of seed development was very remarkable in some cases. Dwarf beans taken from Christiania to Drontheim—less than four degrees farther north—gained more than 60 per cent. in weight, and thyme from Lyons, when planted at Drontheim, showed a gain of 71 per cent. The grain of northern fields is heavier than when grown in more southerly localities, and seed from Norway planted at Breslau decreased greatly in the first year. The leaves, also, of most plants are larger and more deeply colored in higher latitudes, as was first noticed by Griesbach and Martins. The same is true of flowers, and many which are white in the southern climates become violet in the far north. While on this subject of the changes in flowers, it may be mentioned that a chameleon sort of flower which grows in the United States is white in the morning and red at night. It has been named the Confederate rose on account of its two beautiful colors. The plant is odorless, it grows in great bunches, and is susceptible of a high degree of cultivation.

Literary Notes.

The index of *Babyhood's* first year, which accompanies its twelfth number (November), comprises nearly four hundred titles, and gives an idea of the subjects covered by this novel mother's companion in its first volume. It would have been difficult for *Babyhood* to crowd into its 390 pages a greater variety of information and suggestion touching the rearing of children and the regimen of the nursery, yet a glance at many of the articles shows that their subjects have been by no means fully treated, while a vast number of allied topics remain totally untouched. In other words, *Babyhood* has as yet scarcely entered upon its field, so prolific is it of the most interesting and fascinating study.

The November *Wide Awake* opens with a frontispiece by Hassam. This is followed by the closing chapters of the interesting serial entitled "A New Departure for Girls." Mr. Brooks' historical serial, "The Governor's Daughter," is also concluded in this number. James Otis has in "Dan Hardy's Cripple" a pathetic Thanksgiving-time story, and the second "Popsy Story" appears, one of the last labors of Mrs. Helen Jackson ("H. H."). Mrs. Harriet Pinckney Huse gives some early recollections of the novelist Cooper, which form a charming pendant to Miss Harris's paper about him in "Pleasant Authors for Young Folks," and there is a portrait and a drawing of the old hall at Cooperstown. "The Cock-Horse Regiment," by Mrs. F. A. Humphrey, commemorates in verse a charming little historical happening, and has six full-page illustrations by Garrett. New serials open in the next number: "A Girl and a Jewel," by Mrs. Harriet Prescott Spofford; "A Midshipman at Large," by Charles Remington Talbot, and "Dilly and the Captain," by Margaret Sidney.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Ferns and their Arrangement.—*Mrs. F. H., Wilmington, Del.*—You ask of us information difficult to impart. The arrangement of ferns, like that of all other plants, depends upon circumstances, mainly upon the situation you have for them. "A corner near a window" can be made to look very beautiful with ferns alone, and their arrangement is a simple affair. All that it requires is a series of shelves at the proper distance apart to hold the plants, and just sufficient to hold them so that neither pots nor shelves can be seen. To produce this result well-grown, large plants will be needed. The variety will depend much on your taste. We should use *Adiantums* in variety alone. If your "corner" is surrounded with casings, so that light ornamental brackets could be put up, no better arrangement could be made. We do not keep plants of any kind, but would refer you to our advertisers for a supply.

Callas.—*Same.*—Do not separate your callas now, but wait until the plants are at rest; then separate and pot singly. The largest offsets will frequently bloom the first season. All will bloom the second.

Night-Blooming Jessamine.—*Mrs. A. L. C.*—The night-blooming jessamine is not hardy, and will stand but little frost; it is readily propagated by cuttings in spring, if you have a suitable house. Away from the greenhouse it would be much more difficult to manage. It succeeds well in a pot filled with good rich loam—but use a small pot; in a large one it will soon grow so as to become unmanageable.

Ice Plant.—*Old Subscriber.*—The ice plant grows as any garden vegetable, with the same treatment; it requires a good strong soil.

Wax Plant.—*Same.*—The chief requisite to make wax plants bloom well is age. They grow readily as pot-plants, succeeding well in an ordinary living-room. When growing, water freely, but withhold it almost entirely when they are at rest, which is only a small portion of the time.

Crocus.—*Same.*—One reason why the crocus does not thrive with you is your long season of dry, hot weather. They usually bloom well the first year after planting, providing you get good bulbs. These cannot be obtained if you defer purchasing after the first of October. They should be planted as soon as possible after they arrive from Holland. Keeping them dry after the first of October is a great injury, and after the first of November an almost fatal one.

Wintering Canna Roots.—*J. D. Locke.*—You can take them up and store in a cellar or outhouse, away from frost or under a greenhouse bench. In either case keep them from getting wet, and it will be well to cover them with sand to prevent drying up. You can also

allow them to remain in the beds where they are now growing, without any danger of losing them, if you prefer to do so. The beds must be covered with some kind of protection to prevent the frost getting to them. Almost any material that is convenient will answer for this purpose. Long litter, corn-stalks or newly-fallen leaves are all good, but we prefer by all means the latter. Lay them on the bed a foot or fifteen inches in depth, and cover with soil sufficient to keep the leaves in place. If you leave the roots in the ground covered in this way, you will be perfectly astonished at the growth they will make next season.

Resurrection Plant.—*Mrs. H. H. Von Glahn.*—The true resurrection plant, or "Rose of Jericho," *Anastatica hierochuntina*, is an annual belonging to the Nat. Ord. Cruciferae, and a native of the Egyptian deserts and the wastes of Arabia, Barbary and the Holy Land. Its generic name is derived from *anastasis*, "resurrection," in reference to the property it possesses, no matter how dry it may be, of recovering its original form and green, healthy appearance if immersed in water. It is a dwarf-growing, bushy-habited plant, resembling when in a fresh, green state, a large tuft or patch of green moss, but when deprived of moisture it curls up and resembles a bunch of dried cedar twigs about four or five inches in diameter. In its native habitat this singular plant grows with remarkable vigor during the rainy season, but as soon as the dry weather sets in and the heat of the sun begins to dry up the supply of moisture the plant dries up, too, the roots detach themselves from mother earth, and the plant is then blown about at the mercy of the wind until the return of a few congenial showers. As soon as the roots receive a little moisture they suck it up, the plants unfold in a few hours and spread out in flat tufts of the most emerald brightness and grow with renewed vigor. With the return of dry weather the plants again dry up as before, unless they have had time to flower and perfect their seed; of course, when this happens they perish like all other plants of annual duration.

Begonias.—*Amateur.*—It is impossible to tell you what to do with the begonias without knowing to which class they belong. If they belong to the ornamental-leaved section they must be kept quite dry until about February 1, in a light position, entirely away from frost. If they belong to the section grown for their flowers, and have tuberous roots, dry them off and place them in a dry store-room where frost cannot touch them; it is better to leave them in the pots. Those having no tuberous roots and grown for their flowers require to be kept rather dry and in a warm temperature. It will be difficult to keep them safely during the winter in the sitting-room; besides, they are unsightly objects when at rest.

FIFTEENTH YEAR.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 1886.

THE LADIES' FLORAL CABINET leads as **THE MAGAZINE OF FLORICULTURE FOR AMATEURS**, giving more pages of reading matter and more illustrations than **ANY OTHER PUBLICATION** devoted to the same topic;

maintains its high position as an authority on questions arising in Floriculture; introduces to its readers' attention Novelties in plants, especially such as may be useful to Amateurs, and treats every subject from an independent position, being entirely disassociated with all trade alliances, having no ends to serve except its own interests as a Magazine, and those interests are best promoted by securing authentic information upon all phases of Floriculture for its subscribers

It has a constituency highly valued by First-class Advertisers. Upon this latter point, one of our advertisers wrote: "I inclose check for \$95.16. * * * I cannot but say that I have received as many inquiries from the **FLORAL CABINET** as all the other papers in which I have advertised the past year."

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In the departments of Domestic Arts the original designs by Miss M. E. WHITEMORE and Mrs. E. S. WELCH, with accompanying descriptions, may be looked for, and the valued Housekeeping articles of Mrs. C. G. HERBERT will continue to be a feature.

PREMIUMS FOR 1886.

Below is presented the selection of premiums made for 1886, and it embraces in Premium No. 1 as rare a collection of flower seeds as has ever been offered to the readers of any publication. The ten varieties enumerated will afford abundance of bloom throughout the season, in as many different colors as such a list could furnish. Six of the number are summer-flowering, two for the late fall, and two everlastings for winter floral decorations, so that our subscribers need not be without

GARDEN FLOWERS ALL THE YEAR,

if cultural directions are faithfully followed.

A bulb of the *Tigridia grandiflora alba*, which gave so much satisfaction last year, constitutes Premium No. 2, and the popular *Amaryllis rosea*, Premium No. 3.

PREMIUM No. 1.

FLOWER SEEDS. (See accompanying illustrations.)

Asters, *Paeony-flowered* (1).—One of the best in every respect; mixed colors.

Calliopsis lanceolata (2).—A perennial and constant blooming variety. Colors: shades of yellow.

Candytuft (3).—One of the most popular hardy annuals. Mixed colors: white, rose and carmine.

Delphinium Chiuensis, Larkspur (4)—Flowers blue.

Dianthus chinensis, China Pink (5)—Hardy annual; very desirable for cut flowers.

Mignonette Golden Queen (6).

Pansy (7).—Fancy varieties mixed.

Phlox Drummondii (8).—Mixed colors: white, red and purple.

Acroclium (9).—One of the most valuable of the everlastings, with daisy-like flowers; white, pink and rose colors mixed.

Helichrysum (10).—Another desirable everlasting; flowers, white, yellow and dark red.

PREMIUM No. 2.

One Bulb *Tigridia grandiflora alba*.—Pure white, spotted with crimson in centre; gold-banded petals. This is one of the most showy and beautiful of all the summer-flowering bulbs.

PREMIUM No. 3.

One Bulb *Amaryllis rosea* (*Zephyranthes*).—Rose-colored.



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