

ANNUAL GARDEN NUMBER

The Home Garden at Dreamwold
The Martha Washington Garden
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Why Many Amateur Gardeners Fail
The Garden of Annuals
A Home Shrubbery

Vol. XV

FEBRUARY, 1909

No. 2

House & Garden



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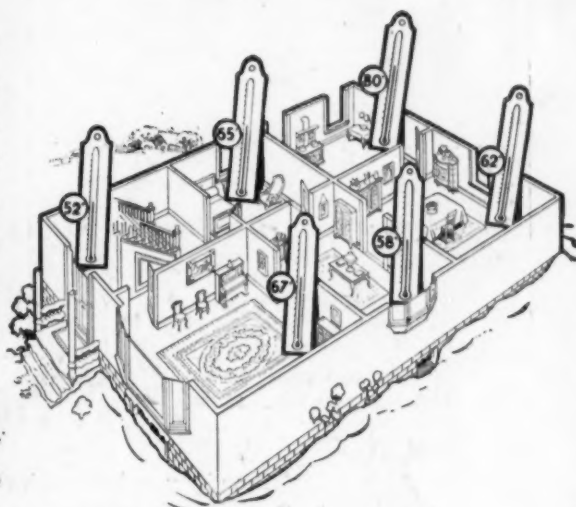
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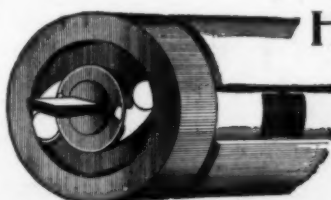
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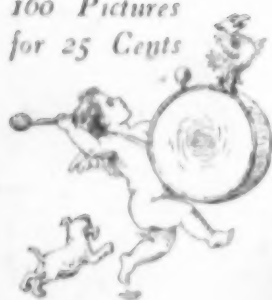
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—*The Pacific Garden.*

THE "NOBLE" ASTER

ONE of the most distinct and beautiful of the new asters is the "Noble" aster, introduced by Frederick Rømer, of Germany, who makes a specialty of asters, as well as of pansies.

The plants of this new race grow from fourteen to sixteen inches high, branch freely, and bear flowers on long, slender, leafy stems. The flowers are odd and beautiful, the type being pure white, measuring up to four and one-half inches in diameter, and very graceful, being formed somewhat after the manner of a double-flowered cactus dahlia. The long, narrow florets are rolled, and appear needle-shaped, but not closed, as in the true needle aster. They are set very densely, are regularly imbricated to the center.

This aster will doubtless become popular when better known. The plants are thrifty and of good habit, and make a fine display in a group or bed, being very free-blooming. They are also well adapted for pot culture. The beauty of the flowers, and the fact that they are borne on long, leafy stems, suggests their value for cutting. As stated, the type of this new race is pure white, but this season Mr. Rømer sparingly offers seeds of delicate rose, as well as white. It will be but a few years, doubtless, until all the choice shades and colors of the aster family will be represented.

The culture of asters is very simple. Any rich, porous garden soil will produce fine plants and flowers. Start the seeds in a window box, or else in a prepared seed bed in the garden; when the plants are large enough set them six or eight inches apart in the bed, where they are to bloom. For the root-aphis water liberally with hot tobacco tea. For the aster bug, dust with fresh hellebore from a porous sack.

The China asters have become very valuable garden flowers, from the fact

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House & Garden

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that the varieties come into bloom from June until the outdoor autumn chrysanthemums appear, and they are quite as showy and beautiful as the chrysanthemums.—*Park's Floral Magazine.*

PROTECTING TREES FROM THE WIND

MANY fine trees are annually destroyed by severe windstorms. When there is no windbreak around the grounds, it is not easy to keep it intact. It is a good plan to drive stakes on the west side of trees, then with a piece of cord pull back the tree till it leans a little to the west or southwest or toward the prevailing winds and tie firmly to a stake. The same plan can be followed where any tree is liable to be blown about by the wind. Wrap several thicknesses of burlap or an old rubber hose around the trunk of the tree so the twine will not injure the bark. In transplanting large shade trees it's a good plan to protect them for a year or two with three such stays.—*Farm and Home.*

PLANT NOTES

Gloxinias in frames.—Many florists grow gloxinias for the flowers exclusively and those who do so will find less trouble in growing these plants for that purpose in frames than in pots continuously in greenhouses. When frame culture is decided upon for a certain number it will be well to select the required number of bulbs, picking out the largest and oldest from the stock, and keeping them back until it is absolutely necessary to start them. When that is the case proceed in the same way as if the plants were intended for pot culture finally. The plants may be placed in the soil prepared for them in the frames when the temperature outdoors can be relied upon to be warm enough to suit their requirements. Careful watering is fully as necessary for the successful cultivation of gloxinias in frames as it is in the case of pot culture indoors. The glass should be provided with movable shade for the protection of the plants from the direct sunlight during part of the day.

Dracæna indivisa.—One of the most useful plants for retail florists is *Dracæna indivisa*, there being almost endless purposes for which this graceful and accommodating plant can be successfully used. For filling tubs, vases, window



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boxes and other like outdoor embellishments in summer it is almost indispensable; and again when something other than a fern, aspidistra, or palm is desired for indoors a well-grown *Dracena indivisa* will give about as much satisfaction as any other subject. It takes two years to make good specimen plants of *Dracena indivisa*. Seed should be sown early in the spring and the plants subsequently potted up as their growth requires it until the summer following, when they should be planted outdoors in the open ground and left there until it becomes necessary to remove them for safety.

Herbaceous calceolarias are now making growth rapidly and any check or hindrance will affect them greatly. It has been many times said of these plants that if kept cool and given plenty of room and enough to eat and drink they will get along all right; so they will, but if any one of these necessary conditions is absent the plants are quick to show resentment. In shifting calceolarias for the last time or into their flowering pots a compost of two-thirds good turfy loam and one-third of equal parts well rotted cow manure and leaf mold, with the addition of a sprinkling of sand, should be used.

Like all quick rooting and growing plants of this nature, it is not to their advantage to pot very hard, nor so loosely as to allow the water to run through too quickly. The plants should have plenty of light and a position as near the glass as circumstances permit.

After the roots are well through the soil in the flowering pots, liquid manure ought to be applied at regular and quite frequent intervals; there need be no fear of injuring them by overfeeding after the plants attain that stage of growth.

Jerusalem cherries.—Results out of proportion to the trouble involved will repay careful attention to the growing of a large lot of Jerusalem cherries. From seeds sown from now until a little later fully developed plants will be available for next Christmas. The seed should be sown in shallow pans two-thirds filled with loam and leaf mold, first providing good drainage. The pans should be placed in a gentle heat where the seedlings will soon make their

appearance. When sufficiently large to handle prick off the seedlings in flats, and, later, when they have grown and got well established in the flats, they should be potted singly into small pots and, if need be repot them later; but plant them out in the field during the summer.

When the plants are growing vigorously, in their early stage of growth they should be frequently pinched in order that they will become stocky and bushy in habit. Jerusalem cherries are easily grown in standard form by simply tying the single stem plants to stakes and allowing them to grow until they have attained the desired height when they should be pinched to induce them to make heads. When planted out in rich soil Jerusalem cherries make rapid growth, but the plants will grow well in any fairly good garden soil.

Petunias are not only gaining rapidly in favor again for bedding outdoors, but they are also beginning to be made use of extensively for cutting from during the summer. For the latter purpose the plants set outdoors are available, but more satisfactory results follow when they are grown in good soil in frames. Seed of the best strains should now be sown, and when the seedlings are large enough they should be transplanted into flats and later into small pots, finally planting them in the frames. When once in possession of good double petunias it will be worth while to keep propagating by means of cuttings, whereby they are quite easily multiplied.

Adiantum Farleyense.—Good specimen plants of *Adiantum Farleyense* are well worth striving for, and the frequency with which such plants are seen nowadays indicates that after all a great deal of strife is not necessary in the work of producing such, rather that their simple requirements are more commonly understood, and once understood rigidly attended to. One of the very best growers of this beautiful fern adds not a particle of sand or leaf mold to the soil used in potting after the first shift, using instead nothing but the best fibrous loam, adding just a dash of lime. Drainage is of the utmost importance in the growing of *A. Farleyense*, and the best method of supplying drainage is that of placing a small pot inverted over the hole in the bottom of the larger one into

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which the plant is to be put, then placing several pieces of broken pots around and over the one inverted, and over all a little dry sphagnum moss.

Alpinia Sanderæ makes a handsome specimen plant for use in conjunction with more sober and dull looking subjects, but otherwise it is not of itself a plant worthy of very much consideration. It is true that so long as it can be kept dwarf enough it can be used to advantage in filling baskets and in other kinds of made-up work by florists, but it has such a tendency to elongate that usually it is unsuitable for that kind of work. It is easily propagated from division of the rhizomes at this time of the year, or a little later. All that is required is to separate them and place those thus severed in heat, potting them subsequently either singly or placing a number in pots or pans.—*Florists' Exchange.*

COMMENTS ON NEW BOOKS

Children and Gardens

IT would appear that Gertrude Jekyll's book, *Children and Gardens** would have been better named had she called it "A Garden book for Children," which it really is. Fortunately, this does not detract from its value or interest. The author has in many ways, which will appeal to the child, pointed out the pleasure and healthful occupation to be derived in the planting and care of their own gardens. The illustrations have been selected from subjects to interest her young readers. Plans which are quite practical are also given, and the necessity for an understanding of botany has not been overlooked.

HOW BURBANK GRASPED OPPORTUNITY

LUTHER BURBANK'S early life in California was attended by many hard experiences. He was very poor, and was obliged to take any work that came to hand. He cleaned out chicken-coops, helped in market-gardens, got an odd job here and another there, passed through a severe illness, went "on the tramp" for work until finally he was able to start a little nursery on his own account. Then he was on his own ground with a

*Children and Gardens, by Gertrude Jekyll. London, Country Life Limited; Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Price \$2.00, net.

(Continued on page 8.)



The March issue will be devoted largely to Garden Topics as will also the issue of April

A NORTH SHORE GARDEN

IT rarely happens that environments so picturesque and in such marked contrast can be given to the setting of a formal garden as is shown in that of Mr. Dudley L. Pickman, situated on Hospital Point, Beverly Cove, Massachusetts. It is located on a bench of land made by cutting away part of a hillside, and is surrounded and partly shaded by the wide extending branches of the great trees which are growing just outside its limits on all sides. These great trees frame in the brilliant picture of the beds of many colored flowers and cast their shadows across the miniature lily pond in fantastic shapes. The description supplied by Mary H. Northend is illustrated by many beautiful photographs.

SHRUBS FOR THE AMATEUR

Another helpful paper by Mr. Eben E. Rexford will be welcomed by every garden maker, be he amateur or professional. Mr. Rexford has a way of emphasizing the salient points of the information he is conveying to his readers which appeals strongly to them and impresses them with the fact that the remarks are being addressed to them personally, as they seem to affect and apply to the conditions of their particular cases. To gain knowledge by experience alone requires not only much time, but much expense and disappointment in many cases. To profit by the experience of others should be the aim of the amateur in whatever line he may be operating.

REHABILITATING AN HOTEL APARTMENT

How a most unpromising and rather forbidding hotel apartment was transformed into an altogether attractive and most artistic one is related by Luella McElroy. What she accomplished at little cost by exercising originality in design coupled with her ability to see in her mind's eye the completed picture and then develop the picture into a reality is interestingly told by her. The result accomplished is shown by the photographs of the rooms after completion.

WHY AMATEUR GARDENERS FAIL

The second lot of letters from seedsmen and nurserymen, giving their views as to the causes which militate against so many amateur gardeners, will appear in the March issue. A variety of opinions exist among these men and the reader will find much truth in every letter, some of which may fit his particular case and put him at once on the right road to success in his plantings and garden work.

THE SMALL FLOWER BED

L. J. Doogue of the Boston Department of Public Grounds writes of the great possibilities of small flower beds if handled in the right way. He tells "What to plant in it"—"How to make a show from March until late fall"—"How to grow hardy plants at small cost"—"Combining hardy and tender plants with bulbs"—"The early use of window boxes"—"The small cost of it all." Mr. Doogue's suggestions are practical and may be relied upon.

AUGUSTE RODIN

The marvelous works of this most famous sculptor have long held the attention and interest of the world of art. With a pencil sketch of him from life by Mr. Boardman Robinson never before published, and with illustrations of three of his most interesting creations, we give an account of his life and incidents therein which have come under the notice of Marion Nall, who tells of them most entertainingly. Rodin's work is full of virility and vigor, yet possesses an imaginative quality so subtle that it grows upon one and continues to unfold long after the "view" has closed.

DECORATIVE VALUE OF FRUIT TREES

Because of the economic importance of the fruit of various members of the "genus prunus" their decorative value is somewhat neglected. Mr. W. R. Gilbert calls attention to the large number of species and forms of prunus and allied genera that are available for their floral decorativeness. The genus prunus is divided into several large groups, such as the plum, the almond, apricot, peach, cherry and laurel. In his paper Mr. Gilbert calls attention to the most interesting varieties and urges intending planters to include among their selections some of the trees named to enhance the beauty of the spring garden.

In addition to the attractive array above Adeline Thomson suggests "New Combinations for the Perennial Garden" the same being the result of her individual, satisfactory experiences along this line. Mr. E. P. Powell writes of his wonderful "Semi-Tropical Garden" in the heart of Florida, which breathes the tropical languor throughout. Flora Lewis Marble tells how to secure flowers from April to frost in "A Bed of Bulbs and Perennials" which she accomplishes by the use of bulbs and self-seeding perennials.

THE BOOKMAN FOR 1909

Of the several publications that three or four years ago made a specialty of literary matters and appealed directly to cultivated, book-loving men and women, **THE BOOKMAN** alone remains in the field. This means at once a responsibility and an opportunity. When we look forward to the year 1909 it is with the intention of assuming one and of grasping the other. We promise a magazine of unusual interest for 1909. Here are a few of the leading *new* features already planned.

In the January number begins

"DIAMOND CUT PASTE"

A new novel by Agnes and Egerton Castle. This story will run serially for the first few months of 1909.

Great Publishing Houses

1. The Great Publishers of England.
 2. The Great Publishers of France.
- Not only in the light of their history, but as they are to-day, will be the subjects of very fully illustrated articles that will appear during 1909.

Shop Talk

Articles on "The Musician as a Money Maker," "The Painter and His Profits," "The Actor and His Earnings," etc.

More New Baedeker Papers

A continuation of the clever and humorous adventures of the irresponsible traveler who has been entertaining **THE BOOKMAN** readers during the year.

The Story of Modern Book Advertising

A series of two or three papers showing by text and pictorially the device by which the most notable books of the past twenty years have been exploited.

Monarchs in Exile

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Representative American Story Tellers

Continuing the series, which has already appeared. In 1909 the articles will deal with F. Hopkinson Smith, Winston Churchill, Robt. W. Chambers, Gertrude Atherton, Ellen Glasgow, and others.

American Social Life in Illustration

1. From the American point of view.
2. From the European point of view.

The American Novel in England

Its readers and its critics. What do the English think of our fiction?

England's Royal Academy

As it is to-day.

The Letter-Box

One of the most popular features of **THE BOOKMAN** will be continued during 1909.

All the other regular features which have made **THE BOOKMAN** what it is will be continued.

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- FLOWER GARDENING.** The work comprises 166 pages, liberally illustrated. 12mo. Cloth - - - - - 50c.
- MY TEN ROD FARM, OR HOW I BECAME A FLORIST.** By Charles Barnard. 12mo. Cloth - - - - - 40c.
- THE STRAWBERRY GARDEN: HOW IT WAS PLANTED. WHAT IT COST.** By Charles Barnard. 12 mo. Cloth - - - - - 40c.
- FARMING BY INCHES; OR, WITH BRAINS, SIR.** By Charles Barnard. 12mo. Cl., 40c.

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ANY OF THESE VOLUMES MAILED ON RECEIPT OF PRICE.

fair start. To outsiders he seemed an honest, hard-working young fellow, who might make his living, but not much more. Then, all at once, he did something that made those who knew about it look at him. An order came for 20,000 young prune trees. Could he fill it in nine months? He had not a prune tree on his place, and how was he going to supply 20,000 in nine months? He got together all the men and boys he could find to plant almonds for him. They grow rapidly. When they were ready he had 20,000 prune buds ready for them and in a short time the prunes were budded into the growing almonds, and before the time was up the trees were delivered to the delighted ranchman. And I have seen those 20,000 prune trees. They are growing to-day, and it is one of the finest orchards in California.—*Circle.*

FLOWERING CURRANTS

ONE of the oldest known flowering shrubs of our gardens is the popular one known as flowering currant, *Ribes aureum*. It is no wonder it keeps in the lead of popularity, for one more beautiful than it would be hard to name. It is not one of the very earliest flowering shrubs of spring, while still an early one, blooming in May. Its beautiful clusters of yellow blossoms interest every one, the yellow is so deep and the flowers so numerous. When permitted to grow at will it is not as bushy as it becomes when pruned every spring. The pruning need not be heavy, just enough to bring the plant into shape; and if the ends of the growing shoots be nipped back in summer, this tends to promote bushiness.

The *Ribes sanguineum*, which does so well in England and is such a favorite there, does not thrive in our Northern States, although a native of Oregon and Washington; but this is common to other shrubs and trees from the Pacific States. There is a hybrid form, *Ribes Gordonianum*, which does fairly well. The flowers are of an orange red, showing something of the character of both its parents, which are supposed to be *R. sanguineum* and *R. aureum*.

Ribes floridum, known as the Missouri currant, has light colored flowers, of no great beauty, but those who are fond of black currant fruit may grow the Missouri sort for its berries, which are in taste not unlike those of the black currant.—*Florists' Exchange.*

House & Garden

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"THE NEST" AT DREAMWOLD, COVERED WITH DOROTHY PERKINS ROSES

House and Garden

VOL. XV

FEBRUARY, 1909

No. 2

The Home Garden at Dreamwold

By MARY H. NORTHEND

WHILE to a botanist and a true lover of flowers, the home garden at Dreamwold, the summer estate of Mr. Thomas W. Lawson, Scituate, Mass., is a creation, yet even to one who knows little about floriculture its layout makes an appeal none the less inviting.

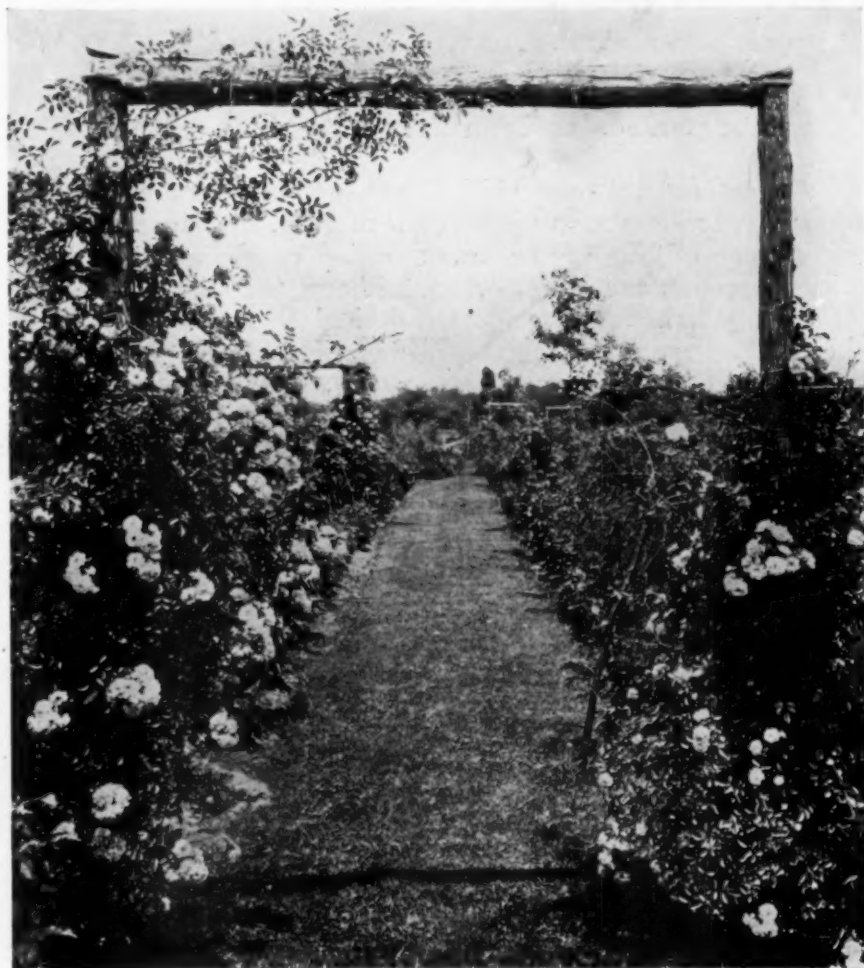
It is not a formal garden filled to repletion with marble fragments and geometrically shaped beds, but a simple home garden plot—a spot where old-fashioned and new specimens of the floral art blossom, side by side, chosen for their decorative features rather than for their monetary value. Roses are the predominant feature throughout this garden, nine acres in extent, hidden from the public gaze by a low white fence over which rambler roses clamber in profusion and lend a distinct charm. One can scarcely believe that this garden was once waste land, covered with rocks and sterile soil, now reclaimed by Mr. Lawson and transformed into "The Garden of Surprises," as one appreciative guest has aptly named it.

A wild garden, simplicity incarnate, and carried

out along old-fashioned lines, yet, a formal one in spots. Everywhere there is green, eternal green, broken and contrasted with a multitude of harmonious colors, afforded by the infinite variety of flowers and flowering-vines. Narrow, winding grass-paths lure one's feet in and out, revealing surprises of Art and Nature at every turn.

The garden adjoins the house at one side and to enter it, one passes through the white entrance-gate, which is a bower of Dorothy Perkins rambler roses, and follows a fascinating grass-path to the right, past

formal beds of solid colors—purple lobelia, pink geraniums, heliotrope, verbenas and other annuals. Rustic arches, covered with rambler roses in full bloom, break the formality, and one receives his first "surprise" in the way of a rustic bridge, over which one passes to a pergola buried in more ramblers. Still another bridge is irresistible, for, across it, lies a miniature pond, supplied with water by a natural spring flowing from the further end of the garden. On the surface float lilies and



THE ENTRANCE TO THE NEW ROSE GARDEN



A RUSTIC BRIDGE COVERED WITH RAMBLER ROSES

its border is outlined by huge boulders over which grow, in all their vivid beauty, brilliant nasturtiums. Outside this pond, for a distance of fifteen feet or so, are planted Japanese irises, grasses, and bulbs. As a central ornament of the pond, Mr. Lawson has selected a revolving bear whose gestures suggest a possible symbol of the stock exchange.

Through vistas of gardens, thirty-three sections in all, intersected by pergolas, and rendered restful by rustic arbors and quaint seats placed beneath the many old apple trees, which are of special interest to Mr. Lawson, one is quite content to lose his way, while gazing upon such beauties of Nature—beauties which have been enhanced by Art to a very slight extent.

The flower-beds which would be a delight to any botanist, are interesting especially through the fact that Mr. Lawson has personally selected every flower and has himself planned the entire garden. Vine-covered tree-trunks, rich displays of begonias, fragrant groups of tuberose, great beds of dahlias, gladioli, tulips, zinnias, marigolds, snapdragons, petunias, bittersweet, golden-glow, and trellises of sweet peas, trumpet vines and the like, intersect the grass-paths which slope to the center so slightly as to be scarcely detected. The beds are

rarely "set," but are a mixture of flowers, ferns and shrubbery, so planned that there is a constant succession of bloom, and, while apparently laid out without any thought, they have been carefully devised by the owner as to color scheme and to suit a particular niche or nook. Beds of the old-fashioned canna, *Robusta*, blaze in all their glory, surrounded by the brilliant *salvia* which, in turn, is bordered by scarlet geraniums—the whole a symphony in red. Of these geraniums, there is one variety of which Mr. Lawson has the exclusive possession, having purchased all the plants of it that were to be found. It is known as the *Fire Brand*, and is a semi-double species of geranium. There are attractive beds of the winsome pansy, which Mr. Lawson has imported and which are to be found nowhere else in this country.

Here and there among the beds of blossom, rise evergreen trees, and always and ever, gnarled apple trees, while shrubs from far Japan add much to the unusual appearance of this garden. Rockeries are to be seen quite frequently, in the middle of the beds, and in and out between the rocks are shown bright colored flowers and clambering vines.

Well along within the garden is a summer-house, almost obscured with its wealth of rambler roses, a

The Home Garden at Dreamwold

most inviting retreat to rest and observe the woodbine enclosed tepees, or wigwams, consisting of poles from six to eight feet in height, covered with wire netting, which are scattered about promiscuously. Inside their leafy exteriors are cockatoos and turtle doves. Rare bits of Italian marble rise informally from the depths of the green, while in out-of-the-way nooks, are ensconced heads of mythological significance, done in terra-cotta. Further on, one comes upon a cage containing two Texas squirrels, which are particular pets of their owner.

The old rose-garden, unconventional in arrangement and containing standard and climbing varieties of roses, is found at one side. In this garden are six hundred imported, standard roses, from which many thousand roses are picked in a season. Mr. Lawson's favorite flower is the rose, which predominates throughout the entire garden, one rose plot being



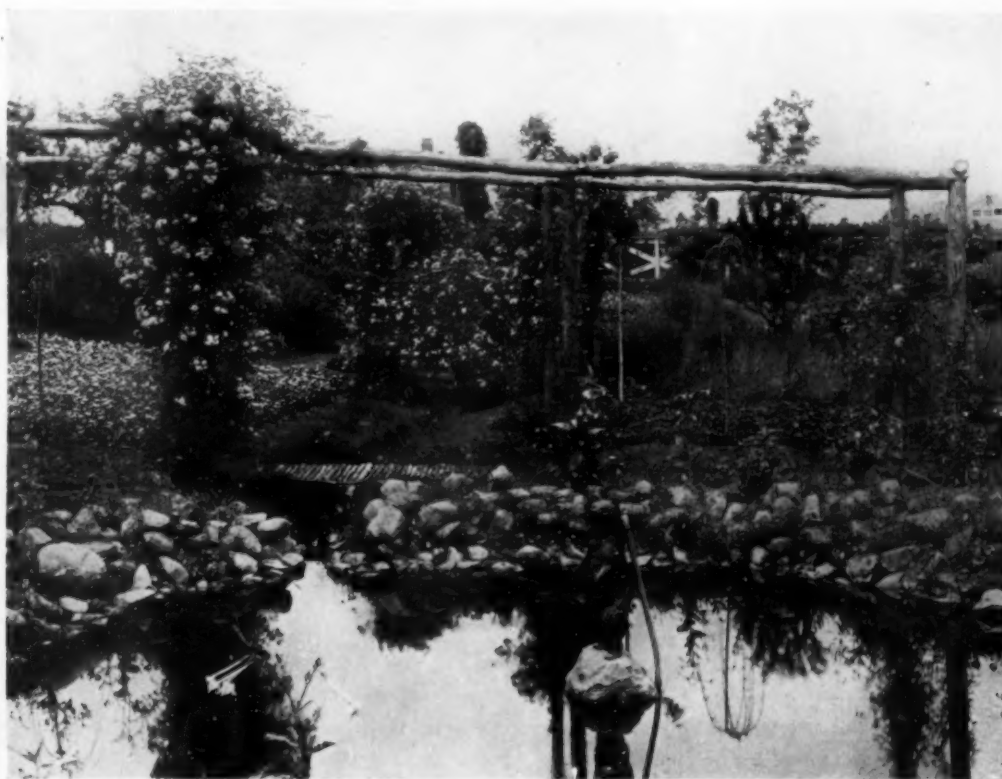
SHRUBBERY AND PERGOLA WITH RAMBLER ROSES

completely intersected by rose-pergolas, which feature is a masterpiece of horticulture in itself.

An ancient stone well, over which there has been erected a peaked roof, is covered with woodbine and forms a quaint and decorative addition to this fascina-

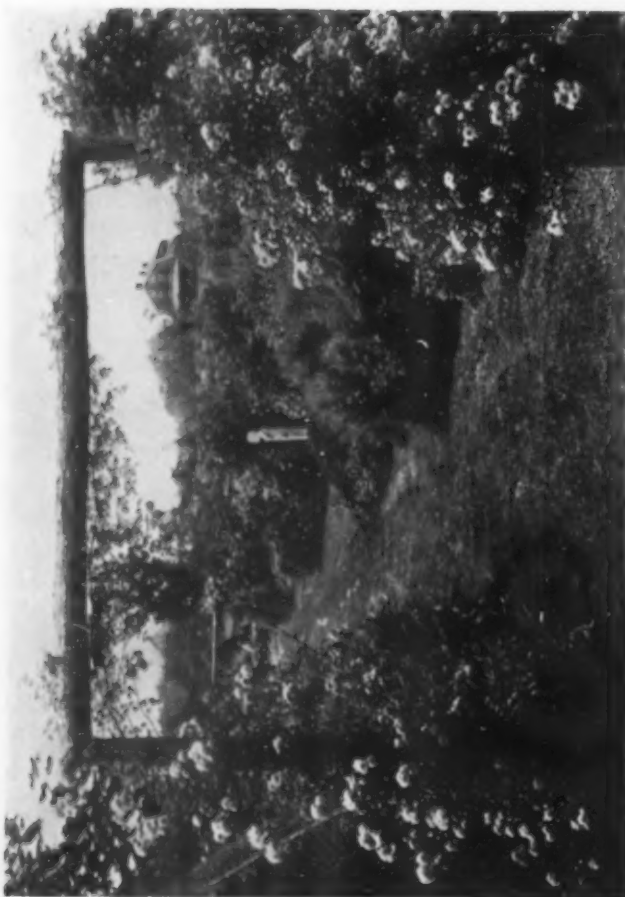
ting section of the garden. Near this old well is the sun-dial, without which no modern garden can now be considered complete. Constructed of terra-cotta, it occupies a position in the center of a grass plot, and bears the inscription, "I count no hours that are not bright."

In the heart of Dreamwold's garden is "The Nest," a bungalow built to represent a typical old-fashioned gambrel roofed cottage, picturesquely placed in the middle of a grass plot, its roof one mass of pink Dorothy Perkins ramblers, wistaria and trumpet-vines. From "The Nest," is obtained a view of the entire estate, home, lodges, stables, race-course, kennels, etc.,



THE POND AND REVOLVING BEAR FOUNTAIN

House and Garden



DOROTHY PERKINS ROSES AND VISTA OF GRASS-PATH



JAPANESE IRIS WITH VISTA OF GRASS-PATH



A BIT OF STATUARY SURROUNDED BY SHRUBBERY



ONE OF THE MANY GNARLED, OLD APPLE TREES

The Home Garden at Dreamwold

and all surrounded by a fourteen mile picket fence over which grow rambler roses, making a beautiful outline in color.

The door is covered with woodbine and, on either side of the stone steps and over the door, stand roosters of Staffordshire ware. About the cottage is a hedge of barberry. Decorative Japanese stone lanterns and images of Chinese gods are placed here and there on the lawn, and lend a foreign atmosphere to the surroundings. The rear of the house is guarded by a white china elephant, which animal is a favorite one for Mr. Lawson to collect in various representations of ivory, bronze and other materials. Adjoining "The Nest," is a small garden, comprising about a sixteenth of an acre,



POST OFFICE AT THE ENTRANCE TO MR. LAWSON'S ESTATE



A LANTERN LIGHTED GRASS-PATH

labelled "Bunny's Garden" in letters carried out by means of cut box. "Bunny," is Mr. Lawson's youngest daughter and shares, equally with her father, the delights of gardening. This space is reserved for her special delight, and here, at her suggestion, and with her help, are grown the flowers most dear to her childish heart.

There is one path, in the heart of the garden, which has, on one side, a unique setting of vine-covered stumps of old trees, beside each of which there is growing a young sapling, as if it might, perchance, have been an offshoot of the dead tree. A profusion of flowers and shrubbery are mingled between these stumps and produce both an odd and an attractive border, while overhead, attached to rustic poles, hang rare Japanese stone lanterns, a pretty touch to enhance an already most seductive place. I fancy Mr. Lawson does not have to use his imagination to verify glimpses, now and then of Pan, within this wildwood tangle.

One feels almost inadequate to portray a picture which shall give to the reader an idea of the beauties of this garden or a comprehension of its formation and infinite variety of artistic colorings. This garden with its nine acres of Nature's handiwork, was the result of but four months' work, and the rapidity and the perfection of its accomplishment serve as one more example of the genius and scope of the owner's fertile brain. Fad, among other fads, it may be. But, as evidence of the great financier's genuine love and interest in his garden, nobody, except a lover of flowers, is ever invited within its sacred precincts.

A HOUSE OF SIX ROOMS FURNISHED FOR \$1,500.



PART III. THE SECOND FLOOR

BY A DECORATOR

AFTER the scheme for the living-rooms of the first floor was completed, there remained \$748.55 with which the two bedrooms, the nursery, the central hall and bath-room must be furnished.

The woodwork on the second floor, with the exception of the hall, had been treated with ivory white enamel. This, the Decorator considered, greatly simplified his scheme of decoration as it was much easier to find simple, inexpensive papers to harmonize with the standing woodwork so treated.

The only instructions he received, were that the rooms must be made suitable for the man of the house and for his wife and the sunny room of southeastern exposure reserved for the nursery. The maids' rooms were to be in the half storied attic and these he was not expected to consider.

He decided that the same wall covering employed for the living-room must be carried up the stairs into the upper hall. The frieze, however, was omitted.

The paper, yellow tan in color with the waving thread-like lines in brown upon it, together with the gray brown of the woodwork, made a good setting for wicker chairs of comfortable proportions, stained a light brown and upholstered with half cushions of brown arras cloth 50 inches wide, \$1.25 a yard. An oak table of medium size was found to occupy the center of the hall and hold the reading lamp, magazines, and the daily papers, thus furnishing a pleasing gathering place for the daytime and during the evening as well. The French door on the western side of the hall opened on an upper recessed veranda.

Ecreu net run on rods set at the top and bottom of each door, were the only curtains used here. The rug he found best suited was rich in color, a reproduction of an Oriental design, in tones of dull blue, red and occasional black on the ground of tan. This rug was in the best quality of body Brussels and in size eight feet three inches by ten feet six inches, cost but \$22.50.

For the two adjoining bedrooms, from one of which the bath opened and which were of southern exposure, he determined on blue as the dominating color.

"In my lady's chamber" a floral paper showing dull pink poppies and gray green foliage closely interwoven on a soft blue ground, was selected. This cost but thirty-six cents a roll of eight yards. The ceiling tint was ivory like the standing woodwork as was also the furniture he selected. This latter showed refined lines and attractive form. It consisted of bed, dressing table, chiffonier, two straight chairs and a bedside table.

The floor covering, (which after much research he found), was particularly well suited to the scheme. It was a Wilton rug having a dull blue background and a small palm pattern, the background showing deeper tone than the blue in the wall.

Blue silk and linen damask of similar tone and small design was used to upholster a white enameled wicker chair and also to cover the Chester winged chair which was placed beside the open fire. The tiles about the fireplace were of the same shade of blue.

For the windows next the glass, dotted muslin curtains, sill length and trimmed about with two and one-half inch frills, were chosen. These were to be caught back on either side and tied with smart crisp bows made from the material. With valanced overdraperies of the blue damask, these windows would be very attractive.

For the dressing table and chiffonier covers of the dotted muslin were made, carefully fitted to the top, trimmed about with little frills like the curtains and lined with dull pink sateen, bringing out again the color of the poppies in the wall-paper.

For the dressing table he also purchased crystal candlesticks holding pink candles and pretty little shades of silk trimmed with fringe in the same color. These were to be placed on either side of the mirror, and cost \$1.00 each.

The bed, he decided, should be kept purely white with Marseilles coverlid and monogramed linen slips for the plump pillows.

The adjoining room he treated quite simply as best suited to its masculine occupant. The walls he

A House of Six Rooms Furnished for \$1,500

covered with a two-toned blue fabric paper costing eighty-four cents a roll of eight yards. He allowed the ceiling tone of ivory to extend to the picture rail.

A white iron bed he had re-enameled to exactly reproduce the tone of the woodwork. For this he had made a coverlid showing at spaced intervals on a cream white ground, large disks in shades of blue and brown geometric design. The crinkled crêpey texture of the fabric together with the design it showed, was suggestive of the Japanese.

Valanced curtains extending to the window seat under the long bay were used and next the glass reaching only to the sill were placed sash curtains of thin, blue China silk. A Japanese jute rug in blue, brown and gray, covered the floor.

The furniture for this room was of birch, stained under the Decorator's supervision, the color given a soft nut brown with a waxed surface. These pieces consisted of a closed desk of heavy simple lines with straight chair to match it, a chiffonier with glass, a small shaving stand, two wicker chairs stained and upholstered in dull brown velveteen, a lounging chair with cushions covered with the same material. The window seat was also upholstered with the velveteen which clearly brought out the brown note of color in the room.

The floors in both bedrooms were stained a fairly dark shade of brown and given a semi-gloss finish.

This room when finished gave great satisfaction to its owner and contrasted agreeably with the dainty bedroom adjoining, each being distinctly characteristic of its occupant.

For the nursery, the details of the plans furnished showed two long window seats. The paneling of these was hinged, making doors, thus affording an excellent place for storing toys and books when not in use and quite low enough to be within reach of the little hands.

The Decorator decided that the walls here, should be painted in oil that they might be entirely sanitary and washable. The frieze reaching from ceiling line to the tops of the windows, illustrated well-known rhymes from Mother Goose, the figures being of sufficient size to be readily distinguished.

The color chosen for the walls was a delicate pale green. The floor covering was a rag rug in a mixture of green and white. The window draperies of white muslin embroidered in little green sprigs, were dainty and washable.

A tiny set of four chairs fashioned after the New England Windsor style and a little round table to match, were treated with white enamel and given a very high gloss and hard finish which made them more serviceable. A small winged chair, covered in cretonne showing a design of tiny pink rose buds and green leaves on a white ground was added; the same cretonne was used for cushions on the window seat.

A high brass wire screen was fitted to the fireplace and on the low mantel shelf was set a collection of china animals which delighted the child.

The cost of this room completed was but \$135.00. The table and four chairs cost \$15.00, done in the white enamel. The set of panels forming the frieze cost \$10.00. The small brass bed was added which cost \$35.00.

The following are the itemized lists of expenditure for the rooms on the second floor.

THE UPPER HALL

Wall covering.....	\$ 8 00
Hall rug.....	22 50
Library table.....	18 00
Four wicker chairs, half back and seat cushions of floss, covered with arras cloth, @ \$6.00.....	24 00
Arabian net for curtains and making same.....	4 50
Round oak stand for jardinière and fern.....	3 75
Brass jardinière.....	4 60
Morris lounging chair.....	21 00

CHAMBER "A"

10 rolls poppy paper, @ 36 cents.....	\$ 3 60
Dotted muslin for curtains, bureau covers, etc., and making same.....	15 00
Chester chair covered with damask.....	23 00
Damask for over-draperies at casement windows, 5 yards @ \$2.00.....	10 00
Rug.....	35 00
Wicker chair enameled and upholstered.....	10 00
Sateen for lining.....	1 50
White enamel furniture, four pieces.....	92 00

CHAMBER "B"

10 single rolls fabric paper @ 84 cents.....	\$ 8 40
8 yards blue china silk, @ 50 cents.....	4 00
24 yards cotton crêpe @ 50 cents.....	12 00
Small straight chair for desk.....	3 75
Desk.....	16 00
Reclining chair with cushions.....	24 75
Japanese jute rug.....	28 00
Chiffonier.....	25 00
Two wicker chairs, upholstered.....	16 00
White iron bed.....	13 50

THE NURSERY

Set of panels forming frieze.....	\$10 00
Small brass bed.....	35 00
Table and chairs.....	15 00
Cretonne upholstered winged chair.....	22 00
Rug.....	16 00
Window draperies, cushions, etc.....	12 00
Brass screen for fireplace.....	12 00

When the rooms were practically decorated and furnished as shown in the estimate, there remained \$173.70 to be devoted to the outfitting of the kitchen and the purchase of the sanitary glass fixtures for the bath-room, etc. These included glass rollers for the towels, a medicine chest with glass shelves and nickel-plated racks and holders for brushes, sponges, etc.

The range was not included in the furnishings

(Continued on page 14, Advertising Section.)

The Martha Washington Garden

By JOHN W. HALL

ON the banks of the Potomac river, a few miles south of Washington City, is Mount Vernon the home and tomb of George Washington. At one time or another it is the Mecca of all Americans who visit the capital of the Nation. Those from foreign climes, especially rulers of distant countries and the representatives of those countries, who come to America seldom return home without first visiting this consecrated place.

The old home of General Washington, with his tomb hard by, is not more a memorial maintained by thoughtful, loving countrywomen than is the Martha Washington Garden. This yard, carefully kept and closely guarded, claims the admiration of all visitors, its beauties being equaled only by the memories of its associations.

In the Martha Washington Garden the "last rose of summer" does not appear until well-nigh the time when the crest of the hill on which it is located is covered by the frosts and snows of winter; and it is a noteworthy fact that the last rose in the garden is usually found on the Martha Washington bush. During last fall the final cluster hung late into November.

Even after the last rose has gone and the bushes have been stripped of their foliage by the changes of the season, pilgrim after pilgrim treads

lightly the graveled walks which permeate the entire grounds.

General Washington planted and named the Martha Washington rose bush in memory of his wife. It is therefore but natural that that particular bush should claim the first admiration of visitors, not even excepting the Nellie Custis rose. The two roses are of the same variety, a Noisette; the blooms come in clusters, the individual flowers are small, usually about an inch in diameter, and are white, with the exterior leaves tinged with pink. These bushes are pruned back generally to a height of about ten feet, and are, strictly speaking, clumps of single stems.

Doubtless General Washington planted the Martha Washington and Nellie Custis bushes at the same time, but as there is some doubt as to the latter, there

has grown up traditional romances in connection therewith. There is a tradition to the effect that it received its name by reason of the fact that Miss Custis received a proposal of marriage from Major Lewis while plucking flowers from the plant. Another version is that Washington planted it as near as possible to the spot in the garden where the tender episode between his step-granddaughter and Major Lewis took place. In earlier days there were a great many darkies about the Washington homestead and it was they who



THE WALK THROUGH THE BOWLING GREEN, MOUNT VERNON

Leet Brothers, Photographers

The Martha Washington Garden



THE BOXWOOD HEDGES IN THE MARTHA WASHINGTON GARDEN

Leet Brothers, Photographers

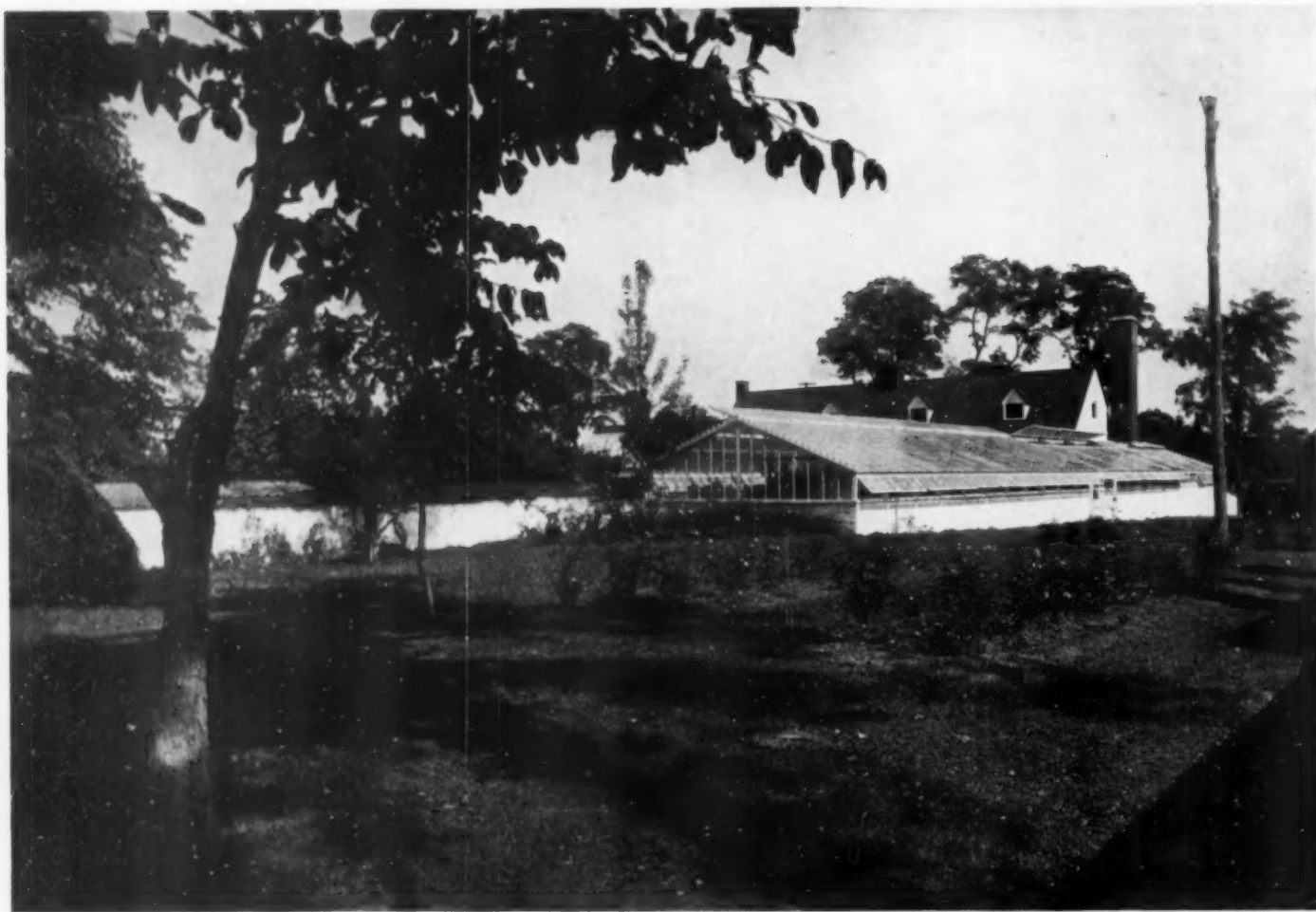
first associated with the Nellie Custis rose the story of magic power. Maidens who visit the garden may hear the story, which is told after this manner: "If a maiden will take a bloom or spray of leaves from the Nellie Custis bush, place it under her pillow and sleep on it, a proposal will be hers before the bush blooms the following year." Whether for the purpose of determining the truthfulness of the story or for souvenir purposes, the guards about the garden are asked thousands of times during the year for permission to pluck a bloom or leaf. To all the same declination, with regrets, is given.

General Washington laid out the Martha Washington Garden himself. In the garden there are now many plants and shrubs which he planted and many other evidences of his individual handiwork. A surveyor by occupation it is only to be expected that the general plans of the garden would show the work of a trained mind. There is a low brick wall that encloses the garden which was constructed under Washington's supervision. This wall is surmounted by a white picket fence—not the original—but a duplicate of the fence of his building. Opposite the garden gate there stands the same long building just as it was when the "General and his lady" strolled through the beauties of their surroundings.

Some portions of this building were there during the period of the hatchet and cherry tree episode, and when General Washington laid out the garden, as now designed, he connected these two sloping-roofed, gable-ended, and dormer-windowed buildings by a central one with a glass front. That he used as a greenhouse and it answers the same purpose in this day. In a remote corner of the garden there is a small pavilion. This usually escapes the notice of visitors. It is in circular form and is reached by a flight of steps. The supposition is that it was built for a tool house, but that on occasions it was converted into a study for the Custis children, especially on occasions when the home was full of company, as was often the case.

Besides the plants, walks, houses, etc., in the Martha Washington Garden with which General Washington was personally associated, there are others with histories dear to the whole people. There is to be seen a calycanthus, or strawberry shrub, which Thomas Jefferson sent from his Monticello home. In 1799, the year of his death, General Washington planted a *Magnolia grandiflora*, while near it stands another magnolia, the *purpurea*, which was planted by General LaFayette—the compatriot of Washington in the war of the revolution—in 1824,

House and Garden



THE ROSE GARDEN AT MOUNT VERNON

Leet Brothers, Photographers

while on a visit to the United States. At the same time General LaFayette planted two hydrangeas (*quercifolia*, or oak-leaved) which have thrived for nearly a century and have grown until the stems are like those of young trees of the forest. There may also be seen one greenhouse plant, a sago palm, in this historic garden, many years more than a century old; it has been more than a century since it received the nurturing care of Martha Washington.

Like all other gardens, the Martha Washington Garden is to be seen at its greatest beauty in the late spring and early summer when it is in full bloom and fresh from the gardener's hands. At those times the carefully designed patterns of box hedges are trimmed back to about the height of one's shoulder and they fail to show any evidence of their patriarchy, although some of them are more than 150 years old.

The Martha Washington Garden, as a part of Mount Vernon, is under the direction of the Mount Vernon Association; an incorporated association with a member from each of the several states of the Union who have it in their keeping. All visitors to Mount Vernon pay a fee of admission, but that is usually charged in the transportation. These fees go towards the maintenance of the place. Likewise,

at the proper seasons of the year, additional revenue is had from the garden. Young plants grown from the various historic ancestors are sold. In these sales the Martha Washington rose is easily a best seller. Cuttings from the bush are sold at from twenty-five to fifty cents each. Little boxwood plants from the 150 year old hedge may be obtained at from ten to fifty cents each, according to size. If you want a calycanthus, or strawberry shrub of the Jeffersonian school, the tax is fifty cents. The LaFayette hydrangea is as popular with the public as was the General himself. These are to be had in considerable numbers and at prices from twenty-five to fifty cents each.

The magnolias are limited, and whether from the Washington or the LaFayette planting, the cost is from fifty cents to one dollar. The descendants of the Martha Washington palm are but few, but when obtainable the price ranges from one to ten dollars each.

The Mount Vernon Association is not in the business as florists—the sale of plants and clippings from the gardens being a mere incident—but there are very few visitors who do not desire to take home some shrub, flower or plant from the Martha Washington Garden.

Japanese Gardens in America

II. MR. CHARLES J. PILLING'S GARDEN

By PHEBE WESTCOTT HUMPHREYS

THE engrossing and delightful occupation of creating a Japanese garden frequently extends over a period of several years, before the small area that has been converted into a miniature Japanese landscape is considered complete. But not even the years of fascinating garden building can compare with the charm of later development, when trout and gold fish multiply and flourish in their respective ponds, when trailing growths reach down their green draperies over the boulder outlines of creeks and ponds, when luxuriant vines, with long pendulous blooms, cover the wistaria arbors; when the luxuriant growths of brilliant Japanese maples and azaleas clothe the miniature mountainsides, and provide abundant excuse for the presence of the indispensable lanterns, supposed to light the secluded walks among these dense growths.

The Japanese garden at Lansdowne, Pa., which was designed and executed by the famous Japanese craftsman, S. Furukawa, for Mr. Charles J. Pilling, was considered practically complete when it first came to my notice through publication in 1906 in the August number of *HOUSE AND GARDEN*. Since then I have been repeatedly attracted to this alluring spot, to watch the process of development. Mr. Pilling designates this wonder-garden as a "wild garden," or a bit of "woodland garden," as no special stress has been laid upon the presence of characteristic bamboo enclosures, or the placing of symbolic stones, like the "worshiping stone," the "guardian stone," "view stone," "moon-shadow stone," etc., etc., and yet a study of its numerous attractions discloses the fact that it is one of the most complete bits of Japanese landscaping ever designed by a native craftsman.

The "wildness" of its approach is one of its chief attractions. Winding pathways of stepping stones, and rugged stone stairways leading down sharp inclines lead from the house and lawn, through luxuriant tangles of Japanese maples and dwarf evergreens, down to the lantern-guarded course of the water supply which forms one of the principal charms of the entire garden. From this spot one catches a glimpse of the whole expanse of streams and ponds, rustic and stone bridges, islands, hillocks and valleys, with the white gleam of stone lanterns here and there,

but the "wildness" is intensified when one follows all the intricate pathways leading over the little mountain sides and crossing and recrossing the streams.

While in all Japanese gardens of any pretensions a little pond or sheet of water of irregular outline is considered an indispensable feature, in the Pilling garden there is not



STEPS LEADING TO THE STONE LANTERN

only the usual pond or lake, but also a winding stream or "creek" connecting several ponds. In one, beautiful specimens of trout flourish; in a smaller section of the water-way, the gold fish dart and glisten among the luxuriant water growths; in another the various water lilies and lotus cover the entire water surface in summer with their dark green leaves and fragrant blooms. These streams and ponds are fed by a copious water supply gushing from natural springs, offering every advantage for the development of bog and water growths that will increase in beauty from year to year. The numerous clumps of Japanese iris planted on the borders of pond and stream during the period of garden building, have in their later development formed wide-reaching masses of beauty springing from rapidly increasing tubers; and during the period of early summer bloom these

House and Garden

many-hued, orchid-like blooms thrill the beholder with their exquisite beauty. A tropical species of calamus, *Calamus Palembangicus*, has continued to flourish in the moist places until extensive spaces are beautified by its finely feathered dark green foliage.

The wistaria arbors in the Pilling garden are among its most charming features; and the two years of vine development since the summer of 1906, has formed a delightful bit of old Japan that seemingly might have been transferred bodily from the famous wistaria garden of the flowery island. Only those who have traveled in Japan can realize the fascination of the wistaria arbors of Kameido. The garden is the enclosure of the temple of Tenjin, (God of Writing) who in this life was Sugiwaru Michizane, the faithful prime minister of the Emperor Uda, and the hero-deity's admirers annually hold festivities at Kameido at the wistaria season.

It is a queer, old place, adorned with a big stone tortoise *kame*, (whence its name) and quaint figures of the cow on which Michizane rode during his exile in Kiushiu. Fishponds and pretty winding streams half fill the place (as they do in the Pilling garden) and beside and over them are



LILY POND WITH SMALL MOUNTAIN AS BACKGROUND



GENERAL VIEW SHOWING THE CURVED BRIDGE, LANTERNS AND WISTARIA



THE GARDEN LOOKING TOWARD THE TROUT POND AT THE RIGHT

bamboo trellises, on which the gardeners have trained wistaria vines into a roof, making all the flowers grow on the inside, and the leaves on the top.

Instead of having short full bunches, like the wild vines on the mountains, the flowers trail down on long stems; and when the wind blows, all the stems sway

and tremble together like a wavering purple veil. Between the ponds, little paths and bridges lead from one pavilion to another, and matted platforms are built out over the water, where visitors sit and admire the vines and feed rice biscuit to the fat lazy carp, which seem to have just enough energy to stir up the water.

In the Pilling garden there are trout in the cool, spring-fed pools and streams, and brilliant sunfish in the quiet sunny pools; and the wistaria arbors show a distinctly Japanese feature in having the post supports on one side planted firmly upon the rocky bank of the stream, and those of the opposite side set in the bed of the stream, with the characteristic "splicing," about a foot above the water, for the purpose of readily replacing the submerged section when necessary.

Japanese Gardens in America

With the few years development since their planting by the native craftsman, the brilliant Japanese maples of this wonderful "wild garden" of Lansdowne, have become widely known as the most beautiful of any American-Japanese landscape.

When seated beside the inscribed lantern on the slope of the miniature mountain, crowned with maples, in the Pilling garden, the visitor might almost imagine himself in the midst of Oji's maple glory, when the place is even more celebrated than during the season of the cherry blossoms. November is the month of maples in Japan.

In the old calendar, when it was the ninth month of the year, it was called *momiji-dzuki*, "red-leaf month," or sometimes "time of branches" red ones, of course.

The rain of November, which comes seldom and sparingly in Japan, was called dew showers, or showers of red, because the autumn rains were supposed to dye the leaves. *Momiji* means any kind of red leaf, but as the maple is considered the choicest of all the changing leaves, it therefore carries off the honors of the name. The Oriental gardeners frequently plant the maples so that the sunset light shall brighten them; but at Oji the right hour is early morning, when the sun slants through the branches and turns the leaves blood crimson. Among the Oji maples a path winds along the edge of a narrow



TROUT POND OVER AND INTO WHICH A
WISTARIA ARBOR IS BUILT



MAIN LANTERN AND EVERFLOWING SPRING

ravine clothed on both sides with the brilliant trees. Some are large forest trees, others slender graceful things ten feet high, or less; all apparently growing just as they please among the light underwood. Beyond the ravine a grove of bamboo soars far above the surrounding trees, the feathery tops always swaying a little, even in the still "maple-weather." A little further up the ravine a curving bridge crosses a stream and the whole scene "composes" like a picture—no rock, no branch out of place; yet with such an innocent air of having "just growned," that one can scarcely believe (though one knows it perfectly well) that every twig has been trimmed with the utmost care, and every device known to the Japanese gardener has been followed to complete the beautiful whole.

In like manner the Pilling garden has continued to increase its fascinations of rugged, alluring beauty without a suggestion of formality; yet with every evidence of a perfect knowledge of the habits of the plants, vines, shrubs and trees used, and of skillful craftsmanship in guiding the perfection of their development.

Although the wonderful woodland garden of half an acre or more had continued to grow through four years, to splendid completion, before it came to my notice (and has since added two years of new beauties), instead of satisfying its enthusiastic owner with

House and Garden



LOOKING OVER THE CREEK TOWARD THE ISLAND

work well accomplished, its increasing charms have served to create a desire for an enlargement of perfection. This could only be accomplished by increased area. Accordingly the garden has been

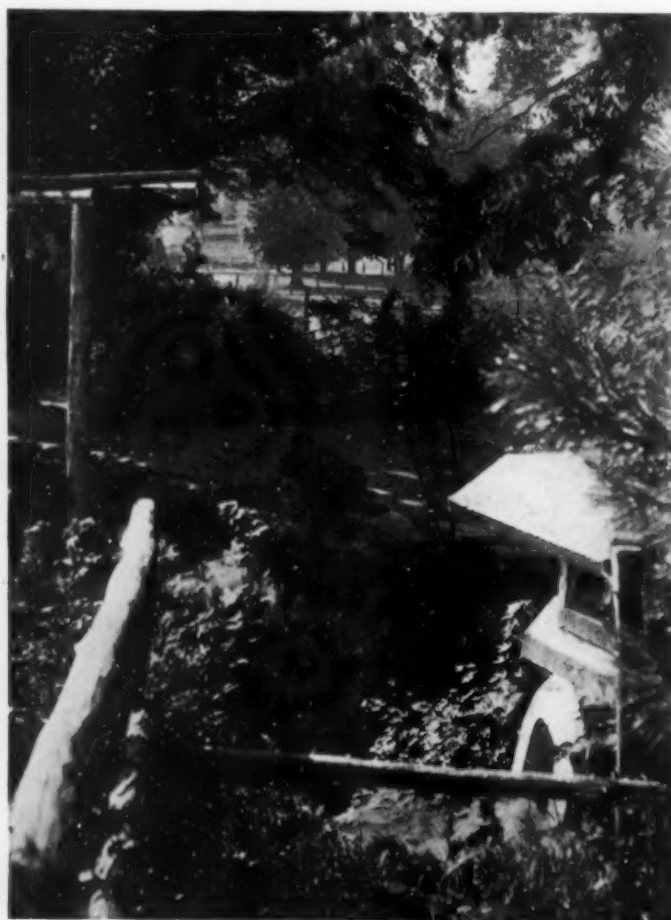
greatly enlarged during the past summer.

[Darby creek has again yielded] an abundant supply of moss-covered, weather-worn rocks; rare bloomers and dwarf trees have been imported from Japan; another boulder-covered mountain has been formed, over which winding, rock-bound paths lead the visitor to fresh attractions at every turn. The crudeness of the newly constructed area—where the plants are too young to properly drape the boulders and give them their natural setting—serves to accentuate the wonder-working charm of development, as noted in the older sections of the garden. With its in-

creased area this beautiful expanse of "natural woodland," forms not only one of the most fascinating, but also one of the largest of American-Japanese gardens.



STONE STEPS OVER THE MOUNTAIN



VIEW FROM THE MAIN MOUNTAIN

The Garden of Annuals

By EBEN E. REXFORD

NINE out of ten flower-growers devote their entire attention, each season, to the cultivation of annuals. This is not as it should be, for we have many most desirable flowers in the hardy herbaceous perennial list, and these can be grown with less care than any other class of plants adapted to amateur culture. But because annuals bloom the first season and are so brilliant in coloring, as a general thing, and give such a profusion of flowers throughout the entire summer, and often late into fall they will always be favorites with the gardener who can have but a small garden and wants it to give the fullest possible returns, in all respects.

To grow annuals well you must have a good soil for them, and it must be put in the best possible condition before the seed is put into the ground. One of the commonest mistakes made by the amateur gardener is that this class of plants will flourish under unfavorable conditions. That it is so sturdy and vigorous that about all one has to do is to scatter the seed over the ground and the result will be a generous crop of fine flowers. This is not so. To have fine flowers,—and the true lover of flowers will be satisfied with nothing less—the soil must be spaded up well to the depth of at least a foot; it must be worked over and over, until fine and mellow, and a liberal amount of good fertilizer must be incorporated with it. If this is done, and good seed is sown, and weeds are kept down, anyone can have a garden of annuals that will afford unlimited pleasure to both owner and visitor.

The ground should be spaded up after the excessive moisture of early spring has drained out of it, and not before. If you attempt to work it while

heavy and wet the result will be anything but satisfactory. Wait, therefore, until it has had ample chance to get rid of surplus moisture. Then spade it up, but do not attempt to make it mellow until it has been exposed to the action of sun, air, and wind for several days. Let it lie as thrown up from the spade, until it is in a condition to crumble readily under the hoe. When it will do this, add to it what-

ever fertilizer you propose to make use of, and work it thoroughly into the soil. Hoe it over first, then use the iron rake on it, and keep at it until it is finely pulverized.

While barnyard manure is most excellent, I would not advise its use because of the weed seeds that will be found in it. If one does not object to weed-pulling, there is no reason why it should not be used, for it contains all the elements of plant-growth in admirable proportions. But most women do object to pulling weeds,—in fact, if there are a great many weeds, their gardens are generally suffered to fall into neglect—and they will be glad to use some fertilizer which is free from the obnoxious seed. I use bone meal in my annual garden exclusively, in the proportion of a teacupful to

a yard square of soil. The finely ground article is what you should get, as this is prompt in effect. Coarse bone meal gives excellent results after a time, but in the annual garden we must plan for immediate benefit, for our plants must get a good beginning if we would have them do themselves justice.

I do not propose to give any directions about bed-making, in this paper. That is something every flower-grower likes to decide for himself. I would simply offer one suggestion: do not allow yourself to be led into the mistake of thinking the shape of a



SHIRLEY POPPIES

bed is very important. It is not. The important thing is—the flowers you grow in it. As a rule, the simpler the bed, the more satisfactory it will be.

The one thing of greatest importance is harmony of color. Too many of us forget about that, and plant our flowers in haphazard fashion, and by and by, when they come into bloom, we have a jumble of discordant hues that is a constant source of annoyance to the eye that is keen to appreciate harmonious combinations. Study up on every annual that goes into your garden,—the catalogues will give you an accurate idea of size and color—and so arrange each kind that there can be no conflict in this respect. Separate reds, and blues, and other quarrelsome colors, by the liberal use of white. Be careful to put the tall-growing sorts in the back rows, and use the low-growing ones near the paths, graduating the plants between the two extremes in such a manner that the general effect will be that of a bank of bloom, showing against a background of foliage.

Some gardeners are fond of striking and bizarre effects, and indulge in "carpet" and "ribbon" bedding to a considerable extent, in the planting of annuals. In doing this, they overlook the fact that annuals are not adapted to this phase of gardening. We have no flowers that give a color-effect solid enough to make a good showing in it. Annuals will straggle, and get beyond the boundary-lines assigned



PANSIES



STOCKS

them, and after a little our "pattern" is blurred, and by and by obliterated. The only plants that can be used satisfactorily in working out pattern-designs, are the kinds whose foliage furnish the color. Annuals can be planted in rows, or blocks, in such a manner as to secure pleasing color-contrasts, but it is never desirable to attempt working out a "pattern" with them. It is doing them an injustice to ask them to lend themselves to any such purpose, for it makes the flower itself secondary to a cheap trick of color arrangement. We ought to have too much respect for its individuality to ask any such thing of it. We should grow a flower for its beauty, first of all and that beauty should never be subordinated to anything less important than itself.

In sowing seed, scatter it on the surface of the soil, and press it into it with a smooth board. No covering will be needed, unless the seed is of considerable size. In that case, sift earth over it lightly. Do not be in too great a hurry to get your seed into the ground. At the North, we seldom have settled warm weather before the middle of May. Nothing is gained—and often everything is lost—by early planting. Let the ground get thoroughly warmed before seed is sown.

Weeding must begin as soon as you can distinguish weeds from flower-seedling. It will be necessary to

The Garden of Annuals

pull the weeds out of the row by hand, but all the rest of the bed can be gone over with the weeding-hook,—a little tool having several fingers or claws—with which more work can be done in ten minutes than you could do in an hour, by hand, and done a great deal better, too. This little, simple invention does away with the labor of hand-work in the garden to such an extent that no one need dread the war which must be waged against weeds. It not only uproots them, but it scarifies the soil to the depth of an inch or two, thus keeping it light and open, and in just the right condition to enable it to absorb all the moisture of dews and slight showers. Never allow the surface of your beds to become crusted over in a dry season.

What annuals shall we grow, do you ask?

That is not an easy question to answer satisfactorily, because tastes differ so widely. The flower that appeals strongly to me might not please you nearly as well as one that I do not care much about. The only way to make sure of what you want is to experiment by growing a number of kinds and selecting from them, year by year, those which you like best, or, by visiting other gardens and making notes of the kinds which your taste approves of.

For the benefit of those who have had little or no experience in growing flowers, I will make mention of a few of the standard kinds—the “stand-bys”—which are of easiest culture.

At the head of the list let me place the sweet pea. This is a flower everybody likes. It is extremely ornamental in the garden, it is excellent for cutting, and it will bloom during the entire season if you keep it from forming seed. Unlike nearly all other annuals, it should be planted very early in the season, in April, if possible. Sow it in trenches six inches deep, covering with an inch of soil at first, and drawing in more and more, from time to time, as the plants shoot up, until all the soil that was thrown out from the trench has been returned to it.

For beds where a brilliant show of color is desired, we have few annuals that surpass the Shirley poppy. Its petals have the sheen and shimmer of crumpled silk. Some flowers are double, some single—all are beautiful. In color, they range from purest white to scarlet. You cannot afford to overlook this plant.

Phlox Drummondii is a charming flower, especially the pure white, the soft, bright rose and the pale yellow varieties. It is a wonderfully floriferous plant, and it blooms until frost comes.

The aster deserves a prominent place in every garden, for several reasons. It is a most lovely flower—it is a prolific bloomer—and it comes late in the season, after most annuals are in “the sere and yellow leaf,” and lasts until severe frost kills it. There are many kinds to select from, but the best kind of all, to my taste, is the “branching” variety. This has flowers quite as lovely as those of the chrysanthemum, which they so closely resemble that they are often sold for that popular flower. Each flower is borne on a long stalk, which makes them very useful for cutting. They last for days, if the water in



SWEET PEAS

which they are placed is changed frequently. The most desirable varieties are the pure white, and the delicate rose-pink and lavender ones.

For low beds, near the path, the good old verbenas are still one of our best plants. It is a profuse and constant bloomer. It comes in a wide range of rich and delicate colors. You will make a mistake if you do not include it in your list.

The nasturtium may be old, but it is none the worse for that. Indeed, it is all the better, because the fact that it has held its own so well against new-comers goes to prove that it has a great deal of merit to its credit. It is one of our best flowers for cutting.

Ten-week stock is another old favorite. Its pretty, rose-like flowers are borne in spikes of white, pink, carmine, dull purple, and pale yellow. It has a most delightful fragrance. This is a late bloomer. One often finds it bravely resisting the

early November snows, having withstood the frosts of fall so sturdily that it shows no sign of having been touched by them.

The pansy is, strictly speaking, not an annual, for it often survives our winters, and blooms well the second year. But most of us grow it as an annual, sowing the seed early in the season, and getting a crop of flowers in June, and a larger, better crop in October. No garden should be without this most lovely flower. If you have a liking for any particular color of it, it will be necessary for you to purchase plants of the florist, for you can never be sure of what you will get from seedlings, until they have blossomed. The florist always gets his plants started so early in the season that they will be coming into bloom by the time your garden is ready for them, and from his stock he can select just the colors you have an especial liking for.

Ageratum is a lovely plant for front rows, or for edging. Its dainty lavender blossoms harmonize charmingly with the soft pink of the phlox, and the rich yellows of pansies. Sweet alyssum is another excellent border plant, where white can be used.

Calliopsis will give you a brilliant bed, rich in shades of yellow and orange, marked with crimson and maroon. *Cosmos* would be one of our most popular flowers if it were not so late that we always run the risk of losing it by frost before we have had much satisfaction from it. It is an easy matter, however, to cover it on frosty nights. Where this is done, you can keep it flowering until November. It is a lovely plant to cut from.

Eschscholtzia, or California poppy, is the very flower you want for a bed that simulates sunshine. A clump of it brightens up everything about it.

For brilliant and constant show, no flower excels the petunia, and no flower is of easier culture.

Zinnias are large-growing plants, suitable for back rows, and hedges. They come in nearly all colors, bloom profusely and throughout the season, and succeed where more delicate plants would not flourish.

The candytufts are among our best white flowers for edgings, for bedding or massing, and for cut-

ting. Several of the varieties are fragrant, and all are profuse in bloom. Sow outdoors in May, where they are to bloom, and thin well when the plants grow about an inch. Sow again in a month, and late in July for fall flowers. Give rich soil and water freely.

For low beds, in a very hot, sunny location, no other plant equals portulacca. Here it will bloom day after day, utterly oblivious to the fact that other plants about it are drooping in the intense heat.

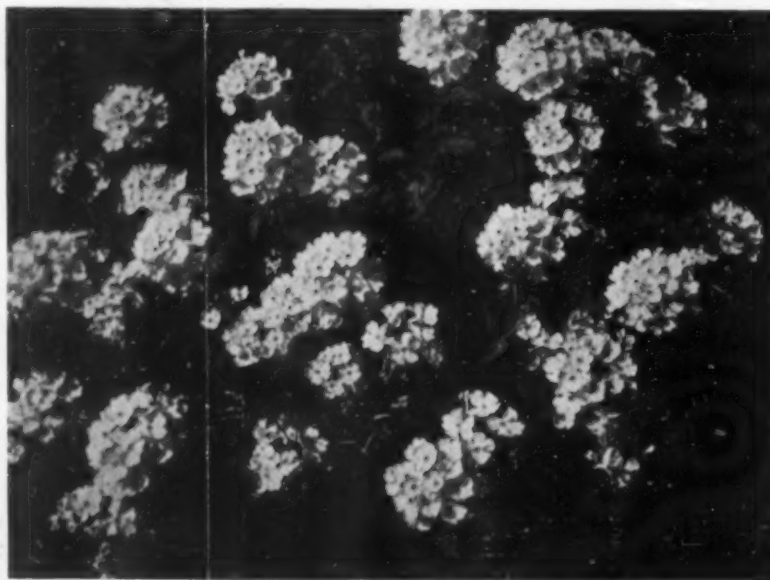
Antirrhinum (snapdragon), are old garden favorites, with odd-shaped flowers of brilliant colorings. Of easiest culture, blooming the first season and thriving in any soil.

Scabiosa, *salpiglossis*, *nemophila*, *gypsophila*, *celosia*, *centaurea*, *balsam*, *marigold*, *ricinus*, *amaranthus*, — all these, and many more, deserve mention in this paper, but space will not allow of special description. A careful study of the catalogues of our leading seedsmen will enable you to become familiar with their merits.

But let me speak a word of caution right here: Don't attempt too much! We let the enthusiasm of spring get the better of our good judgment, very frequently, and we plant ten times as many flowers as we can take care of well.

Keep this in mind: a few flowers, well grown, will afford a hundred fold more pleasure than a great quantity of inferior ones. Quantity should not be aimed at. Quality should be considered the important thing, first, last, and always.

In purchasing seed, buy only of such dealers as have established a reputation for honesty. There are many unscrupulous seedsmen who offer their wares at low prices, claiming they are just as good as those of the dealers who have been growing seed for a lifetime. Do not be caught by the bait of low price. Our best seedsmen offer their seeds at as low a price as is consistent with good value, and when you purchase of them you can be sure that you are getting something that will grow, something that will prove true to name, and something that is worth all that is asked for it. And remember that in order to have fine flowers you must set your face like a flint against inferior seed, for on the quality of the seed you use, depends the quality of the flowers you hope to grow.



VERBENAS

A Home Shrubbery

By E. P. POWELL

IT makes but little difference to what part of the country we turn, a little searching of the by-ways will show us that Nature has provided everywhere a remarkable variety of those plants which we group under the head of shrubs. Some of these are adaptable to moist lands, and others to hillsides. There are enough thoroughly hardy sorts to make a shrubbery delightful in Minnesota, and there are others that revel in the sand and sunshine of Florida. Many of those that are found in swamps will grow nearly as well when transferred to dry garden soil.

Small city lots, village yards, and larger country places are about equally in need of a collection of shrubs. These plants go farther to adorn a place, at least expense, than anything else that can be procured. Nature revels in blossoming shrubs from the first of April to the last of May, but she reserves some of the best for the autumn months.

A good list for succession, for a suburban or country home, would include, beginning the latter part of April, forsythia, none of the varieties of which are entirely hardy, but the intermedia is so nearly hardy that it will stand most of the winters as far north as Boston and central New York; Japan quince, in pink, white and red; *Prunus triloba*, a superb affair, growing into a small tree in the Southern States; *Spiræa prunifolia* and other sorts, especially Van Houttei; lilacs in variety, and one may get at a small outlay twenty new sorts, double and single; the viburnums, especially the high-bush cranberry; mahonia, which is the only ever-green shrub of the season; Tartarian or bush honey-

suckle; and then the peonies which carry you to June.

In June the deutzias, with some of the spiræas, are followed by the weigeliæ in variety. The later lilacs include Josikæa and the Japonica or tree lilac. Then come the syringas or mock oranges, and the variety is or may be endless. I have them covering not less than two months. These should be followed by rhododendrons; the common and the golden elder; and the double deutzia. July furnishes little beside the spiræas, but golden and purple-leaved plants enliven the lawn. Now for August and September we have mainly the altheas and hydrangeas. The altheas come in almost endless shades and combinations of color, while the hydrangeas, although not so numerous, include the superb paniculata, and a new sort recently discovered, a native, and not yet in the hands of all of our nurserymen. It begins to blossom in June and continues through until October. It is our grandest new shrub. The first I heard of it was in the hands of E. Y. Teas, the old veteran nurseryman, of Centerville, Indiana. He sent me a small sample, which has proved to be as hardy as an oak and superbly floriferous.

With this list of shrubs one may combine some of the smaller growing trees. Some of the best of these

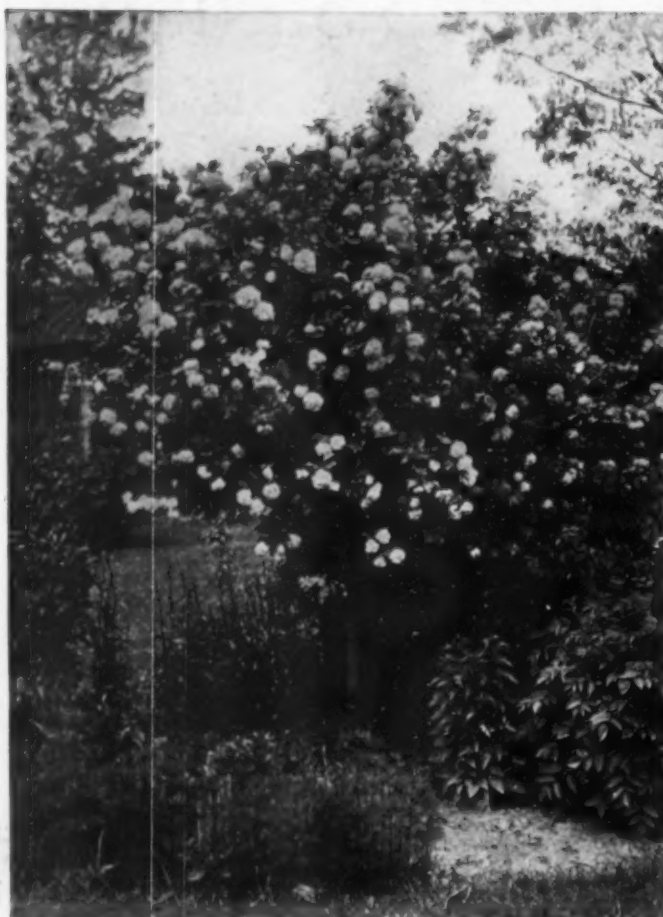
are the Siberian maple, which can be trimmed low and is a mass of fire in autumn. The double scarlet thorns surpass everything in richness of color about the first of June. The Chinese magnolias, especially conspicua, are hardy and magnificent; at least they are hardy with me in central New York. The wild cherries, except the black



PRUNUS TRILOBA

House and Garden

fruited, can be grown in shrub form very effectively, so can the wild plums. I have one cherry that weeps more gracefully than any other tree. From the forest edge about, in New England and many of the Western States, you can collect barberries, hopple-bush, witch-hazel and elder—all of which are among our best ornamental plants. The azaleas, laurels, and rhododendrons have their own habitats, and where they are adapted, can be massed with great effect. The white fringe bush is extremely effective if it can have plenty of sunshine. The use of these small trees with shrubs can be judicious only where you have considerable space.



STANDARD SNOWBALL

Two or three of them in a city yard can be used in the rear, with shrubbery in front.

Massing shrubs is generally a blunder. Very few can achieve it so that the effect will be anything better than a thicket. Many of the shrubs show too much dead wood in the course of a year or two, and some of them will not blossom without plenty of sunshine. You will need an adviser also in order not to get your tall growing bushes in front. In city and village yards nothing of this kind should be attempted. The most pretentious and least beautiful grounds that I know are where the owner has undertaken in small space to crowd a mass of vegetation.



DEUTZIA LEMOINEI

A Home Shrubbery

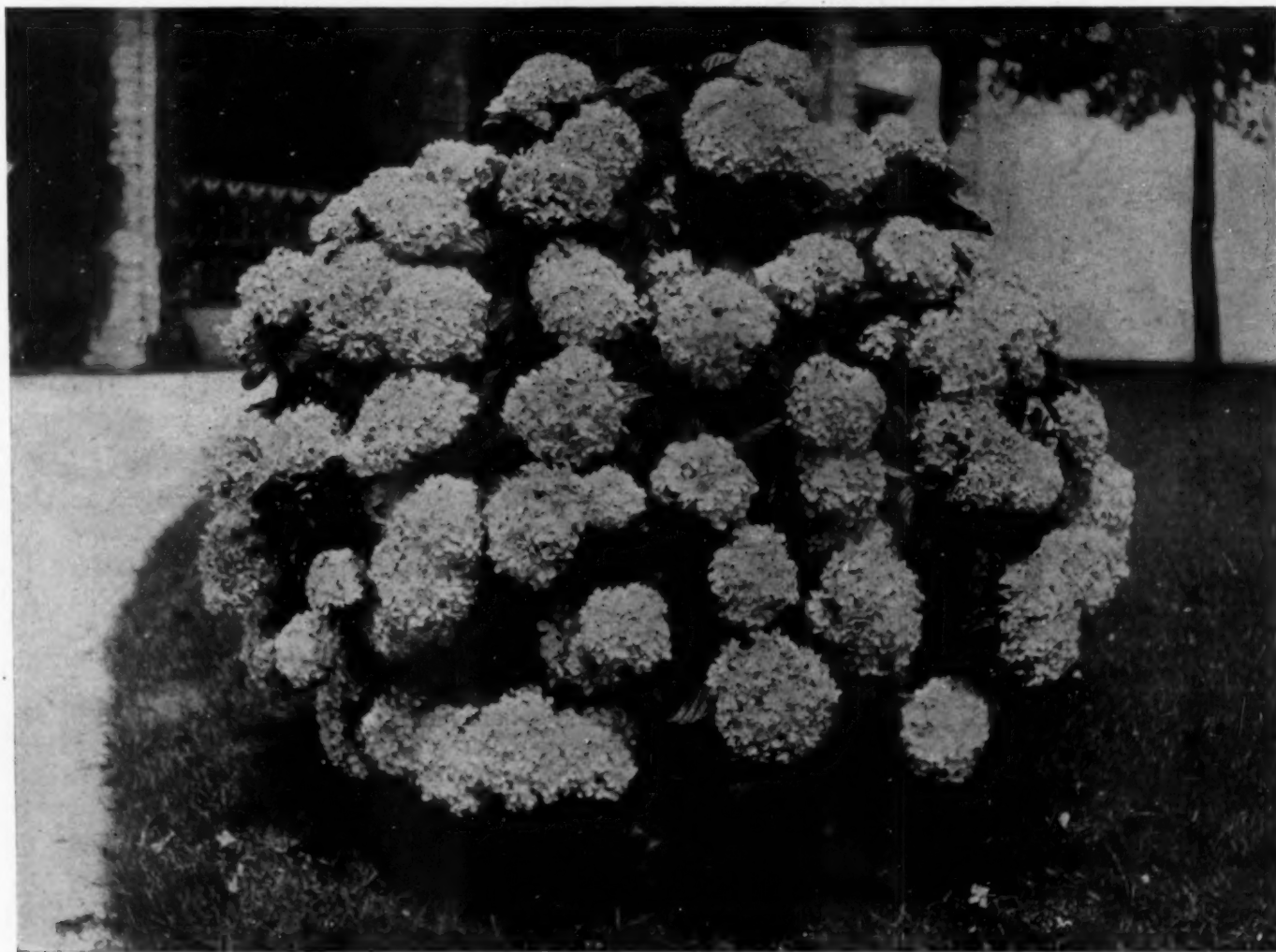
Whoever plants a shrubbery should plant it for the whole year round. He should not only undertake to enliven each of the summer months, but he should warm up winter. The best plants for this purpose are our common barberries, more especially the English sorts, the high-bush cranberry or *Viburnum opulus*, the red-barked dog-wood, the junipers and the mahonia. The barberries hold their brilliant scarlet seeds all winter, and in the spring these are eaten off during cold snaps by birds. The high-bush cranberry is loaded with yellow fruit during August and September, which gradually turns to scarlet for the winter. The cedar birds and pine grossbeaks—both beautiful birds—eat these in the snowy months. Mahonia is a creeper, blossoming with great golden clusters in May, but holding its brilliant evergreen foliage through the winter. It should be planted out of sight of the winter sun. The prostrate juniper and the savin are two elegant affairs, although a heavy snow will cover them.

A good many of our imported shrubs have become wild, and can be found in our forest edges and swamps. Among these are several thorn bushes,

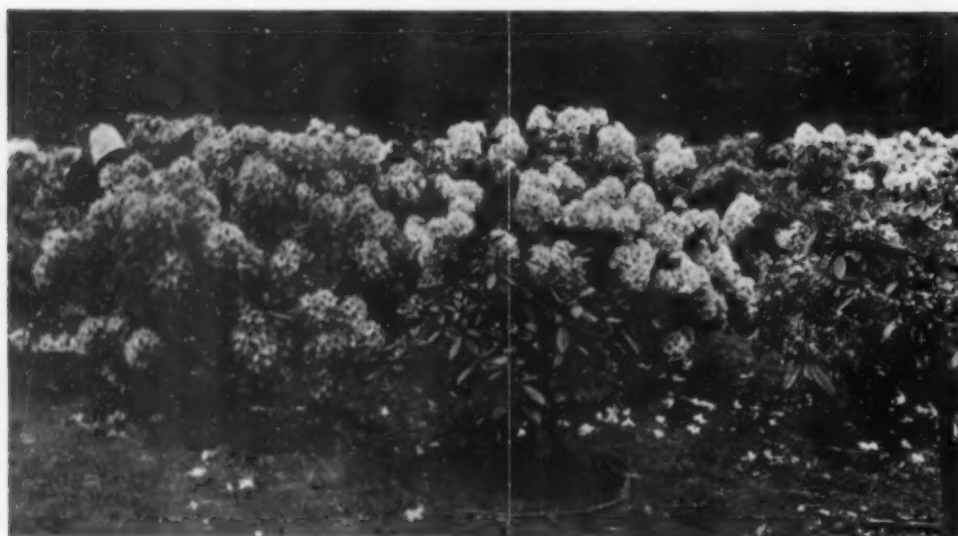
barberries, and I can sometimes find the Tartarian honeysuckles taking care of themselves. For shade I would select mahonia, barberry, *Cornus mascula*, the deutzias and the rhododendrons. The Tartarian honeysuckles will stand trimming as well as any, and therefore make the best hedge. Untrimmed, this hedge will stand about ten feet high. It is covered in May with beautiful flowers, followed with loads of fruit which the birds delight in. There are three varieties, pink, white and red. Among my seedlings I have a very deep crimson.

I recommend everyone who undertakes a shrubbery, to have a little nursery plat for growing seedlings. He will find great pleasure in finding that he can turn an ordinary shrub into a great variety of shrubs, both in style of blossoms and foliage. I have a double flowering syringa, growing two feet high, while close by it stand other varieties, semi-double, and single, and blossoming all the way from mid-May to July. Some of these seedlings are superb.

I have not named a few things which I consider of special value preferring to put them in a bunch by

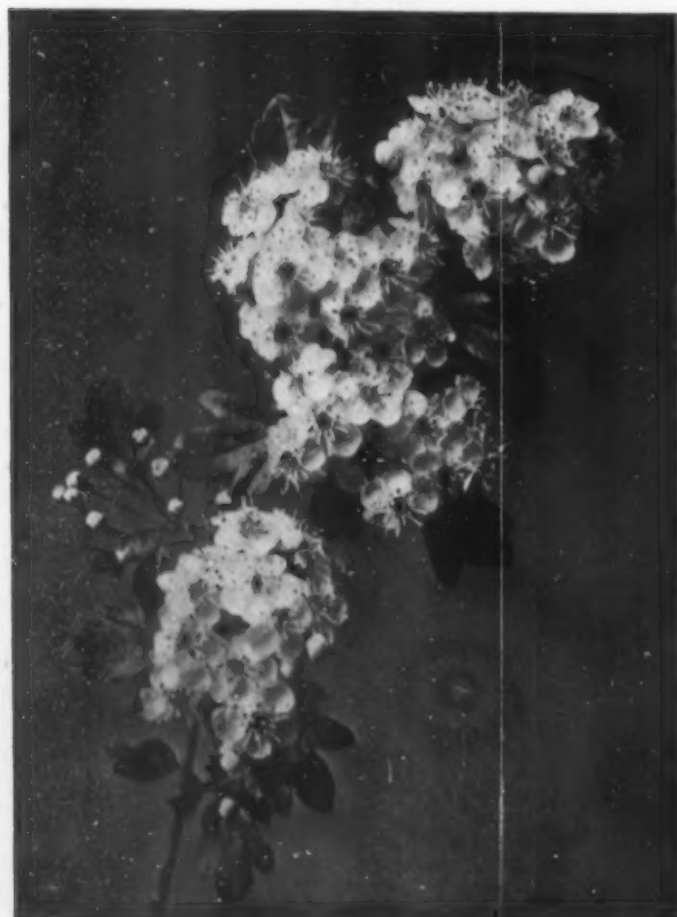


HYDRANGEAS



RHODODENDRONS IN TUBS

themselves. Among these the Judas tree can stand first. If trimmed to a single stem it will make a tree of fifteen or twenty feet. In the latter part of April it begins to show its lilac-colored flowers, which absolutely cover the limbs while still leafless. I would place this little tree at the very front. Close after this the Siberian pea tree should find its rank, covered with its yellow flowers, as beautiful as sweet peas.



ENGLISH HAWTHORN

Then you may select the Xanthoceras. This is sometimes called the Chinese chestnut. If allowed it will make quite a tree, and its flowers very strongly resemble those of the ordinary chestnut. The flowers are five petaled, white, red at the base, and hang in racemes five inches long. It can be kept in the shrub form by trimming. Now let me tell you that quite a number of our trees make beautiful shrubs with persistent cutting. This can be done with the basswood and the beech. In this group I would like to place the purple beech,

which can be grown most effectively about fifteen feet high, and limbs solid to the ground. But finest of all are the Teas' hybrid catalpas, some with purple leaves, some with golden, and all loaded in June and July with superb flowers. I do not know why this catalpa is not better known. Mr. Teas sent me samples thirty years ago. No two of them are exactly alike, and they are all as hardy as maples. These catalpas can be dwarfed and yet will blossom even more profusely than when in tree form.

I have given suggestions enough to help anyone who is gifted with a little individual culture, to establish a shrubbery. It will not cost half the trouble of an ordinary flower garden, and there it is for fifty years. Occasionally something will out-grow its space, and have to be cut. In fact the glory of a shrubbery is that it will of its own accord constantly present you new phases. I have left out all weeping trees, because as a rule they are monstrosities. An exception should be made of the Camperdown weeping elm. When this is fully grown it is unique, natural, and meets all the requirements of critical taste. There are half a dozen of the very best shrubs that are too tender to be planted north of New York; among them the Japan snowball, the Japan Judas tree, *Forsythia viridissima*, and the deutzia, Pride of Rochester. Some of the altheas are rather delicate when young, but most of them become hardy as they are grown. You will find this true of the magnolias and the Japan quince, or Cydonia. These will sometimes lose a part of their blossom buds even when full grown, but can generally be relied on for bloom when four or five years old. The farmer will find a shrubbery easily established, and full of comfort for himself, when formal flower beds are to him a discomfort and often a considerable annoyance, as they require constant attention.

Why Many Amateur Gardeners Fail

THE REASONS AND REMEDIES

BY NURSERYMEN AND SEEDSMEN

SO many letters have been received from time to time at this office from amateur gardeners, complaining of their failure to obtain results anything like their anticipation had pictured, that we felt there must be some undisclosed reason for such widespread disappointment and determined if possible to get from expert and reliable houses and nurserymen an expression of their views as to the causes of this indifferent success.

To this end we sent the following circular letter to many such concerns:

DEAR SIR:—In many instances owners of country homes have in their employ practical gardeners who are able to accomplish satisfactory results with their flowers and shrubs, but in most instances this sort of thing is done by the owner who endeavors to achieve the results which he is led to believe possible by the printed matter issued by the various nurserymen and seedsmen. The fact that he does not always obtain the results expected does not, by any means, prove that he has been misled, but can be attributed more particularly to his lack of experience and knowledge.

This leads us to believe that letters from practical nurserymen stating just why, in their opinion, the majority of amateurs fail, and the best method to be followed to overcome these difficulties, would prove of distinct interest and value to our readers.

If you will, therefore, write us a letter on this subject, we shall be very glad to use it and publish your name in connection with it.

Hoping to hear from you favorably, and thanking you in advance for your anticipated co-operation, we are

Yours very truly,

HOUSE AND GARDEN,
The John C. Winston Co., Publishers.

Many replies have been received, some of which follow. They will be found to contain a wide range of ideas as to the reasons of the lack of success. The reader may find in some one or more of them the very suggestion needed to correct his errors. If a few of our friends are put in the path that leads them to a fuller realization of their anticipations with their garden work, the purposes and intentions of our efforts will be accomplished.

EARLY ENTHUSIASM LEADS TO TOO WIDELY DIVERSIFIED WORK

Gentlemen:—We have your kind inquiry of the 2d inst. and wish to say that we are only too glad to give you the desired information. We believe that gardening can be made more successful by individuals and unprofessionals if a few simple methods are applied.

The most important thing of all is an intimate knowledge of plants and herein lies the whole secret. The trouble is, lovers of flowers and gardens become

so enthusiastic in an extremely short time that they are willing to take up and experiment with, any and all subjects, while if they would go ahead in a more systematic way of gardening the result would be one which would be more profitable and pleasing to the average beginner.

The elementary stage of gardening should be done with common annuals such as nasturtiums, sweet peas, poppies, mignonette, phlox, zinnias, marigolds and their likes. This means all seeds that can be sown out-of-doors and merely thinned out, not even needing transplanting.

Then even here a few points are necessary to know in order to make the proper success, but with these flowers results are so quick and with a few points to observe during the time of growth, there can be no such a thing as a failure.

Then the second year seeds may be taken up which require planting in the house, then transplanting out doors, in addition to the ones used the first year.

From this, one may step to seeds of perennials, then plants of perennials may be taken up and incidentally varieties of small shrubs and trees afterwards. There can be no doubt if gardening is undertaken in this system that success will come.

Every person who has had two to three years thorough experience in gardening should be able to succeed with everything that will thrive in the climate where they live.

Experience is a wonderful teacher and it is really the only teacher that gardening requires. The beginner should bear in mind that all beginnings are hard and that only persistence and courage will finally land him at the door of success.

Again we wish to say that the general information supplied by nurserymen and seedsmen is one which is of very little use to the average beginner, for the information supplied is usually so abbreviated that it is incomprehensible to one who has never before done any gardening.

This we have long ago appreciated and we have issued booklets where we go into more lengthy details in regard to the culture of plants.

We are mailing you under separate cover a set of these booklets which we issued a year ago and which we intend to revise just as soon as there is sufficient material on hand to warrant doing so.

We shall be very glad at all times to write upon this subject, and remain,

Truly yours,
W. W. RAWSON & Co.

Boston, Mass., July 7, 1908.

House and Garden

ADVICE TO PLANTERS OF TREES AND SHRUBS

Dear Sirs:—In compliance with your request of the 15th, I submit below some of the reasons for failure in planting.

1. Trees are sometimes sent out from the nurseries with insufficient root system. Either the trees have not been transplanted or have not been carefully dug to preserve the roots intact.

2. Trees carefully grown and dug, are sometimes not carefully packed for long shipments so that the roots have become dry before planting.

3. Insufficient room is sometimes given the roots in planting. The hole should be made larger than the roots when spread out.

4. The soil is too poor or too rich. Many a tree is planted in hardpan where it cannot procure nourishment sufficient to sustain its life the first season. More frequently, however, the tree is killed by kindness. Many a tree is planted with a liberal allowance of manure which is a fruitful cause of burning or rotting the roots.

5. Trees often fail because planted too late. The purchaser waits until he gets to his country place in May before deciding what trees to order, and by the time they are planted, hot, dry weather causes the foliage to start before trees have had time to make any root growth, consequently the leaves wither.

6. But probably the cause of more failures than from all the preceding is that the earth is not tamped about the roots. Even planters who understand the necessity for this operation are often careless about the work. In transplanting in the nursery, this is the one operation to which we give eternal vigilance, and thus rarely lose a tree, even in planting several thousand. When planted, the tree should be as firm as a post, so that the planter could not easily pull it up. The last two or three inches of soil should not be tamped, but covered with a mulch of manure.

Trusting this will be satisfactory, I am

Yours very truly,

S. G. HARRIS,
Rosedale Nurseries.

Tarrytown, N. Y., December 23, 1908.

POOR RESULTS NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO POOR SEED AND STOCK

Gentlemen:—I have your letter of July 2nd and believe most heartily that the poor results often obtained from seeds and plants are due, not to the stock, but to the method of planting and caring for it.

In the case of plants they should be taken care of as soon as possible after their arrival. It will not do to have them lying around. The shipper, if a reliable dealer, packs them carefully to withstand all ordinary delays. I know of one case where plants were delayed more than a month, and yet when properly planted did as well as the second shipment which was

made to replace the supposedly lost cases. With an inexperienced hand they might all have died. The plants should be unpacked and either heeled in or planted at once. Great care should be taken that the roots do not dry out. They should be removed from the cases in a cool place such as a barn cellar or where sheltered, as the north side of a building. The roots should be kept covered with moss or bagging and not allowed to dry out. The holes should be dug before the plants are brought out if possible. Dip in a pail of water and quickly slip into the holes and fill in. They should not be again watered until after the planting is completed. Puddling in a plant as is often done, combined with carelessness and delay in planting, have more to do than anything else with the loss of so much newly planted stock. If the season is fairly normal no further water need be given. Thoroughly firm the soil, that is sufficient. If it is dry put a bucket or two of water on top of the ground and let it soak in.

With seeds they are apt to be planted too deep and not kept watered sufficiently. After they come up thinning out is neglected. How many ever think of reading the cultural directions given on the packets of seeds? To be sure they are all very much the same but they are simply driving in the few common sense facts that are so necessary with good plant culture.

When we can train the public in the few practical principles of plant growing we will have fewer failures. It is easier to make a customer take all sorts of foolish advice about plants than it is to make him carry out a few simple suggestions. These latter he would laugh at.

If the owners of country homes go to reliable nurserymen and seedsmen and use good common sense there is no reason why they should have failures. Reliable dealers do everything in their power to procure the best stock and deliver it in the best possible condition. They cannot, however, control treatment which is given their goods and if failure results the customers usually put the blame on the dealer, not on themselves. I certainly hope you will bring out information which will help to produce results which we all wish for.

Very truly yours,

HENRY SAXTON ADAMS.

Wellesley, Mass., July 9, 1908.

THE NOVICE ALWAYS EXPECTS TOO MUCH

Gentlemen:—An exhaustive book on how to grow plants, would be the most effective answer to your inquiry, "Why the inexperienced planter fails to make plants grow."

One fruitful source of failure is, that the novice always expects too much. He expects a plant to grow, to flower and to fruit just as surely as he expects

Why Many Amateur Gardeners Fail

a three-eighth-inch rivet to fit a three-eighth-inch hole.

The rivet can be made with absolute accuracy; the hole can be bored for it to an exact fit. The plant cannot be grown with such absolute accuracy as the rivet can be manufactured, though many landscape architects seem to expect this, but it can be and is grown by thousands of nurserymen with sufficient accuracy to answer all practical purposes. How about the hole for this plant to fit? The beginner, from any good book, can easily prepare his soil for planting well enough; with simple instructions for planting, carefully followed, he can plant as well as one who has done the work all his life.

The conditions after planting can be met with clean cultivation by a beginner as well as by an experienced man. The conditions after planting incident to the season can not be met either by the experienced or by the inexperienced man.

The experienced man puts the blame where it belongs. The inexperienced man as a rule blames the nurseryman or seedsman for the failure.

By the way, as experienced buyer from nurserymen in nearly every state in the Union, England, France, Holland, Germany and Japan, I find that the nurseryman is to blame for failures about once in one hundred times. Is there any nurseryman in the world who has not received this letter:

"Plants received. Planted by an experienced man on same day. Watered every day. Every plant has died. I shall expect you to make good."

And here comes up another cause of many failures.

Beginners should beware of the watering pot and of the hose. Men have spent their lives in learning how to irrigate and then have only made a beginning. Seedlings, grass, anything with roots close to the surface of the ground can be helped by watering, provided they are not washed out of the ground.

Shrubs, trees and plants with a root going down a foot or more into the ground are very easily and very often are killed by watering with a hose. The same thing often happens when a light shower comes after a long drought. The shower is enough to kill, but not enough to give life.

Great crops of potatoes are grown by irrigation. The ground is flooded and thoroughly saturated to make plowing and planting possible. Once at the proper time after planting the crop is flooded again and the ground thoroughly saturated and that is all. Two wettings make the crop.

Few beginners understand that deeply rooted plants are often injured and often killed by a sprinkling with a hose or a shower and that in a dry time the only way to help such plants is to saturate the ground for a foot or more *once* or to let them alone entirely. The seasons cannot be controlled by the most experienced man.

Many failures are due to insects, especially of seed. The seed come up beautifully and the little plants are swept out of existence before the novice finds out that they have come up.

Many, new to planting, try at the outset very difficult things. For instance, a friend recently came into a small place in the outskirts of a town. To plant was the first idea. He had a fancy for a red cedar (*Juniperus Virginiana*) grove. He found an attractive catalogue offering red cedar seed. Now it takes two seasons for red cedar to come up, often they never come up. At four to five years, twice transplanted, they should be three feet high. My friend recorded one failure before planting the seed. The beginner often, however, meets with surprising success. A good sample of this came to me recently. A young lady, with absolutely no experience with mushrooms, by simply following directions grew a most surprising crop. The crop far excelled anything that year of the many experienced gardeners in the vicinity.

The sequel is a good illustration of the chance of growing any plant. The same young lady, with her experience of one year, tried the second year to grow mushrooms on a much larger scale. The result—an absolute failure. With an experience of fifty years in planting almost every plant and seed, which can be grown in New England, I never expect anything of a perfect seed or a perfect plant until I get it.

Every season for fifty years has brought failure for something or other. This, of course, will continue for the inexperienced as well as for the experienced until we find some method to absolutely control conditions after planting. The beginner in planting, as a first lesson, must learn that he takes a big chance in planting any kind of a plant, if he can not control absolutely (and who can?) the conditions after planting.

Which is the greatest gamble? To go down into the country to plant or to go down into Wall Street to speculate.

Yours very truly,

T. R. WATSON,
Old Colony Nurseries.

Plymouth, Mass.

CULTURAL FAILURE MOST FREQUENTLY DUE TO CARELESSNESS

Dear Sirs:—In considering the causes of failure in accomplishing satisfactory results when using planting material recommended in circulars issued by nurserymen, it should be realized that these failures are of two kinds: cultural and esthetic.

Provided that the stock used is purchased from a reputable concern, that has not intentionally misled possible purchasers, it would seem that the lack of

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success is usually esthetic rather than cultural. But when it is the latter, in the majority of instances it is due either to carelessness and lack of interest on the part of the planter, or absence of specific instructions and advice as to how to plant and care for the stock; or, in some instances to inexplicable reasons which may be termed bad luck. A poor streak in the soil, unprecedented drought or wet after planting, too early or too late planting, or a variety of causes, for which the nurseryman can be in no manner held responsible. Broadly speaking cultural failures are due nearly always to a lack of knowledge of planting craft.

The nurseryman is a business man, who, having something to sell, adapts the means of selling it, that seem to him most suitable and most likely to bring him good sales. One cannot blame him for not endeavoring to educate the public at large in planting knowledge; and in those cases when he is asked for advice on this subject he cannot properly advise unless he knows, and has studied for himself, the exposure, condition of soil and location where the stock is to be set out; and the prices he usually gets do not, as a rule, permit him to go to this expense of time to personally inspect and advise. The man or woman in whose hands a nursery catalogue or other literature falls, becomes interested in some of the stock therein set forth, and having purchased it, either considers himself or herself competent to properly prepare the ground and plant the material, without any knowledge of the subject; or else calls in the village florist or local "landscape gardener," who perhaps sees for the first time some of the particular varieties to be planted; or in some few cases he has a gardener himself who is more interested perhaps in growing greenhouse stock than hardy plants, or who perhaps is aggrieved because he has not done the ordering himself and hence takes no interest in the matter, or who is quite incompetent to fill the position he holds. It follows that if there are not cultural failures in such cases it is a piece of pure good luck.

Usually failures result, and the purchaser is disgusted and considers the particular nurseryman with whom he has dealt a liar and thief, and all in the business a bad lot. To avoid cultural mistakes let the purchaser employ the best possible skill he can get, if he himself is not a thorough plantsman, and retain some one who will take an interest in the matter and have an incentive to accomplish successful results.

Esthetic results are due also to lack of knowledge, lack of artistic feeling and the attempt to make a picture when one is not an artist.

Let us suppose a person wishes to make an old-fashioned garden. He reads up the subject in horticultural magazines, pores over nurserymen's literature and finally considers himself competent to

go ahead, and perhaps plants an *Azalea amara* with its magenta blooms against red brick-work; or commits other such crimes against beauty and good taste. The means of guarding against esthetic failures are easier to suggest than a preventive of cultural ones.

Let everyone who desires to accomplish certain results of which he has visions but not the knowledge to create, employ a landscape architect of standing and reputation and, after explaining in general what he desires to achieve, allow him to paint the picture for him.

Some nurserymen make a practice of conducting a landscape department, but I cannot believe that the policy is in the long run as satisfactory to seller and purchaser as is that adopted by certain firms; namely, to employ a landscape architect of highest possible standing for each particular piece of work. In this way a nurseryman can "deliver the goods" in every sense of the word, whereas the prices at which he sells his stock do not as a rule permit him to keep permanently in his employ a man of the same experience and training as he can retain from time to time as occasion demands. Let him say to his customers: "I have no man in my employ competent to advise and design the work you wish done, any more than a man who sells stone or brick has on his staff an architect, but I will retain for this particular piece of work a man who is competent to give you the best possible results and charge you accordingly, and become personally responsible to you."

In endeavoring to reach certain results in planting, there is no reason why a man should be his own adviser any more than he would think of being his own doctor or lawyer.

Some may raise the objection that to pursue the course above suggested would not be possible to those of moderate means. My answer is: save up, if necessary, and get good and satisfactory results rather than be content with poor ones: and if one cannot have something good, have nothing at all. The best is always the cheapest in the end.

To sum up: let the purchaser of planting material realize that he cannot hope for success in his planting without a knowledge of his subject—either of his own, or obtained from some reliable source—any more than he could hope for a decent coat if he should buy the material and make it himself, unless he was a tailor by trade; or a satisfactory portrait of his wife or children if he should buy canvas and paint—unless he was an artist by profession.

And therefore the reasons for unsatisfactory results are nearly always upon the heads of the purchaser themselves rather than to be laid at the door of the much abused nurseryman!

P. HAMILTON GOODSSELL.

200 Broadway, New York.

(To be continued in the March issue.)

Starting Seeds in the House

Cause of Failures—A Portable Greenhouse

By L. J. DOOGUE

HUNDREDS of anxious house gardeners make the attempt to get their stock of plants early, by starting the seeds in the house. Of the hundreds, it is safe to say that fully eighty-five per cent fail because of unfavorable conditions. It is common to find lengthy stories advocating this work, describing in detail the different kind of thrills you are apt to experience with a possibility of being laid up in bed with an excess of joy, when the marvelous results are unfolded.

This may be so. The results may be all that is claimed for them and the work may be the acme of simplicity, but from considerable experience in this line I feel safe in saying that, given the usual conditions to be found in a house, not one person in a hundred will be able to successfully start their seeds and bring their plants to maturity in the house. In the first place, the light comes through a side window and the plants and seedlings grow towards it. In a greenhouse the light comes from the top and the plants grow up to it, developing symmetrically. In the house when your seedlings have grown enough to be potted, they are not in a condition to stand the shift, being weak and leggy.

The air in the house is never the same, sometimes hot and again cold, and never moist as it should be. Moisture is absolutely necessary, but you cannot get it in the house. To be sure, you can cover your seeds with a sheet of glass, but you will have to remove it before you should and the resulting injury to the plants is inevitable.

Again, supposing that you have succeeded in potting off your seedlings, where are you going to

put them? In the window? If you do you will have giants. If you have a cold frame you can put them in that. If you can find room for a cold frame you will have a chance for success, but without it your house seeding joy will pay small dividends.

Why do you want to start your seeds before the snow is off the ground? For the commercial man who has to use his space over and over again it can easily be seen that an early start is necessary but for the needs of a house garden it is time and labor thrown away. The ground is never safe till about Decoration day and anything put in the ground before then has a very hard time of it.

The best way is to start your seeds in the cold frames out-of-doors. Sow your seeds in the frame itself or in boxes and afterwards prick off the seedlings into the frame or to their permanent location.

Practically, greenhouse conditions can be had by using the portable greenhouse shown in the pictures and the results with this arrangement will be satisfactory. You can grow a great number of plants with this and the expense will not be prohibitive as it can be put in place for not over five dollars, provided you can drive a nail yourself. If you have saved over any geraniums from last summer, put them up and start them going under this light and you will have good stocky plants by bedding time. These old geraniums that you have kept over should be cut back severely before being potted. This cutting makes them throw out new wood and shape up stocky plants. Old geraniums that are not cut back never look well.



SOWING SEEDS

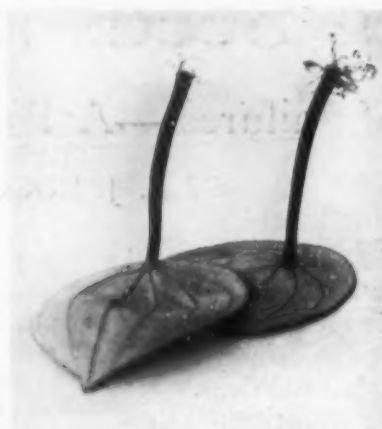


PICKING OFF SEEDLINGS

House and Garden



A WINDOW GREENHOUSE
showing both the outside and inside



LEAVES ROOTING



CALADIUM STARTING

If you should put up this little greenhouse it would be far more profitable for you to raise your stock from cuttings than from seeds: you can buy cuttings of geraniums, coleus, daisies, achyranthus, heliotrope and in fact most anything at a greenhouse for a small sum. With cuttings you will have less bother, you may increase the number of varieties of plants rapidly at small cost, you will have to provide space and care only for the number of plants you have use for and you will also have much better plants. Put up the little greenhouse and try it. It will prove a great convenience, and if it has been carefully put up it can be easily removed during the summer months and stored until wanted the following winter or spring.



STOCK GERANIUM
cut down and showing cuttings ready to be taken off

Propagating Plants from Cuttings

A YOUNG WOMAN'S SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISE

By T. CELESTINE CUMMINGS

A YOUNG floriculturist does a thriving business each spring with plants grown from slips and cuttings. She has a good stock of house plants from which to cut and this is done in January or February, so that by April the cuttings are well started and ready for sale. They always sell in preference to plants grown in the hothouse, for the reason that her patrons have found out that they are free from any kind of parasites, and having been grown under atmospheric conditions less calculated to force their growth, they are more sturdy and stocky and consequently, less apt to suffer from transplanting to the open garden beds. Every two weeks her plants from which the cuttings are taken are placed in the bath tub for a bath of lukewarm water. The bath tub is half filled with water and the plants are allowed to remain in it for three-quarters of an hour, covered with the water. They flourish finely and repay the intelligent care they have received with continued bloom.

No expense is incurred for propagating boxes as soap boxes are used, one sawed in two making two receptacles. As the box is heavy to lift when filled with soil it may be placed where it will receive the right amount of heat first. This spot will vary according to the way of living. It may suit some persons to set the boxes near the kitchen stove, raised slightly so that a warm current of air may circulate under it, or place the boxes near a radiator or register. My young florist has a very ingenious way to arrive at the desired result—moist heat. She has a wide board hung by stout wires from the ceiling, just back of the range, and three feet above the floor.

When suitably placed first put a layer of sphagnum moss in the bottom of the box, which will be found to be most useful in effecting desirable drainage and also in serving to maintain the correct proportion of heat and moisture. On top of the moss fill with sand to a depth of four inches. The sand must be fine and free from any admixture of clay, loam or soil. These boxes have deep enough sides to protect from currents of air and it is best to leave the box uncovered though some experimenters have covered propagating boxes with glass, thereby rendering the atmosphere so moist and close as to induce a cobweb-like fungous growth called "damp" which means the utter extinction of all plant life, especially that of tender slips.

If, therefore, glass is used at all, it should be so arranged that it may be raised at one side to permit the ventilation necessary.

Soft wooded plants, as azaleas, geraniums, verbenas, begonias and others are "slipped" by breaking off the top of a young shoot with two or three leaves on it, and inserting it in the sand. When the box is full of slips water well so that the sand will settle closely around the cuttings. With cactus a young shoot may be broken or cut off, but it must be left in the air for a day or two before placing it in the sand. With hard wooded plants such as roses, passion-flowers, jasmines, and the greater variety of flowers, a piece of the stem of a young shoot with a joint or "eye" in it must be cut off with a sharp knife and set upright in the sand. Rex begonias and a few other plants are propagated by laying pieces of the leaves on the sand and pinning them down, the roots forming at the edge of the leaves.

If the bottom heat is steadily maintained and the sand is never allowed to become dry, cuttings of geraniums and begonias will root in four to five days, but most plants require from two to three weeks. You will know when the plants are beginning to root by the brightening of the color in the leaves on the cuttings, and soon the leaf buds will begin to swell and unfold. If in doubt about the rooting process, the cutting may be examined without injury by taking it out of the sand to inspect it if the sand around it is first thoroughly soaked, and those which have made roots half an inch long should be potted in thumb pots, watered, and placed in the sunlight. Use fine soft soil for potting these tender growths and they will make vigorous growth and in another three weeks or so will need a larger pot. Water the soil thoroughly and an hour afterwards, by turning the pot upside down and striking the edge of it the earth will drop out in a ball into the hand and if the roots of the plant are coiling around the ball it is evidence that they require more room in which to grow.

With the handy little propagating box, bits of stems from many choice flowers may easily be converted into vigorous plants if the leaves have not wilted. Bouquets containing rare or desirable flowers, should be taken from their vases at night and the flowers placed loosely in water that will cover them. In this manner, choice flowers may be kept for a week or ten days as fresh as when cut. Many treasures may be obtained for the propagating box from this source and the amateur's collection of flowers will be rapidly increased. The cuttings should, of course, be taken while the flowers are still in their prime.

Helpful Hints on House Plants

By C. L. MELLER

HOUSE plants are at once the joy and the bugbear of the housewife. Not a woman but would have windows filled with flowers and rooms decorated with palms, ferns, and other foliage plants if she had not long since given up in despair because her plants would not thrive as those of her more fortunate friend, fortunate only in that the latter has accidentally hit upon just the right treatment for her plants. There is no reason why a goodly number of plants bought at the florist's will not prosper under living-room conditions provided they receive rational care.

To help the patient housekeeper in her endeavors to grow good house plants will be the aim of this paper. As a preliminary let us start with the seemingly absurd statement that a plant is as much averse to dirt as the average human being. Rich, mellow, sweet-smelling soil cannot in this connection be regarded as dirt. Indeed right here we have a general test for a good potting soil, for if it does not leave the hands comparatively clean when pressed, and is repugnant to the nose, such a soil is not suitable for potting. Most plants are, however, bought in the pot so that this matter of potting is really of secondary importance, the supposition being that the florist has provided the plant with its most congenial soil.

Many a plant lover has poor plants because of the dust, which, if removed at all is not removed often enough from the foliage. A plant breathes through the many tiny pores on the surface of the leaves and dust will clog these. At least once a week the plants should be set in the bath tub or in the kitchen sink and thoroughly sprayed with water from which the chill has been removed. Where circumstances make this impracticable sponging the foliage might answer, or a wash-tub can be pressed into service. With palms, ferns, aspidistras, and other large leaved plants it is always good practice to sponge the leaves both above and beneath. It will likewise be beneficial to the plants if when the rooms are swept and it is inexpedient to remove them, they be covered with some light cloth or paper to keep the dust off.

Drainage is another factor of vital importance to the potted plant. In the greenhouse, where the conditions are at all times so regulated as to duplicate or even intensify the natural environment of the plant, drainage is not so important for if watered regularly and given proper care in every other respect poor drainage will not interfere very perceptibly with a plant's development. When, however, a greenhouse plant is brought into the living-room the conditions confronting it are markedly different and the

result of each little defect in its care is considerably augmented. Herein we find the cause of many a plant's failing though it receive all the attention loving care can bestow. Protect your plants against drafts, as sudden chills are more or less injurious to all vegetable life. Never water until this is actually necessary and then attend to it thoroughly, nor let your indolence induce you to use anything but lukewarm water. Where the pots are placed in jardinières it is essential to the welfare of the plant that the pot does not rest upon the bottom of the jardinière, but that it be slightly elevated with little blocks of wood, empty spools, or some such means, so as to obtain a free circulation of air around the pot at all times. Where a plant is forced to stand in stagnant water the soil soon becomes sour with a consequent injury to the plant.

Feeding the plant is a simple matter wherein the amateur is apt to err. A plant in a sufficiently large pot provided with soil adapted to its nature needs little if any additional food. The writer has found that the water in which the meat for the household has been washed produces a very beneficial effect upon the growth of any potted plant when applied about two to three times a month. A teaspoonful of ammonia added to the sprinkling water in which likewise a pinch of sugar has been dissolved freshens the plants up very much and should be applied about every other week. A pinch of sodium nitrate, to be bought at any druggist's, scattered over the top of the soil will sometimes rejuvenate an apparently dying plant. But on the whole where plants receive the proper amount of light, heat, and air and are otherwise well taken care of, there will be little occasion for the application of any fertilizers. Some of the preparations on the market are not bad, though perhaps a bit too expensive for the average purse.

There are very often nooks and corners in a room where a plant would have a very decorative effect, but the situation as to light, heat, and air is such that plants apparently cannot thrive there. In such instances failure is often traceable to the lack of familiarity on the part of the housewife with the habits and needs of the various species of plants commonly grown in pots. There are a few plants that will thrive under conditions seemingly so adverse as to make it appear almost incredible that a plant should live at all under the circumstances. The average household contains very few nooks or corners so unfavorably situated as not to afford some of the more rugged plants a chance for existence. As a solution for the decoration of such vexing

Root Pruning Fruit Trees

corners a list and short description of some of the plants that can really be recommended follows.

To begin with it is necessary to discard all flowering plants, as there are almost no flowers that do not demand an abundance of sunlight. The toughest house plant, one that for its hardiness and the decorative effect of its graceful leaves is adapted to any part of a room, is the aspidistra. It will endure any amount of neglect and thrive under the most unfavorable conditions, yet responds most gratefully to any little extra attention that may be bestowed upon it. If but its soil is well drained it will endure weeks of drought, while on the other hand it will endure equally well an excessive amount of water. It may literally be smothered with dust and be none the worse for it. Likewise it can endure extreme and sudden changes of temperature, anything short of actual freezing does not appear to injure it. Taken all in all an aspidistra may almost be called a providential dispensation for the house with the dismal and dust gathering corner.

Next to the aspidistra, if not equal to it in persistency under adverse conditions, is the English ivy, a house vine that lends itself prettily to various decorative arrangements in a room. The most marked, and for indoor use especially adaptive, characteristic is that its growing point can be trained

away from the light without any apparent inconvenience to the plant. In this particular it is unique among house plants. Shade is even more congenial to it than direct sunlight in whose absence its leaves assume a darker and somewhat richer shade of green. As to soil it is rather indifferent so that it be but well drained. It can be trained into any desired shape and where the ends are severely cut back it will make a very bushy plant. It is always ornamental. There is yet another vine, a veritable weed to be sure, that can often be used in a corner where little else will grow. It is indifferent as to soil or even drainage and so hardy that it will endure a very considerable amount of frost. True it possesses little of beauty to recommend it, yet if the vines are kept short the plant will be induced to branch freely and cover the pot or whatever else it may be growing in, and thus make quite a respectable showing. When established long enough it will bloom with a profusion of small white or blue flowers that are rather pretty. This is the tradescantia, often used in hanging baskets.

The above three plants can safely be recommended as reliable in the out-of-the-way corners of a room. There are some others that might do if given special treatment, but of these we may have an occasion to speak in another paper sometime in the near future.

Root Pruning Fruit Trees

By W. R. GILBERT

THE root pruning of fruit trees is a subject demanding immediate attention. The chief evil of exuberance in growth is with apples, pears, plums, cherries, apricots, and in a lesser degree of peaches and nectarines. Young trees of all these families in certain sorts grow too luxuriantly and must either be curtailed by amputation of root, or by lifting and transplanting. The root lopping should not be done carelessly with a spade, but with a knife. Of course, it is quite impossible to get the earth away from the roots without cutting and wounding, but the knife should be employed afterwards to cut properly. People should be quite as careful with pruning the roots that are hidden as they are to prune the branches that are exposed. Some are inclined to think that even with vines a moderate and judicious system of root pruning would be attended with advantage. And I do not in the least doubt it. It might be the means of keeping the roots within control, and prevent that shaking and ill coloring of berries which so often meet the eye. All these trees that I have named would be the better for either a periodical root

pruning, or a periodical lifting and planting again to check growth. I do not say that it should be annual, or that it should be biennial, but it might be practised triennially with the greatest good to the trees and bushes. We desire every fruit tree we have to be fruitful, in the same way as we desire every flowering plant we have in our gardens to flower; and why should we not have them so, if it be in the power of the culturist to control them. I would, therefore, impress upon all my readers who have fruit trees which are in need of root pruning to set about and carry out this important operation. The work should be performed in the following manner. Open a circular trench about three or four feet from the bole or stem of the tree according to size and age. The larger the bole the greater the distance should be taken. This trench should be deepened sufficiently to get under any lateral roots that may be entering the subsoil, all of which should be cut back, as well as every root met with in opening the trench. The latter should then be filled up with some good, fresh, loamy soil, united with a little well-rotted farmyard manure.

THE EDITOR'S TALKS AND CORRESPONDENCE



The Editor, Margaret Greenleaf, 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.

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR READERS

THE year just passed has brought to us very many grateful and appreciative acknowledgments of the service we have supplied to our subscribers through our Department of Decoration, thus proving conclusively to us, the success of our experiments along this line of magazine service. We are desirous of maintaining this standard of practical helpfulness in all of the departments and pages of the magazine.

Therefore that we may be put more closely in touch with the needs of the subscriber and reader of *HOUSE AND GARDEN*, we invite your co-operation in obtaining some valuable information. We know of no better way of securing the desired facts than to ask that you send to us your honest criticism or sincere commendation (with equal frankness) regarding the general type of the articles which appeal most strongly to you.

With this information from the individual we will have it in the aggregate, and *HOUSE AND GARDEN* will be in a still better position to supply through its columns, only such matter as will be of vital interest and practical help to the men and women who are deeply interested in their respective houses and gardens and all that concerns them.

We have felt during the last year that our talks and correspondence have brought us closer each month to the great body of our readers. This fact has inclined us to believe that such a consensus of opinion would be valuable and we think, encouraging, hence we make this request. These letters should be addressed to the Editor and will receive personal and prompt attention.

Through the Departments of Decoration and Correspondence, we shall continue to offer the free service such as is unobtainable through any other medium.

Where plans of houses are sent to us, they are given careful study and the materials recommended for decorating, fitting and furnishing the house, are advised honestly and sincerely, from the several standpoints of quality, suitability and beauty.

Samples of fabrics, wall coverings, stencil designs, wood stains and enamels and all that goes to the complete fitting of the house will be sent upon request. The same consideration is given the tiny cottage or small flat as to the elaborate country house or expensive city residence.

Where addresses of manufacturers or trade name of materials are desired, a self-addressed and stamped envelope should be enclosed. This should be sent also when a prompt reply is requested.

It is our wish to make *HOUSE AND GARDEN* helpful to the layman, to make the advice given, simple and practical enough to be readily understood and executed by the amateur. Therefore, we make this request for the aid which you only can supply.

Beginning with the March number, we shall have a monthly page devoted to the offerings in the New York shops. Descriptions and prices with occasional illustrations of wall-papers, draperies, furniture, rugs, lighting fixtures, decorative ornaments, pictures, etc., will be found on this page.

Our readers may depend upon it that the goods described have merit both artistically and in point of quality, and are entirely new, this latter being a point which is of especial interest to the out-of-town reader.

CORRESPONDENCE

DOORS READY TO HANG

PLEASE give me definite information in regard to purchasing doors ready to hang which will be practical to use in a simple house, two stories, plaster and half timbered upper and shingled lower. I am not satisfied with the design executed by my architect.

Answer: We are sending you the address which you request and hope the information you will receive will prove helpful. We believe that this company will supply you with a collection of cuts from which you may select the style of door most suitable.

The Editor's Talks and Correspondence

CONCERNING STENCILS

Will you kindly give me some advice about stenciling, and the proper material to use and where to obtain the washable colors that are sometimes used. I would be glad if you could advise me of the goods to use for curtains on which I wish to apply the stencil. These curtains will be used in my living-room which is simply and inexpensively furnished, although I have some good pieces of mahogany. The walls are covered with two-toned green paper, woodwork ivory white. Should my curtains reach to the floor or stop at the window sill? I enclose a self-addressed envelope.

Answer: We are sending you the address of a firm from whom you can obtain full information and stencil dyes as well as designs. The colors made by this firm are beautiful and lasting.

There are fabrics which take the stencil well. We have recently seen a silk and cotton voile (dress goods) successfully used. This material retails for about fifty cents a yard and it is a yard wide. It can be obtained in a wide range of colors and drapes softly and effectively. Such curtains should reach only to the sill.

Where the situation of a room makes it necessary sash curtains of net can be used next the glass, otherwise the voile curtains are all that are required.

SHINGLE STAINS

We are about to build in Southern California, and I am anxious to have the shingles for the body and roof of my house show silver gray effect that weather produces on certain woods in New England. Could you tell me if it is possible to get such an effect?

Answer: There is a gray stain made for shingles which is applied by dipping and thoroughly coating the shingle before it is put in place. These stains improve decidedly with age. I am sending you the address of firms who will supply you with sample shingles that you may see the effect.

WATER FOR THE COUNTRY HOUSE

HOUSE AND GARDEN has proven so helpful and valuable to me in the several houses I have recently built, that I am encouraged to ask further assistance. The house I am now building is eight miles from the nearest town. As I am anxious to have this supplied with running water, I would be glad to have you suggest the best system to install. I have acted upon your advice in regard to the heating apparatus in two of my houses with satisfaction to myself and family.

Answer: We are glad to send you the requested addresses and feel quite safe in recommending to you this special system. As the danger of freezing is a very present one in many of the systems, the one sent should be of especial interest to you.

WILLOW AND WICKER FURNITURE

I am preparing to furnish a bungalow in the woods of Maine which I wish to occupy from the early spring until the end of October. Therefore, I wish to make it comfortable and livable at as moderate a cost as is practical.

The living-room is nineteen by twenty-four feet and must serve for dining-room as well. I have a round table and six chairs of plain oak which is to be stained to match the woodwork of the room. I would like to make some distinction in the furnishing of the end of the room which will serve as living-room and general sitting-room. What style of furniture would you advise?

Answer: For the very attractive room you describe, we would unhesitatingly advise that you use willow or wicker furniture. This can be left in the natural color or given a slight stain which will produce a soft golden brown shade. Half cushions in the back and cushioned seat add to the comfort as well as the beauty of these chairs. *Chaise-longue* couches, or davenports may be obtained in wicker or willow, also winged chairs as well as the ordinary easy chair and straight back chair we are familiar with. Very attractive round tables for lamps, books, etc., as well as tea tables are made in this material. We send you the address of firms from whom you can obtain cuts of this furniture together with prices.

RUGS FOR THE HOME

I have been informed by a friend that HOUSE AND GARDEN has been of great assistance to her in the selection of the rugs she has used in the first floor of her house. These are very beautiful in color and design and excellent reproductions of certain Oriental rugs with which I am familiar. The cost of these rugs she tells me, has been about \$3.75 a square yard. If this is correct, I will be greatly obliged to you if you would supply me with the name of the firms from whom these may be obtained. Also I would like to know if I am entitled as an old subscriber to the service of the Department of Decoration in making selections of rugs for me? I hope I am not trespassing in asking this.

Answer: We will be very pleased indeed to make any selections for you in rugs of any weave, domestic or Oriental. No charge is made for this service. The price of the rugs in question is \$3.75 a lineal yard, twenty-seven inches wide.

The firm making these rugs are especially successful in their reproductions of the Oriental designs and colors. It is very wise to have a careful selection made from the stock as a variety of coloring is offered as many admire stronger coloring and more vivid combinations than the original Oriental rug shows.

Timely House Suggestions

LEILA MECHLIN

AT this time of the year it is good to look ahead and devise the plans which are to be carried out later. There is nothing more delightful than to sit by a cheery living-room fire on a late winter evening and mentally picture the changes that should be made both in the house and in the garden, when eventually comes spring. Then it is that the books on building and the horticulturists' catalogues are most bewitching. Nor is time thus spent an idle waste. If any rebuilding is to be done or radical changes made, it should now be planned in order that there be no delay when the frosts cease and outdoor work begins. Do your own planning by all means, but don't fail to consult an architect before going to the contractor—the smallest alteration in a house signifies and it is invariably the wisest who avail themselves of expert advice.

It is usually at the end of winter that the library comes in for hardest use—and what a difference there is in libraries! Some are for use, but many, alas! to all intents and purposes are for ornament. Books are essentially decorative but that is not their prime purpose. One householder, however, was known to arrange his books according to the colors of their bindings, and many another has employed them to no better end. But this is a digression. It is true nothing furnishes better than books, well worn, lovingly cared for, and happily placed. Without doubt the open shelves are the more convenient and attractive but they are not as good as those guarded by glass, for the books. Built-in shelves and cases, such as the ordinary carpenter can construct, when stained and finished, will be found good in appearance and eminently satisfactory. Some years ago it was the fashion to have book shelves or cases almost as high as the ceiling, so that a step-ladder was required to reach the topmost books, but a more rational mode now prevails of restricting them to moderate height. One library, which the writer has in mind, built and furnished comparatively lately, has cases about four feet high against all its walls except on either side of the chimney, where seats are interposed beneath high glazed cupboards.

But aside from the books, the decoration of a library is no easy problem. The walls should be flatly tinted with a warm or cold color according to the quality and quantity of the light. If the windows are large and open south, then green or brown or metallic blue can be used, but otherwise a red, not too insistent, is best. And there should be a few good pictures—ones which improve upon acquaintance and lend themselves to various moods. Etch-

ings and engravings and even photographs of architectural subjects are very fitting and attractive. There should, of course, be very little ornament. The tops of the book shelves should not be allowed to become cluttered with bric-a-brac even of a good sort. Some brass jars, a few pieces of fine pottery, a cast or two, will suffice, and give untold pleasure.

One or more bronzes, also, will be effective and can be had at no unreasonable cost. It is remarkable how seldom one finds, even in the great houses of this country, small works in sculpture, considering how readily they can be had—not meaning, to be sure, the department store bronzes but the productions of some of the foremost American sculptors. Once in a while one sees in a richly furnished library a fine panel or a choice little bust, giving token of discriminating taste, but not often.

Nowadays a magazine rack is almost an indispensable adjunct of a library, corraling, as it were, the loose current literature, and preserving order and peace. A writing table, some easy chairs, and a good lamp or electrolier, are, beyond those already mentioned, the only other essentials.

There are a thousand and one little things that can be done at this time to make the house more livable and attractive, which, perchance, have been overlooked in busier seasons. Doors which catch can now be adjusted, hinges which squeak oiled. This is a good time, also, to look over the closets and to have the pantries ordered.

Some bright warm day (and such do come in February) have the rugs taken out of doors, well shaken and sunned—it will freshen them amazingly and prevent the ravages of a chance moth.

Be on the outlook, moreover, for frozen pipes and drains, for when danger seems to be over, vigilance often lapses with disastrous result.

Give heed also to the chimneys, see that they have not become soot clogged or otherwise impaired. The worst conflagrations occur at the beginning and end of the cold season.

And if at this time the carpet or furniture covering is beginning to show wear, resort to some of the expedients of the lowly to mend their appearance. Dye, well diluted, and applied carefully with a paint brush, will obliterate worn seams, and water-color so applied will sometimes hide lesser shabbiness. This is, to be sure, "premeditated poverty" but it is not to be despised.

It is in the late winter, moreover, that one hungers for flowers, and that the blossoming plant takes the place of the one having only ornamental foliage. A bunch of primroses, or violets, or even a handful of jonquils, will lend to any room, at this season, the utmost charm, and yield good interest, so have them if you can, and do not count it extravagance.

Timely Garden Suggestions

JOHN W. HALL

FEBRUARY will, in many sections of the country, mark the commencement of more or less activity in gardening, especially in its application to the vegetable department. Hotbeds can now be utilized for raising stock as well as for growing different varieties of vegetables, such as lettuce, radishes beets, etc.

If the hotbed is to be used for growing vegetables before beginning with the flower plants, get good clean manure, heap it, and let it heat. It should be thoroughly mixed and turned several times before going into the hotbed. If the manure is used without any previous preparation the heat will last but a short time; if it is given a thorough mixing and three or four turnings, it will, when used, create a uniform heat which will continue until a change of planting is desired. The bed should be well firmed, not packed. If the manure is dry when put in the bed it should be moistened.

Everything about the garden should be gotten in readiness for the earliest possible start with spring. There is much gained by early planting and that can be greatly facilitated by raising plants in a hotbed.

Definite plan of planting should be determined; there should be definite aim. A policy of drift will not end in satisfactory results in anything. Success may at times appear as due to what some people call "luck" but usually even that "luck" is the result of forethought and intelligence, coupled with persistent industry on the part of the gardener. So when a gardener is heard to complain that he or she cannot have any "luck" with this or that flower nine times out of ten the trouble is due to improper treatment of the plant.

It is well to remember that orders that are to be placed with nurserymen should be placed early. As is natural they give better attention to orders made before the season's rush-work begins; you get better stock and that has the best handling.

Procure seed for the season and test their vitality and germinating power. The weather conditions generally during the last fall were favorable and the quality of seed should run good, but it is just as well to know beforehand what the seed will do. Much time and annoyance will be saved.

The simplest and easiest method of testing seed, is to take two ordinary table plates and a piece of flannel cloth. Fold the flannel and lay it in one of the plates, placing the seed to be tested between the folds. The cloth should be moist. Cover with

the second plate inverted, and set in a warm place. If the weather is cold, put the testing outfit where the temperature does not fall much below fifty degrees at night, and where it will be about sixty-five degrees during the daytime.

The number of seed sprouting under this test will show the percentage of germination.

All gardeners love the chrysanthemum. It is one of the many flowers that the amateur gardener can grow most successfully. It is the easiest of all the flowering plants grown, and none other will give more satisfaction.

The chief difficulty which most lovers and growers of this flower have is in not getting their plants started early enough. They must be given time to form large bushes for choice flowers.

The best time to strike the cuttings is approximately the beginning of February, but the assistance of the hotbed will be required. Admittedly all will not have a hotbed available; such as have not should get their plants from reliable florists about the middle of March. They can then be handled in a cold frame where they can be well rooted in pots and grown to several inches in height. As the plants will have come from warmer quarters, they should be left in pots until inured to changed atmospheric conditions. As growth develops, they can be transplanted into larger pots, or set in the open ground.

There are so many varieties of the chrysanthemum, which are both magnificent and beautiful, that the matter of selection, where there is limited space for growing them, is very difficult; the suggestion which most appeals to common sense is to let the personal preference control, having in mind colors, sizes, etc.

Likewise morning glory seed should be now sown in the hotbed. The plants should be gradually hardened off before being set in the open. If given a warm, sunny location, vigorous growth and loads of beautiful flowers will result. Keep in mind, however, that this plant or vine requires very rich soil; if not naturally rich, supply the deficiency with a mixture of loam and well-rotted manure.

Gardening in this country is co-existent with the country itself. Our first settlers brought with them the love of the garden and that love has grown with the development of the country. In the journals of John Winthrop can be found recorded the statement that there came from the shore a scent "like the smell of a garden"—that was a welcome to the new land and was inviting as the scent from the garden to-day. As early as 1672 Josselyn made a list of the varieties of plants found in the New England country. The Mt. Vernon garden seen to-day is the same as laid out by General Washington.

Garden Correspondence

W. C. EGAN

PUSSY WILLOWS

WILL you please give me the name of the willow tree that has the prettiest pussy willows?

If you wish a lilac bush to flower plentifully, should it be pruned?
H. A. J.

The true pussy willow is the *Salix discolor*. Its leaves are smooth, bright green above and whitish underneath. It is sometimes called the glaucous willow. The aments or catkins, so called from their resemblance to cats' tails, appear early in the spring enveloped in long silky hairs. It is a small tree or rather a large shrub thriving on dry ground and a native of the Northeastern United States.

In Europe, the twigs bearing the catkins of the goat willow, *Salix caprea*, gathered Palm Sunday, are called palm-branches.

You do not state age or conditions of your lilacs. It is not unusual for lilacs not to bloom until they gain some age, especially in a loose open soil. If your shrubs are thin and spindly, cut them back and induce a bushy growth and you may get a bloom spike to each shoot, but not until the second or third year.

Prune them in February or March. You will lose what spring bloom they intended to give you, but the strength required to develop those blooms will be applied to the new growth. You can wait until after the blooming period, which is the proper way to do for ordinary pruning. The bloom buds are formed during the summer and are carried over winter for spring flowering. If your plants are of some size and are growing freely, you might try root pruning. Dig a trench all around the shrub three feet away from the stems and refill at once and tamp the soil as hard as you can. Lilacs like a firm soil, and this method often induces them to form bloom buds for next season's flowers.

PLANTING CROCUS ON THE LAWN

Can the crocus be planted in the lawn so as to form the name of one's place when in bloom? If so, what is the easiest way to proceed?
S. O. M.

Certainly, but they must be planted in the fall before the ground is frozen. A good way is to make large block letters out of cardboard or a stiff paper for a pattern. Have each part of the letter at least four inches wide. Lay them in position and cut out the sod with a sharp knife. Cut in sections and lay each piece beyond where taken from and in the form

of the letter they represent. This facilitates the returning of them to their proper position, and when tamped down, show but little evidence of disturbance. The sod should be moist when cut.

If the soil underneath is hard, loosen it up, say six inches deep and plant in the bulbs, placing them so that their tops are just covered. Plant in lines following the contour of the letters, getting the corners and angles perfect. Replace the sod and tamp it well, and water occasionally if the weather is dry. If the grass is not cut too early in the spring, thus allowing the foliage of the bulbs to ripen, they will last several years.

This style of planting looks better on the slope of a terrace than anywhere else. The writer induced one of the large parks in Chicago to plant the crocus on the slope of a large terrace where formal gardening was permissible, forming the words "Welcome Spring." It was in plain sight of the main driveway and being the first showy flower of spring it was much admired. To be effective one color only should be used.

COLORS SHRUBS AND TREES

What are the best colored shrubs and trees to use to enliven a landscape?
W. F. S.

The best landscape gardeners wisely banish colored foliage from their work. Colored foliage attracts the eye and if several plants are used here and there, the effect is spotty and instead of a harmonious whole, where one shade of green blends with another, producing a quieting and soothing effect upon the senses, the use of colored foliage creates discord and eliminates dignity and grandeur from the scene. There are, however, a few forms that may be used with discretion, the Schwedler maple that throws out broad purple foliage in the spring is one of them. The foliage gradually changes to a bronze and finally to a deep green. In the spring the unfolding leaves of nearly all the trees are of a bright color so that the purple foliage of the Schwedler maple does not seem out of place.

The Worleii maple, a form of *Acer pseudo-platanus*, has a foliage of a lemon yellow in early spring, gradually fading as the season advances to a greenish yellow, so strongly green, however, as not to be discordant. Then there are the Geneva maple and the Reitenbach, forms of the Norway that reverse the program, the foliage coming out green and gradually turning a brownish purple towards fall, where we look for colored foliage in many trees.

Rivers' purple beech, standing alone, away from being included in the general mass-effect, will not "fight" much. There the list ends. For a yellow foliated tree you could use Van-Geert's poplar,

the golden elm, var *Dampierreii*, and the golden catalpa.

Among the shrubs there are the purple barberry, several kinds of dogwoods having a variegated foliage, chiefly white and green, *Diervilla rosea* var *Sieboldi alba marginata*, the silver-leaved privet, the golden *Philadelphus*, the golden hop and the golden elder, which should be cut back often to induce a bushy effect and to induce good color, and then there is the purple plum *Prunus pissardi*.

EVERLASTING FLOWERS

What is the best everlasting flower to grow, ease of cultivation and attractiveness in a dried state considered?

I. C. M.

Helichrysum bracteatum, sown in heat in March and planted out in May in an open sunny situation will prove the most satisfactory of the straw flowers. For winter bouquets choose the lighter colors cutting long stemmed sprays, before the larger flowers open much, plucking the leaves, but allowing even the smallest buds to remain, as they will give bits of color when dried. Tie the stems tightly and hang them heads downwards in some shed or closet. This causes the stems to dry in a straightened position. If the flowers are too much opened when picked, the centers darken and often fluff out.

STOCKS AND SUNFLOWERS

What are the best stocks to grow for cutting and what sunflower? C. F.

Ten weeks stock are by far the best. The fall blooming varieties are shy bloomers.

The miniature sunflower, *Helianthus cucumerifolius*, in its variety Orion and others makes a splendid cut flower, free from the coarseness of the common one. For a succession of bloom make three sowings, one each March, May and June.

ANNUALS FOR A SHADY SITUATION

What annuals will do fairly well on the north side of a house? They will get a little sun morning and evening.

S. E. E.

Sweet alyssum, the dwarf blue lobelias and their white form, mimulus, marigolds, Chinese pinks, forget-me-nots, nemophila, poppies, pansies and Nicotianas.

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(Continued from page 45.)

required for the kitchen as this was
already in place. The scheme chosen was
blue and white, the motif for this being
the blue and white granite ware and
inexpensive china made in imitation of
the old Canton which filled the shelves.

The woodwork was treated with white
paint and given a high gloss washable
finish. This finish was guaranteed to
withstand heat and moisture and was,
therefore, serviceable.

The walls were tinted a shade of
blue which, though much lighter, har-
monized with the blue in granite ware
and china. At the casement windows
were hung curtains made from cross-
barred linen toweling in blue and white.
The floor was covered with a blue and
white linoleum.

Tables and chairs of spotless deal and
quaint form completed this very attrac-
tive portion of the house. With the
remaining money, a lamp for the hall,
candlesticks, china animals for the nur-
sery mantel, bureau and table scarfs,
bed spreads and bath rugs were pur-
chased.

SUMACHS FOR PLANTING EFFECTS

THERE are two sumachs, *Rhus glabra* and *Rhus typhina*, the
stag's-horn sumach, which are greatly
prized and much planted by many land-
scape gardeners who know of their great
value. For beautiful effects the whole
year through there is no other tree or
shrub of equal value in the way these are.
Take them in their appearance in leaf in
spring, and there is their beautiful dis-
play of large compound leaves, followed
a little later by their prominent heads of
greenish yellow flowers. Very soon the
berries form, and by August what were
heads of flowers become heads of scarlet
seeds. The heads, setting among the
bright green leaves, are highly orna-
mental. The chief glory of these su-
machs, however, lies in their autumn
foliage. By the close of September the
leaves commence to change color and by
October a bush of either one is a mass of
orange scarlet color, in which shape it is
the crowning glory of many landscapes.
With the approach of winter the leaves
fall, but even then there is interest in
the bushes. The heads of scarlet seeds
do not fall with the leaves but are in

position on the ends of the branches long after Christmas, until at last they fall apart one by one from the storms of winter.

In many parts of Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, both sumachs are natives, the *R. typhina* in most abundance. As this one, typhina, spreads from its roots to some extent it has in the course of time formed very large thickets, which, when in their glory of autumn color, attract lovers of the beautiful from long distances to admire them. So much have they done to cause the parts of the park they inhabit to be favorably known that plantings of them have been made to line other parts of the park, notably the comparatively new Lincoln Drive.

Rhus typhina, is one of a few that bear their seeds in a cone-like head, while many others bear the seeds in loose bunches, witness the poison vine, and the poison ash, so called, *Rhus venenata*.—*Florists' Exchange*.

SOME GOOD NEW LILIES

RECENT explorations in the far East have brought to light several meritorious liliiums, new both to botanical science and to horticulture. Chief of these is *L. Henryi*, the "yellow speciosum." Interest in this vigorous and handsome species is increasing, it being asked for in quantities as large as 25,000 bulbs for a single decorative planting. It is needless to say it is not on the market in such numbers. Planters must still content themselves with this fine species by the dozen or hundred at good round prices for even such limited quantities.

Lilium sutchuenense, from Western China, is a very bright and graceful species of the tiger lily type. The blooms are orange red, with black-purple spotting and have reflexed petals like our native swamp lilies. It grows tall and the stems are heavily clothed with very narrow leaves. It appears to be entirely hardy, our trial bulbs wintering perfectly with no protection but their earth covering. Though the blooms are perhaps not so large it is far more refined and decorative in growth and appearance than any tiger lily we know. It will doubtless become a great favorite when it can be had in quantity.

Lilium myriophyllum is still very

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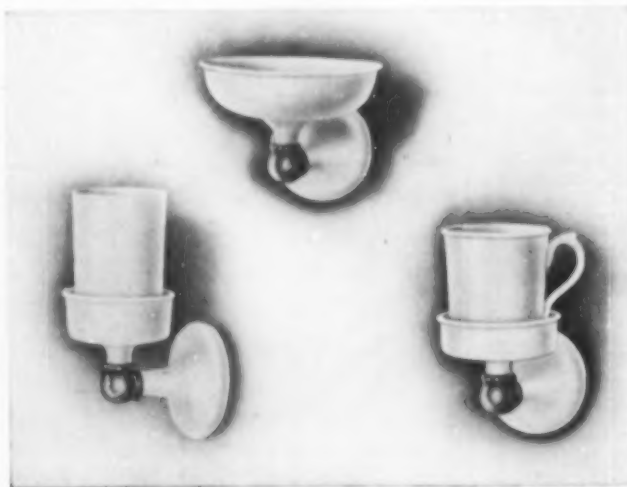


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scarce. The only bulbs we could procure were small and gave but two blooms each. It is a distinct species of the *L. Browni* type, and is also native to Western China. Our plants grew dwarf, scarcely rising more than a foot high, the stems being densely clothed with narrow, one-nerved leaves. The flowers were large, full-trumpet shaped, white and yellow inside with rosy-purple markings outside. They were very handsome and faintly fragrant. If *myriophyllum* turns out a good grower and as hardy as other fair Chinese species it will be extremely desirable.

Lilium Yoshaida.—This is a most interesting lily grown by Herr Max Leichtlin, of Germany, from seeds collected in the Philippine Islands by a Japanese botanist in Herr Leichtlin's employ. It appears closely allied to *L. myriophyllum* and the provisional name of Yoshaida has not yet been sanctioned by botanical usage. The plants appear to be fairly vigorous growers and hardy enough to endure frosting of the bulbs, but ours were not exposed over winter. The leaves are narrow and closely crowded, while the flowers are very elegant trumpets over five inches long, pure white inside, flushed with rose-pink outside, and quite fragrant. It is an elegant variation of the pleasing Browni type of Oriental lilies.—*Rural New Yorker*.

PLANTING TREES

IT is a loss of money to plant trees upon wet or undrained ground. If dry ground cannot be obtained the soil should be tile drained and put in good condition.

In setting out trees one should bear in mind the fact that you are not setting out a crop for a single year, but that it will remain for many years to come and that errors made cannot easily be corrected; and for that reason trees should never be set out in a hurry or without due forethought.

Spring and fall planting both have their advocates, each claiming a special advantage over the other. For fall planting, October is the best month in which to set the trees out as a later planting might suffer from a freeze, thereby doing permanent injury.

One strong argument in favor of fall planting is the fact that more time can usually be devoted to it. Better trees

may be obtained, as the nursery rows have not been culled so often. More time may be devoted to preparing the ground and also to planting and when everything is taken into consideration it will be found that, generally speaking, autumn planting will give the best results.—*Journal of Agriculture.*

A FILLING FOR CRACKS IN FLOORS

MAKE a thick paste by boiling blotting paper or other paper of similar nature in water until it becomes pulpy. Add to it some glue previously dissolved in hot water. Mix these well together and then stir in enough whiting to stiffen the paste and give it a little body. Work the materials over and over until they are perfectly incorporated with each other. If the wood of the floor is colored, add some coloring matter that will make the paste as nearly the color of the floor as possible. Apply the mixture to the cracks while soft, crowding it in solidly with a putty knife and smoothing it even with the wood. As the whiting will cause the mixture to "set" quite rapidly, it is advisable to prepare a small quantity at a time. This paste will not shrink, nor cleave away from the wood, as putty will, nor is it affected by heat or cold. If a careful job is done, the old floor can be made very satisfactory. If there are knotholes or other defective places, fill with the paste the same as if they were cracks. This filling will take paint as well as wood.—*Eben E. Rexford in The Outing Magazine.*

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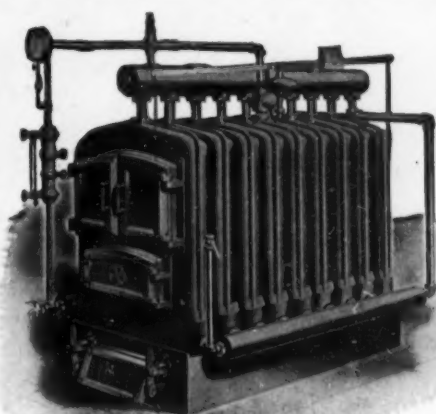
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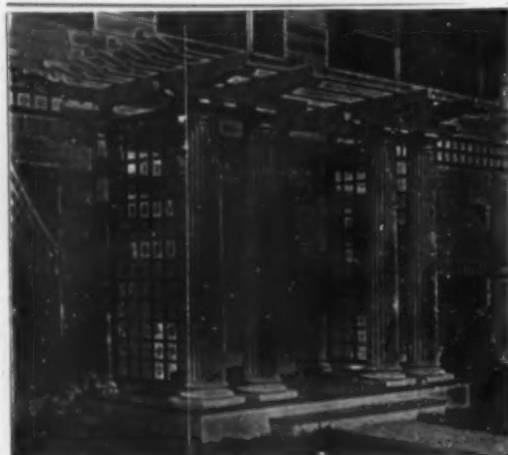
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South and West were adapted only to the production of cotton and corn. In the South cotton was raised to the exclusion of everything else because it was a money crop, one which was not perishable and for which there was always a ready cash market. The Western States relied solely upon corn and wheat, and when these crops failed or prices were low there was suffering among the people.

Now, however, an entirely new system of farming prevails. It has been found that these lands are capable of producing for those who till them fortunes in fruit and vegetables as well as the staple crops.

Where but a few years ago the farmer raised less than sufficient vegetables to supply his own family table, vegetables are now being supplied by the carload and trainload. The old shacks of houses have made way for comfortable and commodious dwellings. The stock is of a better grade, the barns are what they should be and on all sides there are evidences of prosperity, all of it due to diversification. In these same sections one may see the one-crop farmer. He is generally the one-gallus farmer, also. Insects or bad seasons have knocked him out and, as he had but one reliance, he succumbed. His stock and wagons betoken poverty; he is in debt and mortgaged and is ready to pull up stakes and move on to some other country, there to go through his same sad experience over again. He does not believe in progress. He is of a class which has a prototype in town and city—the mossback who opposes all innovations to his own financial loss and to the annoyance of his neighbors.

The farmer of to-day who keeps abreast of the times is in the truly independent class. He is free from debt and on his place there is always "something coming on," whether it be the product of the soil or stock, as many up-to-date agriculturists combine stock raising and farming. Much of the credit of this changed condition of affairs in the rural districts must be given to the department of agriculture, with its numerous experiment stations, and to the agricultural colleges throughout the country. Through these sources invaluable information gained by practical experience has been disseminated. The progressive farmer reads the agricultural papers and frequently secures the government and state bulletins which give the results

of experiments made in all the different branches of stock raising, farming, arboriculture and trucking. In the Southwest the result of the experiments made by practical and scientific men have resulted in a revolution in the methods of farming.

Land that was considered unproductive for some one crop has been found to produce abundantly of another. Worn-out lands, that were about to be abandoned, have been rejuvenated and are now yielding their owners handsome returns.

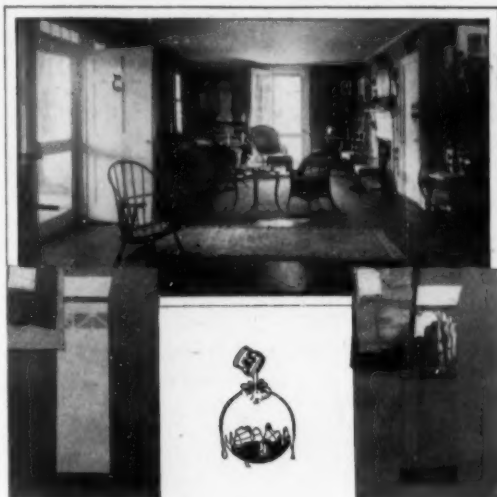
The farmer who has diversified has also bettered his conditions. He has telephone service and rural free delivery and is able to live the ideal life—one of independence. He sees that his labor is rewarded and he finds plenty to enjoy in life.—*Journal of Agriculture.*

ITEMS FROM AUTOMOBILE TOPICS

If a car has to be thoroughly cleaned it must be washed, and before being washed it must be allowed to get quite cold, otherwise the cold water will splash over and stain the bonnet and dashboard—which are always somewhat heated from the engine. A car that is much washed has to be well lubricated in the matter of springs, shackles, bolts, etc., or the water will work its way in and cause rust and rapid wear. Some people's idea of dusting is a sort of polishing with the road grit that is found deposited on the varnish.

And if, as is often the case, the cloth used has kerosene oil on it, because it causes a temporary brightness, there is no doubt that the surface of the varnish will quickly dull. But if a car is as carefully dusted as, say, a china closet would be, there is no doubt that it is just a trifle more suited to the amateur than hosing down the car-body. But there is no handier way of cleaning the wings and under-body than the hose carefully directed so as to avoid splashing as much as possible and as carefully followed by wiping down with a wash leather or a cloth on which a tablespoonful of kerosene has been poured. Some people do not dream of cleaning the outside of crank-case, gear-box, differential, etc.

Yet they require it quite as much as the paint work. A small tinful of stale gasoline and a stiff paint brush will quickly clean and brighten up the dirtiest



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engine and chassis and often enable the driver to oil up without himself getting oiled in the process. In the careful cleaning of a car one often comes across small matters requiring attention which would otherwise escape and cause inconvenience if nothing else, and so the process is not quite the stable helper's job that many people make it. When a car is hosed down the water should not be permitted to dry on the paint work. The latter should be lathered down with a chamois cloth and then polished with a perfectly clean cloth when dry.

When springs have become rusted up, the only cure is to take them down and remove the rust. This will necessitate jacking up the frame and supporting it while the spring shackles are released and the running gear detached. The springs will then have to be dismantled, each individual leaf cleaned with emery cloth, well lubricated with grease and re-mounted. Do one spring at a time so that the leaves, bolts, etc., may not become mixed. Even in modern cars entirely insufficient facilities are provided for lubricating the leaves of suspension springs. It is generally necessary, once in a while, to jack up the frame and body so that the springs are entirely freed from all weight and hang slack. While in this condition it is possible, by considerable and messy work, to induce some lubricant to find its way in between the shorter leaves. A very thin knife blade, a stiff brush and a thin oil—sometimes only kerosene will get in—are the materials.

THE RUBBER TREE

THE india rubber tree is easily cared for. It will bear considerable frost, but it is always well to keep it in a frost-proof room. Good potting soil, such as you use for geraniums will suit it, and if you wish a free growth shift into a larger pot each spring. If a tree-like top is desired cut the top back to the preferred height and encourage branching. Water freely while growing, but sparingly while resting. If a plant becomes frozen or sickly at the top cut it back to the live and healthy wood. Severe cutting back will not injure a rubber tree. Like any other tree, a dead or sickly branch or top only hinders the growth and vigor of the tree. Do not hesitate to cut such wood away.—*Park's Floral Magazine.*

P
A

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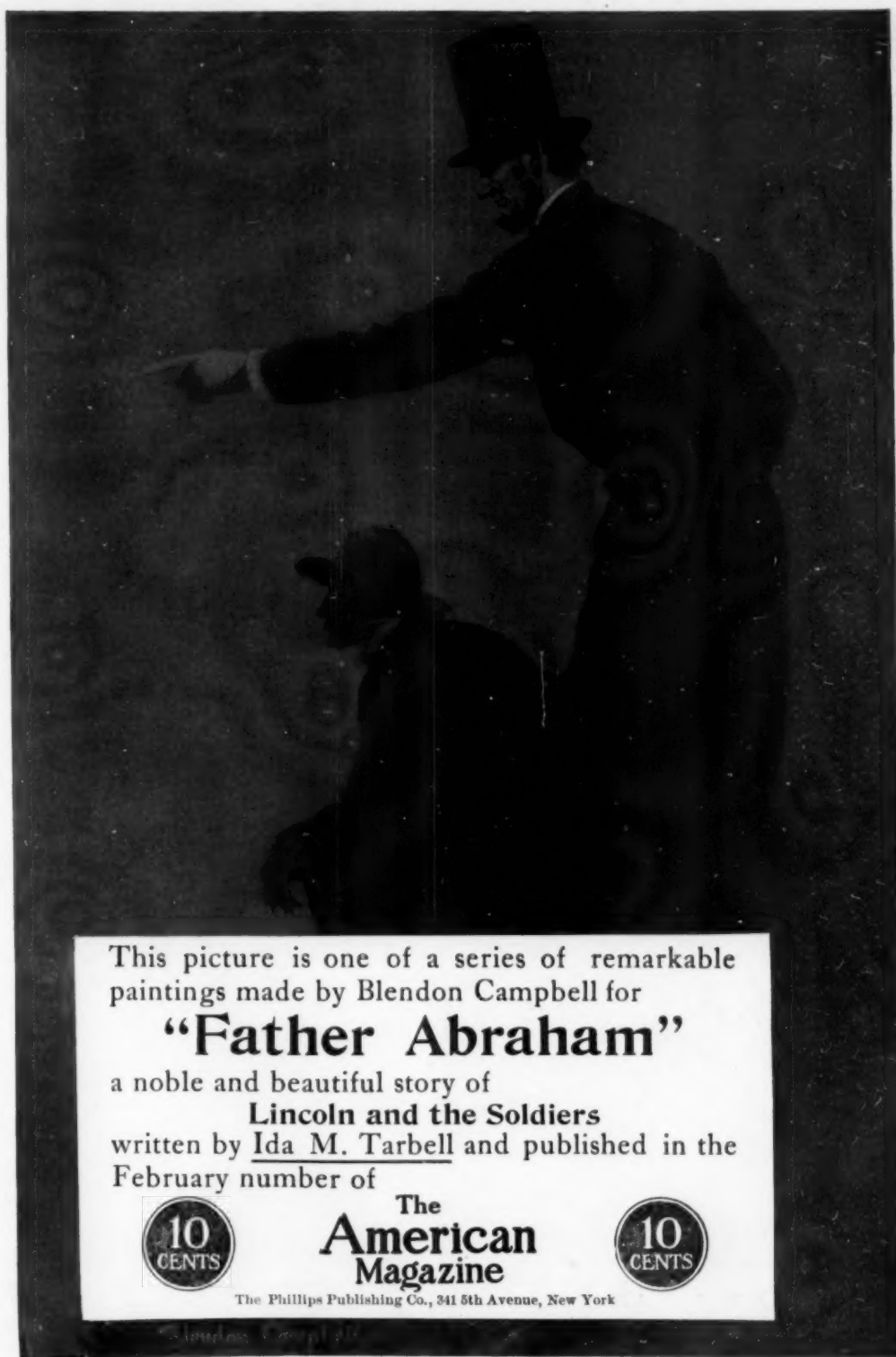
FOREST PRESERVATION

THE recent report on "The Waning Hardwood Supply" issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture bears most significantly upon the proposed legislation to create national forests in the southern Appalachians, particularly, and the White Mountains. The pamphlet in question offers as a key to the solution of the problem of hardwood supply, that the Appalachian ranges from Maine to Alabama should be so farmed in the future as to be made to produce, in connection with other districts of the country, sufficient lumber to fill the demand for the purposes for which hardwood is essential in our manufacturing industries.

The timber resources, even of our immense country, have been simply ruthlessly wasted, in spite of the examples and government actions of other countries, until to-day students of the situation look with alarm to the future, and experts in forest reproduction and maintenance are bending every energy to introduce changes in our laws and business rapacity, to, at least, mitigate the pending calamity. The forest reservation laws and management are already showing such promising results that Congress should not hesitate to pass the necessary legislation and provide very liberal appropriations for well-considered projects of forestry rejuvenation, and no more delay should be permitted in passing the bills for the preservation of the forests under the Appalachian and White Mountain projects. To delay longer in the face of the evidence is to encourage popular indignation and distrust in the wisdom of our representatives.—*Park and Cemetery.*

INSTRUCTION IN TEXTILE WORK

AS a branch of the School of Industrial Art of the Pennsylvania Museum, in Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Textile School was organized in 1884. Reviewing its career of nearly a quarter of a century, the announcement for the present season states that the school has demonstrated "the practical utility of technical education in textiles on this continent, and the steady growth of the institution is due to nothing else so much as to the success of its graduates. The broad and thorough educational policy steadfastly adhered to by those who shape the school's character has resulted in the graduation of a body of



This picture is one of a series of remarkable paintings made by Blendon Campbell for

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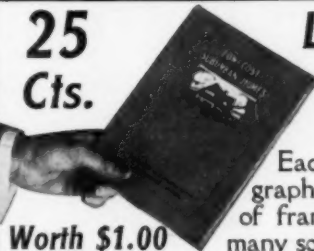
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young men who by reason of the breadth of their training have been enabled to enter all fields of the work, and to-day they are well and favorably known in every textile section of any importance. They are in the mill, the dye house, the commission house and the machine buildings, and wherever found they are proving themselves capable men and an honor to their alma mater."

Specialization, which is the trend of all modern activity, has been carried into the textile industry. Specialization of production is the policy even of the larger factories, and it has been carried so far "it is impossible for a general and comprehensive knowledge of the business as a whole to be obtained in the typical modern mill, and the young man who aspires to the possession of such knowledge must seek it elsewhere." This "elsewhere" problem is met by the Philadelphia Textile School, which enjoys the co-operation and support of prominent members of the Philadelphia Textile Association.

Aiming to make the instruction as practical as possible without losing sight of fundamental principles, the instruction consists of lectures, investigation and experiment by individuals and, finally, in the actual production in commercial size—an important, practical factor—of textiles in great variety. These textiles are brought out by the student according to his own ideas and specifications, originality and direct research along practical lines always receiving encouragement.

It is claimed for the institution that it possesses an extensive equipment unsurpassed by that of any similar institution in the world. It consists of the latest machinery for the manufacture of yarns, for weaving, finishing and dyeing. All of these machines are of commercial proportions, not mere working models, and they turn out work such as is met with in the best markets of the day. In addition to this practical equipment the different departments are provided with the apparatus necessary for conducting scientific tests and examination of fibres, yarns, fabrics, dyestuffs, oils, waters, etc., with a view to locating the cause of possible defects. The buildings in which the school is housed are well suited to its purposes, the top floors being skylighted throughout. The breadth of the school's scope is indicated by the fact that silk, cotton, wool and worsted

are studied exhaustively, and while some of the courses of study are so arranged that a student may confine his attention to the particular fibre in which he is most interested, the regular or diploma course includes work in all of the materials mentioned above, allowing the student to specialize to a certain extent in the third year.

The importance of artistic effect in textile products has not been overlooked. It is appreciated that it is this quality which first attracts the purchaser's attention. The school's association with the School of Applied Art affords an exceptional opportunity for training in this important branch of the work. The buildings of the schools are situated on the same plot of ground, so that the student easily can arrange for more or less artistic training, in accordance with the requirements of his course of study. In any event he works in an artistic atmosphere and profits by the influence it exerts.

Scholarships that have been established show the interest taken in the school. These are awarded as prizes for meritorious work by students who have already spent at least one year in the school.

Many of the Philadelphia textile manufacturers and merchants are on the Advisory Committee of the school. The president is Mr. Theodore C. Search; Vice Presidents, Messrs. John Story Jenks and Isaac H. Clothier; Treasurer, James Butterworth, and Assistant Treasurer, Mr. James L. Allan. Mr. L. W. Miller is principal of the School of Industrial Art as a whole, and Mr. E. W. France director of the Textile School. —*New York Herald.*

BEGONIAS FROM SEEDS

BEAGONIA seeds are very small, and require care in sowing and in treating the young plants. Sow in a box or pot in April or May, and keep in an east window. The surface soil should be of sifted wood's earth, or a fine soil that will not bake or get hard. Press it firm with a piece of board, then water it well and sow the seeds over the surface. Avoid watering after sowing the seeds. If the soil should become dry set the pot in a basin of water until the soil is moistened. Place a pane of glass over the pot or box to prevent rapid evaporation. Shade from direct sunlight. Lift the glass to let in air and prevent damping off, but avoid

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McCLURE'S FOR MARCH

"VERDICT OF SCIENCE AGAINST ALCOHOL"

By M. A. ROSANOFF

Few recent articles have attracted so much attention as did Dr. Henry Smith Williams' statement of the results of recent scientific investigation concerning the effects of alcohol upon the individual, published in the October McClure's. There is naturally much interest in the kind of demonstration which can be used in proof of the facts which he stated. In the March number Dr. M. A. Rosanoff, Professor of Organic Chemistry at Clark University, and Dr. J. A. Rosanoff will describe one by one the experiments made by scientists of international reputation, which show, with the exactness of mathematics, the effects of alcohol on all human activities from the lowest to the highest.

"A PORTRAIT OF LINCOLN"

By T. S. CONANT

Most articles on Lincoln are entirely colored by *ex post facto* evidence. To-day there is only one opinion about Lincoln; it is difficult for us to understand how there could ever have been two.

The painter T. S. Conant was commissioned to go to Springfield after Lincoln's nomination and paint a portrait of him. Mr. Conant first met his sitter full of anti-abolition prejudices; he believed Lincoln to be the vulgarian, the story-telling, whisky-dealing, practical joker his enemies had made him out to be. The story of these sittings and how Mr. Conant came to know the real Lincoln makes a very vivid and vital footnote to history.

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"THE RETURN TO THE WHITE HOUSE"

These are some of the interesting features of George F. Parker's second article:

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a draught. When the plants are large enough transplant them to a box of fine soil, picking them out with the small blade of a pocket knife. Give only morning and evening sun, and water only when the soil seems dry. As the plants grow and begin crowding lift and pot them, using three-inch pots with good drainage. Plants started in the spring will begin to bloom in late summer or early autumn. Plants of *Begonia gracilis* started from seeds in the spring will bloom freely throughout the following winter. Begonia seeds germinate readily, and it is not difficult to get a fine lot of plants for winter-blooming by starting them in this way. The seeds are generally satisfactory in the hands of the ordinary amateur, and their use should be more popular.—*Park's Floral Magazine*.

FEED THE FRUIT TREES

FERTILIZE the orchard in winter. Spread coarse manure or litter underneath, taking care not to get nearer than two or three feet from the trunk. This serves not only as fertilizer, but acts as a mulch. It keeps the ground from severe freezing, also prevents too sudden thawing around the roots—a condition which is likely to start the buds too soon.

Do not be lavish in the use of concentrated stable manure. It is better not to use any hog manure at all. The trees need much potash and phosphorus. Stable manure has these elements in a smaller proportion than some other kinds of fertilizer. Wood ashes are probably the most perfect fertilizer known for fruit trees and plants.—*Farm and Home*.

TREE HYDRANGEAS

WHEN a hardy tree hydrangea fails to grow freely or bloom, and is apparently almost in a dormant state, dig around it, apply well-rotted manure liberally and prune back the branches severely. Some recommend pruning after the method of cutting back grape vines, doing the work early in spring, and leaving only one or two eyes to each branch. By this method a vigorous annual growth is secured, and splendid terminal panicles of bloom. This method is especially recommended where a handsome, dense border is desired, or where a fine low specimen is wanted for lawn or cemetery decoration.—*Park's Floral Guide*.