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Vol. XIII.

MARCH, 1908

No. 3

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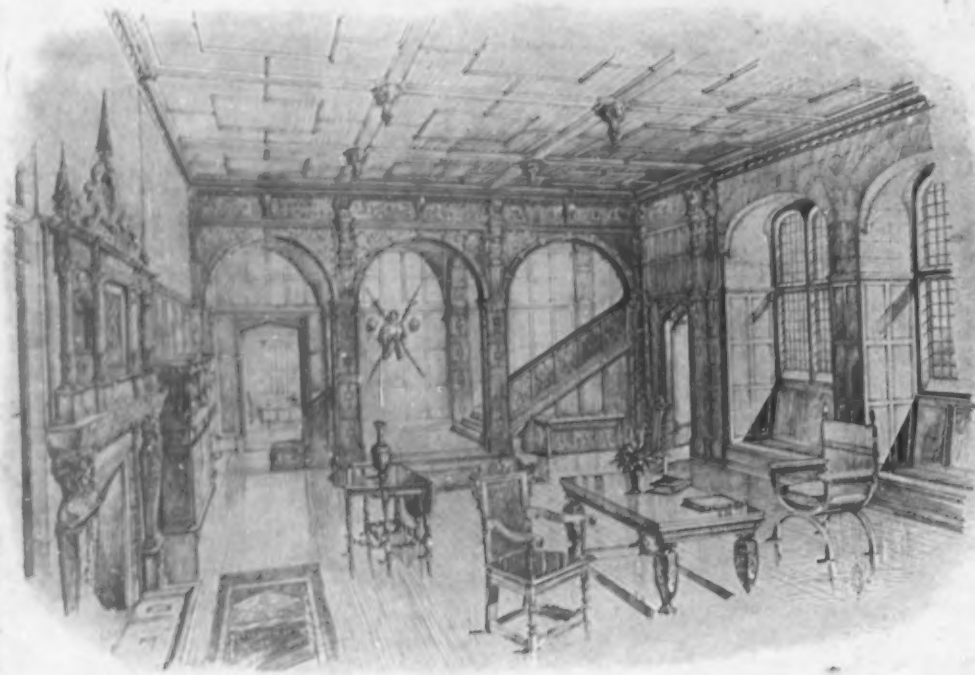
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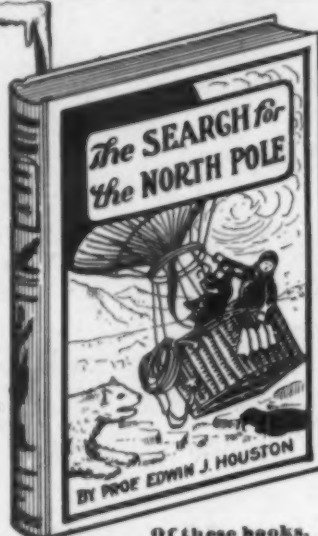
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of fine flavor and very juicy; Big Colman, an immense purple grape of attractive appearance, somewhat too solid and lacking in juice, and the Black Alicante and Queen Victoria, both acceptable as to quality and flavor. These grapes are sold on the Belgian retail markets all the year round, at prices varying with the seasons, from about fifteen cents to \$1 per pound. In the last few years the cultivation of peaches, in connection with grapes, has also become quite profitable, and, although still practiced on a limited scale, has produced excellent results, the yield being first class in every respect.

The cultivation of strawberries, tomatoes, spinach, lettuce, asparagus, and chicory under glass is also carried on in this district by syndicates, which regulate production as well as prices. Grapes grown in this consular district are exported largely to England, Germany, Russia, and Denmark, and occasionally in small quantities to the United States.—*Florists' Exchange*.

BIRDS AS INSECT DESTROYERS

THE immense value of the insect-eating birds to farmers and the country at large is so well known that their protection is evidently necessary to the welfare of any country. The value of certain kinds of birds has been recently strongly emphasized through the invasion of the cotton-growing States by the boll weevil. In spite of every effort to stay its march this insect is spreading at the rate of about fifty miles a year, and sooner or later it is certain to infest the entire cotton producing area. This not only seriously affects the Southern cotton planter, but its ultimate consequence will affect the well-being of the whole country.

While birds are the natural enemies of the weevil, they are alone inadequate to the task of controlling the ravages of this pest. The losses which it inflicts are so large, however, that no aid can be safely neglected, especially when so important as the services rendered by birds. The different species of swallows are among the most important enemies to the boll weevil, yet they breed only sparingly in Texas and elsewhere in the South. They are migratory, coming North in early spring, raising their young and going South to spend the winter. They are equally important to Northern

farmers, for they live largely on insects and help to destroy vast numbers of injurious species.

It is important not only that every farmer protect and encourage the birds around his place, but that efforts be made to secure uniform laws providing for the protection of all our birds. The English sparrow is the greatest enemy of all native birds, and if unmolested, will thwart all efforts to encourage and protect other species. War against these foreigners should be waged by everyone.

PEANUTS FOR NORTHERN GARDENS

THE peanut is generally supposed to be a subtropical product, but it only needs a little time and patient experimentation to place it among the commercial products of the Northern States. No State of the South can furnish a better developed lot of nuts than are grown in Southeastern Michigan on the shores of the great lake, and in latitude 43.

Two years ago I established a contest among the boys and girls of Michigan, offering a prize for the boy and girl that would raise the most nuts from one pound of seed. Sixty-five contestants from as many different points in the State entered the scheme, and I was certainly surprised at results, which ranged from total failure up to twenty-two pounds of nuts produced from the one pound of seed, yet the average for the sixty-five tests was twelve pounds. This, considering the inexperience of the youngsters, was pronounced exceedingly good.

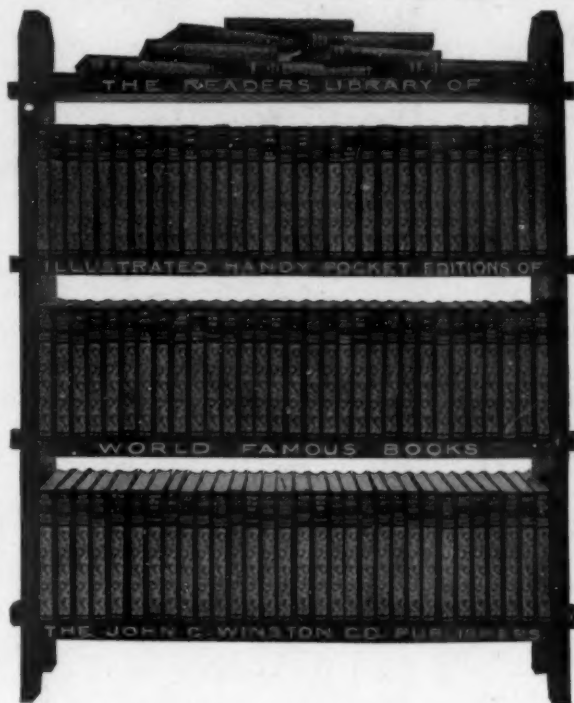
Not for people living in the South, but for those in the North who eat peanuts and are ignorant as to their growth and the habits of the plant, do I give the information that they grow almost exactly like potatoes. The nut is planted in the ground and the finished product is dug from the ground the same as we dig the hill of potatoes.

Warm, well-drained, rather light but fertile soil and without fresh stable manure tells all that is needed to know about soil conditions; so if you plant on low, wet, soggy soil and fail, which you will, don't blame me. Buy one pound of unroasted peanuts in the shell, which will cost ten cents. Get the best you can find as there is a great difference in quality. Break the shells carefully, so

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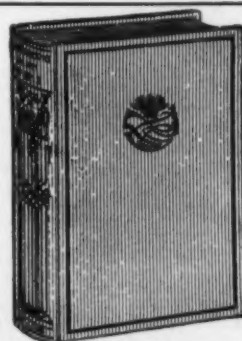


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as not to disturb the brown covering over the kernels, as this might destroy the germ. Mark a straight row, ridging same possibly three inches. Along this crest plant the nuts about two inches deep and two kernels in the hill. I do this by simply forcing the first two fingers of my right hand down into the soft earth, thereby making two holes, and into each drop a seed; this keeps them separate and prevents rotting. A commercial planter, of course, would laugh at this simple plan, but let him remember that we are dealing with a plant that is supposedly outside of its environment.

Late frosts are to be guarded against, so do not plant too early. Plants will show in about two weeks after planting. Clean culture must be given, as weeds must not be allowed. When the vines begin to run, gradually hoe the soil toward the roots; soon the blossoms will begin to show and here the interesting part of the work begins.

There is an old claim that the flowers must be covered or the vines will not bear, but please forget this, as it is an old whim and should be relegated to the past with the moon-planted potatoes. Immediately with the opening of the flower and exactly beneath it, is started what is called a peduncle, this being a sharp spine, which grows straight down into the soil, and on the bottom of which the nut is formed. Cultivate as long as possible without breaking these spines after which simply pull out the large weeds as they appear.

As the crop begins to ripen, the vines will turn yellow, which with us is the last of September or first of October. They are then lifted with the potato fork, being careful to loosen all the soil so as not to break the nut from its parent stem, as each nut has its own thread to hang to.—E. L. Keasey in *The Weekly Farmer*.

SOME POISONOUS PLANTS

THIS is the subject of an interesting article by a correspondent of the English Journal of Horticulture, which reads as follows:

Many of our prominent garden subjects possess poisonous properties entirely unsuspected by the average gardener. In some cases all parts of the plants are injurious; in others it may be only the seeds, leaves, or roots. *Primula obconica* is to many persons the cause of more or less severe attacks of

poisoning, in the shape of rashes and swellings on the hands and arms, much resembling the effects caused by the common stinging nettle. The leaves of various anemones are highly poisonous, those of *Anemone japonica* being especially so. The juice of *A. ranunculoides* is used for poisoning arrows in certain parts of Eastern Siberia; a powerful drug is obtained from various portions of *Helleborus niger*; the dangers arising from the use of the aconite are well known; the roots are liable to be mistaken for horseradish, and should on no account be planted in close proximity to vegetables. In color, the root of the aconite is brown, and that of horseradish is pale yellow. The blue *Aconitum Napellus* is one of the most dangerous plants in cultivation; persons who have eaten of this have developed a form of insanity, and some species have been used by natives in India to poison wells. The seeds of *Delphinium ajacis* are very injurious. Most of the poppies contain narcotic properties of the opium poppy of the East to a greater or lesser extent. *Papaver somniferum*, or opium poppy, is cultivated in this country, the opium being contained in the whitish juice of the capsule. The petals, also, are laden with the poison and should on no account be placed in the mouth. The seeds and rhizomes of *Viola odorata*, or sweet violets, are poisonous, although a distillation of the leaves has been pronounced a palliative and even a cure for the dreaded cancer. The effects of *Lobelia erinus* seeds are stated to resemble belladonna poisoning. Corms of *Cyclamen persicum* are deadly to a degree, acting as an emetic, and dangerous illness has followed the consumption of portions of the corms. The properties of nicotine, well known as a virulent poison, are contained in the leaves of the various kinds of *Nicotiana* grown in this country.

Narcissus bulbs must be placed in the danger list. *N. poeticus* is probably the most injurious, the scent of the blooms possessing a principle to cause illness if much inhaled. Lily-of-the-valley blooms should never be placed in any number in bedrooms for the same reason. Only a short time since a case of illness from this cause was published in the press. Few persons are likely to be tempted to experiment with the evil smelling bulbs of crown imperials (*Fritillaria imperialis*); they contain

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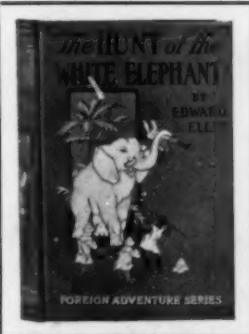
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The editorial plans for the coming year call for a general strengthening of the magazine. The series of articles upon great national problems by men of authority will be continued through the year. The pictorial and descriptive features will be made better. A member of the editorial staff of one of America's best-known dailies has gone to South America to study conditions there and will contribute a series of articles that will run through the year. No American who has any business, political, or sentimental interest in South America can afford to miss this series.

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ANY OF THESE VOLUMES MAILED ON RECEIPT OF PRICE.

enough poison to cause serious injury. Gardeners working amongst the different varieties of *Rhus* should always take the precaution to wear leather gloves. The common *Laburnum vulgare* or golden chain is another deadly poison, fatal illness being the result of children eating the seeds and pods. The flowers of *Wistaria Chinensis*, and all parts of *Daphne Mezereum*, are injurious. From the bark of the latter is obtained a powerful drug, much used in medicine. The leaves and flowers of *Neriums* are fatal to animal life, and the scent of the blooms, if much inhaled, will cause serious illness. *Kalmia latifolia* is one of the most virulent evergreen shrubs cultivated in our gardens; the flesh of game birds that have fed on this shrub should never be partaken of.

DWARF JAPANESE CHESTNUT TREES

SOME twenty-five years ago, when the Japanese chestnut was introduced by California importers, and thence taken across the continent to New Jersey, it produced nothing short of a horticultural sensation. The immense size of the nut, the dwarf habit of the tree, which saves so much orchard space, and its wonderful precocity (since it often bears at two years from seed) were hailed with glee by the commercial grower. At first only seedlings could be obtained, and few of these. They brought high prices. There was little risk in using seedling stock, since ninety-five per cent of the trees grown from Japanese seed will bear good nuts, but varieties must be grafted.

For fifteen years the Japanese chestnut's career took the ascending curve, but for the last ten it has been gradually going down, until to-day, while there is a steady demand for the trees, this species is no longer the favorite. The reason is not far to seek. The quality of the nut is poor and the public that once clamored for big nuts has gone back to the smaller European and American varieties simply because they are so much sweeter.

However, the amateur who wants a few chestnut trees merely as an interesting adjunct to his garden may well plant some of the Japanese. They are interesting trees, clean growers, dwarf enough in habit never to take up an embarrassing amount of space, free from

(Continued on page 8.)



PERGOLAS

THE title suggests shaded walks flanked by masses of bloom, pillars of stone or cement or wood, clinging vines and rustic seats and at the end a burst of sunshine over the landscape vista, forming high lights and shadows that baffle the best of artists to paint. The camera and the pen have served Mary H. Northend well, for with the former she has caught the beauties of several charming Pergolas of a less formal character while her pen supplies interesting descriptions and practical suggestions concerning their construction.

SOME LONG ISLAND COUNTRY ESTATES

The second paper by Mr. Richard Schermerhorn, Jr., on Long Island Country Estates deals with the Whitney and Duryea properties. Comparisons are drawn and the characteristics of each are described. The illustrations depict some of their beauty spots, and bring before us a wealth of formal garden effects, winding roads and natural woodland and meadow.

VINES AND VINE-COVERED HOUSES

In a very readable, terse article Charles Alma Byers shows how romance and sentiment cling around palaces, castles and cottages where vines have twined themselves. The many varieties of vines best suited for the varying needs are described. Vines for the low dwarf retaining wall, or for the stone façade of a church or the chimney mounting from the foundation to high above the house roof; for porch columns, for rambling over pergolas, for draping ragged tree trunks, all are designated and the many illustrations show the charming effects produced through their agency.

THE GARDEN OF THE SUBURBANITE

The joy of seeing things respond to a little coaxing, the happiness in gathering from one's own garden fresh vegetables and all this coupled with a marked gain in health, through the exercise it necessitated, to say nothing of the money saved and the superior quality of the vegetables raised, are written of by C. B. Wynkoop. What he has done every dweller in the suburbs should do. The satisfaction of being a "producer," of making a toothsome vegetable grow where only weeds grew before is immense. Try it and see if your enthusiasm is not fully aroused by the end of the first year's trial.

BURBANK'S SHASTA DAISY

Georgia Torrey Drennan says that the Shasta Daisy is one of the triumphs of Santa Rosa (Mr. Burbank's home) and that it is regarded as one of his greatest achievements by Mr. Burbank himself. From the disdained ox-eye daisy he has, by years of effort and countless crossing of strains, produced the one described, which is hardy enough to thrive within the arctic circle or under the equator.

"RESPITE"

The April number of HOUSE AND GARDEN will contain a charming little poem by Claire Wallace Flynn entitled "RESPITE"—The three verses are set decoratively which adds to their charm.

THE QUEST AND CULTURE OF ORCHIDS

The second paper of G. Bertrand Mitchell on Orchidaceous plants will appear in the April number. The Cattleyas, the Lælias, the Dendrobiums, the Odontoglossums, the Oncidiums and the Cypripediums are illustrated and described, while the interesting process of hybridization is explained and the most approved methods of culture are given. There is a fascination about these patricians of plant life that holds attention through every line that is written of them.

GARDEN PHLOX

The very brightness of its bloom suggested the name Phlox, which is a Greek word signifying—flame. W. C. Egan has much to tell of this most beautiful and esteemed flower. Its several varieties are minutely described. The best location to select for it and how to prepare the ground and bed the plants are taken up with much explicitness.

It is a flower that found much favor with our grandmothers and in every old-time garden it was much in evidence. Various new varieties have been originated and developed since its first introduction early in the eighteenth century.

SOME OLD AND NEW ANNUALS

Helichrysum bracteatum, an old variety of "everlasting" from Australia; a new annual from South Africa (that is, new to this country) *Diascea Barberæ*; a "warm country" annual whose native habitat is Chili, the *Alonsoa Warscewicz*—and a new sun-flower, *Helianthus sparsifolia*, form subject matter for several interesting notes concerning them, which Mr. W. C. Egan has prepared and which must prove interesting to all flower lovers.



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disease, with good colored foliage, and they bear when they are so absurdly small that they are a constant delight to the good folk who must have a garden that is ever "up and doing." Moreover, they bear freely and regularly and the nuts are sound and meaty, not bad when boiled, but uninteresting and flat when roasted or eaten raw. There may yet be a field for the Japanese in the making of marrons glacés or similar confections, but as yet it is untried. The real hope of the whole species lies in the improvement of its quality by hybridizing.—*New York Herald.*

A UNIQUE MOUNTAIN PARK IN RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

ONE of the most beautiful places in Southern California is Riverside, and in a letter recently received from Mr. C. M. Loring, who is known as the father of the Minneapolis Park system, and who some years ago became interested in Riverside where he planted a long street of shade trees, he says the people there have taken a great deal of interest in tree planting and home embellishment. He says: "The street trees are under the care of a forester, Mr. J. H. Reed, who has been so successful that delegations come to him from other cities to learn his methods. The city is fortunate in having within its borders a rugged mountain, Roubidoux Mountain, about a mile long, half a mile wide, and with an elevation of 1,372 feet, for which the citizens raised a fund for its purchase and improvement as a public park. Since its acquirement one of the finest mountain roads that could be built has been graded to the summit, from which the views are grand beyond description. In no other city within my knowledge is there another such a park. On the sides of this boulder covered mountain the City Forester has planted some ten thousand trees of several varieties, and over a thousand palms, and there are yet to be planted hundreds of yuccas, cacti and other interesting desert plants near the summit, above the line of city water pipes."—*Park and Cemetery.*

European houses are offering a golden leaved form of the *Dimorphanthus mandshuricus*. The *Dimorphanthus* is closely allied to *aralia*, and it can be well understood how beautiful a golden-leaved form of it must be.—*Florists' Exchange.*



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THE HOTHOUSE OF FRANKENTHAL BLACK GRAPES

House and Garden

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MARCH, 1908

No. 3

Forcing Fruits for Market in France

By JACQUES BOYER

THE art of producing flowers, fruits and vegetables out of season was known by the Romans 2000 years ago. Certain gardeners of the Eternal City knew as well how to force the rose as to supply the tables of their contemporary sybarites with the first fruits and vegetables of the season.

At the coldest season of the winter the Emperor Tiberius ate cucumbers daily, of which he was passionately fond, and his successor, Caligula, also at the same season of the year served melons and ripe figs to his guests. Seneca in vain stigmatized the sensualism of those who, "by a fomentation of hot water and artificial heat made spring flowers blossom in the midst of frosts," the rich patricians continued none the less to build the Cilician orchards, a kind of orangery heated by means of a furnace and which sheltered principally exotic trees or portable beds (*horti pensiles*) destined for the cultivation of asparagus, melons, artichokes, cardoon or other early fruits and vegetables appreciated by the Luculluses of the Peninsula.

As much as one can judge by the incomplete descriptions of the Latin authors, these portable beds were boxes mounted upon wheels, which were exposed to the sun during the day, and put under shelter at night. As with the Cilician orchard, panes of isinglass, alabaster or other transparent stones protected these boxes from the cold. Only rich amateurs could afford such luxuries.

During the Middle Ages these methods of forced culture were almost abandoned. Indeed only one chronicler is found, Jean de Béka, who alludes to them. In one passage of the life of Albert the Great, this author tells that the illustrious Dominican gave in Cologne on the 6th of January 1249, a great banquet to William of Holland, and the biographer adds that by means of an art really magical, one saw in the banqueting halls, trees covered with fruits and rose bushes in blossom.

From that period on the Arabs, more advanced in gardening than the Occidentals, conceived the idea of beds of manure to encourage the growth of their gourds, while the French gardeners invented only about the time of the Renaissance the economical

process consisting of producing heat by the fermentation of fresh manure.

In 1600 Olivier de Serres points out the use of glass bells to cultivate melons, while half a century later, André Mollet was the first to exploit the idea of frames of glass to preserve heat and protect the plants without shutting out the light so indispensable to their development.

After this the forced fruits were not long in appearing in Paris, and if we believe M. George Gibault, they cost exorbitant prices.

The first *litrons* (a measure containing the sixteenth part of a French bushel) of peas which came to the capital of France cost 150 francs (\$30.00) each, and the 14th of May, 1657, a plate of strawberries sold for 100 écus, more than 600 francs of the present money (about \$120.00).

The celebrated gardener of Louis XIV., La Quintinie, made the forcing of fruits and vegetables the style. In December he sent to his master, asparagus from the vegetable gardens of Versailles which the great king relished with the true taste of an epicurean.

In the month of January came lettuce and radishes, then came cauliflowers in March; strawberries in the beginning of April, peas in May and melons at the end of June. His majesty so loved these succulent vegetables that his doctors Fagon and Daquin ceased to find further trouble with the digestion of their august patient.

Nor did Louis XIV. deprive himself of the pleasure of seeing his drawing-rooms decorated with forced flowers, such as hyacinths, anemones, narcissi or tulips that contemporary horticulturists forced into bloom at the very beginning of the year.

Then during the eighteenth century the English and Flemish people added greatly to perfecting the growth of fruit-trees; they conceived the idea of stove heated tents with beds of tan-bark, while all over Europe, here and there, new hothouses were being constructed; as, for instance, those built under the direction of Frederick the Great in 1752, which one still sees at Potsdam. Also tourists visiting Great Britain, know the famous vine-stocks which, planted more than a hundred years ago, are still producing



CLIPPING OF THE YOUNG GRAPES TO INSURE PERFECT BUNCHES

under their 250 square metres of glass at Hampton Court.

About 1780 some French vegetable gardeners, among others Debille, Ebrard, Fournier and Vallette, commenced to sell "out of season" delicacies on quite an extensive scale.

Eight years later Decoufflé forced beans and peas. Towards the year 1800, the Quentin Brothers and Marie forced asparagus. Besnard, on the other hand, made a specialty of cauliflowers grown before the season. Finally the invention of the "thermosiphon" by Bonnemain and, above all, its application to the heating of hothouses by Gautier from 1830 gave vigorous impulse to that curious industry.

However the commercial exploitation of hothouse methods, with their fairy gardens where fruits and flowers flourished at the same time, did not become extensive in France until some fifteen years later.

The most important establishments of this kind were founded first in the provinces of Aisne and Nord and more recently they have created new ones in the suburbs of Paris. We shall visit together one of these monster aggregations of hothouses, where are grown, by scientific means, beautiful bunches of grapes, big cherries, luscious peaches of exquisite flavor or excellent currants, any time from February to June.

In the hothouses of the Seine situated at Nanterre, of the extent of which an idea may be had

from the accompanying illustrations, they devote themselves almost exclusively to cultivating grapes and peaches for the table.

A fact worthy of special notice is that they apply themselves at times as much to retarding the ripening of vegetation as to forcing it, so that during the period that the sales are remunerative, fruits are not wanting.

This establishment consists of ninety hothouses twenty metres in length by ten metres in width and about three metres in height, some heated by steam others by means of a circulating system of smoke. Each one of them consists of a frame work of iron, with panes of "cathedral glass."

Along the summit are windows that can be raised for the purpose of ventilation.

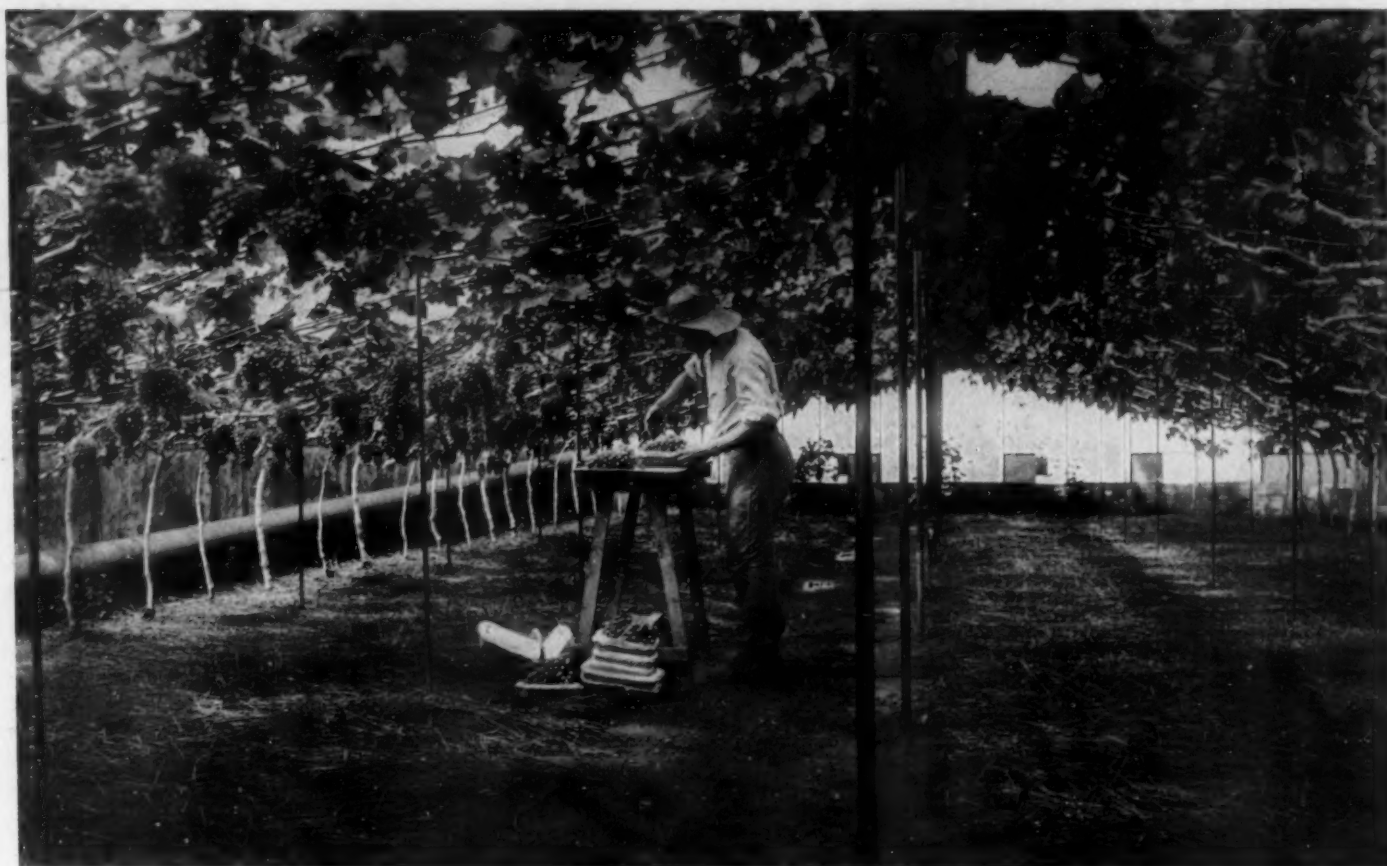
Between the lines of hothouses run deep trenches which in summer are filled with water, so that the air saturated with humidity may more quickly refresh the vines during the heated term.

Each hothouse protects fifty vine-stocks besides six feet of *Aramon Rupestris*, the abundant flowering of which furnishes the pollen to prevent the grapes from dropping.

At the proper moment they proceed with the artificial fecundation in the following manner.

First the workman begins by shaking the blossomed bunches in order to throw on the ground the

Forcing Fruits for Market in France



PUTTING THE WHITE GRAPES IN BASKETS, MAGNIFICENT BUNCHES OF GOLDEN CHAMPION



PICKING THE PEACHES



THE SULPHURIZING AND DIPPING OF THE VINES

little liquid drops which bathe the stigma, and then by means of a small bellows, resembling those used for the purpose of sprinkling insect powder, they blow on the pollen; they work by sunlight as much as possible between nine o'clock in the morning and three o'clock in the afternoon, and for certain varieties, for example the Muscat d'Alexandrie, they have to fertilize them three times daily for about ten days. By means of the accompanying illustrations we can follow the minute care received by these exotics both in order to combat the diseases that are as liable to attack them in the hothouse as in the open air, and in order to obtain choice fruits.

First they have careful examination of the slips, the staking of the vines in pots, the clipping, the pruning, the pinching and divers habitual operations.

Then comes the successive clipping which is confided to women and which exacts great dexterity as well as attention. They examine the fruit bunch by bunch and with pointed scissors cut off the crowding grape which threatens to prevent the maturing of its neighbor.

To fight against parasites they dip the

stems in lime, they sprinkle the leaves, they inject periodically sulphur or carbon into the soil. One must be very particular, according to the ideas of M. Battanchon, to sulphurize the vines every eight days as soon as the temperature of the hothouses exceeds fifteen to eighteen degrees centigrade to prevent the oidium (a form of fungi) from developing.

They inspect as well the vines for decay, for all unhealthy seeds should be removed immediately.

Owing to these multitudinous and constant cares these stocks, which they arrange on ropes with shoots about every twenty centimetres, bud in the midst of winter after three weeks of preliminary heating, commenced at eight degrees and augmented gradually to twelve degrees. They blossom in temperature between fifteen and eigh-

teen degrees and ripen at the end of five months with a temperature not exceeding twenty-five degrees centigrade.

The principal species of white grapes cultivated in French hothouses are the Muscat d'Alexandrie, the Golden Champion, Foster's White, the Bicané, the Gradiska, the Trebbiano, the Buckland, the St. Jeannet, the Cannon Hall; as to black grapes, the Frankenthal, the Gros



STAKING VINES IN POTS AND EXAMINING SLIPS



BRUSHING NECTARINES AND WEIGHING BASKETS OF GRAPES

Forcing Fruits for Market in France



CHERRY TREES FORCED IN POTS

Maroc, the Appley Towers, the Black Alicante, the Madressfield, the Barbosa, the Alphonse Lavallée and the Big Colman.

But the horticulturist is to be rewarded for his pains, for now comes the harvest. The picking of the grapes begins the 15th of April and lasts until the end of November; each hothouse furnishes from 1100 to 1500 pounds of grapes, which are sold in the markets of Paris from 25 cents to \$1.50 the pound, according to the time of year, and the variety and beauty of the fruit.

As coming next in importance among the forced fruits let us mention peaches. The precocious kinds are chosen by preference. They graft them on the almond tree and they are placed along the glass sides of the hothouse, much as they place the grape vines, being careful that the wood of the tree does not touch the iron, for if not avoided, after eight days of contact, a cancer or malignant growth is formed. The nature of this cultivation necessitates both great attention and many hands.

Independent of the careful attention given to all trellised fruit trees, forced peach trees exact an additional amount of watchfulness and care by reason of their liability to attack from ants and other plant foes. For this reason, frequent sprayings with nicotined water are made necessary to insure their destruction. As a result, however, of the increased care and vigilance given the trees which bear this most

luscious fruit, they gather in a hothouse, sixty feet by thirty, from 1800 to 2000 peaches, from the 1st of April to the 15th of July, each peach selling at an average of about twenty-five to thirty cents in Paris. However, the first peaches often bring a much higher price.

And with what respect they handle these delicacies! Great golden apricots—whose lusciousness cannot be excelled—their soft, downy coats undisturbed by unnecessary handling. The brilliantly colored nectarines, however, are carefully brushed before placing them on the cotton in the packing boxes. In the grape baskets they separate each bunch with tissue paper, and they lay the peaches on a soft bed of cotton so that they will arrive at their destination with their velvety, purplish down. Apricots and nectarines are not at all common in the markets. The former has the same quality of skin as the peach, with a smooth stone like that of the plum. The flavor is a distinctive one, rich and full of character. French gardeners cultivate also in pots, cherry trees, currants, pear trees and even vines and peaches destined to be sold when they reach their maturity. These plants ordinarily pass two years in the nursery and two years in a hothouse; they then find purchasers at from \$1.00 to \$20.00, according to the time of year. However, this cultivation of fruit in pots is only an accessory to the already flourishing industry of the suburban horticulturists about Paris.

Some Long Island Country Estates

By RICHARD SCHERMERHORN, JR.

PART I

THERE is a certain section of Long Island, which by the general public is very seldom visited, but which is nevertheless one of the most beautiful garden spots in the country. This is in the vicinity of Roslyn, Westbury and the Wheatley Hills, located geographically in the Northwestern part of the Island. Here vast estates have been purchased and developed by people of wealth, chiefly New Yorkers, who have sought this neighborhood on account of its comparative proximity to the city and because for landscape features it is excelled by no other section of the neighboring country. Long Island in general is flat, but along the Northerly shore stretches a tall range of hills, particularly prominent and diversified in the Roslyn and the Westbury neighborhood.

To be sure little benefit is derived here from the water, but the beauty of the landscape is predominating and little wonder that such a site has been chosen for this exclusive settlement. Here we may find the estates of the Whitneys, Mackays, Morgans, Mortimers, Duryeas, Stows, Bryces, Pells, Whitehouses, Winthrops, Keenes, Burdens, a representative Manhattan community.

Most of these estates have arisen during the past ten years, and it is but lately, in fact, that a degree of development has been approached by which their beauty may be properly judged and their future attractiveness gauged. Were the mansion itself the sole object to be considered, interest in these places might have diminished long before this, but where the landscape is the primary function, time alone is necessary to give these estates the full beauty that has been sought for by owner and constructor together, and every year brings added interest, particularly for those who have been chiefly concerned in their development,

while the visitor who views them ten years from now for the first time may even then be enjoying only their elemental stage.

Prominent among the estates in this section are those of the Mackays, Whitneys, Duryeas, and Stows, views of which are shown in the accompanying illustrations. These four estates, though respectively different in character, are typical of the whole. The Mackay estate is excelled in thorough development by none on Long Island, while there are few superior than the Whitney estate in acreage and in general landscape beauty.

The Duryea and Stow estates are considerably smaller but are splendid examples of artistic development.

The Mackay estate is exceedingly complete. Besides the residence are the following: stable, lodge, farmhouse, and out-buildings, kennels, dairy, gymnasium, superintendent's offices, conservatory,

greenhouses, beside many minor buildings. The estate comprises somewhat over 500 acres, and is mostly wooded, the open farm land containing only about seventy-five acres. The mansion is located on the highest portion of the estate, known even before the Mackay's occupancy as Harbor Hill.

There is but one point of greater elevation than this on Long Island. The landscape treatment in the neighborhood of the house is formal. The main drive leading to the house proceeds in a direction rectangular to the axis of the latter, turning abruptly in a court somewhat, some 300 feet from the house, from which a more or less natural landscape is merged into the formal.

A very attractive formal garden is on the west of the house and on the east a branch drive leads to other portions of the estate. The stable, which is also of imposing appearance, is located not far from



RESIDENCE OF MR. CLARENCE H. MACKAY

Some Long Island Country Estates

the house but is entirely screened by a thick belt of woodland. The other buildings are scattered and located at varying distances, with the exception of the farm buildings and dairy, which naturally are grouped together in the open and cultivated portion of the estate. In the neighborhood of the residence an excellent opportunity arose for the building of a bridge, over which a drive to the northern boundary of the estate crosses the "service" drive which leads from the main highway in the neighborhood of the farm buildings, directly to the residence. This bridge was constructed of local boulders broken up to convenient sizes, and is now partly covered with ivy, rendering a most picturesque effect. In the same neighborhood a hollow by the roadside was transformed into an artificial pond, inhabited now by numerous ducks and swans.

Another interesting feature is a "deer run" consisting of an artificial deer which travels on a rail at quite a remarkable speed through some of the passes in the woods and here Mr. Mackay has full opportunity to practise in marksmanship.

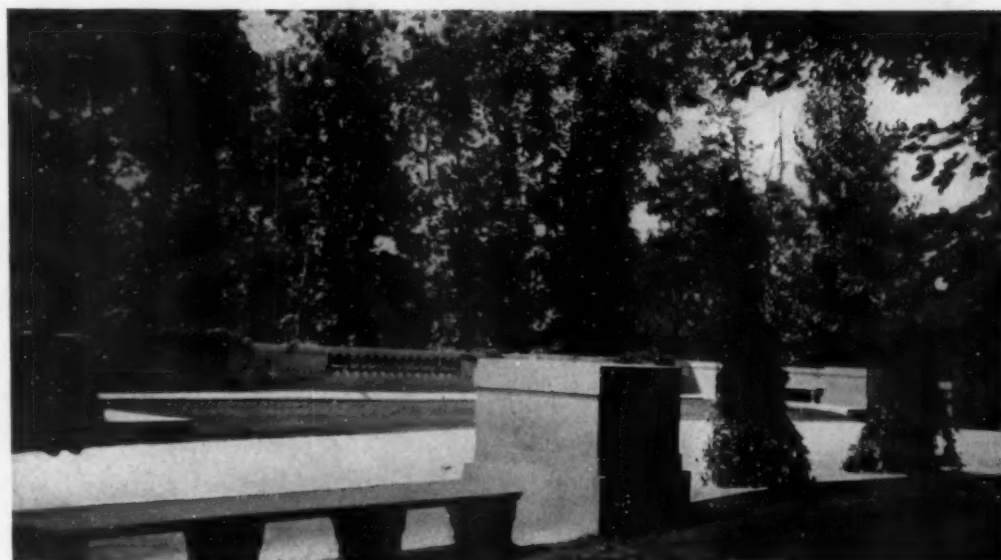
The flower and vegetable gardens are laid out in a formal manner in one of the lowland portions of the estate.



THE POND—MACKAY ESTATE



THE BRIDGE—MACKAY ESTATE



THE COURT—MACKAY ESTATE

Extensive conservatories and greenhouses have been constructed also, the grounds being laid out in terraced effects with border plantings of flowers and inner groups of vegetables, so that even here the effect is attractive as well as the grouping strictly utilitarian. The woods are overrun with bridle paths, and the former have been cleaned out

thoroughly for the health of trees and also stripped here and there for the purpose of slightly effect.

The general idea followed in the construction of the Mackay estate seems to have been first to create a property of distinct substance using at the same time as far as possible natural materials for its composition. The main group of buildings and their surroundings it is true are of formal and stately design, even magnificent, but the estate as a whole seems to bear the

House and Garden



MR. W. L. STOW'S GARDEN AND TERRACES

results of developing and improving natural conditions rather than working chiefly toward their embellishment. There are very few plantings of foreign shrubbery, the native material or material from neighboring locations being used almost exclusively. The driveways, with the exception of the main drive which is macadamized, are built entirely of material which has been excavated from the spot. The woodlands where they have been replanted contain but younger generations of the original growths, and the general grading conforms almost entirely with the natural topography. Through it all, however, there is gained a particular impression of solidarity. Nothing has been attempted which has not been executed thoroughly, while everything that has been completed is maintained in most excellent condition. On this estate a private pumping plant has been

installed and sewage disposal and an extensive drainage system provided.

The Stow estate lies between the Mackay's and Whitney's; a public highway separating it from the former and the "party road" and a portion of the Mortimer estate separating it from the latter. As in former cases so in this, the highest portion was located first of all and the house established here. Then came the cutting away of the wide vista to the south and the raising of the terraces. There is much of extremely formal design in

the neighborhood of the Stow mansion which can be readily seen from the accompanying illustrations. It is certainly imposing in appearance, its vast façade of bewildering white standing out in strong contrast against the dull forest background. The entrance driveway connects with the "party road," and the effect is particularly striking after driving through nearly a mile of winding informal road to arrive finally and suddenly upon this brilliant structure. The formal garden which has been laid out on the first terrace is noticeable for its close, harmonious relation to the house, existing, in fact, as practically a part of the latter structure. There is a large farmhouse on the estate and a completely equipped stable; also three greenhouses and numerous other small buildings. The estate also possesses a private pumping plant. There are about 200 acres of land all told.



RESIDENCE OF MR. W. L. STOW

Construction and Care of Hotbeds

By IDA D. BENNETT

THE use of a well constructed and successfully managed hotbed puts forward the garden season at least a month or six weeks. Indeed so well established is this principle that it is of general observance, not only by the commercial florist and gardener, but also by the amateur, who although he himself may not possess a greenhouse or hotbed or, indeed dream of such a luxury, still unconsciously utilizes another's possession of the convenience when he purchases his tomato, cauliflower or cabbage plants of the florist, or peripatetic dealer of the sidewalk. Yet the hotbed is an easily acquired convenience.

The particular form the construction of the hotbed shall assume will depend upon several things: the amount one wishes to expend upon it, the purpose for which it is intended, whether for permanent or temporary use, etc. If for uncertain tenure, as in a rented place, or one where one's stay is uncertain, the plank frame will be found preferable. This may be made the full size of the pit or only a shallow frame of plank, extending only a foot or more below the surface of the earth, with the corner posts extending to the bottom of the pit to support it. The size will depend upon the character and size of the sash to be employed, whether florists' sash or discarded window sash. It will usually be found more convenient if the bed is of a width that can be reached across easily. The frame should be about a foot above the ground in front and eighteen inches in the rear. This will give sufficient slant to shed water and will concentrate the fulness of the sunshine on the glass.

The proper location for the hotbed is on the south side of a building or wall where it will get the greatest amount of sunshine and be protected from cold winds. It should be convenient to the house as the hotbed requires constant and timely attention and should, therefore, not be placed where it cannot be reached promptly, at any and all hours.

Having constructed the frame, a pit sufficiently larger than the frame to admit it should be dug about four feet deep. If the season is cold or the hotbed started very early it will be necessary to dig the pit a foot larger all around and fill in around the outside of frame with manure to preserve the inside temperature.

The sash may be arranged to slide on the frame or may be hinged to the back of the frame; this is more convenient in handling, and there should be a notched stick attached to the side to hold the sash at any desired angle when open. Having constructed the pit and placed the sash in position, it only remains to put it in commission.

For this fresh horse manure is required. Only that gathered over night should be used and that from

young, grain-fed horses is best. This should be placed directly in the pits, packing it down sufficiently to fill the pit snugly flush with the top. If the manure is dry it may be watered with hot water and it should contain an equal bulk or at least half its weight of straw or leaves, the object of the presence of leaves or litter is to provide fuel for the fire which the fermentation of the manure creates; without this the manure would heat quickly and as soon die out, while the presence of the straw or leaves produces a lasting heat that will carry the hotbed forward for two or more weeks, or until the seeds have germinated and gotten a start.

After placing the manure, place the sash in position and wait for the mass to heat. This will, usually, be in about twenty-four hours. When the mass is thoroughly heated it should be tramped down evenly—this may best be done by laying a board on top and stamping heavily thereon. It should be made quite firm and as level as possible.

Over this leveled manure, place a couple of inches of old, well rotted manure made fine and smooth. This is to keep the tender roots of the young plants from working down into the rank manure below in search of food and being injured thereby. Over the old manure place four or five inches of good garden loam and leaf-mould well incorporated, and the surface inch of soil should be run through a coal ash sieve to free it from all roughage.

The soil should be moist, not dry or wet, and the sash should be placed and the soil allowed to warm up before planting the seed.

Some judgment should be used in planting the seed. If more than one bed is used or partitions are inserted in one large bed, this will allow of the growing of plants requiring the same general treatment, by themselves. Do not attempt to grow such plants as cabbage and cauliflowers—which love a cool temperature—with heat-loving plants like tomatoes and peppers, but give them separate culture where their peculiarities can be indulged.

Seeds that germinate at about the same time should be given the same sash where practicable and tall growing plants should not be planted in front of low ones. Each plat of seed should be separated from its neighbor by thin strips of wood and all should be carefully labeled with the name and date of sowing.

Seed planted in the hotbed, having the protection of the frame, does not require as deep planting as seed sown in the open ground where it is exposed to changing temperatures, cold wind, rain and burning sun. Some seed should be merely covered, while others like the ricinus may be covered with a half inch of earth. When all the seeds are sown, water

carefully with a rubber sprinkler, or watering pot with a very fine rose, cover with newspapers, close the sash and leave until the seeds begin to germinate.

As the seeds in the various plats sprout and the first leaves appear, the newspapers should be removed from over them and placed on the glass immediately above them. On warm, pleasant days the sash may be opened sufficiently to admit air and to lower the temperature when it becomes too hot, for the temperature rises very rapidly under glass on a sunny day, at the same time anything like a draft across the bed should be avoided.

The hotbed must be watched closely the first few weeks. Should the sun go under a cloud when the sash is open on a cool day, it must be instantly

closed, lest the tender plants are chilled. Should it be closed on a cloudy one and the sun suddenly conclude to shine, it must be watched that it does not burn and after the plants have gained some size it may be necessary to water two or three times a day.

Plants in the hotbeds are much benefited by transplanting, and wherever possible this should be done and so leave room for the more tender plant to be transplanted in fresh rows in the hotbeds.

The time for starting the hotbeds varies in different localities, but for ordinary garden operations, the first of April or last of March is early enough in the latitude of Chicago. This will give sufficient time for the development of the plants before the time for planting out.

A Plea for the Herb Garden

By LAWRENCE IRWELL

OUR British forefathers believed in the virtues of herbs, and extolled them in prose and verse.

Here's pennyroyal and marygolds,
Come, buy my nettle-tops.
Here's water-cresses and scurvy-grass,
Come, buy my sage of virtue, ho!
Come, buy my wormwood and mugworts.
Here's all fine herbs of every sort;
Here's southernwood that's very good,
Dandelion and horseleek.
Here's dragon's tongue and wood-sorrel,
With bear's-foot and horehound
Let none despise the merry, merry cries
Of famous London Town!

Most of these formerly well-known herbs, each having its own peculiar curative quality, are now almost unknown, but a reference to the herbals of Gerard or Turner, or to the "Acetaria" of John Evelyn, would readily show that they were considered good for the various ills to which flesh is heir.

The very earliest medicines were largely composed of herbs, and even to-day the learned prescription of a high priced New York specialist is likely to contain one ingredient which, under a formal Latin name, is neither more nor less than a garden herb.

The common marigold, for example, which Gerard calls "the Jackanapes-on-Horseback," was at one time much used for soup or *potages*. In Miss Edgeworth's story of "Simple Susan" she explains how the petals of marigolds were added, as the last touch, to the broth made for an invalid mother. John Evelyn compares the common bugloss to the nepenthe of Homer, but adds that what we now call bugloss was not that of the ancients, but was borage, "for the like virtue named corrago."

Borage is still cultivated in England in the neigh-

borhood of Oxford, and is used by some University students to give a delicate flavor to claret-cup.

Smallage was simply wild celery, which is described as being like parsley, "but greater, greener, and more bitter." Sweet cicely, or sweet chervil, is a kind of myrrh—"it adds a good relish to a sallet," and the roots may be preserved or dried. Culpepper, in his "English Physician Enlarged," published about 1566, has much to say concerning the astrological virtues of the different herbs. The following words, for instance, represent his opinion of balm: "It is a herb of Jupiter and under Cancer, and strengthens Nature much in all its actions. It causeth the mind and heart to become merry and reviveth the heart, especially of such who are overtaken in sleep, and driveth away all troublesome cares and thoughts out of the mind arising from melancholy or black choler."

The common form of balm, *Melissa officinalis*, sometimes known as "lemon-balm," is still used in medicine to produce a slight perspiration, and more frequently as a flavoring material.

In the United States to-day, we neglect herbs very seriously, while in England they are half forgotten, although occasional reminders may be found in the form of an old-fashioned garden in which they are still planted every year. In Covent Garden Market (London) there are a few quaint old herb shops (stores) where the "simples" of our grandmothers may be bought.

It is an easy matter to cultivate an herb garden, and in the midst of improvements in flowers of all varieties, such a garden imparts a delightful old-world fragrance to the entire surroundings. Moreover, herbs make a most exquisite addition to nearly every form of cookery.

Small Houses Which are Good

I.

E. S. CHILD, *Architect*

TO erect a residence which is part of the landscape and not an inappropriate dwelling which seems to have been transplanted from some foreign soil, is not an easy task. That is the problem which is before the architects of today; not to be satisfied to make merely livable houses but homes which have beauty of line and every modern convenience.

The architect, in this instance, has succeeded admirably as is shown by the perspective. The quaint windows, the low, sweeping roof and the strong, white columns in the center and the stone ones at the ends, which assist in supporting the second floor which extends over the porch, all combine to make an exterior which is both harmonious and pleasing. The shingled sides and roof of the house are stained a rich brown and the twin porch columns and the trim of the windows and doors are painted white. The foundation, chimneys and two of the porch columns and the abutments on either side of the porch steps are all of local stone which gives a rustic appearance which is very picturesque.

The porch is so arranged that it does not darken the rooms in the front of the house. The reception hall, fifteen by sixteen feet, has an open fireplace of brick, opposite the front door. The stairway is at the side with a seat in the bay window. At the left of the hall is a reception room, twelve by eleven feet, which has wide openings from the dining-room and the hall. The dining-room has an open fireplace and is connected with the kitchen by a butler's pantry which is well supplied with dressers for china, etc. The kitchen has a stairway to the second floor, a pantry and a back porch. One chimney contains flues for the kitchen range, furnace and fireplaces in the hall and dining-room.

There are four chambers and a bath-room on the second floor. Each of the rooms has a good sized closet and there is a linen closet in the hall. Two rooms are finished on the third story and there is plenty of space for storage. The cellar contains the necessary coal bins, a laundry and a servants' toilet room. It is specified to heat this house with steam heat and it is to be lighted by electricity.

The first floor is finished in whitewood, stained chestnut in the hall, reception-room and dining-room and left natural in the kitchen and pantries. The bedrooms on the second and third floors are in whitewood, painted white and the bath-room has an imitation tiled wainscot.

This house, planned by E. S. Child, architect, of New York, can be erected now for about \$9,000.

II.

E. G. W. DIETRICH, *Architect*

IN the planning of small houses the architect is usually confronted with the request to incorporate in it all of those devices and conveniences which characterize a complete modern establishment, to install them in a very small fraction of the space usually allotted to them and in addition thereto to perform the task with an expenditure of money which at once precludes the possibility of its accomplishment. To reconcile these widely diverging conditions requires a master. A master of diplomacy as well as a master of ingenuity and resource who will keep paring down from both sides of the proposition until it is brought within the range of the possibilities. Once arrived at this point the architect is filled with ambition to attain the desired end and enters into the work with enthusiasm.

Those sterner qualities which are generally uppermost when engaged in designing public buildings or the elaborate homes of the very rich, are exchanged for a tender regard; the home feeling is aroused, ideals are reared and the small house is an accomplished fact, replete with the charm of a home, where more than protection from the elements is found.

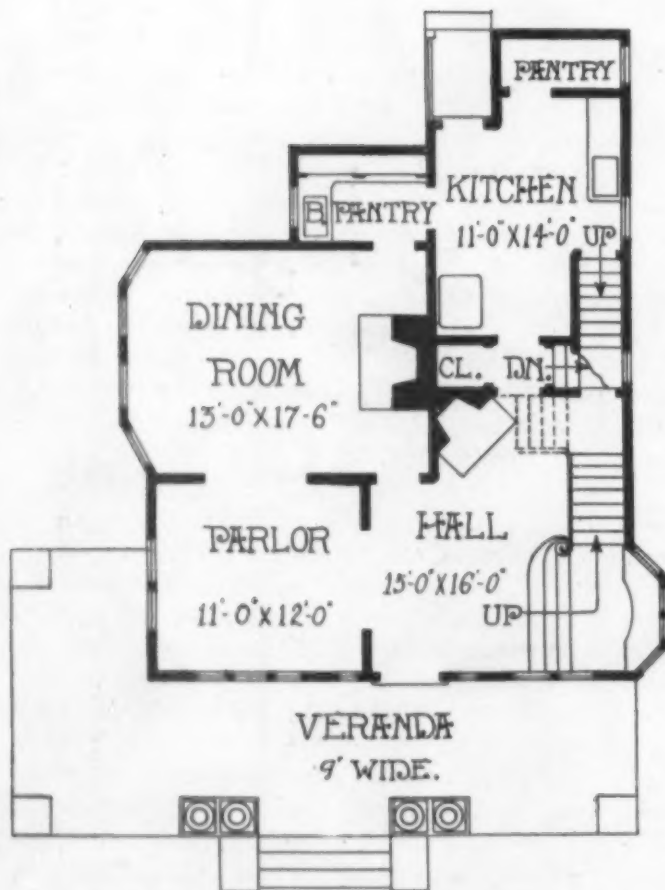
He at once discovers anew that which he has known for years, that beauty in buildings, inheres less to features than to line and proportion, and that while sincerity and truth in design and construction are qualities which can be departed from only under the most severe penalties, the omission of ornamentation carries with it no retribution. The architect who tries to attain the true domestic quality in his work, a feeling too often entirely lacking in homes of low cost, finds a peculiar pleasure in designing a small house. The restrictions of limited cost and consequent limited area in which to work, present new and interesting difficulties which have to be surmounted.

In the house of Mr. W. A. Bradshaw, Jr., of Jamestown, N. Y., illustrated herewith, many points of extreme excellence are presented and among them may be noted a complete isolation of routes for servants, the hedging in of the kitchen which prevents sounds reaching the living-rooms, and the thorough ventilation of the kitchen by a separate flue. The house is compact and the relative position of the rooms renders it an easy one to care for. Wall space for furniture has been kept in mind, and abundant closet space has been provided. A gambrel roof is used and the exterior is covered entirely with shingles. The trim is a creamy white and the shingles are stained a rich brown. The house was built only a few years ago and cost complete, about \$4,000.

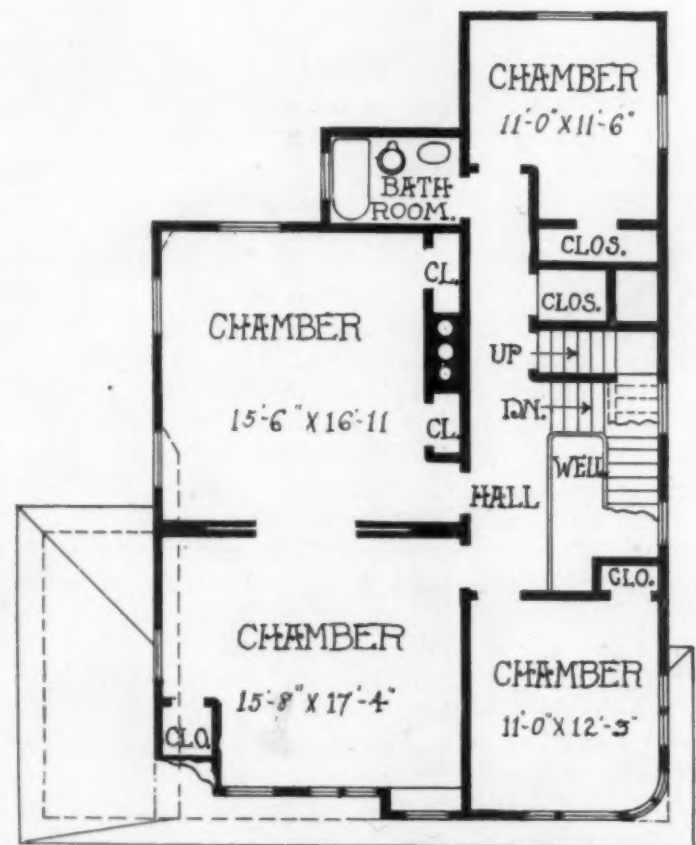
House and Garden



A VERY PICTURESQUE HOUSE



First Floor Plan



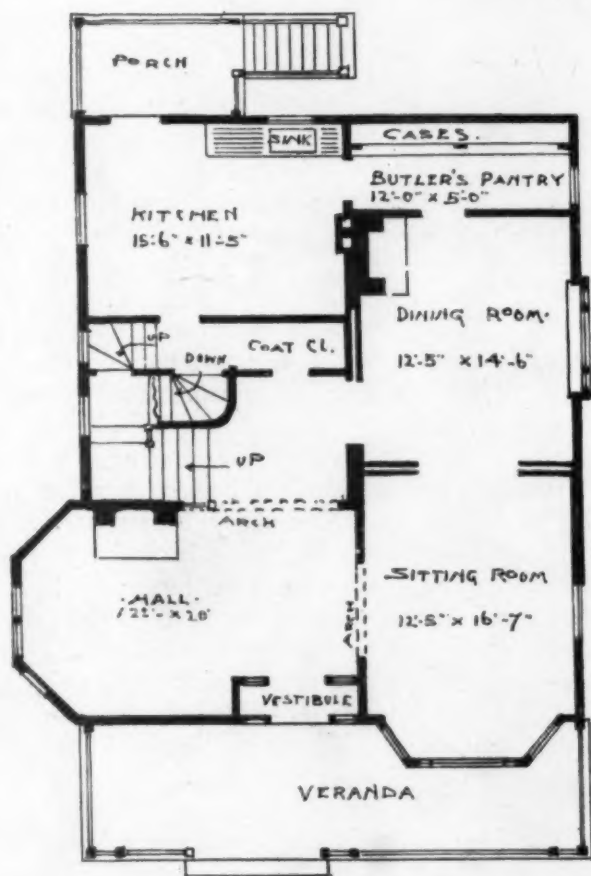
Second Floor Plan

I. A RESIDENCE NEAR NEW YORK CITY—E. S. CHILD, Architect

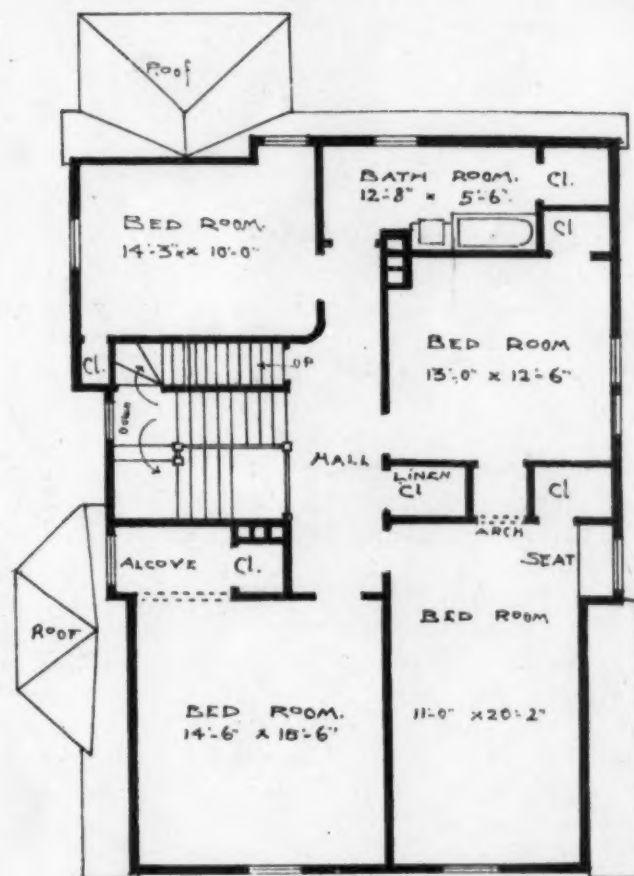
Small Houses Which are Good



AN ARTISTIC, INEXPENSIVE HOUSE



First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan

II. A RESIDENCE AT JAMESTOWN, N. Y.—E. G. W. DIETRICH, Architect

The Quest and Culture of Orchids

By G. BERTRAND MITCHELL

PART I

AS evidence of the increasing interest in this country in that most beautiful, most esthetic plant of all the floral kingdom, the orchid, there has been organized in New York City during the past few months the Society of Amateur Orchid Cultivators. It does not follow by any means that every member is, strictly speaking, an amateur, for as a matter of fact, one may find in this organization the names of the best known orchid growers in the country, and also the names of those who are not even amateurs, but merely orchid enthusiasts.

It would be difficult to find any branch of plant culture so full of interesting possibilities, of such constant revelations as follow even a superficial study of orchidaceous plant life. "Why my orchids are like great families of children to me," said a well-known horticulturist the other day. "Everyone of them seems human, with no two exactly alike—even when of the same species. Of course there is a close resemblance of the blossoms on the same stalk, but this next plant, its neighbor or closer still its relative, is as different as are our own brothers and sisters." It is intensely interesting to learn that each part of a flower has its share of the common labor; that "the spots and fringes, silken curtains and waving banners," delicate or pungent odors are not mere adornments, but all are essential to the scheme for the perpetuation of this race of plants, and as one has said, "though they do not spin, they toil with a wisdom and foresight that Solomon might have envied."

As every plant lover knows, the orchids, though extremely diverse within certain limits and differing superficially in many ways, are still formed upon one common plan which is really only a modification of that observable in such flowers as the narcissus or snowdrop.

The flower of an orchid has three inner divisions (*petals*), and three outer divisions (*sepals*), mostly of

the same texture and petal-like appearance. One of the inner set, the *labellum* or lip, which is really the upper petal turned upside down, "to enable insects," as Darwin says, "to enter the flower more easily," has often a fluted edge or it may have either a beautiful or a grotesque shape, and is generally the most brilliantly colored of the petals. Besides secreting the nectar, and forming the receptacle for holding this fluid, its attractive appearance draws to the plant the tiny animal life, the necessary agent for its propagation, thus making it the most important of the external envelopes of the flower. Just how important it is, one realizes when told that with hardly an

exception the orchid depends so entirely upon insects for fertilization that the failure to perform its functions would result in the extinction of this family of plant life. Several orchids belonging to the *Arethuseæ*, have lips so sensitive that at the least touch they spring up and imprison the insect, forcing it against the pollen masses which adhere to and are carried off on its



ARRIVAL OF AN IMPORTATION OF ORCHIDS

body as it escapes through some narrow passage. In perhaps half an hour the lips open and are ready for the next visitor.

The wise men assert that in some species there are secret springs and hair triggers that are suddenly let loose, launching tiny barbs or arrows against repacious ants or bees which have eaten their way to these life-giving centers and by this means, the seed destined to insure the plant from perpetual sterility is saved from destruction.

The stamens in most flowers surround in a ring the pistils. "There is but one well-developed stamen in all common orchids which is confluent with the pistils and together they form the column. Ordinary stamens consist of a filament (not always seen in the orchid) which carries the anther—a sort of case filled with the waxy or meal-like pollen which fertilizes the pistil. The division of the anther into two cells is so

The Quest and Culture of Orchids

distinct in some species as to appear like two anthers." The stigmas which collect the grains of pollen and carry them down to the sawdust-like substance in the seed-pod, are formed from the upper and anterior surfaces of two of the pistils. The petals and sepals may unite to form a roof or hood over the labellum, or spreading apart, give the blossom the appearance of a moth or winged insect.

Can we wonder at the intricacy of the orchid mechanism after marvelling at the delicacy of tint and structure of these fairy-like creatures which appear to float in the very atmosphere? Is it strange too, that barbarous African natives, apparently devoid of all imagination or poetic sense, upon beholding this daintiest, most elite of all flora have saluted it with a "good day, sweet lady?"

It is a common but most unfortunate fallacy that the orchid plant is a luxury for the wealthy, and we find the idea is general that they must be nurtured under great heat and at great expense. Those who associate with plant life in greenhouse or conservatory should have a more or less general collection of the aristocratic orchid. H. A. Burberry, a well-known English horticulturist, tells us that "orchids are easy to grow and their culture is not necessarily expensive, in fact," he continues, "orchid culture has become the common heritage of all." It has been shown that when once the nature of the plant is thoroughly understood, much less attention is requisite than would be thought necessary to grow them successfully.

Some tropical plants still baffle the most experienced cultivators, owing of course to imperfect knowledge of climatic and natural conditions of the peculiar species under treatment. There are only a few of the varieties that are really expensive, apart from a "new discovery" or an extremely rare species.

A beautiful variety of the popular genus *Odontoglossum*, named *Oncidium crispum*, a native of Co-

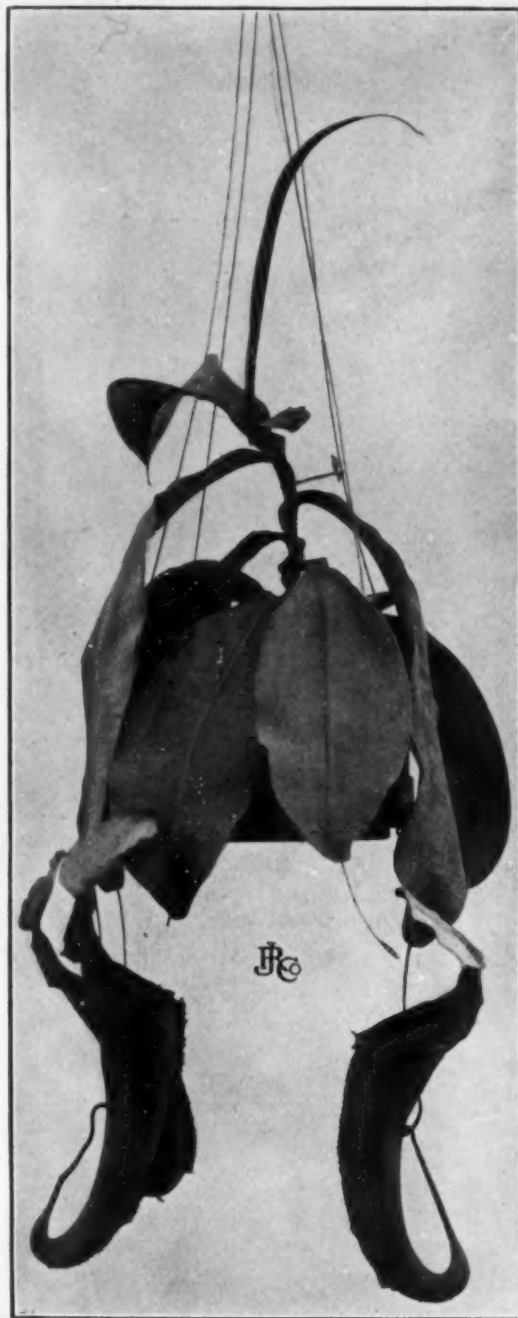
lombia and Brazil, blossoming principally in March, April and May, and which deserves a prominent place in every collection of cool orchids is purchasable at two dollars a plant. It is not our intention to advocate the buying and growing of orchids as a pecu-

niary speculation, but we do claim that their cultivation, and "the enjoyment of their great loveliness" is within the province of persons of very moderate means. "It would be folly to buy rubbish," as some one has said, merely for the sake of saying "I grow orchids." It would be equal folly to buy small and insignificant plants because cheap. Orchids at best are slow growing, and small weakly plants require extra attention and are sure to prove unsatisfactory.

Thomas Moore, another celebrated British botanist, wrote in 1857 that "the superb race of orchids, so varied in general appearance and so variegated in habits," were primarily divided into two distinct classes, i.e., the epiphytes, those found inhabiting tropical or semi-tropical countries where they adhere by tortuous roots to branches of trees, or luxuriate amongst decaying vegetable matter; and the terrestrial, from the fact of their growing naturally in the earth, on mountains, in meadows, or in wet, swampy places; many of them blooming in temperate zones. There were in his time, some three thousand known species, only a part of which were in cultivation. Some were small and insignificant but others were of the most resplendent and attractive plant life to be found in the whole vegetable kingdom.

In 1894 there were fifty-nine known native species and varieties of the terrestrial class growing in the Atlantic States north of the Carolinas.

But the epiphytes, with their remarkable gamut of colors ranging from pure white to the deepest, richest reds and purples, their subtle perfumes and the Oriental-like sense of mystery which envelops their origin and habits are by far the most interesting



PITCHER PLANT (*Nepenthes Dicksoniana*)



LÆLIA PURPURATA

of the two classes. When we realize that these clusters of aerial plants and blossoms, the chief charm of the city florists' display windows, the pride of nurseries and conservatories, and the choicest blossoms of bridal bouquets and table displays, are here solely through the efforts of daring, intrepid collectors who have at the risk of life and limb, explored the densest jungles or the rugged mountain summits of Central and South America, of Asia, Africa and the Pacific and South Atlantic islands,—then we begin to appreciate more fully the beauty and worth of the most ravishing of Mother Nature's inanimate creations. Many of these collectors are free-lances, organizing their expeditions at their own expense, and are to-day generally French or Belgian. One might write a volume on their experiences and hardships, of how they have undergone the ravages of malaria, yellow fever, and all the diseases common to tropical countries, the constant fear of poisonous snakes and insects, the difficulties with unscrupulous interpreters and officials, of the danger from treacherous natives, and still worst of all, the possible and often quite probable loss of an entire collection.

Colombia is a favorite resort for collectors owing to the great variety of plants found in its higher lands and has with Costa Rica a favorable climate—but malarial Panama is the most dreaded of Central and South America. An aged German, now an expert with one of our leading horticulturists, tells of many journeys made in the interiors of these countries. "After landing at some principal port (we always went in pairs for greater safety) it was our business to procure first a competent guide and interpreter. Then there were mules to buy, natives to hire, the necessary stock of dried beef, white beans, our principal sustenance, onions, flour, sugar, coffee and tea, machetes and axes for cutting through tangled undergrowth or hewing down trees and not the least important, arms and ammunition. We might be away for three months at a time, wholly cut off from the outside world. The orchids as they were discovered, their roots clinging fast to the branches of gigantic trees and their blossoms dancing in the sunlight far above our heads, must be secured by our natives who either climbed up to them and cut them away, or down must come the entire tree. Then the plants

The Quest and Culture of Orchids



DENDROBIUM PHALAENOPSIS SCHROEDERIANUM



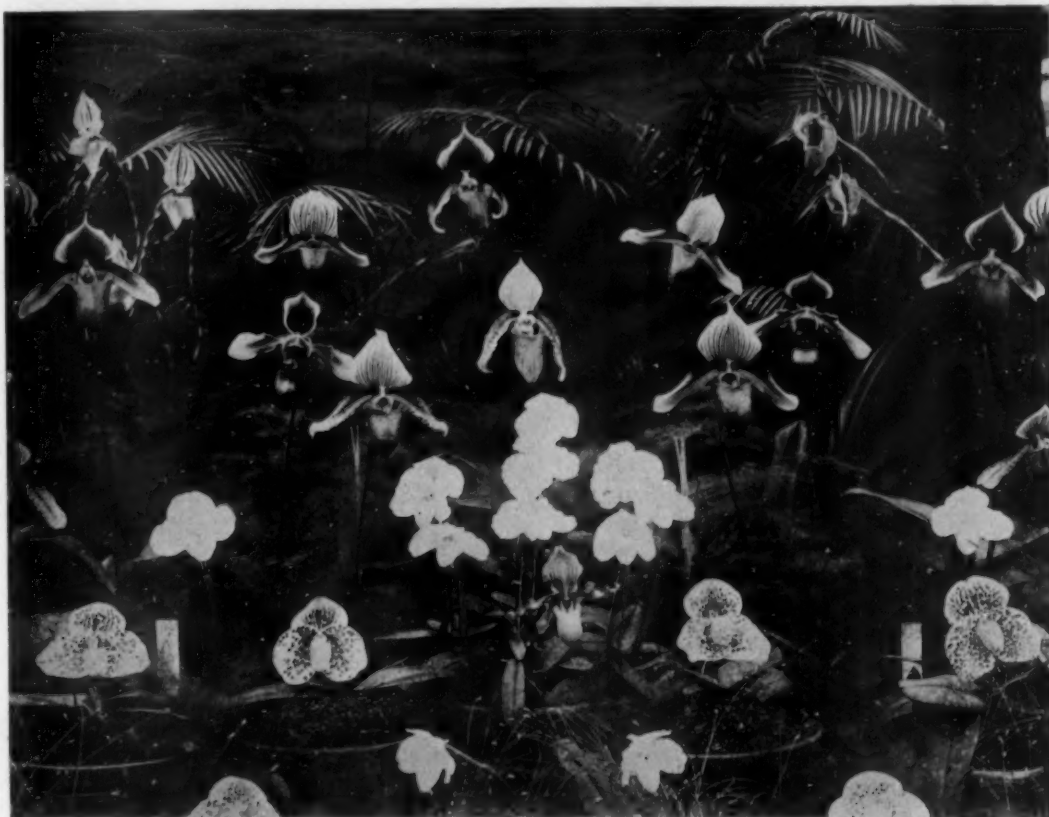
PHALAENOPSIS SCHILLERIANA

were dried to get the sap out and were packed in bags or boxes so constructed as to form pack saddles for the mules.

In my time we would find the seaports full of orchid hunters. There were many Germans then in the business and every tap-room would be filled with these men and with Indians who had brought down the *Odontoglossums* for sale.

"Now came the work of exporting. The plants were in crates about two feet six inches by three feet in size, holding from forty to fifty. If fortunate, we might have from four to five thousand plants, which if they reached their destination in good condition, would net us

about seventy-five cents each. Yet, out of this we must pay a fifteen per cent export duty, and later, an import duty. But constant fevers and overdoses of quinine, the only available remedy, affected my head, and I'll let younger men kill themselves if they want to."



COLLECTION OF CYPRIPEDIUMS

That this condition of things is the same to-day is illustrated by the statement of Julius Roehrs, a well-known New Jersey nurseryman who has four men at present in the tropics. One of these men recently wrote of losing twenty of his natives from yellow fever. The following extracts are from a letter received from another of the men, a French collector of many years' experience.

"HONDA, Oct., 19—
My dear Mr.—Passing Bogota the other day I found your kind letter telling of the fortunate arrival of the orchids. I have had no heart to write before. Oh yes, I have more than time to write you, but I get in such a temper that it is difficult to write anybody. To tell you the truth I am feeling quite sad all over with the business. You may fancy how horrified I was at the misery and disheartedness of the people of Colombia. To begin with, from Borongerilla to Honda, I was fourteen long days in literally a cholera hospital.

"We had no less than ninety-five deaths on board during the passage. I had to watch the agony of those poor fellows from ten to sixty years of age, soldiers, dying of hunger, dysentery and yellow fever. I fared the best all through that passage. Mon Dieu! not even a Christian burial—their bodies were simply thrown overboard into the river.

"Next at Honda I found the recommendations and advice given me to be equally treacherous. After three weeks looking around in the districts, I determined to set up at Nataguinio. The people were afraid to come down from the hills lest they be recruited. All the houses had been burned. The people had no homes, and 'after the war the drought.'

"The plants were very much shrivelled. I had started with a lot of seventy-five cases and pushed on, killing my brave mules. Five trips like that in six months—and such roads—made by the Spanish conqueror and never repaired since. What I suffered



PHALÆNOPSIS AMABILIS, SCHILLERIANA, STUARTIANA, ETC.

from three months' association with these men I can't tell you. What work to secure enough wood to build rafts. S. sent another letter that one hundred cases were all lost. Came down with two rafts in five days—thought it would be wise to embark them in the River Magdalena. Next by his instructions I went to S. at Muzo, but this was a loss for me for the plants were never collected. This is where the celebrated mine of Esmeralda of the Colombian government is located. However, I got six cases.

"Then I started for the Crespum with one hundred men, Colombians, trying to make a living and at heart ready to kick out all foreigners."

Every collector has his especial territories and may go again and again to the same place.

Another retired orchid hunter told of going out from Bogota with his natives, and of gathering a large quantity of plants, but when loaded down and on their return, they discovered specimens so much finer that the first lot was thrown away. The next year this man was much astonished to find the discarded plants in excellent condition and growing in the moss at the foot of the trees. This time they were not abandoned.

Mr. Prime's Alexander Tapestries

By GEORGE LELAND HUNTER



FORTY years ago Americans knew little about tapestry and cared less. The uniformity of machine-made fabrics appealed to them more than the individuality of hand-made. They did not appreciate art in wood and wool and plaster and stone because they were not familiar with it. For most of them art began and ended with easel paintings, of which they bought inferior or pretended originals at prices that seemed to constitute them "patrons of art."

In Europe also tapestry was not held at its true worth. Valuable pieces dating from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were stowed away in garrets or relegated to barns and stables. The number of tapestry weavers at the Gobelins descended as low as twenty-five and the number of yards produced in a year to twelve. At Aubusson the industry was in a bad way. Nowhere was there enthusiasm for the decorative fabric that excels all others in beauty and lastingness. At that time a museum of tapestries

might have been bought for little. Ten thousand dollars could do as much as half a million now. For illustration of this, consult the catalogue of the Victoria and Albert Museum at South Kensington. A sixteenth century Flemish tapestry ten feet high by eight feet six inches wide was purchased in 1866 for \$120. Another similar tapestry ten feet by twelve feet nine inches, for \$50.

William Cowper Prime, first vice-president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York City, was far in advance of his compatriots. Through his efforts a chair in the history of art was established at Princeton College, his alma mater, to which in 1889 he gave his important collection of ceramics. His "Pottery and Porcelain of all Times and Nations" was published in 1877. He studied particularly the history of book illustration, and brought together a valuable collection of wood engravings of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. About 1870 he purchased the five Alexander tapestries that form the subject of this article, and which his acquaintance with sixteenth century design rendered him peculiarly able to appreciate. These tapestries hung in the



THE CORONATION OF ALEXANDER



ALEXANDER AND ROXANE

dining-room of his house in East Twenty-third Street, New York, until his death in 1905.

The most famous collections of Flemish tapestries are those at Madrid and Vienna. The former are illustrated and described in Valencia's two folio volumes, that can be consulted at the library of the Metropolitan Museum; the latter in the first four volumes of the "Jahrbuch der kunsthistorischen Sammlungen der österreichischen Kaiserhauses," at the Avery Library of Columbia University. Both books give drawings of the marks or monograms that are often found on Flemish tapestries of the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries; and frequently in connection with the mark of the city of Brussels, that is a shield between two B's, the first of which is reversed. A comparison of these marks with one another, and with contemporary monograms found on pottery and engravings, identifies the marks that are woven into the lower part of the right border of three of Mr. Prime's Alexander tapestries as those of a sixteenth century merchant weaver. The style and weave of the tapestries point definitely to the first half of the sixteenth century.

The most famous tapestry merchant or contractor of the period was Peter van Alst (also spelled Aelst)

of Brussels. It was he who wove for Pope Leo X., under the direction of the Flemish painter Bernard van Orley, the marvelous Acts of the Apostles designed by Raphael. The original painted models or cartoons of these tapestries are to-day in the Victoria and Albert Museum having been acquired for England by Charles I. The tapestries themselves are still in the Vatican, where they were first shown in the Sistine chapel, for which they were made, on Christmas day, 1519.

About Peter van Alst we have documentary information in the account books of Philip the Handsome, who was son of the Emperor Maximilian I., father of the Emperor Charles V., regent-husband of Queen Joanna of Spain, and who inherited Brussels and the rest of Flanders from his mother, Mary of Burgundy. Under date of 1497 we read (with some omissions):

"To Pierre d'Enghien, tapestry merchant, living at Brussels, the sum MIII livres VII sols III deniers, for a chamber of tapestry with shepherds and shepherdesses, that he has sold to Monseigneur (Philip the Handsome) to use at his very noble pleasure."

Under date of June, 1504: "To Pierre d'Enghien, called d'Alost (Alost being the French form of the Flemish town of Aelst), tappissier of Monseigneur, eight hundred and thirteen livres for five pile rugs from Turkey."

In 1511 Pierre van Aelst is qualified as "valet de chambre et tappissier de Monseigneur." In 1521 "Pieter van Alst tappissier resident at Brussels" receives CXI livres for eight pieces of verdure tapestry.

It was about this time that the fashion of signing tapestries came into vogue—a fashion that was encouraged in 1528 by government edict. So that while we do not know how long Peter van Alst continued his business activity, we may be sure that tapestries woven for him after that year would be signed.

For the convenience of the reader I have had the monograms sketched as they appear on the Alexander tapestries. Two of these are reproduced on

Mr. Prime's Alexander Tapestries

the first, and one on the third page of this article. In only one of the large illustrations, "Alexander kneeling before the High Priest of the Jews," can the mark be discerned.

The mark before us is comparatively simple. The only obscurity comes from the changes that have been inflicted by age and ignorant repairers, whose treatment of monograms can be judged by the weird things they do to woven inscriptions and titles, transposing letters and even words.

Let us study the monograms. In all of them the letters ST are clear. In one the A at the bottom is clear, in another obscure, in another without crossbar. In all the letter I or L is found at the left of the S. The variation of the marks from a clear spelling of ALST is less than from one another. And among all the Flemish tapestry merchants and weavers, lists of whose names have been published in the great "Histoire Generale de la Tapisserie," a copy of which is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art,

Alst is the only name for which this monogram could stand. That it is his monogram I am convinced.

As to the date of Mr. Prime's Alexander tapestries there can be no doubt. The taste of a century or even half a century later would have revolted at panels so crowded with figures. It would have hesitated to introduce into the foreground floriation inherited from the Gothic fifteenth century, and into the border such a luxurious wealth of human and animal figures, fruits and flowers. I regard the border, which is the same on all the tapestries except as enlarged for the wider ones, as one of the finest creations of Renaissance inspiration interpreted by a craftsmanship full of Gothic feeling.

The coloring of both panels and borders is superb. The accentuation of light and shade in the stripes that frame the panel, showing that the light comes from above on the left, is characteristic of the Renaissance, and most interesting to compare with Gothic handling of the same situation as illustrated in my article on the "Burgundian Tapestry at the Metropolitan Museum" in the December number of the English "Burlington Magazine."

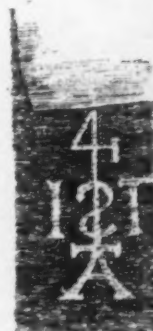


THE FUNERAL OF CLITUS

The salamander in the upper border on the left is so characteristic of Francis I. of France that one can hardly help associating the tapestries with him, especially as he was a great amateur of the art, and not only bought and ordered tapestries in Flanders but even set up looms of his own at Fontainebleau. The Alexander series would be one natural for him to select after his victory at Marignano in 1515, but before his defeat at Pavia in 1525, where he was captured by the Emperor Charles V.

Regarding the designer of the tapestries we have no evidence. The borders are strangely like some of Primaticcio's ornament at Fontainebleau. But they also resemble borders designed by Bernard von Orley, mentioned above as superintending Alst's work on the Raphael tapestries. Moreover the character of the faces and figures is so typically Flemish as to imply a Flemish designer as well as Flemish weavers.

Alexander was a favorite subject for tapestry designers. The inventories of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries are full of Alexander suites. The set particularly associated with the Gobelines was





ALEXANDER KNEELING BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE JEWS

Mr. Prime's Alexander Tapestries

from paintings by Charles Le Brun in the last half of the seventeenth century. There are two important sixteenth century Alexander suites in the Imperial Austrian collection at Vienna, which it would be interesting to compare with the set before us.

The legendary history of Alexander, which tapestry designers usually followed, is much more thrilling than the real one.

It came from Persian and Egyptian sources, was composed in Greek in Byzantium about the eighth century, and being translated into Latin spread through Western Europe. About the middle of the twelfth century, when the romances of Charlemagne flourished most, a French poet, Alberic de Besançon, introduced Alexander into the vernacular. Of his poem only 105 lines remain. Towards the end of the twelfth century a long romance in lines of twelve syllables—from which the name of Alexandrine for this form of verse—was started by Lambert li Tors and finished by Alexandre de Bernay. In a few years the Alexander saga was found in various poetic forms.

Of Alexander's supposed meeting with the high

priest of the Jews, Josephus, the Jewish Historian of the first century, says:

"When Alexander saw the multitude at a distance in white garments, while the priests stood clothed with fine linen, and the high priest in purple and scarlet clothing, with his mitre on his head, having the golden plate whereon the name of God was engraved, he approached by himself and adored the name and first saluted the high priest. The Jews also did altogether with one voice salute Alexander and encompassed him about; whereupon the kings of Syria and the rest were surprised, and supposed him disordered in his mind. However Parmenio alone went up to him and asked how it came to pass that, when all others adored him, he should adore the high priest of the Jews. To whom he replied, "I did not adore him, but God who hath honored him with his high priesthood, and I believe that I bring this army under his divine conduct."

I should like also to explain that Clitus, whose funeral is pictured, was Alexander's close friend and had saved his life at the battle of the Granicus, but was slain by him in a fit of passion at a banquet.



ALEXANDER ON THE TAMED BUCEPHALUS

Small Suburban Properties

Being a Plea for Another Style of Gardening

By J. DONALD MARTIN

AMONG some of the older writers on landscape, Sir Uvedale Price has gone to great length to classify the beauty of outdoor life into the following orders:—the sublime, the picturesque and the beautiful. He goes on to prove that it is almost beyond human achievement to create the sublime under any conditions, as the Master hand alone can produce it. This is such a self-evident truth that we need not enter upon it further in this article on small suburban properties. The picturesque may only be obtained in its highest degree on properties that have some extent, that are extremely broken in contour, and naturally rugged. One would hardly find these three qualities on properties such as we are considering, and if we did, few people would care to live surrounded by that wild state necessary to the absolute picturesque.

The dividing line between the picturesque and the beautiful is so fine that we may say that these two orders flow into each other, intermingling in such a way that it is impossible to separate them—yet between the two extremes of these orders, there is such a marked difference that we must recognize both.

While few would care to be always surrounded by only the picturesque, a touch of this order is often extremely stimulating; so we can, at least, combine the picturesque and the beautiful in such a way that small views that have some of the qualities of each may be obtained on different parts of our small property.

Certainly the beauty with which it is most desirable to surround a home is that which will live in the hearts of the family in after years; that quiet, dignified repose and feeling of mystery which are seldom found on small properties, except in a few extremely old places, where the gardeners confined themselves to formal work.

As a means of comparison, let us consider the treatment of some large properties which has been productive of especially good results. Here the house and stable are usually placed some distance from the highway, and a feeling of privacy is acquired by mere distance. The driveways approach through well-kept lawns or meadows made doubly attractive by beautiful plant life. Every turn in the road means a new view, and many varied pictures of interest delight the eye before the house and gardens are reached.

In many cases the estate has a park-like effect and, on account of the extent of the grounds, one feels free from intrusion—beyond the multitude—and when one goes into the country or suburbs, is this not what is wanted? To be beyond the dust and the grime and the noise and the worry that have been with us all day?

On these large estates we find a kind of beauty that is altogether out of the reach of the holder of a property of three or four acres, although very often one sees small places laid out on these principles. If property holders in one locality would combine with the idea of treating the picture as a whole, this method would undoubtedly be excellent.

Then the highway would be a part of the general scheme, and a park-like effect might be obtained; but I fear that day must be relegated to the far distant future. At present, these places are parks in miniature. The boundary hedging is about knee high; masses of shrubs are placed in the corners and along the boundaries; a few more at the house; a tree or two on the lawn; a spot of formal gardening, and the place is complete. I have the greatest sympathy for the owner, where he has shown that an effort has been made to create a pleasing effect with such poor results.

Let us now see what can be done to produce



THE BOX-HEDGED AND FRUIT-LINED WALK

Small Suburban Properties



A BRIGHT CORNER IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

certain effects that are undoubtedly desirable. In my opinion, privacy is of great importance. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to obliterate the boundaries on this place, as the distances are not sufficient. We have then the choice of recognizing this line as the line of a garden, or of making an ineffectual attempt to hide it with trees and shrubs, which only helps to attract attention more strongly to it. Let us recognize this line, and make our property an enclosed garden, with the beauty that we see in the immediate surroundings of so many old English houses. Hedges may be grown to a height that will insure us against intrusion; or fences or walls of good design may be erected and draped with vines. To erect a boundary of such proportions and density that would completely shut off all communication with the outside world, or create the feeling of imprisonment, should be avoided. Judgment and taste must dictate the height at which this boundary should be erected.

Let us now continue the development of our garden. We want a garden that will be a pleasure to wander through; not a flaring, glaring mass of color; or a picture that is taken in at a glance; but rather, let us subdivide it in such a manner that there will be a number of enclosures, which will be treated differently, just as all well planned gardens are treated. These enclosures need not and should not be massed with flowers, making the question of maintenance an overwhelming one, for there are many gardens, among them some of the best, where there are few or no flowers at all; just a bright touch of color at the base of a dial or around a pool. These gardens should be used as the separate rooms of a house, and the furniture, which, in this case, consists of flowers,

shrubs, trees, seats, pools, etc., should be made to correspond to the use to which each section is to be put.

The fault to be found with most places of this size is, that there is not enough of interest to be found on them, and when an owner has a choice bit he will invariably place it before your eyes, in a position where it is never out of sight, thus making it impossible for you to discover it for yourself.

Imagine the charm of two enclosed lawns one shaded, the other bright with sunlight, except for a patch of shadow cast by a feathery foliaged tree. Imagine these lawns separated by a hedged walk bordered with flowers, with only glimpses of lawn through arches as you walk to the house. Picture a long walk of flowering fruits, ending in an architectural feature, backed with dark green

foliage. Half way along this path we enter one more enclosure,—a simple, old-fashioned garden, with its pool and bird baths reflecting the flowers all summer long. This garden is in an angle of the house, to which we have entrance, thus making an outside living-room, partially shaded by trees that border the tennis court beyond.

If we continue this treatment the service section is used in the general scheme, but need not be



TALL HEDGES ENCLOSING LAWN

House and Garden



LOW STONE WALL AROUND TERRACE

unsightly because it is given over to practical uses; in fact, it may be made to work into the scheme in such a manner that only on certain days will its use be known. The drives and stables, if the property boast of these, may be included in this formal treatment, and often adds wonders if properly placed and used, for the more there is on a property, if not too crowded, the more opportunity there is of making a place of varied beauty.

Shrubs may still be used in this formal treatment. Even irregular masses may back the tennis court, or other feature forming the enclosure at this particular part. Masses or specimens may be placed against the house without spoiling the general scheme; in fact, touches of informality will be a relief from the straight lines all about.

The character and design of the house, the lay of the ground, and the sizes, are so varied, that, of course no rule could be made that would apply to any two places; but I have tried to picture the properties one sees everywhere, and what might be made of them if some one were only bold enough to treat his in this manner.

The natural criticism to be made is that sub-dividing a lot cuts it up too much and makes it appear smaller. Does a house appear smaller when the partitions are erected? Of course this would be true if the enclosures were bounded at a height that would enable one to look over and see them all; or, so small, that they would appear like boxes. I can imagine nothing more unbeautiful than a series

of box-like arrangements, all of one size and shape, treated in a similar manner. The size of the house in comparison with the grounds, and the extent of the grounds themselves would have to determine the size and number of enclosures, and also the treatment of each. If you will think of some old place on which you have been, where the box hedging has grown to the height of the eye, or over, where you had to look through the entrance rather than over the hedge to see what was beyond, did you then have the feeling that the place was cut up because you could not see all of it at once? This enclosure has given you a feeling of privacy, and at every turn a new and beautiful picture has greeted the eye; pictures that you never dreamed were there, because at first they were hidden. The spirit of long ago pervades

the place, and you are delighted.

Another question that is natural to arise is the comparative cost of this work. All I can say is, that the additional amount required to create such a series of pictures would be so trifling in comparison with the greater amount of beauty produced that in a short time your investment would be doubled, and there are properties where this method would be less expensive than placing rare trees around the lawn.

While in England the enclosed garden has reached its fullest and most beautiful development, yet in the more southern countries the "patio" fulfils in a measure the same purpose, giving privacy amid surroundings of floral embellishment and luxurious comfort.

In the photographs shown with this article you will see a property treated on the enclosure style, and we will leave it to your judgment as to whether you would not prefer this as a home to some you have seen treated in the prevalent style.



FRUITS, HEDGES AND FLOWERS IN THE POOL GARDEN

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE MONTH

FOR THE HOUSE AND GARDEN



THE HOUSE

THIS is the month of winds so as early as possible it is well to see that there are no loose bricks in the chimneys, or shingles on the roof, which can be readily dislodged. Have the chimneys pointed up, the roofs overlooked, ice bridges broken in the gutters, and all detached things made secure. Look to the windows also, have the putty renewed around the panes of glass, and the catches for the shutters repaired if necessary.

If additions, or alterations, are to be made to the house this spring, this is the time to get the plans out, so that work may begin as soon as the frost is out of the ground. Possibly it has been thought well to add a living-room, a summer kitchen or even a piazza, and if so it is most desirable not to postpone preparations.

There is nothing more attractive than a house which has been built bit by bit as necessity required, or the purse permitted, provided the building has been done in accordance with a well defined plan. Unless you are wiser than the majority—much wiser—do not attempt to be your own architect. Make up your mind what you want and then take your plan, or plans, to one who has had experience in dealing with such material. In this way you will save yourself much vexation and, in all probability, the appearance of your house. Windows cannot be cut even in a side wall with impunity, nor piazzas added without careful consideration. Each factor is a part of design and must be made to accord with the rest. A rural porch on a city house is like a gingham apron on a velvet gown—or, if you will, vice-versa—inevitably a misfit. It is this disregard of appropriateness and continuity which gives many houses such a sorry appearance. Look around in your own neighborhood and see how many squint or grimace, or are restless and uneasy.

But if you can add a piazza, or porch, do it by all means—and have it if possible two stories in height. Not one which will be merely a passage-way, an approach, or indeed an ornament, but an outdoor living-room. Have it deep enough to afford protection from the weather and secluded enough to insure real privacy. Two story porches, or galleries, are very common in the South, and there if anywhere the question of comfortable living in summer has been

solved. Such an outdoor living-room is not to be reckoned negligible by the grown up members of the family and to the children it is an unalloyed blessing.

If the home is in New England, winter will not loose its grip until another thirty days have passed and storm doors and windows will be more necessary than in the months which have just gone by—or at least equally so—but if it is in the latitude of Baltimore or Washington they can be removed before old Dame Nature starts in, as James Lane Allen has said, to do her spring house cleaning.

Painting is best done in the spring—that is outside painting—before the sun's rays are too direct and the flies come in swarms to track and disfigure fresh surfaces. Not enough thought is given, it would seem, to the color of exteriors, and many a house which might be unoffensive is made positively hideous through inartistic painting. Paint is, it is true, a protector of wood and tin, a sponsor for cleanliness, but why not at the same time a beautifier? Look to Nature for example and make the house accord with its surroundings; see to it that the color chosen for the window shutters and frames is not out of harmony with that selected for the walls, as you would give thought to the trimming of a frock or a coat. Try the effect of a glint of red where it will give life and yet will not be blatant. Nothing is so hard to handle successfully as great expanses of flat color or are as deadening to effect. Color in architecture is of far greater importance than many suppose, though the Egyptians, the Greeks, and some of the Oriental people repeatedly demonstrated it.

Above all things, if it can be avoided, do not paint bricks, as it destroys their texture and spoils their effect. Let the material which is used in construction manifest its character and serve the purpose for which it is fitted. The simplest things can be made attractive by their handling as well as the most costly, but sham is rarely if ever successful or satisfactory.

As this is apt to be a stormy month it may be a good time to give some special thought to the den—make changes in its furnishings and clear away some of the accumulated treasures. See if the mantel is not overcrowded with bric-a-brac which has been added so gradually that its superfluity has not been observed—give heed to the table and note whether it too is not

groaning under its load. Over-ornamentation is a relic of barbarism—one of the tokens of recent advent into the world of culture and refinement. And yet so prodigal is the output of modern factories and so easy acquisition, that possessions accumulate almost, it would seem, without personal responsibility. Try the effect of a good clearing up and weeding out and see if even the den does not become more inviting and livable. Try the Japanese method of changing the pictures and ornaments from time to time and really make friends of them.

THE GARDEN

MARCH is very much a month in which to prepare for gardening. Do not fail to put a top dressing on the lawn. The best thing to use for this purpose is a pulverized or shredded cow manure.

In sections of the country where the frost is out of the ground, it is time to prune, cultivate and fertilize the rose bushes. In those sections general gardening will be begun this month.

Many varieties of hyacinths bloom before the leaves appear. This can be avoided by placing a tube, made of pasteboard or heavy brown paper, around the bulb when it is removed from the cellar to the open. Let the tube remain open at the top.

In latitude of Richmond and further South, and in California, vegetable gardens are well under way, and second plantings are now in progress.

In shaded places the giant daisy (*Chrysanthemum maximum*) does well. Sow the seed in March and get results the first year. It has dark green foliage, large white blooms with yellow centers, and makes an attractive plant. If the blooms are removed as they begin to fade, this variety will bloom continuously during the summer.

Larkspur is a good hardy perennial of easy culture. The colors are of all shades. The Chinese larkspur (*Delphinium Chinensis*) is blue, grows about eighteen inches high, and is in continuous bloom from June into August. Russian larkspur (*D. grandiflorum*, var. *album*) is equally as desirable as the Chinese and usually grows from three to six feet high. Sow the seed in March and the plants will bloom during the year. They require a good soil and plenty of manure and sunshine. If the flowers are removed when matured, the plants will bloom a second time during the season.

In arranging for shrubbery have in mind the time when the different kinds bloom. For May blooming plant almond, honeysuckle, Japan quince, lilac, snowball, spiræa and tree peony; for June flower-

ing get akebia, clematis, dogwood, honeysuckle, snowball, spiræa, syringa, weigela and wistaria; clethra, clematis, spiræa, elder and honeysuckle bloom in July; and for August and September bloom althæa, bignonia, clematis, honeysuckle. *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*, *Desmodium pendulifolium*, and *baccharis* give good results. The flowering on some of these shrubs is succeeded by ornamental berries which attract song birds in the fall.

In the preliminary arrangements for gardening, which must be begun in earnest next month, the matter of fertilizing must not be overlooked. There is no soil but what will produce better results from intelligent fertilization. Every crop harvested, it matters not the nature of the crop, whether grain from the field, flowers from the garden or grass from the lawn, a decided percentage of vitality and growing force is removed from the soil. This must be restored by fertilization. To do this it is necessary to use a fertilizer or compost which contains the required chemical properties. The ordinary commercial fertilizer, composed quite or almost wholly of chemicals, will induce vegetable growth, but it does not supply the soil with the necessary humus, the foundation material, which the organic structure of the earth demands.

Preferable to any commercial fertilizer is a well decomposed manure or compost. If it is well rotted it can be used in drills along with the seed or it can be broadcast on the lawn without leaving any unsightly covering to be tracked over the walks and into the house.

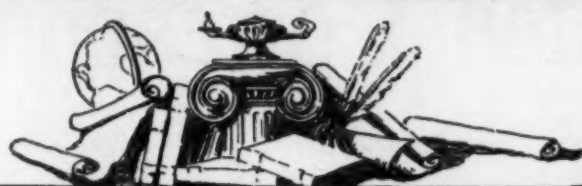
Better than either the commercial fertilizer or the decomposed manure, which is difficult to obtain, is what is known as shredded cattle manure. This manure is admirably adapted to use in the garden and on the lawn. It supplies the necessary humus to the soil and is quickly transformed into plant food with consequent forced growth.

Aside from the superiority of shredded cattle manure as plant food there are other qualities which commend it to the use of gardeners. It is free from dirt or refuse, or offensive odor, and is without moisture to increase its weight. It can be handled as easily as commercial fertilizers, and used for mulch, beds or for potting. When broadcast on the lawn, it goes directly to the roots of the grass and results show for themselves.

It is the most natural thing in the world that manure in this form should have originated in Chicago, Illinois. Natural for the reason that it comes as a by-product from the five hundred acre brick-paved pens from which more than sixteen million animals are annually handled, and the people about the Union Stock Yards are given to the habit of getting all there is out of their surroundings. If

(Continued on page 10, Advertising Section.)

THE EDITOR'S TALKS AND CORRESPONDENCE



The Editor wishes to extend a personal invitation to all readers of *House and Garden* to send to the Correspondence Department, inquiries on any matter pertaining to house finishing and furnishing. Careful consideration is given each inquiry, the letter and answer being published in due time as matters of interest to other readers. Where an early reply is desired if a stamp and self-addressed envelope are enclosed, the answer will be sent. No charge whatever is made for any advice given.

WITH the approach of the spring season the careful housewife gives much thought to the redecoration and refitting of her house.

In a certain thrifty and well regulated house which we recall it is the custom to redecorate one room each season. In this way the house is kept in absolutely good condition and all old furniture which is not of intrinsic value is disposed of from time to time, insuring a freedom from the thrall of old belongings for which we have no place and from which so many of us suffer. Recovering the walls of a room produces the most radical change at the least expense, and where the "doing over" does not include architectural changes the first question to settle is the choice of paper.

This season's offerings in wall coverings are especially fascinating, and excellent papers are to be obtained at prices within the reach of the most modest purse; both domestic and imported papers can be found much lower in price than they have been in the past, and therefore it behooves the economical woman to make her selection early, even though she must lay away the rolls of paper for another season. It is never real economy to select a wall covering which shows a very pronounced design or too vivid color. Where two toned or plain paper is not suitable a harmonious mingling of colors and tones may be found which will serve as an excellent background for pictures and a good setting for the furniture of the room. In a room where the rugs or floor coverings are already chosen these must be well considered in selecting the paper. A very excellent plan to pursue is to obtain a generous sample of the paper under consideration, and pin it on the wall (in a good light) of the room in which it is proposed to use it. A paper which has seemed thoroughly attractive and appropriate to us in the shop will develop entirely different qualities under this treatment.

By way of general advice on wall coverings, a very safe line to pursue in the selection of hall paper is to

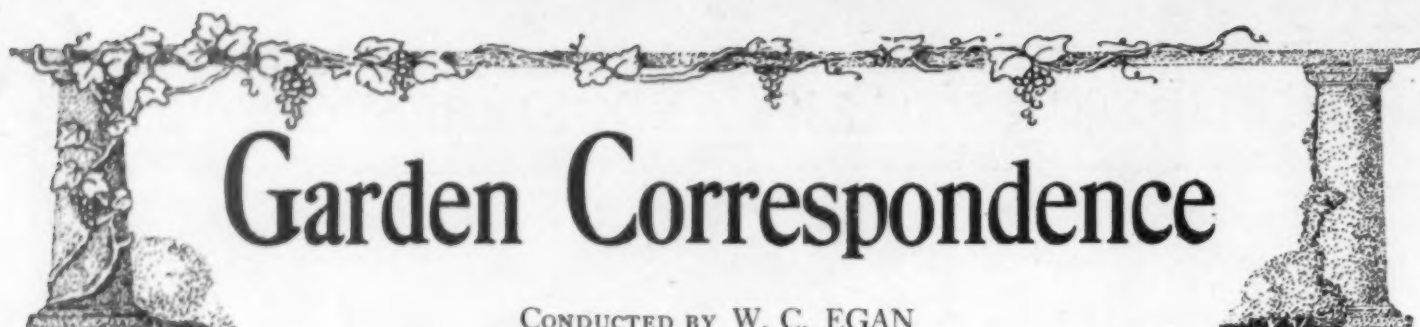
confine oneself to two toned or plain effects. Japanese grass-cloth makes a beautiful covering for the wall of the hall; this is a closely woven fabric of soft sheen which is most attractive. The price of this material is, however, in some cases prohibitive as it costs eighty-five cents a square yard. A linen cloth, like buckram, comes also in an excellent selection of colors and gives satisfactory results as a wall covering. This material is about thirty-six inches wide and fifty-five cents a yard. It has the superior advantage of being extremely durable and allowing of re-tinting or painting if one desires to change the coloring of the room.

This also may be said of burlap. In the latter case, however, oil paint must be used on the burlap. Many decorators feel that the treatment of burlap walls with oil paint is an improvement over the fabric in its original state. This prevents its catching and holding the dust and while giving a somewhat uneven surface, such as we obtain through painted and tinted rough plaster walls, it is more satisfactory. In the matter of color selection for the walls of the hall, a yellow tan or a soft ecru or any one of the rich or pastel green shades may be safely selected, as with these tones the various colors which may be used in the adjoining rooms will harmonize.

Where the hall is large and well lighted some shade of green should be chosen. Where the reverse is the case, yellow tints are advised. In the adjoining rooms some of the same color as the hall walls show should be reproduced, either in some figure in the paper, in portières, curtains or furniture coverings. In nearly all instances it is practical to use the same tone for the ceilings of all rooms opening together. This is as essential to thoroughly harmonious treatment as the use of the same stain and finish for the floors throughout.

A simple treatment for bedroom walls is desirable although more of color and figure is here permissible.

(Continued on page 12, Advertising Section.)



Garden Correspondence

CONDUCTED BY W. C. EGAN

LABELING ROSES AND OTHER PLANTS

I ENDEAVOR to keep my hybrid perpetual roses labeled plainly so I and my friends may know their names. I use large cypress labels, but sometimes my men are careless when removing the winter's covering, and either carry them away or get them mixed up. Is there any method of procedure by which this may be remedied?

L. B. C.

The best plan to pursue is to take a thin sheet of lead and cut it into pieces about two inches long, a quarter of an inch wide at one end and tapering to a point at the other. Stamp letters or numbers in the broad end (a set of dies costs but little) and wrap the pliable pieces around the stems close to the ground. Take a stiff piece of cardboard, back of a letter pad, or cover of a pasteboard box, and enter number and name as you proceed. Take up the wooden labels, tie them in a bundle, and put them under cover for the winter, fastening the card with them, but in the meantime copy numbers and names in your garden book, so that in case of accident to one list, you have the other in reserve.

I use the same method with dahlias, but punch a hole in the lead, in which I put a thin, but strong wire. I run this wire through the tuber and also wrap it around the bunch, copying numbers and names. I also apply the same principle in describing color, size of flower and habit of plant of seedling delphiniums; but in this case I fasten the lead tags to stiff telegraph wire, a foot long, inserting the wire in the ground its full length. By growing a batch of hybrid delphiniums each year for a few seasons, culling out the small flowered, and weak colored ones by up-rooting them as soon as judgment is passed upon them and describing and tagging those that remain, and entering the descriptions in your garden book, you may, any spring, transplant intelligently, grouping your light blues and dark blues as you desire.

HARDINESS AND MERITS OF SHRUBS

On the south side of my house, in full sun, I have a place of honor for the best all around shrub. It will be at the junction of the main and the service walks. Will you kindly name, in the order of their

merit, the six best shrubs for individual planting in full sun and suitable for this climate.

What can you tell me as to the hardiness and merits of the Scotch laburnum, *Xanthoceras sorbifolia*, *Buddleia variabilis*, and *Hedysarum multijugum*. The last two are recommended by Bobbink & Atkins of Rutherford, N. J. A. C. Z., Lincoln, Neb.

In selecting a shrub for a choice position, where its environments play no part as to its form or character, and one has narrowed down the list to those of undoubted hardiness, and of symmetrical form, individual tastes step in and cause dissension. Some soils suit one species better than another, and as a consequence it grows to perfection and assumes an ideal form, while the "other one" in conditions suited to it, may equal or even excel the first. Another feature to be taken into consideration is whether a shrub is chosen for its flowers or foliage. Unless a shrub is desired, whose flowers form a companion for those of an adjoining one, its flowering qualifications should be of secondary consideration, and the foliage and habit become the first desideratum. The flowers are fleeting, but the foliage remains all the season. The crimson rambler is gorgeous in its season of bloom, but in most situations it is in disgrace the balance of the season on account of its poor foliage. I am going to place *Forsythia intermedia* first, on account of its rich, dark green foliage, right up to severe frosts. Often a very hard winter injures some of its bloom buds, and we may miss the golden fountain it personates when uninjured, when its leafless, long, arching branches are completely clothed with drooping yellow bells.

Prunus triloba, the Chinese double flowering plum, comes next, and although chosen on account of its flowers (they are of a pleasing color, attractive in form, and generous in quality) its foliage, when well grown, is good. This shrub, also, is apt to have some of its flower buds winter-killed, but when in perfection outrivals any shrub I know of hardy enough for this section. The flowers are like miniature pink, double roses, and often encircle a branch for a distance of a foot or more, as the kernels of corn encircle the cob.

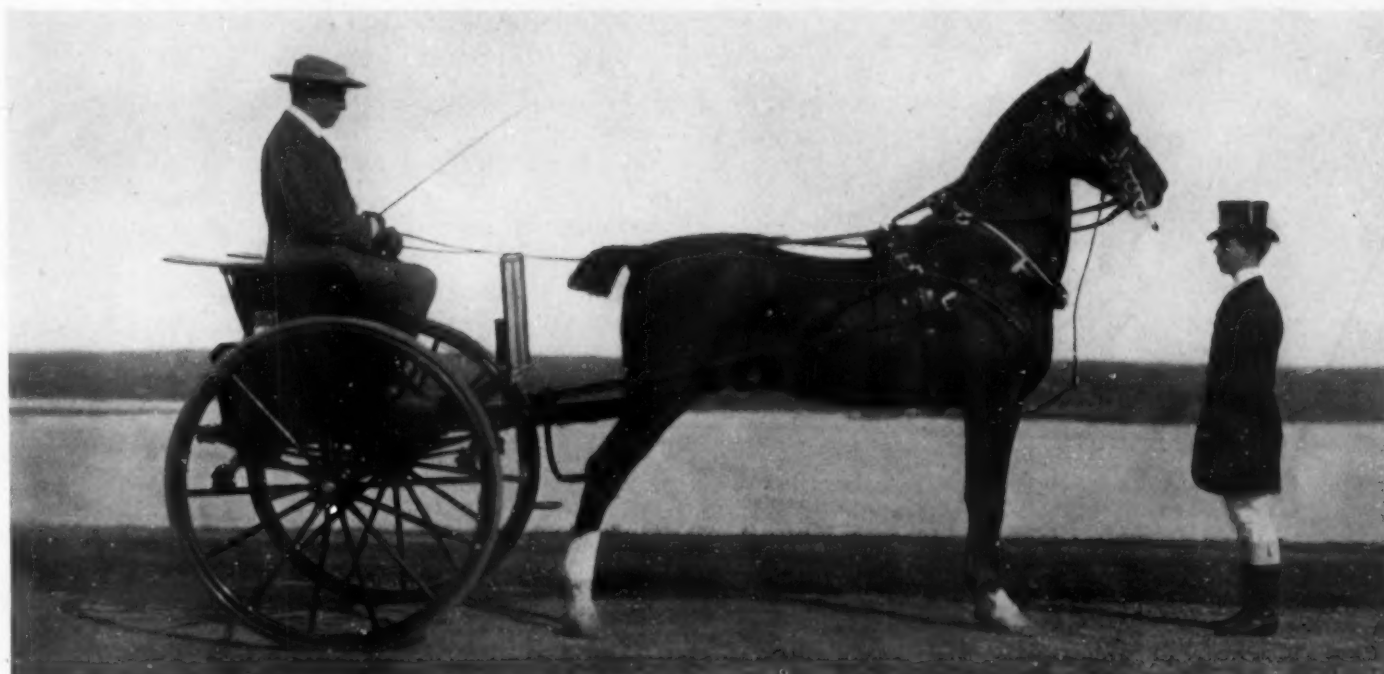
Syringa villosa, a late blooming lilac, is next in the list, and while a magnificent sight when in

(Continued on page 14, Advertising Section.)

THE STABLE AND KENNEL

EDITED BY JOHN GILMER SPEED

The purpose of this department is to give advice to those who have country or suburban places as to the purchase, keep and treatment of horses, cows, dogs, poultry, etc. Careful attention will be given each inquiry, the letter and answer being published in due time for the benefit of other readers. Where an early reply is desired if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed the answer will be sent. No charge is made for advice given.



MR. REGINALD VANDERBILT'S "DOCTOR SELWONK," MR. VANDERBILT DRIVING

MR. VANDERBILT'S "DOCTOR SELWONK"

THIS large chestnut gig horse that Mr. Reginald Vanderbilt has been showing with great success for four years past is very handsome in appearance and brilliant in action. And his winnings at the various shows from Brookline in Massachusetts to Kansas City have been most remarkable footing up in the aggregate sixteen championships, five reserve championships, forty firsts, ten seconds and five thirds. This means that this horse has been in the ribbons, as the saying is, seventy-six times since Mr. Vanderbilt introduced him in the show ring.

I do not know what "Doctor Selwonk's" breeding is and I could not find out—but I guess (I will not say I judge) it to be a mixture of hackney and trotting blood. It is a queer thing about these horse show devotees—they seem to care next to nothing about the breeding of a horse they exhibit. If he can do the trick and carry off the blue ribbon that satisfies the aspiring soul of the exhibitor to overflowing, that shows that he can select and pay for a horse, that he can hire a man to condition and train him so that he may have the glory of driving the best horse in the ring. In this picture Mr. Vanderbilt is himself driving.

THE KENTUCKY SADDLE HORSE

EVERY few years there appears on the turf or in the show ring some horse that in his or her class so outranks competitors that it is a repetition of the old experience when it was "Eclipse first, the rest nowhere." On the running turf last year Mr. Keene's Commando colt, "Colin," occupied such a position and won every race in which he started.

So also was the case in the Kentucky shows where in the five-gaited saddle horse rings Mr. Shelby T. Harbison's chestnut mare, "Edna Mae," carried everything before her and so won the admiration of those qualified to judge of this class of horses that I have heard many of them say that she is the best saddle horse seen on the "tan-bark" in a generation.

The gratifying thing about this mare's performance is the fact that she is not a mere accidental happening, but the happy result of careful, scientific breeding. In her is mingled the best blood of the foundation stock recognized by the American Saddle Horse Association. This mare is a dark chestnut, 15-3 in height, and five years



"Edna Mae," Champion five-gaited saddle mare. Owned by Shelby T. Harbison, Lexington, Kentucky
Ridden by Mat S. Cohen

old this spring, and the following tabulated pedigree is worthy of study:

Edna Mae, 1904	Rex Peavine, 1906	Rex McDonald, 893	Rex Denmark	
		Daisy, 3229	Unknown	
	Pattie	Peavine, 85	Ratler, he by Stockbridge Chief	
		Warren Harris Denmark	Stockbridge Chief	
			Unknown	
			Diamond Denmark (68)	Mark Diamond, 49
			Kavanaugh's Gray Eagle	Gray Eagle

Here is a list of "Edna Mae's" winnings, and it will be interesting to note that she wins in harness as well as she does under the saddle.

RICHMOND, KY. FAIR, 1906.—First in 3-year-old saddle mare; first in 3-year-old harness mare; first in high school class, stallion, mare or gelding any age.

CYNTHIANA, KY. FAIR, 1907.—First in saddle mare any age; first in combined mare any age; first in saddle mare or gelding any age.

LEXINGTON, KY. FAIR, 1907.—First in saddle mare 4 years and over; first in saddle mare or gelding any age; first in combined class, mare or gelding any age.

SHELBYVILLE, KY. FAIR, 1907.—First in saddle mare 4 years and over; first in saddle mare any age; first in saddle mare or gelding any age; first in combination class, mare or gelding any age; first in fancy harness mare any age; first in harness stallion, mare or gelding any age.

KENTUCKY STATE FAIR, LOUISVILLE, KY., 1907.—First in saddle mare any age; first in combined mare any age.

Reserved Champion to Star McDonald?—Owning both horses, preferred stallion win.

LOUISVILLE HORSE SHOW, 1907.—First in class for saddle stallion, mare or gelding 4 years old; champion-best saddle stallion, mare or gelding any age.

It is rather a pity that those with Anglomania in the North and East have never taken to these horses and held them in greater esteem. To be sure, when these beautiful horses are shorn of two of their gaits—the single foot and running walk—and also shorn of their traits, then they are acknowledged almost everywhere to be incomparable. But why not have them complete in all their beauty and with all their accomplishments.

MR. WARDWELL'S SHROPSHIRE

A COUNTRY place with any extensive pasturage is quite incomplete without a flock of sheep; indeed a pastoral landscape without sheep grazing in a far meadow or on a near hill seems to lack in something that completes the composition. The sheep that seems to suit a country gentleman's place more admirably than any other is the Shropshire, which is a triumph of English composite breeding. This type has done admirably in America and is vastly popular. A man without experience in sheep breeding would be included to think a flock of sheep a great undertaking; and so it would be if gone into on a large scale. But a gentleman can go into the breeding of sheep on a small scale and gain his experience while his flock is increasing. One of the things that makes a country place often very expensive is the enthusiastic haste of the owners in wanting to accomplish in a year or so what other men have been content to accomplish in twenty. The experience gained is usually very costly—costly intrinsically and costly in the disappointments which dull the keen edge of enthusiasm.

On this very subject I find in the *American Sheep Breeder* some pertinent remarks from Mr. Richard Gibson of Belvoir. He says:

"To show how quickly a flock of Shropshires may



Shropshires from Pinehurst Stock Farm, Springfield Center, New York

be acquired; how persistent they may be in increasing the numbers thereof; the recuperative powers of even old ewes, may possibly be of interest to some of your readers. The five old favorites were retained at my dispersion sale, because no one could appreciate them as I could—for had they not produced prize winners? They were retained and are now in the flock looking as fresh as they did when first maternal duties required their attention. From the five I now have ten to breed this autumn, and three ewe lambs to put in the flock next year, all the ram lambs having been sold or made into international exhibits as wethers. What did these five old ewes do last spring by the assistance of 'Allen's Star'? They produced twelve lambs. Two had triplets, three had pairs. I am aware this cannot be duplicated in large flocks, but I thus throw out the hint to the beginner in flock management. Let him start slowly and learn experience by his failures as well as by his successes.

"A few well selected females, always using a good ram, will quickly grow into a flock, of which he may well be proud, and yield fifteen, twenty-five, fifty and even a hundred per cent profit on his original well selected ewes with a responsible ram. There are breeders of other than Shropshires that are entitled to consideration, but to the Shropshire I pin my faith. Have they not done well for me, hence speak well of the bridge that carries one safely over."

The picture with this article represents Shropshires belonging to the Pinehurst Stock Farm of Mr. William L. Wardwell, who has been a successful breeder and also a fortunate exhibitor.



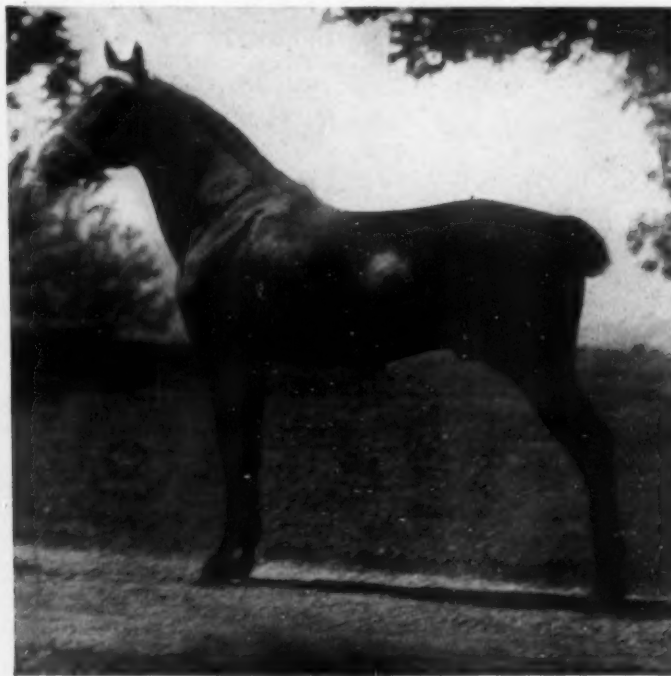
"Sinbad," Americo-Arab
Bred and owned by Mr. Herman Hoopes,
Highland Farm, West Chester, Pa.

THE AMERICO-ARAB

SOME years ago Mr. Randolph Huntington, now of Rochester, N. Y., created a new type of horse which he called the "Americo-Arab." The horses were handsome, symmetrical, fast and sturdy, with the best dispositions in the world. On the eve of what seemed certain success Mr. Huntington was balked by an unhappy misfortune for which he was in no wise responsible and his experiments seriously interfered with, his stud being dispersed in various directions. But Mr. Herman Hoopes of Highland Farm, West Chester, Pa., secured some of the Huntington stock and is still breeding this Americo-Arab. On this page is a photograph of "Sinbad" in his three year old form. This colt was sired by the pure Arab, "Naaman," his dam being an Americo-Arab or Clay-Arabian, as Mr. Huntington often called them, named "Clay Mocha." These horses are equally good under the saddle and in harness.

THE OLD-FASHIONED MORGAN

WHEN the Morgan horse of Vermont was most famous he was not much if anything more than a pony. The efforts to improve him have in the estimation of men long interested in the breeding produced a type (if type it can be called) inferior in substance, symmetry, stamina and that general utility excellence which were so admirable seventy-five years ago. Some, however, have kept the faith in the old-fashioned sort of horse and have bred the type themselves while encouraging others to do the same thing. Notable among these have been Colonel



Morgan Stallion, "Rob Roy"
Owned by Mr. M. Roosevelt Schuyler,
Nyack, New York

Spencer Borden of Fall River, Mass., Mr. M. Roosevelt Schuyler of Nyack, N. Y., and Mr. E. H. Hoffman of Lyndonville, Vt. They do not favor the introduction of the blood of other types for the purpose of getting more size. And when that blood happens to be quite heterogeneous—the hackney for instance—they scoff at such experiments and declare that it leads to sure mongrelization.

The picture presented here is of Mr. M. Roosevelt Schuyler's bay stallion "Rob Roy." He is surely of the old-fashioned type. He is not fifteen hands in height, but he is blocky, symmetrical and full of grace and speed. He has trotted a mile in less than 2.20 without training, except the ordinary road driving. He is thirteen or fourteen years old, but he still keeps his speed and the road is never too long.

His pedigree is most interesting to study. On every side and almost in each line of descent it goes back to "Justin Morgan," the founder. "Rob" was sired by "Ethan Allen 2d" a colt of Peter's "Morgan," out of "Nellie," who was sired by "Ethan Allen." "Rob's" dam was a daughter of "Starlight," out of a daughter of Peter's "Morgan." But the important thing in this horse's pedigree is that the degrading Hambletonian and Abdallah blood is absolutely lacking.

A CONTRAST

IN the picture below we see two horses—one a mammoth and the other a miniature. The large horse is an imported Clydesdale stallion "Baron Doune." He was a winner of first prizes at both the Iowa State Fair and the Minnesota State Fair.

The little fellow, the hackney pony "Jupiter," is now twenty three years old. He was practically



"Baron Doune" and "Jupiter"
Owned by Alexander Galbraith & Son,
Janesville, Wis.

unbeatable in the show ring, winning three years in succession at Chicago; he was also a great jumper and was never beaten at this game by anything of his size. Last autumn this pony's grandsire, "Mars," was still alive in England.

These horses were imported and are owned by Alex. Galbraith & Son, Janesville, Wisconsin.

ENGLISH BLOODHOUNDS

By J. L. Winchell

THERE is a prejudice, born of ignorance, as to the English bloodhound. He is a very valuable dog and very companionable. His appearance, to those who know him not, is against his popularity, but to those who have studied him, who have lived with him his face and his mien are both filled with dignity. The prejudice we have against him is that we naturally have against a detective. To hunt men seems repugnant to our nice sense of the proprieties. No woman would ever have fallen in love with Sherlock Holmes. But for a dog to hunt a man seems particularly repugnant and so we have in an idle and ill considered way put the bloodhound under the ban. Then again bloodhounds in modern times have been used to find criminals and other unfortunates, the criminal being the greatest unfortunate in the world. Bringing a man to justice is an obnoxious thing, for a dog to do it seems a bit unnatural. In the old days, when in England stealing was a capital offence and punished by death, it was held that a man who stole a dog was guiltless though a man who stole a dog's skin was guilty, for the learned judge charged that it was not meet that a man should die for a dog, but a dog's skin was property and the stealing of it was theft. Ideas may have changed in the intervening



English Bloodhounds
Mother, and daughter eight months old
Bred and owned by J. L. Winchell

centuries since this ruling, but there is still a remnant of the feeling remaining and we are reluctant to put a dog after a man. This reluctance, however, is sentimental rather than practical. Should the general public obey the scriptural injunction and say to every rogue that preyed upon society: "Go and sin no more," we should soon have what the old time newspaper reporters used to call, "a holocaust of crime in our midst." It is quite necessary to restrain the vicious and the dishonest. I take it the HOUSE AND GARDEN is of particular interest in suburban places. Every one acquainted with current events knows that the suburban post-offices have been easy game for thieves for many years past. The thieves appear, blow up the safe, take out cash and stamps, disappear and there is an end of it. Now if in each such neighborhood there were a brace of English bloodhounds, a large percentage of such thieves would be run to earth. The bloodhound can take up a scent many hours old and follow it truly. He is the best and surest policeman in the world. But as a dog to be fond of? I know none that excels him. He is a model of dignified fidelity. Then again he comes near to refuting Mr John Burrough's contention that no animal, save man, can reason; indeed I believe he does refute it. Take two instances within my personal knowledge. A bloodhound was lying on my hearth in front of an open wood fire. My little daughter sat on him and the long ears not being to her liking she concluded to trim them with a pair of scissors. The dog set up a mighty howl but did not move. Had he moved the little girl would probably have been thrown into the fire. Was it instinct or instant reason that restrained that dog?

Again, a bloodhound bitch had a new litter of puppies. Under such circumstances bitches are not kindly to strangers. Some friends were spending the day. A little girl escaped from the house and wandered into the kennel. The bitch did not know her, but she took the little girl by the petticoat and led her to the house. That was only instinct too, I fancy.

The English bloodhound must not be confounded with the bloodhound of the South, which is a mongrel with a strong admixture of foxhound and the dogs do not breed to a fixed type. I was the first importer of pure

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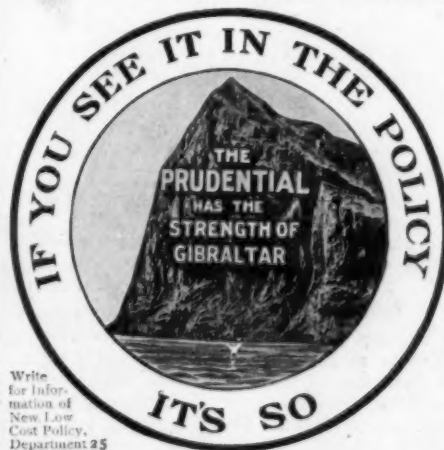
\$1,337,000,000

ON

Seven and One Quarter Million Policies.

Paid Policyholders during 1907, over	18 Million Dollars
Total Payments to Policyholders to Dec. 31, 1907, over	141 Million Dollars
Loans to Policyholders, on Security of their Policies, Dec. 31st, 1907, over	7 Million Dollars
Tax Payments by Company in 1907, over	1 1/4 Million Dollars
REDUCTION IN EXPENSES IN 1907, on a Basis of Equal Premium Incomes in 1906 and 1907, nearly	1 Million Dollars

Gain in Insurance in Force in 1907, over 84 Million Dollars
This was a Greater Gain than in 1906.



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Little Talk on Decoration

The room reproduced above is from Haddon Hall, one of England's most magnificent old buildings. Here the rich dark oak of the paneled wainscot in combination with the wonderful tapestry hangings and furniture covering produces an effect which is impressive and beautiful.

In this day of period furnishing, in many of the handsome homes of America reproductions of such rooms are desired. The unique stains made by Chicago Varnish Company finished with Dead-Lac will give an exact replica of the oak of the stained woodwork seen in the Old World cathedrals and castles.

One coat of Chicago Varnish Company's Baronial oak wood tint Number 325, followed by one coat of No. 20 Surfacer and one of Dead-Lac, will supply the rich soft brown tone to the wood which gives the appearance of age that is so desired.

In deciding upon the wood stain or finish to be used in any room, it is quite necessary to consider first the character of the room, and the draperies, wall coverings and furniture with which it will be fitted. When these are considered together an harmonious effect is insured.

Where advice is desired upon the selection of wood stain, finish or enamel to be used in combination with appropriate wall covering, draperies, floor coverings, furniture, etc. this will be supplied FREE upon request to all customers of Chicago Varnish Company. Where floor plans are sent, sample panels showing treatment advised for standing woodwork and floors, together with samples of wall covering and draperies, will be forwarded. This method of laying before the client the full color effect of all rooms under consideration is found most satisfactory.

Margaret Greenleaf, Consulting Decorator for the Chicago Varnish Company, is located at 345 Fifth Avenue, Room 1007. Floor plans or rough drafts of same can be submitted to her. Exposures should be clearly marked on the plan and the character of the wood used for standing woodwork and floors mentioned. Miss Greenleaf may also be personally consulted at the above office, where samples of the wood finishings made by the Chicago Varnish Company may be seen.

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SILVER LAKE SASH CORD

ESTABLISHED 1869. Our name is stamped on every foot.

English bloodhounds and mine were consigned to me by Mr. Edwin Brough, the best known breeder in Europe.

THE BUSY BEE

THE value of \$25,000,000 placed on the annual output of honey puts this farm crop only slightly behind raw cane sugar, which had a valuation at the refineries of \$28,000,000. Comparisons with the output of sixty-four beet-sugar factories, which have a capacity of 49,500 tons of beets daily may seem odious. Yet the product of this coddled and fostered industry—\$45,000,000—was less than double that of the busy hive communities.

The bee in effect pays the interest on the public debt—\$24,310,326. Shall not the insect which Napoleon made an imperial emblem have some state recognition such as Massachusetts gives to the codfish in its legislative halls? As a matter of fact, the products of the New England fisheries, which have been the subject of treaties and international conventions and occasionally raised the spectre of war, amount in value to only half the bee's product.

At least the bee deserves a share in the national affection which is lavished on the hen. This industrious worker maintained its reputation during the year by giving poultry products a value of \$600,000,000, exceeding that of the wheat crop. That the dairy products counted for more than any crop except corn testifies to the importance of another of the humbler farm industries. The great proportions to which the lesser agricultural products have grown, the orchards with their minor item of 1,754,927 barrels of cider, the \$113,000,000 worth of miscellaneous vegetables, the 5,000,000 tons of cottonseed, once plantation waste but now furnishing the equivalent in value of seven 20,000-ton battle-ships, make a nature wonder story of never-failing interest. — *The New York World*.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE MONTH

(Continued from page 104.)

THE GARDEN

your dealer in fertilizers or seed cannot furnish you with shredded cattle manure it is suggested that correspondence be had with the Pulverized Manure Company of Chicago. There may

(Continued on page 12.)



Japanese Gardening

is a fine art. The love of flowers is a national trait in the "Land of the Rising Sun." The Japanese has a garden, no matter how small his home grounds. Garden arts have been brought to such perfection in Japan that plots only ten feet square are made exquisitely beautiful.

Where, too often, Americans see only tincans, ashes and garbage, in Japan the outlook is made charming to the eye. The garden magic of the Japanese is wrought by the simplest means. We make a specialty of landscape gardening after the Japanese forms,

Applied to American Needs

and have to our credit many of the fine places for which Baltimore is noted. It is now our purpose to give persons in other sections the benefit of our study and experience.

Our new booklet, "Gardening Lessons from the Japanese," tells how you may profit by what you have learned, no matter where you live.

"Gardening Lessons from the Japanese" free on application. Write today for a copy.

American & Japanese Nursery Co.
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Garden Furniture

Plan Your Garden for the Future

Settle your ideas of what you want to do or intend to do. Construct your plan and work with that ultimate end in view.

Where the Garden Scheme permits of Formal treatment, the Terrace, Balustrading, Steps and Fountains should be planned at one time.

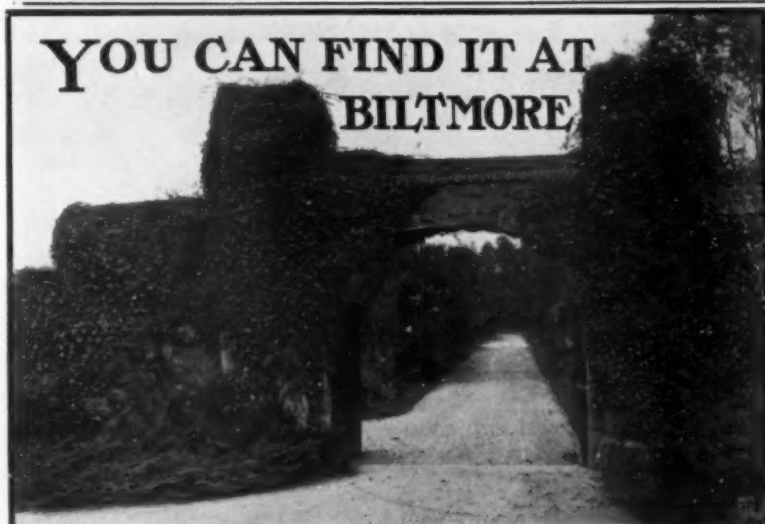
Most Garden pieces are stationary. A Wall Fountain that would go well with your Garden now, may not be at all appropriate finally.

If at present you only need a vase to break the monotony of the wall, or a Sundial Pedestal for some plot, or possibly a Table or a Bench for the Tennis Court, which afterwards would be used to help out the Pergola yet to be built, purchase these pieces with the ultimate scheme always in mind.

THE ERKINS STUDIOS have every facility to help you, or to collaborate with your Architect in the planning of your Garden, and in our Studios we show the most complete collection of Garden Furniture. If you are interested in furnishing your Garden write us.

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anything and everything required for garden and grounds, formal or informal. If a tree, a plant, a shrub, or a vine has been found worth while in this country, you may procure a stock of it from

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In the extensive landscape and forest plantations of Biltmore, covering a period of over twenty years, there have been the fullest and most vigorous tests of quality. Everything offered by Biltmore Nursery stands approved by experience, and may be planted with assurance.

Send your name and address for a copy of the famous Biltmore Nursery Catalog—the world's greatest production in the line

BILTMORE NURSERY, Box 133, BILTMORE, N. C.

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Roses

Every Spring thousands of lovers of Roses are disappointed in not getting the kinds and varieties desired. By placing orders now we will reserve the plants for delivery in Spring. We have for Spring a larger quantity and variety of Roses, in strong 2-year-old field-grown plants, than we have ever offered in previous years.

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We have splendid blocks of handsome straight-stem Norway Maples, Oriental Planes, Pin Oaks, and other trees for planting in every location.

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We have many hundreds from 5 to 12 feet tall, in all the finest and handsomest varieties. The specimens now growing in our Nurseries are conceded to be the finest ever produced in America.

Hedge Plants

We have them by the hundred thousand in our Nursery. We can supply any quantity.

Vines

We have them for every place and purpose: Japanese Wistaria, Dutchman's Pipe, Clematis, Honey-suckle, Boston Ivy, Virginia Creeper, Euonymus, Ivies and the beautiful quick-growing Japanese Kudzu Vine.

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You will find two hours walk in our Nursery, healthful and interesting.

Tells you about the above and many other interesting things requisite to the Garden.

Consult our Landscape Department if you intend to beautify your grounds.

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the
Fire-
Still the
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Figure it out:

A larger heating plant than your house should require—more heat, more coal, than your house should need; against—one small sheathing expense, a smaller (less expensive) heating apparatus, and a smaller coal bill, year by year.

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be other houses at Chicago or in other Western cities manufacturing similar fertilizers, but if so the information is not at hand.

A liberal use of proper fertilizers will more than recompense for any outlay in purchase price or time and trouble in application. This will be shown from the early spring until the frosts of winter claim all vegetation in increased growth and beauty of foliage.

THE EDITOR'S TALKS

(Continued from page 105.)

A very attractive effect is obtained by using a floral overhead with plain or two toned stripe on the lower wall. Where the plaster is to be tinted, as in the case of a new house where the walls have not yet settled, or where the owner is prejudiced in favor of sanitary wall tints, the general scheme for the room may be much improved by a papered ceiling, the paper extended to the picture rail, or where no picture rail is used a paper showing garlands of flowers may be selected—the lower edge cut out following the design. This irregular edge can be applied directly to the plastered wall with pleasing results. Where a floral side wall is used the ceiling to the picture rail should be white or tinted in some light plain color harmonizing with the wall covering. Many attractive bedroom papers may be found as low as twenty-five cents a roll of eight yards. It is not well to buy a cheaper paper than this, as it is impossible to find them in at all permanent colors. Very attractive papers for the nursery are now on the market and may be purchased at much more reasonable prices than in the past.

In choosing the new wall covering, if the portières to be used in the doors show decided figures no more pronounced design should be allowed in the paper than a two toned stripe, or if the carpet or rugs show much of figure the same rule should hold. In all rooms there should be some plain, unfigured spaces or massed color upon which the eye may rest.

CORRESPONDENCE

SELECTION OF TILES

Would you kindly give me some advice in regard to the choice of tiles for my new home? I have open fireplaces in my library, living-room and den. The library is dark oak wood-

work and I should like to make the walls yellow. The dining-room is of mahogany woodwork with high wainscot and about twenty-four inch frieze. The den, which is practically a smoking-room and opens off to the library, will have the woodwork of oak stained with green. These stains have been your selection, therefore I feel I should appreciate further advice on the wall coloring and particularly the tiles to use in these rooms. A. B.

Answer: I would suggest in your library (which I note your desire to make yellow) that you use eight inch tiles of tobacco brown color and dull finish. These should be chosen to harmonize with the brown of your woodwork. If the walls of this room are done in strong yellow, you will find this introduction of the brown tile to be more pleasing than any other color.

For the den with the green woodwork, I would advise dull tile in a shade of yellow harmonizing with the adjoining library wall covering. I would be glad to suggest treatment for this wall if you will inform whether it is your desire to use paper here and if there is a wainscot in the room.

For the dining-room with the high mahogany wainscot, I suggest that you use a tapestry paper or fabric from the top of wainscot to ceiling line. This should show a mingling of rich green leaves, and purple red plums on a tan background. The ceiling should be tinted a soft ecru.

FINISH FOR WOODWORK IN BATH-ROOM

Can you advise me in regard to the best finish to give the standing woodwork in a bath-room which is not tiled? The wainscot extends to the height of six feet, the wall above is rough plaster. Would you consider it advisable for me to use tile on the floor?

Answer: There is a new material on the market for the finish of woodwork in bath-rooms, kitchens and any portion of the house where there is much of moisture of heat or where substitute for tile is desired. This material has a fine high gloss and a surface like glass. It can be readily applied by a good workman and shows no brush marks in application. Tile are very satisfactory for the floor of a bath-room. If you will send me a self-addressed envelope,



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WALL TREATMENT

I have noticed in several of your Talks that you advocate allowing the walls of a house to settle thoroughly before papering. Is this absolutely necessary in all cases and what material would you advise me to use to tint the walls? Can I get a ready-mixed color which is permanent?

Answer: There are a number of wall finishes manufactured which are more or less successful. I am sending you the address of several manufacturers, also I send you some samples which have been supplied to me by one of these firms. These will show you very excellent colors which their product insures; and the finish is sanitary, the color lasting. Golden brown and sage green as well as the pale blue (for a bedroom), are particularly attractive.

EXTERIOR COLOR FOR A RESIDENCE

Kindly advise me as to the color in shingle stain and exterior paint I should use on the house of which I send you a photograph.

Answer: The roof shingles should be stained moss green. The side wall shingles of upper story stained golden brown. The lower portion painted a darker shade of brown; all trim, columns etc., ivory or deep cream.

I have requested several firms manufacturing paints and stains for the exterior of houses to send you sample panels or color cards.

GARDEN CORRESPONDENCE

(Continued from page 106.)

bloom, its best feature is its splendid rich foliage down to the ground, all the season through.

It is, however, subject to scale and should therefore be watched and cared for.

I will now jump from foliage and flower considerations and choose one for its berry effect—*Lonicera bella albida*, a comparatively new hybrid, a bush honeysuckle, one of the showiest shrub in fruit that I know of, branching to the ground. Its foliage is also good,

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much better than the old-fashioned Tatarian bush honeysuckle.

In the next selection foliage and berry effect are equally divided—*Viburnum lantana* var. *rugosum* has heavy, large, rugged foliage and red fruit.

Spiraea Van Houttei, when well grown makes a good individual specimen, and is fine when in bloom, and the foliage is fair, except for a time after blooming, when it is somewhat marred by the presence of the fading flowers. All of these shrubs require a space of fully ten feet in diameter devoted to them, except the *spiraea*.

Xanthoceras sorbifolia and *Buddleia variabilis* both failed with me, being winter-killed. *Hedysarum multijugum*, also failed, but I may not have given it drainage enough. I have never grown the Scotch laburnum as I did not imagine it hardy enough to stand our climate, it is *L. alpinum* from the mountains of Europe, and is the hardiest of the family. Why not try a couple of plants each of these four kinds, planting in a reserve place and watching results?

PLANTS FOR A SHADY SITUATION

I have a shrubby border facing northwest, and in full view of the house. The shrubby lines are sinuous and have flowers beds in the rather deep bays facing the porch. I want to grow something in one of these beds that will stand some shade and give a good display of flowers throughout the season. What would you advise? L. A. P.

Presuming that there is no overhanging foliage at the bed in question, I would suggest planting started tubers of begonias, Duke Zepplin and Lafayette. They form strong compact plants eight to ten inches high and are free bloomers. The flowers are double and a rich scarlet in color. Of the two varieties I prefer the Duke Zepplin, but both are good. Plant them fifteen to eighteen inches apart and between them plant sweet alyssum. The situation is an ideal one for begonias, and the sweet alyssum will flower freely there.

The combination of the scarlet and white, when backed by the green of the shrubby will be a pleasing one. Both belong to that class of plants that may be termed tidy in that they drop their faded flowers and always look neat. You can buy the tubers in the spring at

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a moderate cost and after potting them, start them into active growth in a greenhouse or hotbed, gradually hardening them off and planting out when all danger of frosts is past. If you have not got these facilities, get some florist to start them. While most any of the begonias would do well there, those I have named are the best. When cold weather injures the foliage, take up the tubers, dry them off, and place them in a paper bag and hang them up in some dry, frost-proof place. The sweet alyssum may be grown from seed or raised from cuttings, but are sold at a very low price in the spring by any florist.

MORNING GLORY "HEAVENLY BLUE"

A few years ago I saw in California a wire fence covered with a morning glory they called Heavenly blue. I was very much impressed with its beauty and have attempted to grow it here, starting the seeds in the greenhouse, but while the plants grow vigorously, they do not bloom. Do you suppose the soil is too rich?
D. C. C.

Heavenly blue is the very appropriate name applied to the *Ipomœa rubra carulea*, meaning the red-blue ipomœa, the flowers being a lovely shade of blue when first open, fading to a red when closed and at their end. It is a plant that under ordinary cultivation requires a long season of growth before blooming, a condition which exists in California but not with us, and the frost cuts the vine down before it blooms.

You can bloom it however by confining its roots. Many plants, and this is one of them, do not believe in race suicide, and when their roots are confined, and as a consequence their food supply becomes exhausted, they seem to make up their mind that their days are numbered and if they are to perpetuate their species they must hurry up and flower and ripen their seed.

Start your seed in the greenhouse, planting in small pots, say a two and a half inch pot at first. Do not shift until fairly well pot-bound, then use the next size, making one more shift into a three and a half. In the meantime these pots had better be sunken in a box, in sand, to subserve moisture. When the weather is surely settled, say about June 10th, you are ready to set in place. In none of the pottings are you to use any broken

crocks over the drainage hole at the bottom of the pot.

Make a box eight inches deep and six to eight wide, and of the required length, allowing six inches for each plant. Have the box tight at bottom and ends, except that you bore a few very small holes in the bottom, slightly smaller than a lead pencil. Sink your box to an inch below the soil, filling it with good soil, and sink the plants, pots and all, within the box. The plants will send down roots through the drainage holes in the pots. You should have a few blooms when set out and a fairly continuous show during the season.

NOTE.—In Garden Correspondence, page 77, in the February issue, "Transplanting Hawthorn and Crab Trees," through a typographical error, Mr. Egan was made to say: "keep the trench full of water until the ball is well frozen." This should read: "keep the trench free of water."

SHEFFIELD PLATE*

THE above title is that of a very readable book, it being the latest addition to Newnes' Library of the Applied Arts. The work is by Bertie Wyllie who deals with his subject in a very exhaustive yet most interesting manner. It is divided into six parts or chapters. By glancing at the headings of these one may form an accurate idea of its completeness:

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- 2—The Discovery. The Inventor and the Pioneers.
- 3—How It Was Made.
- 4—Qualities and Methods of Judging of Them.
- 5—Makers and Marks.
- 6—Periods and Designs most prized.

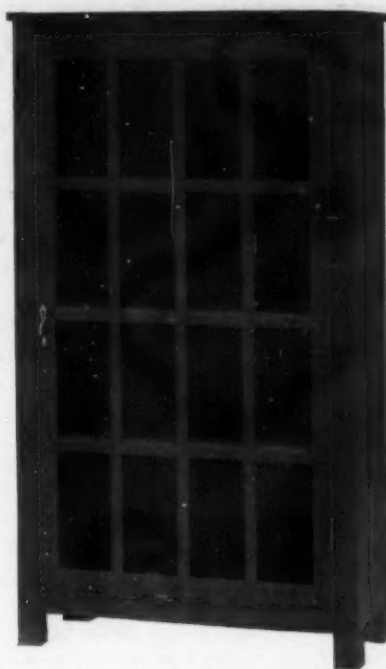
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*"Sheffield Plate," by Bertie Wyllie. London, George Newnes, Limited. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. Price, \$2.50 net.

†"In English Homes," Vol. 2. Published from office of "Country Life," also by George Newnes, Limited, London. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Price \$15 net.



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The Berkey and Gay Furniture Company makes many costly pieces. Carving, inlay, and a great deal of handiwork necessarily render furniture expensive. But the point we would emphasize is this—that they do make simple furniture also, and at a remarkably low figure considering the quality. Such furniture is a great boon to people of limited means, for it is both beautiful and economical.

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THE American Nursery Company has acquired all the real estate, property, business and good-will of the well-known F. & F. Nurseries, Springfield, N. J., The Bloodgood Nurseries, Flushing, L. I.,—established 1790—Frederick W. Kelsey, N. Y. City and the New Jersey and Long Island Nurseries. These old established and successful concerns will hereafter be conducted as branches of the Company under the same local management as heretofore. The Company with its extended Nurseries and complete assortments has now the largest facilities of any establishment in this country. With these advantages of economic production, of central location, and of unequalled facilities for distribution, and extended direct importations of Specimen Trees, Bay Trees, Boxwood, Trained Fruit Trees, etc. the Company is in position to furnish all varieties of fine hardy planting material in wholesale or retail quantities on the most favorable terms. Every requisite for the complete planting and decoration of Country Estates, Parks, Municipal Street Planting, Forestry Departments, Orchards, Lawns and Gardens, is thus available. Every effort will be made to insure the patrons of the former establishments the advantages these enlarged facilities provide. With hundreds of acres of well grown stock now ready for planting, new customers may be assured of liberal treatment. Inspection is invited: Also



DURING the long winter evenings, which are now at hand, in talking over the plans for the new home to be built in the Spring or for the alterations to be made, the question of the best fixtures for the bathrooms and toilets is one which must be decided sufficiently in advance of building, to be sure of having the goods ready when needed.

This important sanitary question has been solved by thousands of people, by the simple decision to use "Ideal" Solid Porcelain ware bathtubs, sinks, and laundry tubs, and either "Ideal" Solid Porcelain or "Impervio" Vitreous Chinaware Lavatories; while the closet bowl and tank should, without a doubt, be of the very best hard fire Vitreous China syphon jet pattern.

There is only one manufacturer in this country who makes all of the above mentioned goods, and who, therefore, can guarantee the same stable quality and durability throughout the fixtures. That manufacturer is the Trenton Potteries Co., Trenton, N. J.

The Company owns and operates six complete factories in Trenton, and is also represented in the Canadian trade by the Canadian Trenton Potteries Co., of St. Johns, Quebec.

The following letter we consider a testimonial, which will surely appeal to representative house builders and house owners, and we also have confidence that after your decision is that your Architect specify and your Plumber install goods of our make, you will feel like writing us a similar letter, after having used the fixtures.

NORTH ADAMS, MASS., May 9, 1907.

TRENTON POTTERIES CO.,

TRENTON, N. J.

GENTLEMEN:—I would like to have you send me, if you will, one of those little pocket catalogs. I got one catalog when I called on you and bought some tubs, but loaned it to the plumber, and now my family want to keep one of these catalogs to show to our friends who look the house over, as the goods are very beautiful. I have two of your tubs and three lavatories. Hoping that you will favor me, I remain,

Yours truly

ARCHER H. BARBER.

Let us mail you a small booklet of fine half-tone illustrations of our goods. You can have one of these books by simply addressing

The Trenton Potteries Co.,
Trenton, N. J., U. S. A.

HIGH GRADE PRESSED METAL SASH PULLEYS



Made with Plain Axles, Roller Bearings and Ball Bearings

Combination Groove for Chain or Cord
CATALOG SENT UPON REQUEST

The American Pulley Co.
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The final note of Comfort, Health and Beauty is added to your home with an equipment of snowy "Standard" Porcelain Enameled Ware in the bathroom, bedroom, kitchen and laundry.

Write for our beautifully illustrated book, "Modern Bathrooms," showing interiors of bathrooms and giving cost of fixtures in detail. Mailed for six cents postage.

Standard Sanitary Mfg. Co. Dept. 40, Pittsburg, Pa.



Detail of Faience Frieze, Exterior of Woman's Building, Carnegie Technical Schools, Pittsburg.

PALMER & HORNBOSTEL, Architects.

SUPPLIED BY
The Rookwood Pottery Co.
CINCINNATI
1 Madison Ave., New York

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in Builders' Fine Hardware

With Correct Designs in
all the Leading Schools of
Art is found in the produc-
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FACTORIES
New Britain, Conn.

Interior view of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Mass., in which we laid 30,000 feet of Interlocking Rubber Tiling, in a solid color, to harmonize with the stone finish.

Interlocking Rubber Tiling

Noiseless, non-slippery, restful to the feet, sanitary, extraordinarily durable. The finest floor for use in public buildings, banks, offices, theatres, hospitals, libraries, kitchens, laundries, billiard rooms, bath rooms, stairways, etc., etc.

Samples, estimates, and special designs furnished upon application.
Beware of infringers. Patented.
Manufactured solely by



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consultations regarding planting, sketches, or estimates for plans and planting complete.

The officers of the Company are: Fred'k W. Kelsey, President; William Flemer, Vice-President and Treasurer; Theodore Foulk, Vice-President; P. H. Goodsell, Secretary.

BEAUTIFY THE HOME GROUNDS

THERE are many reasons why the home should be made more attractive without as well as within, but probably the one of most importance is the influence that beautiful surroundings may exert upon the minds of children. A well-kept lawn with shade trees, flowering plants and vines will unconsciously develop in the child's mind a love of home and of the beautiful in nature that may in later years repay many-fold the expenses involved, while bare and cheerless surroundings will engender a feeling of discontent as well as a lessened capability to appreciate the refinements of life.

The comfort of all occupants of the home should be considered. A leisure hour during the heat of summer may be spent with more comfort and refreshment on a shady lawn than elsewhere.

The women of the house, especially, appreciate and have a right to ask for cleanly and pleasant surroundings.

The value of the premises is materially enhanced by the judicious planting of trees and shrubs. The place in which a tree stands generally determines its value; if in a forest it may be worth ten dollars for fuel, if on the lawn it may add \$100 to the value of the place.

The matter of expense can scarcely be urged as a reason for the failure to make improvements in this line in country homes, as there need be but a trifling outlay of money.

Horses, labor, good soil and manure are all available on the farm, and native trees and shrubs may usually be found in abundance in neighboring fields and woods.

A definite plan should be formed before planting is begun. In order to meet with success in planting, it is essential to have a definite plan of procedure. A simple plan will answer; in fact, the simpler it is, the better it will be; but it must be explicit.—Frederick Crane-field, Wisconsin Experiment Station.—*Home and Farm.*

PROTECTS THE TREES

"Tree Tanglefoot" is an Effectual Bar to Insect Pests

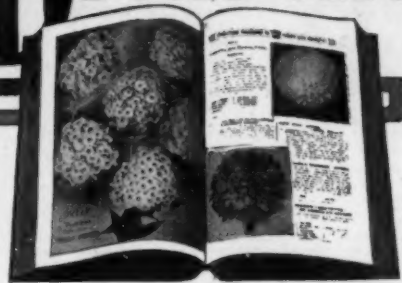
A STICKY preparation applied directly to the bark of trees, and known as "Tree Tanglefoot," has been used very extensively with great success in New England against the gypsy and brown tail moth, and in the California prune orchards against the canker worm. It will not injure trees, and is applied to make a band five inches wide and one-sixteenth of an inch thick. No climbing insect pest can cross this. It remains sticky much longer than any other known substance. All who wish to preserve fruit or shade trees will find that the slight expense of "Tree Tanglefoot" bears no comparison to the benefit it will confer. It costs only twenty-five cents per pound, much less in greater quantities, and should be applied when the caterpillars begin to crawl. Any druggist or general dealer can supply "Tree Tanglefoot" and anyone can apply it, as no apparatus is required.

THE BEST BORDEAUX

THE value of this mixture for a fungicide consists principally in the adhesiveness of the copper. The French experimenter G. Gastine reports many tests made with copper mixtures and solutions. His conclusions in a summary of his work show that of all the alkaline Bordeaux made by what he terms the American method (supposedly 5 lb. lime, 5 lb. copper sulphate and 50 gals. water) and the same to which molasses or linseed oil was added were the best, 90 to 95 per cent of the copper remaining on the leaves after washing. The adhesiveness of the copper was lessened when the ingredients were mixed in too concentrated form. Delay in application after mixing reduced adhesiveness but the mixture to which molasses was added was effective after forty-eight hours.—*The Country Gentleman.*

Our native *Rhododendron maximum* deserves planting because of its late flowering. It is almost midsummer before it blooms. The prevailing color is light pink to the bud, becoming white on full expansion; some are tinted purple. In its native haunts it grows to a height of 20 feet.—*Florists' Exchange.*

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We want every reader of *House and Garden* to have a copy of our "70th Anniversary Garden Book." It is more than a mere catalogue. It is the acknowledged authority on flowers, vegetables, decorative plants, shrubs, lawn—every needful for the large country estate or a small city garden. Many leading colleges use it as a text-book.

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Salzer's 20th Century strain of above seed is positively the purest seed on earth.

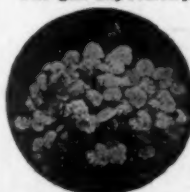
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The Elm City Nursery Company, New Haven, Connecticut



NEW HARDY HYDRANGEA GRANDIFLORA ALBA

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are the satisfactory kind. A complete assortment especially strong in Hardy Flowering Shrubs, Evergreens and Strawberry Plants. Landscape plans prepared and executed. Catalog free.

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Established 1844. PHILADELPHIA, U.S.A.

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PATENTED.
The only Stop Adjuster made from one piece of metal with solid ribs and heavy bed that will not cup, turn or bend in tightening the screw. Manufactured only by **The H. B. IVES CO., New Haven, Conn., U. S. A.** (Fifty-page Catalogue Mailed Free.)

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Built on QUALITY alone
PORCELITE
Has no competitor where the best
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Do You Appreciate the Advantages in Using Tiling in Home Building?

Its **DURABILITY** saves the costs of repairs and replacing. A tiled floor or wall never has to be oiled, varnished, painted or papered. Dirt or liquid matter of any kind will not stain it. The steel nails of the shoe cannot scratch or wear it.

Its **SANITARY QUALITIES** and the facility with which it can be cleaned gives assurance that the bath-room, kitchen, butler's pantry, laundry, vestibule and other places where it is used will always be in a clean sanitary condition.

Its **DECORATIVE POSSIBILITIES** permit the execution in tiling of ceramic mosaic of any possible design or color scheme on the floor or wall.

Tiling is fire-proof, germ-proof, water-proof, damp-proof and vermin-proof.

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Send for our 1908 Catalogue of Seeds, Bulbs and Plants.
Dahlias a specialty.
MILLS & CO., Mamaroneck, N. Y.



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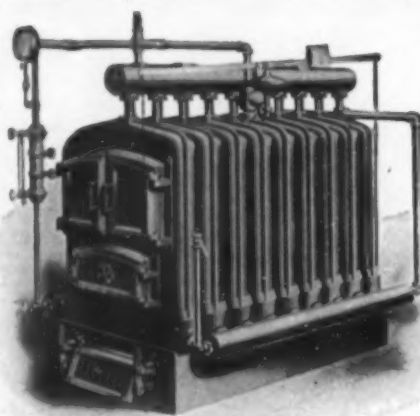
When the water pressure is too high it causes splashing at the spigots, hammering in the pipes and sometimes bursting of the plumbing apparatus.

This valve will insure against these annoyances.

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Our Heating Boilers and Radiators

are made for the home where the Architect and Owner demand uniform heat in all weather.

The efficiency of our apparatus makes this always possible.

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ABOUT ROSES

LIKE the majority of the flowers worth having, the rose, as a price for its beauty and splendor, demands care and attention. Left to itself many foes prey upon it from the first opening leaf bud till the last withered petal, marring its beauty and impairing its vitality, but given this attention, what an ample return is offered.

The essentials to successful rose growing are proper location and soil, quality of stock, pruning, cultivation, watering and watchfulness against the ravages of insects and diseases. All these contribute to the health and vigor of the plants and the familiar observer can readily determine whether the proper treatment has been given.

That any good corn land will grow the hardy roses is probably true providing other conditions are right, but the quality of the flowers will be just in proportion to the culture they receive. Roses are heavy feeders, and that seems a good, rich, deep, loam, fairly well retentive of moisture.

The red clay soils of New Jersey have been found to be admirably adapted to their growth. If the soil is shallow, sandy or gravelly, or if it contains too much clay, it is best to dig it out to a depth of eighteen inches and compost or fill in with a good loam soil. Good drainage is a necessity, as roses do not like wet feet, and will not thrive in a cool, damp place. Tardy starting in the spring may indicate ice-incased roots and poor drainage.

Roses grown out-of-doors, either in pots or open ground, should always be staked, even though they may be but a few inches in height. Wind frequently injures the roots of an unstaked rose.

The rambler roses are exceedingly pretty in combination—two of contrasting color planted together, so that their branches interwine. The red rambler may be associated with the yellow or with the white; but the pink rambler looks best with the pure white alone.

Turn down a large flower-pot on a sunny garden bed, pressing it in to mark a circle. Remove the soil inside, and substitute leaf mold and sand. In this space stick the cuttings closely, water thoroughly, and keep covered with the pot during sunshiny hours, raising it on each side with a bit of wood or flat stone to admit air. Lift the pot at night and

in dull weather. Sprinkle as often as needed to keep the soil moist, and after a month or so the slips will begin to grow—that is, many of them will. Let them remain a week or so longer, and then pot off into two inch or three inch crocks, giving rich earth.—*Farm and Home.*

RETIRED FARMERS

MOST farmers make the mistake of retiring from business when they feel themselves getting old. The unhappiest set of men I have ever met are these same retired farmers and especially those who unfortunately sold their farms and moved to town in order to take it easy. They worked and saved for a good many years for the purpose of laying up happiness for old age, but they never learned that happiness cannot be stored up like grain in a bin. Somehow the weevils find their way to the granary and work destruction. The only happiness we are entitled to is what we gather each day as we go along and it seems to be very closely related to hard work.

The happiest men I ever knew were those who worked right up to the last day of their lives.—*Farm Press.*

BIRDS VS. SPRAYING

IT looks very much as though the time was drawing near when we shall have to choose between our birds and spraying. Each year brings fewer birds and many varieties have almost disappeared. How seldom do we see our little friend the house wren, or yellow warblers. Yet ten years ago our orchards were filled with songsters.

Only the other day the writer was talking to one of the heads of the New York State Agricultural Department, who has a large farm with many acres of fruit trees, and he said the continual use of poisonous insecticides in spraying was rapidly destroying the birds. Last year, he went on to say, he had found nest after nest filled with little dead fledglings. Some of these he had sent to a friend to examine in order to find out if his idea that spraying was killing them off was correct. In every case sufficient poison was found in their stomachs to cause their death.

The result of this destruction is going to be that the more we spray, the more



SANITAS

THE WASHABLE WALL COVERING

WIPE OFF
THE DIRT

The very reasons why
a new covering is necessary for your walls this
spring are the reasons why this time you should use
SANITAS instead of wall paper.

The wall paper has faded—near the windows, around the pictures. **SANITAS** cannot fade even in direct sunlight, for it is printed in oil colors.

The wall paper has become dingy and soiled. **SANITAS** is as fresh at the end of the year as when put on—all dust and soiled spots can be wiped away (daily, if you wish) with a damp cloth. It is printed on strong muslin with dull or glazed surface—cannot crack or tear. Costs no more than good cartridge paper.

Write to our special Department of Home Decoration for free suggestive sketches of artistic interiors, together with samples showing the beautiful new patterns. Tell us which rooms you desire to decorate. Write NOW.

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The Most Durable and Economical
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It is sanitary, beautiful and a durable rubber floor covering.

Beware of cheap substitutions and imitations purporting to be sheet rubber tiling.

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ITALIAN FLOWER POTS
SUN-DIALS VASES
STATUARY BENCHES
WINDOW BOXES ETC.

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Asbestos "Century" Shingles will Outlive the Building
without either Paint or Repairs



Illustrating a Concrete Block House of Dr. H. C. Howard, Champaign, Illinois, Prof. F. M. White, Architect, roofed with Asbestos "Century" Shingles, laid French Method.

Exposed to the action of the atmosphere and elements for a short period, the hydration and subsequent crystallization which takes place, converts Asbestos "Century" Shingles into absolutely impermeable roof coverings, which, as such, defy all changes of climates, and thus become greatly superior to other forms of roofing. :: :: :: :: ::

Asbestos "Century" Shingles are 5 cents per square foot at Ambler, Pa.

ASBESTOS "CENTURY" SHINGLES
REINFORCED ASBESTOS CORRUGATED SHEATHING

FACTORS:

THE KEASBEY & MATTISON CO., AMBLER, PA.

we will have to spray. As soon as man succeeds in substituting artificial methods for natural, Nature withdraws her support. If we love the birds and want them, we shall have to make provision for them by planting some trees for them, and taking care that they are not sprayed with poisonous mixtures, such as Paris green and arsenate of lead. Many may be tempted to laugh such a plan to scorn but it takes no wise man to prophesy that unless something of this sort is done the next fifty years will find our homes birdless, and our grandchildren will have to go to the museums of natural history to see the songsters "whose voices are forever stilled."—*Country Gentleman*.

FREESIA CULTURE

FREESIAS have been grown to over two feet in height, each pot displaying thirty or more fine clusters of bloom, by treating the bulbs as follows:

Well-ripened bulbs are secured early in August, and each dozen is given a six-inch or seven-inch pot. The soil should be composed of fibrous loam two parts, woods earth and sand one part, and ashes and well-decayed manure one part. Mix thoroughly, and let stand for a few days. Put a layer of broken crock in the bottom, then fill till within an inch of the top with the compost, firm moderately, and press the bulbs in, covering with a half-inch layer of the compost, coarsely sifted.

After potting water freely and set the pots on a layer of coal ashes in a cold frame in a place protected from the hot sun. When the bulbs become active give air freely, and water copiously as needed. In about six weeks after potting, the plants should be ready to remove to their winter quarters. Give plenty of sun and air, and encourage a sturdy growth by applications of drainage from the stable. This liquid fertilizer should be diluted at first, but increased in strength till the buds develop, when fertilizing should cease, and only clear water applied as needed. Keep the plants in a cool place, and avoid direct sunshine while blooming. After blooming water alternately with clear water and manure water, and give strong sunshine till the foliage ripens, then set in a sunny frame and withhold water. In July shake the bulbs out and keep in a paper bag till potting time—*Park's Floral Magazine*.



Poultry

Hens are worth more than our gold mines. Did you know that?

Fresh eggs for the suburban and farm breakfast, as well as for the rest of mankind, make us all brothers.

The pedigreed hen is "coming to her own." Pure-bred stock will be an attraction in this new department of HOUSE AND GARDEN. How to own sanitary poultry houses, what sort of fixtures to select, how to keep down lice, how to spray and disinfect poultry quarters, will be discussed correctly by well-informed workers who have made success on their own account. How to caponize, feed chicks, prevent disease; to get eggs, pick and market table poultry—all will be discussed.

Bees

Flowers, Fruit, Poultry, Honey, make an attractive combination—profitable, too.

This department will enlarge on the value of honey as a food; the simplicity, ease, and fascination in bee culture; the value of bees as pollenizing agents, etc. It will give directions for amateurs, how to start to supply comb honey for the table. It will recommend bee outfits: hives, books, breeds of bees, etc. This department will certainly prove a money-maker for manufacturers of apian supplies. Photos of model apiaries, prominent beekeepers, etc., will increase the interest of each article.

Dogs

Here is a department every one is interested in, whether the owner of a handsome collie, English bull, or a dog of "low degree." Photos of various breeds and cross-strains from the continent and in America will be features of this kennel department.

Well-informed fanciers will contribute practical articles on "How to know and purchase a good dog." They will explain their various natures and value, as watch-dogs, sheep-dogs, coach-dogs, etc.

Photos are on hand of certain types which will illustrate these talks. The advertisers who appear in HOUSE AND GARDEN are certain to get reasonable returns.



Poultry

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THE celebrated Hungarian and English Partridges and Pheasants, the large Hungarian Hares, all kinds of Deer, Quail, etc., for stocking purposes. Fancy Pheasants, ornamental waterfowl and live wild animals of every description.

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For a short time we will ship, freight paid, a 100-egg special-style "United" Incubator to any point east of the Mississippi River for \$12.50—freight to River allowed on orders west. This is a high-grade machine with all the latest improvements, and is shipped complete, ready to run. Send money today, or write for free Catalog W.

United Incubator & Poultry Supply Mfg. Co.,
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SPECIAL

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Free of charge. Tells you things about squabs you never knew before and will interest you in one of the most delightful and interesting pastimes that you could invest in to-day. In writing ask for special information about our Homers and free book will be sent by return mail.

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America's Leading Poultry Book

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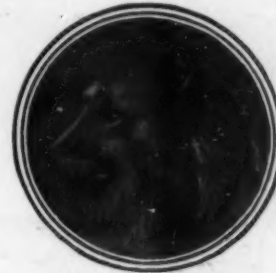
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A book that appeals directly to every man or woman interested in either the raising or breeding of poultry. One of the latest works, and unquestionably the ablest, yet written on this subject, dealing carefully with its every phase, and practical in all details. The volume is the result of actual experience, and the author's name is a guarantee as to its working value. As associate editor of the WESTERN POULTRY JOURNAL and a careful student of the subject both in this country, Germany and Japan, he is qualified to write with authority. Fully illustrated, carefully indexed, with a total of 293 pages, cloth (in special mailing box), postpaid, \$1.50.

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NEWCASTLE KENNELS, BROOKLINE, MASS.—Pedigreed and registered Scottish Terriers and bitches; all ages. Information always cheerfully given.



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Keystone State Kennels, Dept. MR., Reading, Pa.

I have recently bought all the dogs that were imported by Mr. Shirley Marston, of Boston, for his Millway kennels, and will enter and sell them at the coming February Show of the Westminster Kennel Club, in New York.

They include the following:

Odsal Swasher	Ch. Moston Michael	Swashbuckler
K. C. S. B. No. 52870	Odsal Peggie	Vasey Maud
		Intruder
		Parley Voss
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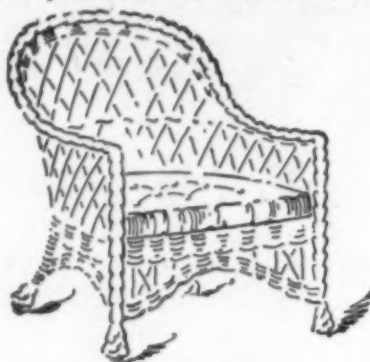


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I have a portion of the kitchen-garden quite near the house, which is devoted to the culture of early vegetables; this inclosed by a fence of poultry wire six feet high, which is strengthened at the base by a board one foot wide. Just behind this fence a trench one foot deep is dug, and in this a small quantity of well decomposed manure is placed, which is covered with a layer of soil, on which the seed is sown and covered to a depth of about three inches. Then, as the vines make their appearance, the soil is gradually drawn up around them, until the trench is filled and the vines are so deeply rooted that all danger of drouth is averted. Besides, as the vines are so near the house, the water from the weekly washing serves as a fertilizer, also helping to supply moisture, and the poultry netting furnishes the best possible support for the vines besides protecting them and the garden vegetables from the depredations of frost, stray animals and children.

If choice seed is purchased at the out-set and the blossoms are gathered before seed is allowed to form, you need have no fears but that you will have a plentiful supply of lovely, sweet flowers throughout the season, and if your home is near a large town you may be able to earn a few dollars by selling the blossoms to others less fortunate than yourself, besides making many sweet gifts to your friends.—*Farm and Home.*

MAKING VENEER IN WESTERN MILLS

HOW veneer is manufactured is a mystery to the majority of people. The industry is not only one of the chief occupations of Mattoon, Wis., but an exceptionally interesting one also.

After a tree has been cut in the woods and brought to the mill on flat cars it is rolled into a pond near the mill. Logs are hoisted from the pond to a drag saw, where they are put into a steam box for at least twelve hours in order to soften the timber. This steam box is a large box directly behind the drag saw into which

the timber is piled. A two inch pipe containing holes through which the steam can escape passes through this steam box. At the end of twelve hours the timber is removed from the steam box and then comes the process called peeling. With spuds and axes the bark is removed easily, for the timber is soft now and red hot. It is then ready to enter the mill and be cut into veneer.

The peeled log is hoisted on a crane to the veneer lathe, and that is the last one sees of the log. When it once passes this lathe it comes out on the other side long, thin sheets of veneer. According to thickness desired, it is cut from the one-hundredth of an inch to one-half inch thick and sixty-four inches long.

As the veneer leaves the machine it slides along on a table thirty feet in length. Ten feet from the end is a clipper, where it is clipped into different widths, an inch being allowed for drying. It is now ready for the drying process.

The drier is eight feet wide and a hundred feet long. It is a chain driven machine throughout having four sets of rollers. In order to heat this drier there are twenty thousand feet of one inch pipes passing through it above and below each set of rollers. The temperature must always be from 200 to 250 degrees. Veneer is put into the drier at one end, or, in other words, fed to the drier.

While the veneer slowly moves through the machine it is also dried, so that it is smooth and dry, but very hot. The men in charge of the veneer at that end always wear canvas gloves to prevent their hands from becoming burned and blistered, while the perspiration runs freely from their faces. It takes from fifteen minutes to two hours for veneer to work through this drier one way.

The second story of the local mill is known as the glue room. Here veneer is glued together for furniture factories, bordering panels for dressers and glass backing.

The machine known as the hydraulic veneer press is ten feet high. The veneer that has been glued for panels or glass backing is placed into this machine and by pressure of water in a tank beneath it slowly presses the veneer together until it is firm and dry. Then it is removed, packed and shipped.—*Milwaukee Sentinel.*



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Free Advice on Decoration

THE unprecedented growth of the Correspondence Department of "House and Garden" has necessitated the opening of a new Department which will be devoted to the interest of those who are building, decorating or furnishing their homes.

Beginning with the new year "House and Garden" offers its readers a House Finishing, Decorating, Furnishing and Purchasing Service which is complete in detail and thoroughly practical. Full color suggestions for the exterior of the house will be supplied with recommendations of proper materials to obtain the results. For the interior, the treatment of standing woodwork and floors, the selection of tiles, hardware and fixtures will be considered and specifically recommended, with the addresses of firms from whom these goods may be obtained. Samples of wall coverings and drapery materials will be sent and selections of rugs and furniture made. When desired, the goods will be purchased and shipped to the inquirer; the lowest retail prices are quoted on all materials.

This Department of Decoration is under the direction of MARGARET GREENLEAF, whose successful work as an interior Designer and Decorator is well known.

BURIED IN A TREE

ONE of the most curious mausoleums in the world was recently discovered in an orchard at the village of Noebdenitz in Saxe-Altenburg. A gigantic old oak-tree, which a storm had robbed of its crown, was up for public auction.

Among the bidders happened to be Baron von Thummel. The Baron, who lives on a neighboring estate had ridden to the auction place quite accidentally. As no one seemed eager to help out the auctioneer, he started the bidding at a small figure. This aroused the peasants' suspicion; they thought there might be some value in this old tree, and the battle raged for an hour, until finally the tree was knocked down to the Baron for fifty dollars. Upon his arrival at the castle he told an old servant of his purchase, describing the tree and its situation. The old servant said he remembered attending the funeral of a Baron Thummel seventy or eighty years ago, and that the body had been buried in a 1,000-year-old oak, then standing on a plot of ground belonging to the parsonage.

Investigation proved that the orchard had once been the property of the village church, and that at one side of the old oak was an iron shutter, rusty and timeworn, that the people of the village had always supposed to have been placed there by some joker or mischievous boys. This iron shutter proved to be the gate to the mausoleum of Baron Hans Wilhelm von Thummel, at one time Minister of State of Saxe-Altenburg, who died in 1824 and wished to be buried "in the 1,000-year-old tree he loved so well." The oak, which measured about ten feet in diameter, had for over a century been hollow, so it was learned, beginning at a point about five feet above its base. In this hollow Baron Hans caused to be built a sepulchre of solid masonry large enough to accommodate his coffin. The coffin was placed there, as the church records show, on March 3, 1824, and the opening was closed by an iron gate. In the course of time a wall of wood grew over the opening, which had been enlarged to admit the coffin and workmen, and for many years, it has been completely shut, thus removing the last vestige of the odd use to which the old tree had been put.—*Exchange*.

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