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McBRIDE, NAST & CO.,

Union Square, North, New York City

Robert M. McBride, President; Conde Nast, Vice-President and Treasurer; Frederick A. Leland, Secretary; John T. Elsrud, Assistant Treasurer. Published monthly. 25 cents per copy; \$3.00 per year. For Foreign Postage, add \$1.00; Canadian, 50 cents. Entered as second-class matter at the Post-office, at New York, under act of March 3, 1879.

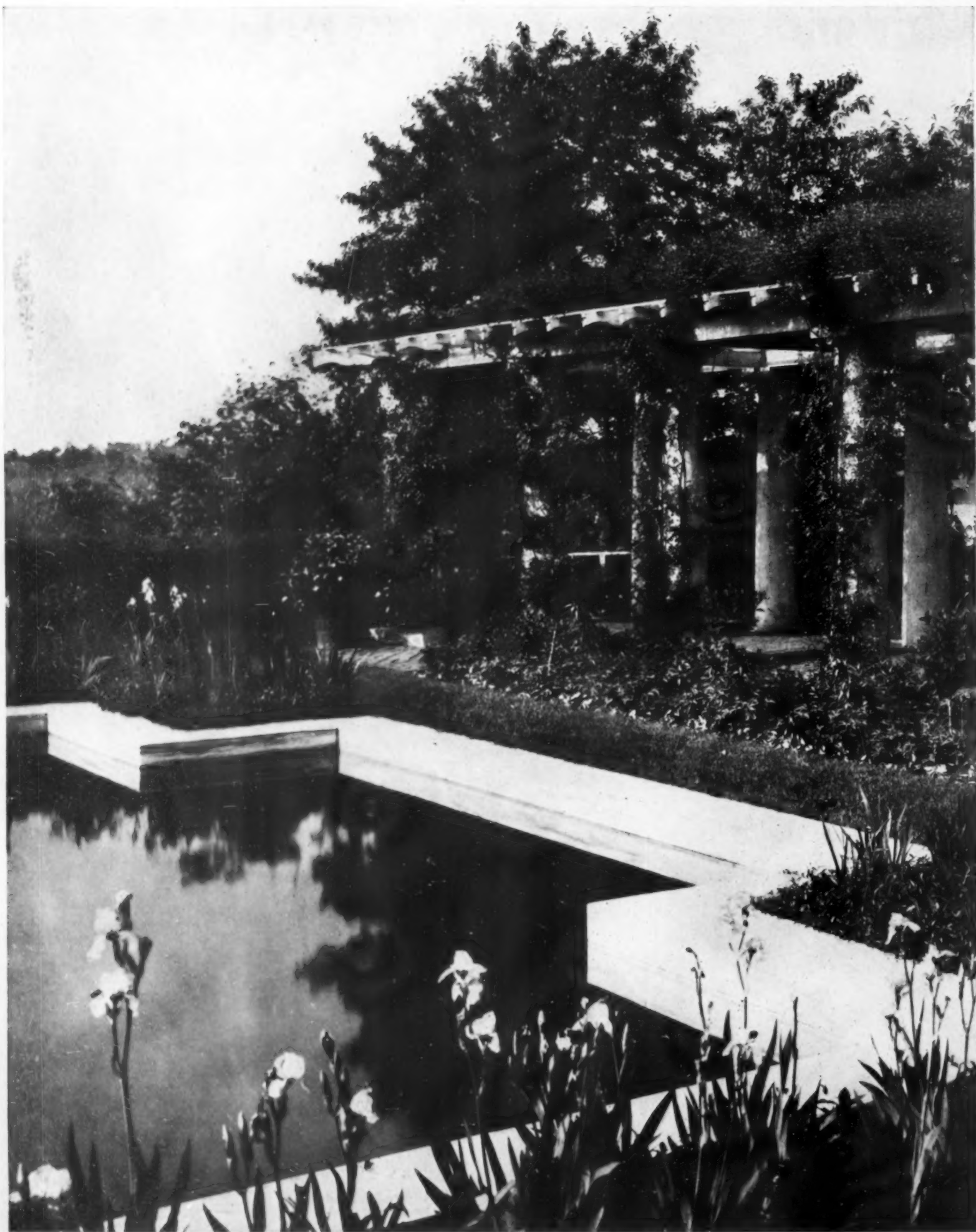
VOLUME XXVI

NUMBER 2

RICHARDSON WRIGHT,
Managing Editor

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The outdoor bathing pool at the country house, while retaining all its practical and pleasurable value, may be made an integral part of the garden's decorative scheme. In this instance the necessary privacy is afforded by the surrounding hedges and shrubbery, while the vine-grown pergola, with its Doric colonnade, produces a fitting classic effect



House & Garden

REGISTERED IN U. S. PATENT OFFICE



VOL. XXVI—No. 2

AUGUST, 1914



Breaking into the Farming Business

FACTS AND FIGURES FROM ONE MAN'S EXPERIENCES THAT KNOCKED THE BOTTOM OUT OF HIS GENTLEMAN-FARMING DREAM BUT LEFT HIM UNDISCOURAGED—IS THE AMATEUR A SURE LOSER?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The other side of the story, however painful, is usually illuminating. Here is the other side of a story. Its genesis is interesting. In HOUSE AND GARDEN was run a series of Back-to-the-Land experiences, against which a subscriber protested. He was a back-to-the-lander, but he had had no staggering luck and he was a good enough sportsman to say so. We challenged him, and he wrote these stories, giving us, without reservation of fact or figure, what came from his efforts. This month he tells of the first year. The second year appears in September. Was his just a case of hard luck?

THE marvelous results, published in many current magazines, of mere amateurs who have gone into the farming business and have made great successes—whereas the farmers who have been in the business all their lives can barely make ends meet—are both interesting and encouraging to those “back-to-the-landers” like myself, who have embarked the frail craft of their savings in a similar enterprise, and are endeavoring to pilot it to the haven of financial success.

The following expense account of an amateur's first year on a farm is not intended to act as a deterrent to others similarly minded, though it may serve to caution those who, with but little capital or experience, think to make a small, worn-out farm self-supporting.

When, after an active life of thirty years, ill-health forced me to give up my profession, I naturally turned my thoughts to farming as an occupation and amusement. I had been brought up on a farm and was somewhat familiar with its enjoyments and its requirements. During my active professional life I had not been able to save a great deal of money, but I was in possession of an income of about \$250 per month, and I had about \$1,500 in cash which I could invest. I had also about \$2,000 invested which I did not wish to disturb, as it was bringing in a fair return. I could live quietly on my income if I wished, but I needed an occupation to interest me and occupy my time, and I wished to increase my income. I was carrying, also, a fair amount of life insurance.

It was natural that, upon looking around for a place in which to settle and take up my occupation of farming, I should expect to find one in the neighborhood of my family home, in one of the Middle States, and I confidently expected to do so; but on taking up the search for a place that would be suitable and agreeable for me and my family, I found very soon that land values in desirable localities were far beyond my means. With a great deal of reluctance, therefore, I was forced to look at a distance from my home neigh-

borhood for my farm. We decided that we should like to be near water, so we investigated locations on the shores of Chesapeake Bay. It was important to have railroad facilities, and that excluded most of the Western Shore. From an atlas I found sections on the Eastern Shore of Maryland that had both railroad connections to Philadelphia and boats to Baltimore, thus giving the advantage of two markets. I wrote to the postmasters of several towns whose locations seemed to comply with the conditions, asking each that he give me the name of a reliable real estate agent in his town. After getting in touch with them, I visited several places and looked at the farms offered for sale by the agents. I did not decide at once, but weighed the matter carefully, comparing the sites, and finally found a small waterfront farm that complied fairly well with my specifications. It was on a large river but a few minutes' walk from the wharf of a steamboat line to Baltimore, and about six miles from a fair-sized city, from which the railroad went to Philadelphia. The



The amateur soon realizes that a great share of farming is preparatory and done in the coldframe

agent offered me twenty acres at \$75 per acre, and I finally agreed to take it.

When it came to making out the papers, the agent, in spite of his verbal agreement, refused to sell me more than fifteen acres at that price, thinking, perhaps, that he could force me to pay more. I refused to do so, however, and purchased the fifteen acres, paying cash for it.

I had spent nearly a year looking around for a suitable place, and during this time we had been living in a rented house, for which we paid \$30 per month. This was 5 per cent on more than \$7,000, so it would seem that we might just as well be paying that much, if necessary, on a mortgage on a house which we could own and be paying for gradually, and we would then have something to show for the money.

For several months I was busily engaged upon plans, which I then took to a competent builder in the town near by and had him make an estimate. I had fixed \$4,500 or \$5,000 as the limit of cost of the house, and as his estimate came to more than this, I was forced to cut down the size of my plans. I finally made a contract with the builder for the erection of the house and for a barn which was to cost a little over a thousand dollars, and a chicken house which would accommodate 100 chickens, and started him at work on them.

I joined a building and loan association, and from it borrowed \$3,500, giving a mortgage on my land and buildings as security. I also borrowed \$2,000 from a bank, giving some of my life insurance policies as security. Before matters had gone very far, I found it necessary to borrow an additional \$1,000 on my stocks, in order to keep things going. It will be seen that these sources provided the means to erect the necessary buildings. The loan from the building and loan association requires payments of about \$50 per month, and will become paid up in about six years.

I purchased my land in October. It had been already seeded in wheat by the tenant, and I agreed to pay him about \$7 per acre for the seed, fertilizer and labor he had expended in seeding it. This appeared a good bargain, for, even if the crop should make only 20 bushels per acre, ten acres should bring in about \$200, and I knew that 20 bushels was considered a small yield.

The farm was a portion of a large farm which had been worked probably since the country was first settled, somewhere in the sixteen-hundreds. It was located about a mile from the barn of the homestead,



Farmer-boy and mechanic, a necessary combination, was successfully solved in the helper

beach land that were not cultivable, and I occupied about two more in putting up the house and barn and in chicken yards, and two acres were devoted to my garden and trucking experiments, so that there was left only about nine acres of the wheat. My general plan in regard to the farm was to try chicken raising and truck farming, raising crops which would bring in a large return per acre, thus making up for the small acreage by intensive methods of culture. I thought that for the first year I would try out two or three crops, such as lima beans, celery and onions, with a view to selecting that one which seemed most profitable and suitable for succeeding years.

Early in April I had about two acres of the wheat plowed up for a garden, and forthwith started a liberal allowance of all that seemed desirable for the home garden. The rows through the wheat, where the shocks of corn had been when the wheat was sown, were still vacant, so I had them plowed and planted in potatoes. I had read somewhere—perhaps in an agricultural college report—that lima beans were a profitable crop, paying sometimes as much as \$1,500 to the acre. That seemed attractive, so I planted enough lima beans to make about a half mile had they been in one row. The poles alone for these, which I had to purchase, cost about \$10. For some of the beans I used ordinary poles, while for others I used wires at top and bottom, on which binder twine was strung for the beans to climb. This system

was quite satisfactory, but it incurred more trouble and expense than the ordinary pole. Quite heavy poles, placed about 30 feet apart, were required to support the wires, which were galvanized and about the size of ordinary telegraph wire. I planted several thousand feet of onion seed, about 150 hills of melons, and set out 1,000 asparagus crowns, and enough asparagus seed to make about one-fourth of an acre. I propose eventually to set out several acres in asparagus, as it is said to pay from \$150 to \$500 per acre. But the



The only crop on the profit side of the ledger, potatoes, did exceed expectations by an encouraging margin the first year

crowns, fertilizer and labor of setting them out make the cost of starting them from \$75 to \$100 per acre, so that I could not put out much the first year. I purchased 200 strawberry plants, and when these made runners in August, I set out from them about 1,000 more, making perhaps one-fifth of an acre of plants.

I may say, right here, that I did not do this work myself, as my health would not permit it. I had engaged at \$28 per month a young man who lived nearby. He did the entire work, assisted at times by an extra man. For a few months I hired a horse and team when necessary, but in August, after looking around carefully, I purchased a steady-going mare for \$200. She was represented as being perfectly satisfactory in all respects, and she was a good driver, though rather slow. The first time I put her to work in a plow, however, she absolutely refused to work. She seemed to be willing to haul a buggy all right, but she was above anything so menial as plowing. She was, in fact, quite a balker, and it was only after slowly training her up to it—or rather down to it—that she became willing to do any heavy work.

In doing all these things I found it necessary to make a great many purchases of tools, etc., which altogether made quite an amount of cash necessary. A buggy, a light wagon, cultivators, spades, shovels, rakes etc., and many other things. A ton of fertilizer cost about \$30. Twenty loads of manure cost \$40. Altogether, in spite of my income of \$250 per month, I found it necessary in June to borrow \$500 more, and later \$200 more to meet the demands of the farm. But I thought that this would be all right later, as I certainly would make enough from the farm to settle up these matters.

My first disappointment came when the wheat was harvested. Early in July I paid a neighbor \$10 for harvesting it for me—a little more than it was worth, perhaps. No sooner was it cut than a heavy rain started, and every day or so for a month it rained, giving the crop no time to dry out for threshing. It began to mold; some of it to sprout. The rats and mice made nests in the shocks, living off it meanwhile, and the birds of the air ate all the wheat from the tops of the shocks. But finally it stopped raining, the shocks were spread out and dried and the threshing machine came, and for about \$4 I had it threshed and put in my bins. It had cost me, altogether, \$81.85, and I received 71 bushels, which at that time were worth



Hay harvesting is labor, hard, wearying labor, as the amateur soon discovers. The helper and an occasional extra man were the solution

about 90 cents per bushel. Early in August, after this rainy spell, I purchased about 3,500 celery plants and set them out, after elaborate preparation of the ground. But the season was adverse. The rains of July seemed to have exhausted the supply of moisture, for it did not rain again to speak of for almost three months after the celery was set out. As every one knows that celery requires plenty of water, the result may be imagined. Every few days for weeks we hauled water by the barrel and

watered those plants, but the labor was too great, and the press of other matters made it impossible to be kept up indefinitely. There was but little growth before October, and by November there were about 1,000 heads left, small and undeveloped. We had all we wanted to use ourselves, but there was little that was fit to sell. Later in the winter I did sell about \$6 worth of the best of it.

My lima beans had taken advantage of the July rains and grown well, but the drought afterwards rather discouraged them. On the whole, however, they produced a fair crop that promised returns. But the harvesting of them I found a difficult matter. Lima beans have to be picked and shelled for market, and are shipped in quart boxes, like strawberries. I discovered that each quart cost me about ten cents for picking and shelling alone. An expert sheller can shell about three pints per hour. The market price, early in the season was about 20 cents per quart, but it soon dropped to 15 cents, then to 12 cents, and a final lot which I shipped to Baltimore returned me but 8 cents per quart. I allowed the remainder to ripen on the vines and picked them dry.

I had a fair crop of melons, but not enough to ship, and I found on inquiry that the best price that I could get in the local market for good-sized melons was a dollar a dozen, with but little demand. I did not sell any, but we had plenty to eat, and I gave away to my neighbors dozens of them which we could not

use. The dry weather was also prejudicial to the development of my onion crop. I got about three bushels, where I should have, with good conditions, harvested at least fifty bushels. By November the majority of them had attained the size of "sets," and they were allowed to remain out all winter in the hope that they would be prepared to make an early start in the spring.

I had heard that sugar beets were excellent for horses, cows and chickens, so I put in a half-
(Continued on page 118)



There is a compensation, but it doesn't go on the books—the stretch of a promising field

Our Eccentric Insect Neighbors

THE SYMPHONY OF FIELD AND WOOD—HOW FOR PRIVATE PERFORMANCES—THEIR HOME—WHAT IS A BUG?

THE MUSICIANS CAN BE ASSEMBLED LIFE AND WHAT THEY LIKE TO EAT

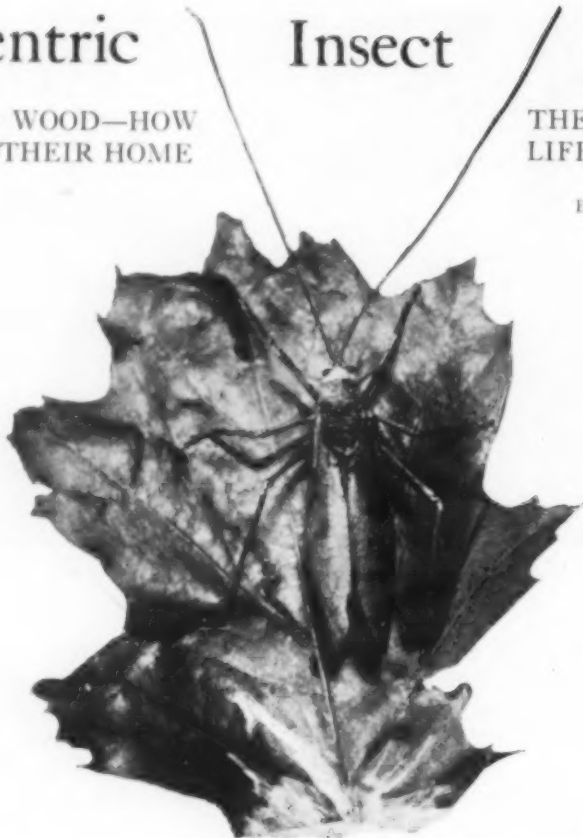
BY RAYMOND L. DITMARS

MID-SUMMER is carnival time in the insect world. How few of us stop to classify the myriad sounds that come from the meadows and tree-top vegetation! Yet what a killing silence would shatter the languor of the summer night if all the insect songsters were to stop abruptly their serenades! How little we know of these innumerable legions that lurk in the grass-jungles! But the smallest fraction of their numbers flit over the fields by day, dance about our lights at night, or show phosphorescent flashes as they fly. At dusk we stop for a moment by the hedge and listen—listen carefully, as if we were studying the technical rendition of a great orchestra. The predominating sound is a loud buzz, but its several cadences show it to come from various individuals—some large, some small. And this barely reduces immediate recognition of a continuous sharp chatter.

These predominating sounds might be called the accompaniment for a sharp and cheery trill, continuous, but its monotony relieved by a broken high treble from another songster. As the ear becomes acute there is another note, precisely imitating the jingling of tiny bells. From this great nocturnal orchestra of tiny folk are many other sounds, but what a shock it is to the popular observer to be told by the scientist that all these insect sounds that come with the night—that have inspired poets to enthusiastic effort—come from members of the order that contains the despised cockroach! Butterflies, beetles and their like are always silent, as are the members of the greater number of insect orders. Thus, at the beginning we find that many pet theories about our insect neighbors may be exploded when we search for facts.

Many eccentric traits about the local insects are little known. It is interesting to learn, for instance, that the large, beautiful moths that flutter about the lamp at night have no mouth parts, and from the time they leave the silken cocoon they necessarily fast until they die; also that the insect's brain is in the breast, or, with some, in the body; that no insect breathes through the mouth, but through a series of apertures on the sides of the body; that no insect sings by means of vocal chords, but all the singing kinds have either hardened edges on the wings, which they scrape together, rub the legs against the wings, or have miniature kettle-drums attached to the body; that spiders are not true insects and are actually headless creatures with a group of four or more eyes upon the back and the mouth in the breast; and, finally, it is interesting to know that the snare-spinning spider, with its ghastly assortment of insect carcasses decorating the web, has deadly and invariably victorious enemies among the insects themselves. Certain species of wasps sting the spiders as they lie in wait for victims, then pluck the benumbed creature from its death-trap and carry it away as food for the wasp larvæ—the narcotized spider to survive and thus remain fresh until devoured by the hatching maggots.

From the standpoint of destructiveness, few of us realize the



The Katy-did sings by scraping together the roughened patches at the base of her wings

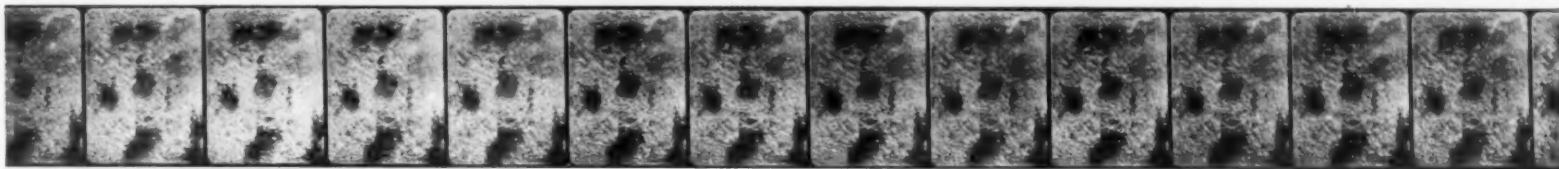
These figures were prepared by experts in the Department of Agriculture.

From the viewpoint of classification, the Class of Insects is divided into a number of orders. The most familiar of these is the *Coleoptera*, containing the beetles; the *Lepidoptera*, embracing the butterflies and moths; the *Neuroptera* with the dragon flies and antlions; the *Hymenoptera*, composed of the ants, bees and wasps; the *Diptera* or flies; the *Orthoptera* or order of grasshoppers, crickets, roaches and the like, and the *Hemiptera*, or true bugs. Thus, from the point of classification, we see that the common term "bug," as applied to all insects, is quite incorrect. A true bug is an insect with a beak that sucks the juices of plants or the blood of animals. It has no mouth parts for chewing, and we might think the order is made up altogether of lowly kinds of insects. This is not the case. Many of the bugs are lowly and unattractive of form, but there are equal numbers that are large and beautifully colored. The seventeen-year locust belongs to the order of true bugs. A few of the bugs—not many of them—are among the loudest of the "singing" insects. These are the cicadas, or harvest flies—improperly called "locusts," and have a pair of miniature kettle-drums mounted on the body. Nearly all the remainder of the singing insects belong to the *Orthoptera*, and among these the true locusts, members of the grasshopper family, predominate in number, together with the crickets. These are near allies of the roaches, walking sticks and our familiar katy-did (really a tree "grass"-hopper).

We should also understand the strange life histories of these creatures. It is a common idea that every insect begins life as a caterpillar or grub, but this is not correct, as members of the different orders have widely different life histories. The moths begin life as caterpillars, eating several times their weight in leaves the day, spin a silken cocoon, shed the caterpillar skin and writhe out of it as a pupa—an object looking much like a withered mummy. Under the hard brown pupa shell many won-

tremendous importance of insect life and the need for constant study to keep in bounds the injurious species and cultivate their enemies. The enemies of the destructive insects are to be found among the legions of insects themselves, among the mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. The common toad is an ever-busy insect destroyer. The United States Government recently made a study of the annual losses to the people of this country by the ravages of destructive insects. The figures are appalling. Some of them appear as follows:

	Annual Loss
Cereals	\$200,000,000
Hay	53,000,000
Cotton	60,000,000
Tobacco	5,300,000
Truck Crops.....	53,000,000
Sugars	5,000,000
Fruits	27,000,000
Farm Forests.....	11,000,000
Miscellaneous Crops.....	5,800,000
Total	\$420,100,000



Twelve rounds of a gruelling bout for the heavy-weight cricket championship. Note the seconds and spectators roaming over the sawdust while the battlers are clenched into the upper ropes

derful changes are taking place. Limbs are growing, delicately feathered antennæ or "feelers" are forming, and a growth of soft and fluffy hair gradually separates the internal body from its shell. During these changes a winter wind may rock the branch on which the cocoon is attached. It is frost-proof and waterproof and so tough that birds do not care to undertake the labor of extricating the tempting morsel within. With the warm sun of the early summer the transformation is hastened and there comes a day when the pupa skin is split and a delicate soft-bodied creature, coated with feathery down, moves about in the cocoon. The shell of the cocoon is so tough that a man's fingers could not tear it; moreover, its inside coating is smooth and polished. How is this delicate creature, with no mouth parts but a thread-like tongue—or it may have no vestiges of mouth parts—to free itself from its prison? It ejects a wonderful fluid that Nature has designed to break down the strength of the silk. The end of the cocoon becomes saturated with this and with dexterous but feeble limbs the weakened silken strands are disintegrated and pushed aside and a wingless fluffy body emerges. Tiny capes hang from the shoulders where the wings should be, and, as we watch them, they droop and enlarge. We wonder whether these crumpled fragments can expand into wings, but in twenty minutes or so wings are unfurled, though they hang limp and useless. A half hour more and they have expanded into full form. They are slowly waved back and forth to dry. Not long after the moth launches the body in flight.



The cocoon of a silk-spinning moth appears unpromising until



—it opens and discloses the pupa and the shed skin of the former caterpillar

The life history of the butterfly parallels that of the moth with the exception of the cocoons. The intermediate or mummy state of the butterfly is called the chrysalis stage, and when the caterpillar is ready for this it attaches the body to a leaf or twig by means of a heavy strand of silk, wriggles off its skin, and the grotesque object resulting stares dumbly at nothing, like the figure-head of a ship, until the perfect insect emerges. The transformation of beetles is somewhat like that of the butterfly. The young dragon fly begins its life in the water as a voracious hunter of small forms of life. Ants, bees, wasps and flies begin life as grubs, but the young members of several insect orders look much like the parents. The infants of the order containing most of the singing insects are quite like the parents except in the absence of wings, which are suddenly uncovered in moulting the skin. This

is also the life history of many species of the true bugs.

The writer has been particularly interested in those species of insects that "sing"; and here is a study that is extremely fascinating, for the different species are hardy, readily maintained as captives, and the student may derive both entertainment and instruction in assembling a varied orchestra. It is possible to collect certain species that sing by day and others that begin their cheery serenades at night. Thus the diurnal orchestra ceases about sundown and the concert for the evening soon begins and with quite different effect in tone and cadence. The very loudest of our singing insects is an exception to the far greater number, as it will not live in captivity. However, the student would probably not care to maintain this species for a pet, as its piercing call is intermittent and deafening. This is the cicade or harvest fly, improperly called the "locust." It produces the loud buzz heard in the tree tops when the sun is at its height in sweltering weather. It is alleged to usher in the "dog-days," and is really a species of true bug, or suctional insect. On each side of this insect's body is a deep pit covered with a membrane—a miniature kettle-drum. The drum head is vibrated by muscles, and at such a rate that

the sound produced by these organs—each of them less than a quarter of an inch in diameter—can be heard a fair fraction of a mile. If an instrument the size of the drum employed by human musicians were to produce proportionately as much noise as that of the cicada, its vibrations would jar stone buildings from their foundations. Among insects these extreme feats of noise and strength are the rule.

If we are to make a collection of singing insects we must look for them among the true locusts (the grasshopper group) and the crickets. The Japanese are very fond of these insects and build beautiful cages for them. These are set upon decorative bamboo tables,

which give rise to an interesting condition. The writer's friend, Dr. Ishakava, of the University of Tokio, explained that the slenderly-built bamboo table is a quite essential part of the outfit. From one of the members of our party came the natural question:

"But why is a light bamboo table so necessary?"

"Because," explained Dr. Ishakava, "the houses in Japan are rather lightly built. Any one walking over a floor at night disturbs the sensitive insects and they stop singing."

"But we do not follow you, doctor."

"It is this way," seriously continued the Japanese scientist.

"We become so accustomed to hearing the chirp of our caged crickets that, if an intruder were to enter the house, the insects would stop singing. Then we would be awakened—by the silence."

What a novel burglar alarm! But we can see the logic of the argument. To prove it is but to travel a few days at sea and have the engines suddenly stop at night.

A collection of singing insects may be started by the middle of June, when the chirp of crickets and hum of the lesser cone-headed locust comes from the meadows. Later we may collect the meadow katy-did and its much finer—"voiced" ally, the greater katy-did, the smaller field crickets and the sweet-singing "tree" cricket—the latter, incidentally, usually found on low bushes. Among these creatures will be heard a variety of sounds from humming and rasping to the really talkative notes of the katy-dids and various trills and jingles among the crickets that are highly pleasing. The feeding menu for them is very simple: corn silk, meadow flowers, oak leaves and sliced apple.

The principal sport in maintaining a collection of singing insects is the stalking and capturing of the specimens. Crickets are easy to find under stones, but the meadow locusts must be hunted with great care. Let us suppose we have decided on a June hunt for cone-headed locusts, an insect that produces a soft and continuous lisping song in the meadows during June, July and August. It looks like a large and flattened grasshopper, with extremely long jumping legs and elongated pointed wings which fold flat against the body. The green coloration gives it the appearance of a pointed leaf or coarse blade of grass. Its cone-like head adds to the deception and it roosts on long-stemmed vegetation. When disturbed the insect runs down the stalk to its base and is almost impossible to detect from a sprouting leaf. We cannot capture these insects by day, for they are keen of sight, and while they begin singing late in the afternoon, their song is intermittent and stops as soon as they note the presence of the hunter. The best time to capture them is at night, when the collector stalks the loudest singers and by approaching within definite investigating distance can accurately locate the insects by bringing into use an electric flash-lamp. The glare of the light usually causes the insect to stop its calls, but it remains motionless upon a branch or leaf and may be grasped with a delicate pair of forceps, provided the movements of the collector's arms are performed outside the rays of light. If the locust has become silent and cannot be detected when the light is thrown upon it, the collector simply switches off the lamp and remains quiet. In a few minutes the creature continues its song, when its exact location is again determined. Working in this manner the capture of the larger singing insects is a comparatively simple matter, and one soon becomes skilled in the sport. What the hunter should first look for is not the insect's body, which in color exactly matches the surrounding vegeta-

tion, but the long, waving antennæ. These may soon be detected by an eye becoming trained in the work, while the outlines of the leaf-green body are extremely hard to see unless the insect is moving. In this way the night songsters of a big meadow are collected one by one and the collector leaves behind him a silent field that a few hours before resounded with the stridulations of the locust chorus.

Right here let us understand an important fact about these singers. All of them are males. Among the insects the females are always silent, and in greatly inferior numbers listen to the gay serenade coming from all sides. In vain the chanting Lotharios continue their calls, usually for weeks, until with the mating period the few females condescend to issue forth and display their charms upon the pollen-soft platforms of the wild carrot blossoms.

To search for the elusive and talkative katy-did—that is, the larger and arboreal species—requires considerable skill and ingenuity. This is the prize of all the singers and a really beautiful creature in its leaf-green garment of concave wings. Like all of the local singers possible to keep under observation, its song is produced by hard and brittle patches at the base of the wings. By rubbing the edges of these together—scraping them, in fact—an amazing volume of sound is produced. It matures about the middle of August and sings until the leaves commence to show touches of autumn color. As this is a tree-top songster, it is necessary to find country where the trees are

low. The writer hunted his first specimens in an automobile provided with a swivel searchlight, but the tree-climbing expedition was found to be far more difficult than stalking in the open meadows, because, in the former, the swaying of the branches caused the insects to stop singing before the investigator could get near enough to discover their exact whereabouts. Finally, in the hills of Westchester County, we found a grove of young trees, all of which could be easily climbed. When the collector went up the tree the vibration caused the insects to stop singing, but he roosted among the branches, and, armed with the flash-lamp, the wait was not long before the chorus again started. Determining the branch on which the singer stood, this was shaken while a sheet was held open beneath the tree. "Considerable trouble for a few katy-dids!" says the reader. But what fun we had with those vociferous creatures! They sang until frost, and so demonstrative was the chorus that a parrot in a nearby residence learned the song and favored us with this the greater part of the day—then enthusiastically helped the insects themselves when they commenced to chatter at twilight. As a captive, the katy-did subsists solely upon oak leaves. The oak is its favorite food tree.

There is real fun in maintaining a cricket cage. Crickets may be collected at any time of the day under flat stones in grassy meadows, where they may be heard singing. The females may be recognized by the smooth, straight wings

(Continued on page 113)

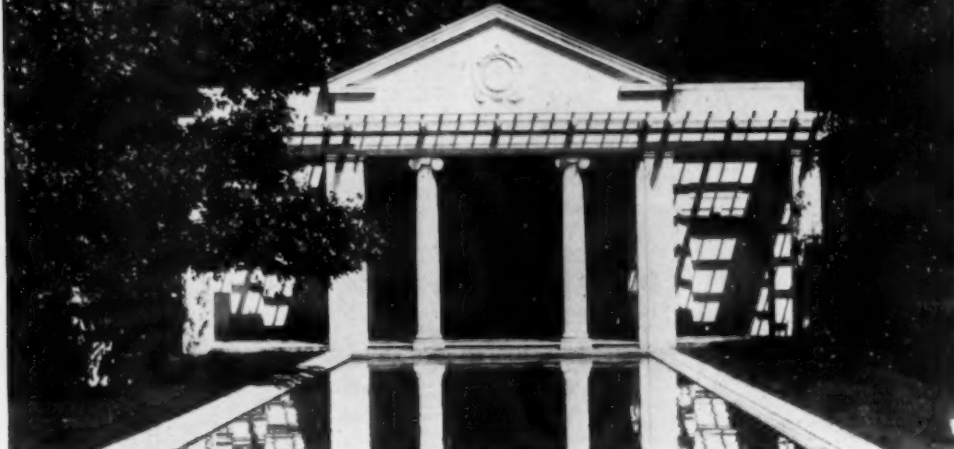


The seventeen-year locust, a true bug, lives underground for seventeen years as a wingless nymph



Despite its murderous reputation and appearances, the spider has deadly enemies among the insects themselves

THE BATHING POOL *at the* COUNTRY HOUSE



The pool on the Slade Estate, Mt. Kisco, New York

ITS INCREASING POPULARITY AN INCENTIVE FOR COUNTRY LIVING—POOLS OF MODERATE COST AND SIMPLE CONSTRUCTION—PRIVACY AND THE SETTING

BY ROBERT H. VAN COURT

EACH year brings a quickening of the love for country living, a constantly increasing interest in the many forms of activity the country makes possible. Pastimes upon land may be enjoyed almost anywhere; the delights of the air may be found as readily in one place as in another, but water sports are not always possible in the majority of localities.

A bathing pool may bring, to those who have not the beach with its sand and surf, much of the pleasure of open-air bathing. There are countless districts, though far remote from a water-course, where such bathing is possible, where a swimming pool upon the grounds of a suburban house or in the country would do much towards supplying the delights generally supposed to be had only at the seashore or on the edge of some spring-fed lake. After all, such a pool is only the revival, or rather the adaptation to modern conditions, of an exceedingly ancient device, for the bathing pool or *impluvium* was one of the chief features of the Roman villa. Excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum have uncovered many an old residence equipped with such a pool for swimming; and not infrequently several of them, doubtless, intended for the servants and slaves, while the other was the gorgeously fitted bath of the master and his family. The Romans spared no pains in the sumptuous decoration of these pools and their surroundings: they were enclosed within walls or set in courts of their own amid flowers and trees: beauty was never denied so utilitarian a thing as a bath!

While the revival of the bathing pool may be said to have but recently attained wide popularity, a considerable number of modern pools already exists in great variety, and in forms that range from the exceedingly simple to the magnificently ornate. Present-day pools are frequently built not only within courts, and thus amid surroundings resembling closely the pools of antiquity, but also in the open air, as more in keeping with the lusty outdoor spirit that animates our newer civilization. Many, arranged

for use throughout the year, are placed within buildings that may be thrown more or less open during the summer, either by the removal of a glass roof, by the opening of windows, or the removal of glass panels within surrounding arches.

A bathing pool when built out of doors is often placed upon a somewhat retired part of the estate. Where the desired privacy does not already exist, it can often be created by growing tall hedges or shrubbery or by using trellises or other forms of lattice work upon which vines may be trained to serve as a screen. There are instances, however, where a pool may prove a useful adjunct to landscape gardening, and highly decorative it may be made with its surface of clear, fresh water reflecting the trees or buildings nearby. Where the buildings are of the low and broad Italian type, the placing of the bathing pool upon or below a terrace or within a formal garden may help toward bringing the structures and their surroundings into complete harmony.

The sizes of bathing pools naturally vary with conditions. A pool, to be really useful, should be as spacious as circumstances will permit, and only rarely should it be less than fifty feet long by twenty or twenty-five feet in width. The depth might vary from three feet at one end to ten or twelve at the other, for such a pool will be intended, doubtless, for the use of the entire family: the shallow water is quite as attractive to the juniors of the family as the greater depth, where diving is possible, to the older.

The materials of which bathing pools may be built vary even as much as the sizes the pools assume. Possibly the simplest method of building is to line the excavation with brick, upon which may be applied one of the many varieties of water-proof cement that present a smooth, hard surface. Concrete has been used in certain instances, and this, through its greater strength, adds yet another advantage to the pool; for when this construction



The position may alone be of sufficient interest, as in this instance, where in severe lines is mirrored the approach to the formal house

is employed, the pool may be filled at the beginning of winter and allowed to freeze, thus forming a private skating rink. The latest and most approved form of building involves the use of a specially prepared tiling with a surface glazed and absolutely non-porous. Such tiles are imbedded in waterproof cement placed against a lining of brick, with several layers or thicknesses of canvas or burlap between the brick and the cement.

This particular method of construction calls for the use of a narrow gutter of sections of glazed terra cotta, which extends around the pool. It is sufficiently inclined to carry off into drains the water that may fall into it. Bathing pools built in this fashion are usually provided with a water system by which the supply is continually forced into them. This constant pressure causes an equally constant overflow into the gutters at the edge of the pool, and, as the particles of dust or other impurities that fall into the water rise to the surface, where the water is readily affected by the current, they are quickly drained away.

With water supplied in this manner, the contents of the pool are being continually renewed, and thus is solved the difficulty so often experienced of keeping the water fresh and clear and in a condition which renders it attractive to bathers. In instances where pools are built within doors, or partly within doors and enclosed for winter use, the water is first filtered, then heated, and even then sometimes sterilized, before being forced into the pool. About the edges of the pool thus enclosed a floor of stone or concrete often extends, and, if these floors be slightly inclined toward the pool, water used in cleansing them will also be carried away by the tiny gutter at the pool's edge.

The little gutter also serves as a life rail that may prove a very present help to the chilled or spent bather. The best of life rails is afforded by such a rim of glazed earthenware precisely at the surface of the water. It is vastly supe-

rior to guards of rope, against which many objections may be urged, and is preferable to the life rail formed of horizontal lengths of metal placed at a distance above the water, for these, projecting as they do from the wall of the pool, are often in the way when entering or leaving the water, and are even sometimes the cause of serious accident to bathers who may chance to come to the surface directly beneath the projecting guards.

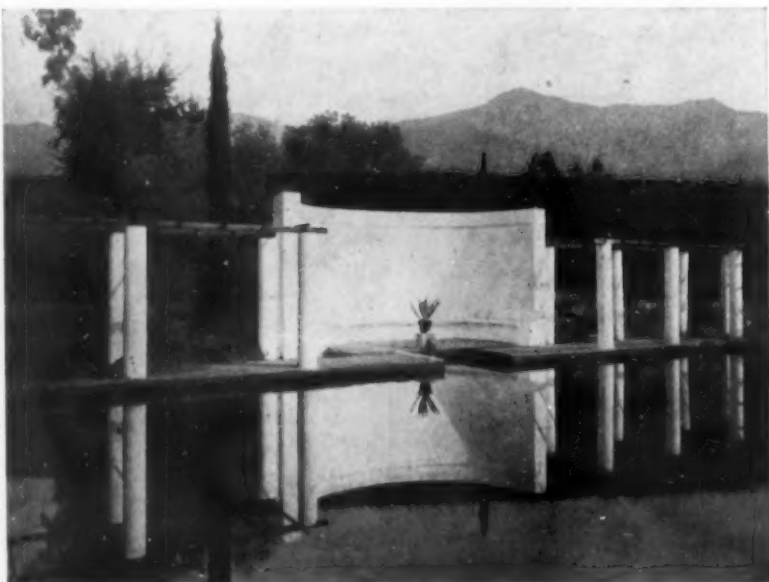
The important details which affect materially the success of a home bathing pool have to do with the source of water supply and the method of keeping that water fresh and clear. The most attractive of water supplies would be a country brook or small stream, and it might be quite possible to connect the bathing pool with such a brook by means of pipes that would divert part of its waters at the times when the pool is to be refilled. A source of water supply to be really helpful, however, must be reliable. Unfortunately, country brooks, though highly romantic, have a tendency either to dry up or else run very low at just the season when a bathing pool would be most used and therefore in need of frequent renewal of its water. A far more reliable source of supply would be the prosaic water works

with which most country estates are equipped, or the public water works which often exist even in rural localities.

Unless the pool be built in such a way that the water is continually renewed, it will be necessary to empty it occasionally for a thorough cleansing of walls and floor. A drain for this purpose must naturally be at the end of the pool where the depth is the greatest. Since drainage connections are vitally important, it were well to bear this in mind. The value of a non-porous material for lining a pool will be readily understood when cleansing the interior. The most vigorous scouring may be necessary at, or just above, the water line, but the cleans-



Again, there are the pools, as does this at Red Bank, N. J., that lend themselves to formal elaborate settings



The classical setting in this California pool, while severe of line, fits its environments. It also has horticultural possibilities

ing will not be difficult if, by the use of a non-porous substance, the impurities of the water have not penetrated beneath the surface. Those beautiful bathing pools of the ancients, fair indeed to look upon, could scarcely fulfill present-day demands for cleanliness; their walls and floors were marble, which, being more or less porous, eventually became clogged with all manner of impurities from the water that no amount of scouring could possibly remove. Better by far, though perhaps less picturesque, is our modern earthenware covered by a glaze through which moisture cannot penetrate.

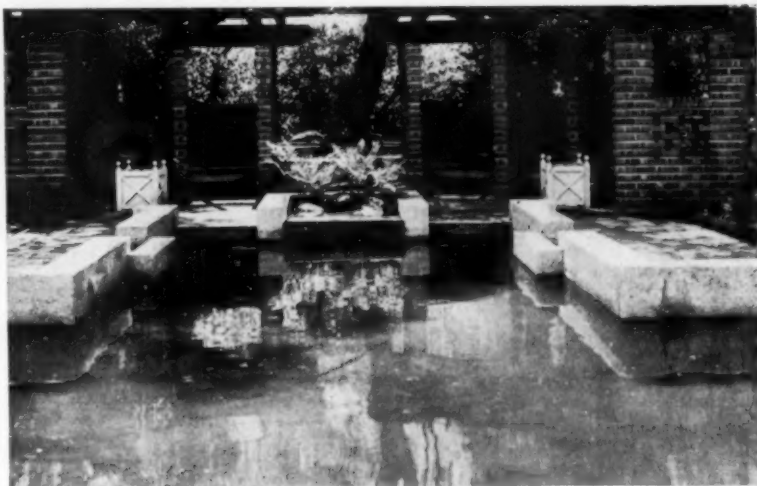
The decorative effect of a bathing pool depends almost wholly upon its architectural treatment or upon the accessories with which it is surrounded. By placing a pool upon a terrace or within a garden, marble balustrades, pergolas, or flights of stone steps may be made attractive details of its surroundings; or, if the pool be in a spot retired and remote, it may be set in a narrow strip of green lawn enclosed by a tall clipped hedge.

Unless the pool be very close to the residence, it will be necessary to provide a shelter where bathers may disrobe and dress, and upon the treatment of this shelter will depend much of the pool's decorative effect. It may, to be in complete accord with its surroundings, be built of rustic work and lined with birch bark; of shingles, brick, stone or any other material desired. The shelters attached to elaborate pools are often provided with shower baths and every other device which ingenuity can suggest, but these details are by no means necessary, nor are they always desirable.

The furnishings of the pool are few and simple. There should be a spring board at one end, from which the bather may dive. A tiny canoe is sometimes a help to the bathers, and always heaps of fun. A few rugs may be spread before the shelter, and, above, might be stretched an awning against direct sunlight. But these are mere details that sel-



Greater far than its decoration is the sheer sport the pool affords: swimming in summer; in winter, skating



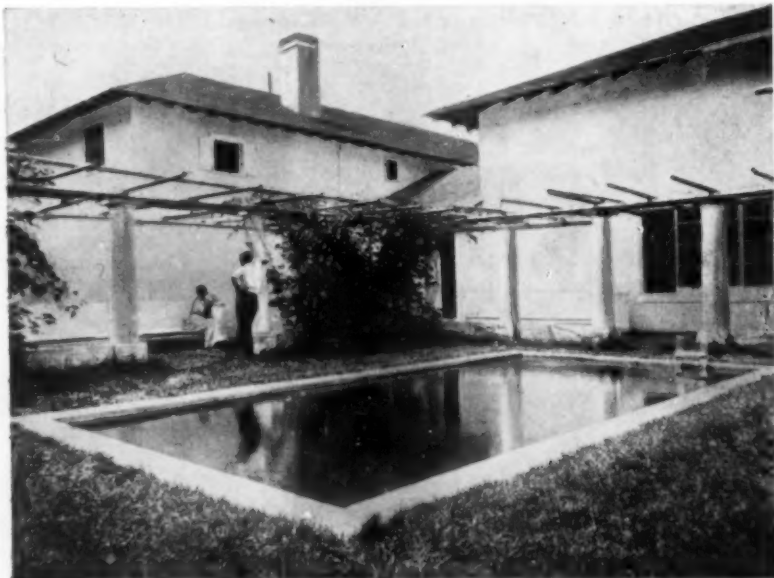
The exterior of the shelter is the key to the pool's decorative effect. Interior development of detail can be *ad lib*

dom affect the pleasure of those to whom the pool belongs. The furnishing is by no means an invariable index to the enjoyment the pool provides.

The cost may naturally be just what one elects to spend. Saving rare instances, it would hardly be that of even a simple motor car, while the pleasure which its possession will afford might easily be as great. Moreover, the cost of a motor's upkeep is considerable, and within a year or two it must be discarded for a new machine; whereas the upkeep of any but the most elaborate bathing pool need be scarcely anything. As there are no changes of style in swimming pools, and consequently no new model annually, a pool once constructed may be used practically forever.

For variety's sake, however, it were advisable to make occasional changes in the immediate surroundings of the pool, such as rearrangements of the plants round its edge or the assuring of a sequence of bloom. The varieties of iris, fern and hydrangeas, and the other plants requiring abundant moisture, are especially adaptable to the position. For the informal pool they are unexcelled. Should the pool be formal, clipped box trees may be set at intervals along the edge. One rule, however, should always be observed: a sufficiently broad path should be left around the edge so that the bather will have easy access to the water on all sides.

One who has gone, during the first fresh hours of a summer's morning, into a cool green enclosure screened by a tall hedge, and there dived into ten or twelve feet of crystal water, will hardly wonder that the bathing pool has once more come into its own. And then, when the bathing is over and there comes the thrill and glow in its wake, he will understand why pools are being built upon estates both large and small all over the land. For every man still thinks with pleasure and a sense of longing, of those joyful swimmin' hole days of his youth; and to every living creature Beauty makes her everlasting appeal.



Nor is the pool alone the hobby of the rich man. Here is a modest, serviceable pool, simple in construction and of moderate cost



Homes that Architects Have Built for Themselves

"WYCHWOOD," THE HOME OF JAMES C. HOPKINS AT DOVER, MASS., A REMARKABLE INSTANCE WHERE A HOUSE AND GARDEN GREW TOGETHER

BY HAROLD DONALDSON EBERLEIN

MOST folk simply inhabit houses. A far smaller number, by comparison, live in homes.

There is a vast difference, when one really comes to think of it, between a house and a home. The distinction is by no means an idle splitting of hairs without actual basis. A house may be any sort of dwelling from a mud hut to a marble palace. It, also, may be a home. But here is the distinction. The mere fabric of an abode is a house. It is purely impersonal and devoid of sentiment. A home is a house and something more besides. It is a house plus the accessories of comfort, convenience and good taste that only intelligent and sympathetic human occupancy can invest it with, and, above all, it is instinct with expression of the personality of those that dwell in it.

The house and garden now before us—they are so inseparably connected that it is quite impossible to speak of one without the other—belong to the second category and well exemplify the investment with that atmosphere of human personality which unmistakably stamps the home and imparts an individual character. Through their own abodes architects are, or should be, our exemplars in making homes as well as our guides in building houses. Because "Wychwood" is distinctly successful in both respects, it is worth examining closely to see how the architect-

owner has succeeded in accomplishing this dual desideratum.

The site in large measure suggested the house. At the edge of a strip of thick woodland the ground fell away with a gentle slope to the south and southwest. From this spot at the wood's margin there was a long view to the northeast over open fields, stone walls and rolling hills. To the southwest, the eye commanded a still more distant view over undulating country where farms, interspersed with woodland, gave the landscape varied interest. Down the slope to the south, the prospect was agreeably bounded about a quarter of a mile away by a picturesque white farmhouse overshadowed by elms. An old apple orchard stretched off in the rear.

The woodland provided protection on the northwest and north and broke the violence of the winter's winds. The sunny slope to the south and southwest was the very place for a garden. The extended outlook in several directions suggested the exposure for the rooms that were to be most occupied. Upon analysis of the site, two points strongly suggested themselves—the house to be built should nestle at the verge of the wood, projecting far enough to command an unimpeded view from the windows of its chief rooms, and, in the second place, it should be architecturally informal. The illustrations show plainly enough how these

salient features were realized with complete satisfaction.

There was just one obstacle to placing the house where it now stands, but it was successfully overcome and no one would ever know of its existence unless actually told of it. That obstacle was a deep, bowl-like depression at the spot now covered by the forepart of the house and the grass terrace. The fill from some grading that had to be done in other places, however, supplied the need, and the present aspect would never indicate that former existence of any troublesome irregularity of level.

If a house is to be practical and comfortably livable, its designing must begin with the interior plan and a satisfactory meeting of prosaic, utilitarian requirements and work thence to the outside. The aspect presented by the exterior may or may not have pictorial grace and value, but it must depend upon and express the interior plan, if the architecture is honest and true and not merely whimsical, and hence its consideration comes second. It will be most logical, therefore, to begin the inspection of "Wychwood" with the ground floor plan and see how the exterior grew from it as an integral part.

First and foremost among the demands for the new house, one might indeed call it the chief feature, was a big, comfortable living-room with plenty of windows and sunlight. The floor plan shows how this important requirement was met by an apartment extending the entire width of the building with a great fireplace and two windows on the west, three French windows opening upon the piazza on the south and a generous bow window on the east where the morning sun floods through. Every exposure that could possibly be desired has been secured.

The arrangement of the ample "ingrowing" entrance porch, paved with red quarry tiles; the disposition of a lower hall or vestibule between a capacious coat closet on one side and a lavatory, tucked snugly under the stairs, on the other; the wide hall, raised two paces to the level of the living and dining rooms, with a wide French window, directly in line with the house door, opening on a little embowered porch, all commend themselves on the score of comfort, convenience and generally attractive

appearance, also making the first floor desirably informal.

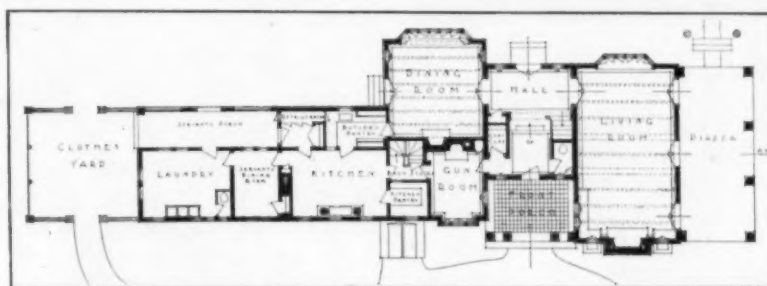
The dining-room, with its wide eastern bow window opposite the fireplace, is quite as cheerful and engaging as the living-room. Unless there be a special breakfast room, a dining-room with plenty of eastern window space is particularly desirable on psychological grounds. There is nothing like morning sunshine for dispelling matutinal megrims and grouches if any member of a family is unfortunate enough to be subject to such disorders. In a country house, where one or more persons take a wholesome interest in out-of-door sports, a gun-room or some similar place is almost indispensable, and the gun-room provided on the floor plan of "Wychwood," with lockers and settles running around all four sides, is excellently contrived for the proper and accessible stowage of all manner of sporting accessories.

A careful and competent housewife, on examining the plans of the service end of the house, cannot but be pleased with the spacious provision made for the kitchen, kitchen pantry, butler's pantry, servants' dining-room, laundry, refrigerator and servants' porch.

It will be noticed that the sinks in both the kitchen and butler's pantry are properly placed before windows, to secure abundance of light. The plans also indicate an outside cellar door which is a feature to be grateful for in any house, whether in town or country.

Although the piazza, opening from the living-room and directly overlooking the grass terrace and the flower garden,

has been left until last, it is by no means the least important part of the house. In point of fact, it is really an extension of the living room. In summer it is entirely open, so that the prevailing breeze can circulate freely, and in winter, thanks to its substantial structure, it can be wholly glassed in, and then becomes in effect a sun parlor on some part of which the sun plays from sun-up to sundown. Heating attachments are installed, so that in the bitterest cold of winter it is easy to maintain a comfortable temperature. As piazza and living-room floors are on the same level, the French windows, always open, maintain the unity of both apartments. The welcome greenery of indoor plants and a miniature fishpool add their charm when the piazza is closed in



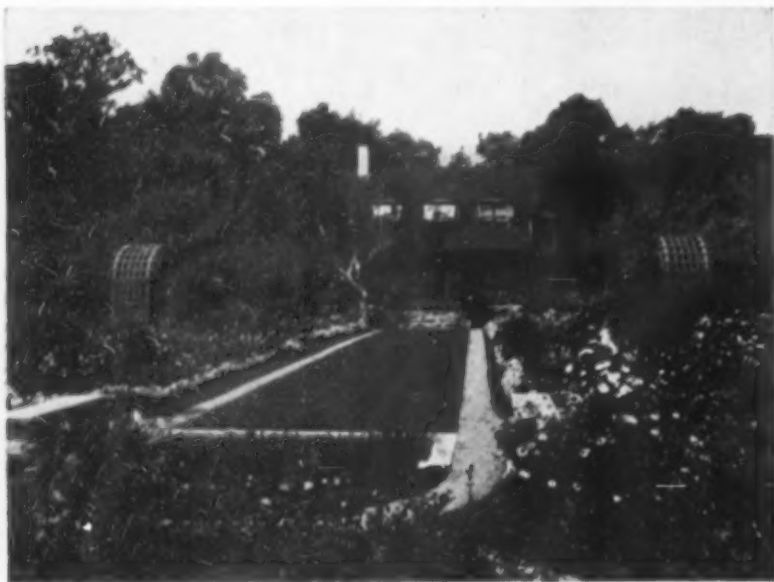
In a large measure, the site suggested the house, although the full-width living-room and the gun room are characteristic of the architect



Windows to three exposures flood the living-room with light. A broad fireplace harmonizes with the low-beamed ceiling



The garden lies off the piazza terrace along the axis of the house, a summer extension of the living-room



Edged with gravel paths and wide borders of hardy blooms, the *tapis vert* forms the chief grace of outdoors "Wychwood"

for the winter season and assumes the rôle of sun-parlor.

All the finishings of "Wychwood" are exceedingly simple and sensible. The living-room is paneled from floor to ceiling with North Carolina pine sheathing, first stained and then put in place so that any subsequent shrinkage of the wood will not leave an unsightly mark where no stain has penetrated. This paneling, though inexpensive and severely plain, is highly effective and pleasing and affords a satisfactory demonstration of one of the many available but little used paneling resources of moderate cost. The ceiling is beamed and the spaces between the beams filled with light-hued plaster.

The same North Carolina sheathing has been used for paneling elsewhere in the house, but in the hallway and dining-room it has been painted white instead of ammonia-stained, a coat of orange shellac being first applied to prevent the resin from working through and discoloring the paint. The floors of the same North Carolina stock have been given a pleasant color by applying a coat of the ammonia stain used on the paneling of the living-room.

In general exterior aspect "Wychwood" is unpretentious but comfortable and inviting. Its appearance, from whatever point one views, bespeaks the home. Not the least telling of its characteristics that make for ease, hospitality and confidence of mien is the fact that it sits down on the ground. The tiled entrance porch is almost at the drive level, the long piazza is scarcely raised from the lawn and a close inspection all round the house will disclose no raw foundations nor inquisitive cellar windows popping their heads above ground.

There is scarcely anything that will make a house appear more gauche and awkward than to be perched up on high foundations with a course of ugly cellar windows staring like a man-o'-war's portholes. In such sorry predicament it is about as graceful as a growing lad who has rapidly become too tall for his breeches. At "Wychwood" the cellar windows open into wells or areaways of sufficient size to admit plenty of light and air, and in this manner the house is kept close to the ground. The placing of cellar windows seems a small matter to require so much attention, but the space devoted to it is justified by the frequent offenses against both good taste and common sense in this respect.

The house, standing somewhat back in the trees so that the rear portion is almost wholly hid from view, does not give one the impression of its real extent. The neutral gray of the walls also contributes to the inconspicuous aspect while the broad ex-

pense of roof, sweeping down to the eaves of the piazza, tones in with the thick surrounding foliage and bears out the feeling of a one-story structure when viewed from the garden front. It is a pleasant surprise to find, upon entering, how spacious the interior really is, and the way it gradually unfolds gives the agreeably mysterious sensation that there is some unexplored part still in reserve. The walls are of timber coated with concrete laid on wire mesh, and the exterior woodwork is painted green, though not too dark, as is often the case.

The open arrangement of the house inside, combined with its sheltered and well shaded position and its exposure, makes it peculiarly comfortable and cool in summer. The southwest breezes can have a free passage right through the rooms and halls and, when the house door and the long window opposite it are opened, the circulation is complete. The same conditions of shelter and exposure also render it snug and warm in winter.

But the chief grace and charm of "Wychwood" lies in its garden. From the terrace one descends a flight of steps of fitted boulders to a broad *tapis vert*, edged with gravel paths, that extends all the way to the lily pool at the farther end. On either side of the *tapis vert*, and its flanking gravel walks, are wide borders filled with masses of hardy blooms. Behind these, again, are other gravel paths, while the whole garden is enclosed by hedges.

The entire scheme, as the plan indicates, is marked by extreme simplicity, but is immensely effective. There is no attempt at any architectural embellishments save the kerb of the lily pool, the stone benches on each side of it, the two little wooden arbors midway the area, and, above the terrace, the pergola abutting on the piazza.

Masses of poppies, larkspur, phlox and other bright-hued blossoms yield varied and striking color notes, while less showy plants, most of them hardy and requiring but a minimum of attention, in their humble way enrich the chromatic harmony. "But why," the reader asks, "is the apple tree at the upper corner of the steps out of axis with everything?" That old, gnarled apple tree is one of the chief joys of the garden, and by its very position gives piquancy to the whole effect.

Master and mistress have labored to keep that tree alive and in good health, and between it and the bird bath in the middle of the *tapis vert* there is a close connection. The birds like one as well as the other, and make constant use of both. Indeed, the

(Continued on page 110)



Hard by the lily pond at the farther end, a gnarled tree strives to outtwist its fellow up near the house

Growing Ill Weeds as Good Vegetables

HOW BY CULTIVATING THE WILDERNESS SIDE OF THE GARDEN ONE CAN SAVE ON THE PURSE AND ADD TO THE MENU—MILKWEED SUBSTITUTED FOR ASPARAGUS, YARROW AS SALAD, DOCK AS SPINACH—A REPETITION OF THE TOMATO'S RISE FROM NOXIOUS WEED-DOM

BY MARY HAMILTON TALBOTT



Roots of golden thistle cook up to taste not unlike salsify

IT seems only the other day that the French alone ate frogs' legs, mushrooms, and tomatoes—"love apples," as the last were called in England and America, grown like flowers for purposes of ornamentation, but thought to be poisonous, and hence scrupulously avoided as a food—now market staples, so why should we not expect soon to be eating what we now consider weeds, especially as Uncle Sam is recommending them?

"What we call weeds are no more so than other plants that we term vegetables," one of the experts of that bureau says. "Weeds are vegetables, and our so-called vegetables were once upon a time no more than weeds. The classification results from a matter of habit. We are slaves of habit, and because we are so it has not occurred to us that we could eat anything but just the old list of vegetables our ancestors have eaten for generations. But now we are beginning to peer into fence corners and back yards and wild pastures for new and wonderful foodstuffs that we have heretofore regarded as just weeds. It is a bit mortifying that because of this preconceived idea we have let most nutritious foodstuffs go to waste under our very eyes."

Perhaps one of the most delicious vegetables known is milkweed. Rich in nutritious food values and with a flavor like asparagus, it could readily be substituted for this always expensive vegetable. In England it is now being cultivated in gardens where the stalks grow to prodigious size from fertilizing, and the large, thick leaves are marvelously tender. It is cooked like asparagus and served with drawn butter. The tender tips of the leaves of this weed make a salad with a taste so unlike anything now used for this purpose that those seeking new sensations will enjoy it. After the middle of June the

wild milkweed becomes too tough and is not good in flavor after the blossoms appear, but when cultivated it is good until fall. It is very easy to raise. Like peas the brown seeds—so familiar to us all in the late summer—should be sown in rows, at intervals, and the tender shoots will be available all summer.

Another weed which resembles asparagus in looks and taste is the poke shoot or pigeonberry weed. These shoots are often found in our markets among the country folks who crowd about the outside of the market house. They should be cooked and served the same as asparagus; on toast with melted butter or drawn-butter sauce. They should not be used after the leaves begin to uncurl. In foreign countries tender blackberry shoots and the tender sprouts of brakes or other ferns are used the same way, especially in Japan. The first shoots of the strawberry, or bellwort, are a good substitute for asparagus, and the roots of this plant when boiled are very good.

The wild yellow dock, whose long and curly leaf distinguishes it from the short, thick-leaved dock, which is not edible, is one of the most troublesome of weeds, something to be rooted up and destroyed, and yet this vegetable outlaw is one of the most nutritious of food staples. The tender leaves when well cooked and daintily served are far superior to either kale or spinach. A spicy flavor that is most tempting will be added to them if the crisp and tender leaves of the common horse-radish, which grows in every country garden, is cooked with the dock. Cold cooked dock makes a splendid salad when served with either mayonnaise or French dressing, its slight bitterness being very palatable.

In England, where the dandelion is comparatively uncommon, it is raised carefully in gardens as a potherb and salad-plant, and yet in this



The young shoots of common yarrow put tang into a salad



Though looked upon as an outlaw, the yellow dock is superior to spinach or kale

country it is looked upon as a most undesirable weed by those whose lawns and meadows are overrun with it. It should be gathered very young, if it is to be used as a salad, but the leaves and roots may be gathered for cooking when the plant is quite large and spreading. The flowers are used as well as the leaves, both for cooking and raw salad. When just blossomed out they are tender and deliciously flavored. For a salad they should be pulled apart and scattered over the young leaves and served with a dressing of mayonnaise and a garnish of hard-boiled eggs. Any of the recipes that are suitable for cooking spinach can be used for this weed-vegetable. Some American market gardeners are following the example of the English and planting dandelions as a spring crop for market. In order to have successive crops through the summer the plants are not allowed to bloom, so that the roots continue sending up successive rounds of leaves until frost nips them.

A familiar weed which has been promoted to the ranks of edible vegetables is the common leek. It has an agreeable flavor as well as wholesome properties, and is used very much as onions and chives in soups, salads and in combination with other vegetables. Both the leaves and bulbs are used. And the cook who wishes to give zest to a dish and has neither onion nor leek at hand may go into the field and gather some wild garlic leaves and use them as a substitute.

No French garden is complete without a plot of sorrel or sour grass, but the American housewife need only look in the fence corners or on the front lawn and have all she can use. Besides making a most delicious salad, either alone or combined with other greens—if a little too sour by itself, leave the vinegar or lemon out of the dressing—it makes most delicious soup or purée, adds zest and flavor to vegetable stews, and furnishes a particularly fitting accompaniment to tongue, liver, cutlets or lamb. A dish found in many German families is made by chopping two quarts of sorrel, a head of lettuce, half a bunch of chevril and a sprig of parsley together and heating in a stewpan until the vegetables wilt, then season with butter, salt, pepper, and thicken with the yolks of two eggs beaten with half a cupful of cream and set in the oven to finish cooking.

The wild pepper-grass is looked upon by the farmer as a most troublesome weed, but it can be used in place of lettuce or watercress, and it contains just enough mustard flavor to be agreeable without the irritating effect of the ground mustard. It makes a savory addition to meat sandwiches. To most people it is known as wild mustard and often whole fields are seen yellow with its beautiful flower.

The common mallow has proved upon experiment to be a most valuable vegetable. It grows in profusion in almost every back yard, and is known to children by the name of "cheeses" because its little pulpy seed-containers have a cheese flavor. It can be eaten either cooked or as a salad. As the latter it is perhaps more palatable, the flavor being mild and mellow like that of lettuce, and it is more tasteless when cooked. The leaves are rich in nutrition, for the roots strike deep into the soil and therefore gather the most valuable mineral elements into the leaves, which are tender and crisp. They are excellent as a foundation for

the various kinds of simple vegetable and fruit salads.

A new and delicious salad can be made from the tender leaves of red clover and some of the blossoms, which should be pulled asunder and only the colored part used. It is particularly nutritious, as the clover is one of the richest of all nitrogenous plants, and nitrogen is one of the most strengthening elements, especially when taken into the system unfired. The leaves are strongly peppery, but the flavor of the flower is most delicate.

Wayside cress or shepherd's purse is found along the wayside, and the green seeds it furnishes, if strewn over tomatoes or lettuce, add much piquancy to the salad.

Lamb's quarter, a weed common to both America and Europe, is always found in waste places where the ground is rich and moist and is a most nourishing vegetable. When cultivated in the garden it grows very large stems and succulent leaves. It may be cooked like spinach and other greens, and makes a novel salad if chopped after being boiled, pressed into small cups to mold, and when cold served with mayonnaise or French dressing.

Common yarrow, sometimes called carpenters' grass, milfoil and old man's pepper, is now used as a most wholesome salad plant. Eaten as a salad in the spring it not only serves as a very delicious and novel flavored dish, but as a tonic and stimulant as well. Only the very young and very tender first shoots should be used, for it becomes bitter when matured. It is well to mix the leaves with other green salad leaves, as it is so strong.

In many foreign countries grapevine leaves, either wild or cultivated, are used for making many dishes. In Turkey, a wedding feast is not complete without little rolls of highly seasoned forcemeat wrapped in grape leaves and cooked until tender. The tiny leaf buds of the sassafras tree are found dried in the southern markets of this country. They are rich in mucilage and have a most dainty flavor, a teaspoonful added to gumbo

soup or a Brunswick stew adds greatly to the flavor and appearance. In the tropics flowers are looked upon as important addition to the table. The unopened buds of the cowslip, or marsh marigold, add much flavor to the dish if cooked with the leaves of this plant, while elder blossoms are used in Italy for making fritters.

A new all-the-year-round vegetable—like carrots, turnips and other tubers—is the golden thistle root. If dug in September or early October these roots keep all the year. They have a flavor something like salsify and are cooked in the same ways. Even the wild thistle tubers are delicious and may be dug in any pasture or meadow, but those cultivated in gardens are much larger and finer flavored. Another tuberous root which is quite wholesome is that of the broad-leaved arrowhead, found on muddy shores and shallow waters. These are cooked with meat usually, but may be boiled alone. In either case the tubers remain over the fire until the bitter flavor entirely disappears.

It is illogical to suppose that the weeds which have been crowding the wilderness side of our gardens will suddenly spring into fame as vegetables suitable for every table. Popular prejudice must be overcome and the palate trained to appreciate the change in names.



The tender leaves of red clover and some of the blossoms are particularly nutritious



The Blooming at "Iristhorpe"

BEING THE CHRONICLE OF A PLAIN FARMHOUSE WHICH
CAME INTO ITS OWN WITH THE HELP OF THE IRIS

BY MARY H. NORTHEED



"IRISTHORPE" began life as a plain farmhouse. That was about a hundred and fifty-five years ago. It stood close by the dusty highway near Shrewsbury in Massachusetts, and there was not the least pretense at any kind of architectural amenity about it. It was just as plain as the proverbial "plain Jane," and, in appearance, not unlike the stiff little houses with white sides and green or yellow roofs that we used, as children, to put in our Christmas-tree gardens and surround with Mr. and Mrs. Noah's family and all the animals out of the Ark. There were no irises to suggest a name except, perhaps, some growing wild in the marshy spots of back fields, and the mere idea of calling the place by any other title than the possessive case of his own cognomen would probably have filled the first owner with amazement and scorn.

When the house was built in 1760, it was only an excellent example of the type familiar all through New England. It had two floors and an attic with a pitch roof coming down in a long slope at the back all the way to the eaves of the kitchen in the one-story ell. The structure was anchored firmly about two full-throated, staunchly-built stone chimneys, and the framing, of buxom, well-seasoned hewn timbers, was mortised and tenoned together with such work-

manlike skill that it is as strong to-day as it was when the carpenters stuck a bush on the chimney or ridgepole to show that their work was just finished. Hard by the kitchen door were the other farmstead buildings, barn and byre, woodshed and corn crib, henhouse and pigstye. The place was innocent of even the suggestion of a garden, for the former occupants' interests were agricultural rather than horticultural, and did not extend further in the gardening direction than the care of the truck patch whence came the "garden sass." But the house was thoroughly honest in structure and materials, as honest as the day is long in every particular, and the sterling character of the old work has made the recent transformation possible.

Five years ago the present owners came into possession. Neither buildings nor worn-out farm land apparently had much to commend them, but there were latent possibilities. Some of these the eye of the new mistress was quick to detect at once, while others only revealed themselves gradually from week to week and month to month. It was at first designed to repair the old house sufficiently to live in while a new house, near the center of the estate, was a-building. The cellar for that new house was dug and a part of the foundations built, but there the work stopped. The old clapboarded farmhouse



The outdoor living-room at Iristhorpe showing the iris border with the motif repeated in the furnishings



In the living-room with its extended fireplace, the original ceiling-beams and paneling have been retained. Note the andirons of fleur-de-lis shape

had had time to display its charms, the new occupants had fallen under its spell, and the projected impertinence of a new house on that land to supplant the venerable structure of the Eighteenth Century was forthwith abandoned.

The house itself was too near the road for privacy or freedom from dust, but with a wooden structure of such staunch framing the removal and placing on new foundations was a comparatively simple and easy matter. Immediately following the removal began the work of rehabilitation and enlargement, in the course of which owners and architect found much to engross their interest. There is always a peculiar fascination about watching anything grow. When that growing object is an old house, full of architectural opportunities, in course of reconstruction and addition, the process of remodeling and growth becomes doubly fascinating with each successive stage of progress.

To have kept the house exactly as it was, with the exception of making necessary structural repairs, would have been impossible. It would have entailed simplifying the conditions of daily existence to a degree quite out of keeping with modern habits, requirements and notions of comfort. Some idea of the original



interior arrangement may be gained when we say that on the ground floor there were three rooms in a row with an ell at the rear containing the kitchen. The upper floor was cut up in very much the usual way in old houses of similar design.

Under the scheme of renovation and addition the three rooms of the first floor were made into a morning-room, living-room and library, while a dining-room, hallway with staircase and service wing were added to the ancient structure. The original partitions were left practically unchanged save for one or two openings that were cut as considerations of convenience dictated. The house door, opening directly into the living-room, remained in its old place, but received the new grace and shelter of a roofed porch with trellised sides, over which vines were trained. The windows, too, remained unchanged. The massive stone chimney was used for the living-room fireplace, and on the opposite side, in the new dining-room, an opening was cut for another fireplace. The old kitchen chimney was slightly altered to do service for the fire-

place in the library.

The most gratifying feature of the exterior remodeling—one might, perhaps, more appropriately term it "restoration"—is the fact that the old lines of the roof have been left unaltered. More room was needed in the house, sadly needed, but the temptation to put dormers in the roof and utilize the attic was resolutely put aside. This good example might profitably be followed elsewhere. Nothing so destroys the repose and dignity of a house as to break the lines of the roof with dormers. At best they are fussy, troublesome things to manage from an architectural point of view, and where it is possible to avoid using them a house is generally much better without them. The long, unbroken skyline of so many English houses is one of their greatest charms. So conscientious were owner and architect regarding the lines of the roof at "Iristhorpe" that the long slope at one side over the old one-story kitchen ell has been retained and yields not a little grace to the general effect of the whole structure.

Apart from adding the shelter of a small porch over the house door and running a course of latticed treillage in the space between the windows of the first and second floors, the front of the building was wisely left untouched. The modern desire for outdoor living-rooms has been supplied by the screened-in piazzas added at each end. It may be of interest to readers to note that



The delicate iris color harmonizes well with the mahogany dining-room furniture



Because the house is an old one it nestles familiarly into its site among the iris beds and flowering shrubs





the roofs of these piazzas are of canvas painted with water-proof paint, just like the upper decks of steamboats. While these piazzas are not quite architecturally consistent, perhaps, with the rest of the fabric, they nevertheless fill an actual need, and that is quite sufficient justification for their existence so long as the architect has designed them in keeping with their surroundings.

Returning to an inspection of the interior we find a new dining-room at the back of the original three-roomed main portion, corresponding in length and breadth to the living-room and morning-room together. The old kitchen ell has been converted into a hall, stairway and various closets and cupboards.

The new service wing is admirably planned and equipped with butler's pantry, kitchen, kitchen pantry, servants' dining-room, rear hall and stairway—a pleasanter term than "back stairs," with its inherent suggestion of petty gossip and scandal—and laundry. An interesting feature about this service wing is that it has no connection on the second floor with the rest of the house. It is entirely taken up with servants' bedrooms, of which there are four, bathroom and a large sewing-room at the rear. Above the first floor the service

wing and the main part of the house are to all intents and purposes separate buildings. Such an arrangement has several considerations to commend it.

On passing through the house door into the living-room one finds a bricked fireplace of somewhat unusual



The iris borders stretch along the brick paths in masses of frail hue

pattern immediately opposite. A long mantel shelf extends not only over the fireplace, but over an iron-doored oven at the side. All the rooms are low-studded and the great ceiling beams are all visible. Most of the old paneling has been retained, particularly in the morning-room, and renewed with many fresh coats of paint. The old strap hinges and latches have been retained wherever possible and where they were missing careful reproductions have taken their place, so that the Eighteenth Century feeling has been scrupulously maintained.

The arrangement of library, living-room and morning-room all in a row, with the connecting doors in a line, creates an impression of greater space than really exists. "Iristhorpe," however, is not a small house when the additions to the old fabric and the new service wing are taken into account. For the accommodation of guests the bedrooms on the second floor—there are but four, as the plan indicates—would, of course, be wholly inadequate. To meet the requirements of hospitality, therefore, especially on occasion of week-end parties,



The glass doors of the morning room open on the porch. Always the iris is the motif, but it is never insistent or obtrusive

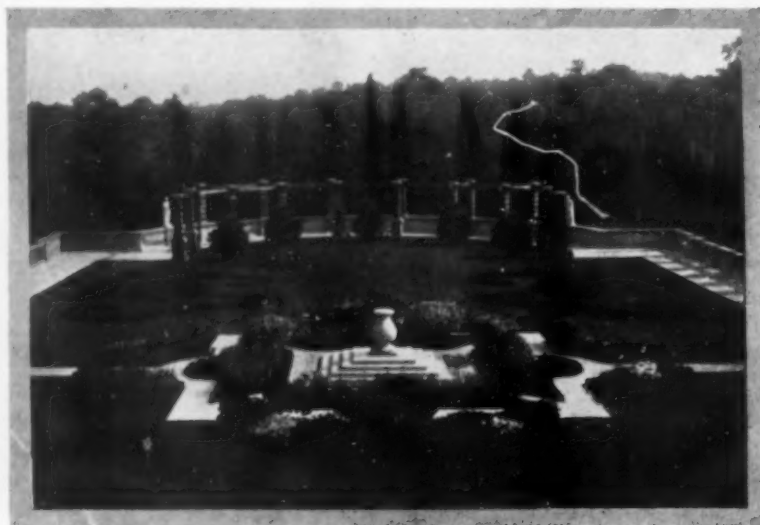
a loft over the stable has been made into a suite of bedrooms, while an adjoining screened roof piazza can be used for sleeping or lounging.

"What's in a name?" is, perhaps, a very hackneyed question to ask, but it occasionally brings forth an answer worth having. In the case of "Iristhorpe" the name has supplied the leading motif for the scheme of interior decoration and has echoed the dominant floral factor in the make-up of the garden. The mistress of "Iristhorpe" has a fancy—no matter whence it came—to surround herself with plantings of this graceful flower, and hence came the name of the estate. Such is her fondness for the iris that she has it indoors in vases in every possible place, and wherever a conventional flower motif can be used the fleur-de-lis has been chosen.

The iris or its conventionalized form appears in the wall papers, in upholstery stuffs, in window curtains, on table linen and china in seemingly endless variety and repetition. The tops of the andirons in the living-room are wrought into lily shapes, and again in the dining-room fireplace the same design is seen in more
(Continued on page 113)



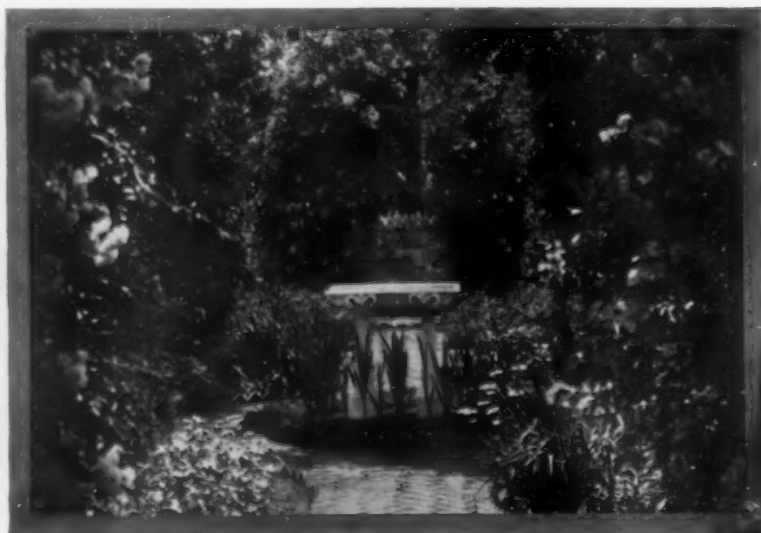
The garden at Iristhorpe possesses an old-world charm and simplicity which is in keeping with the spirit of the house

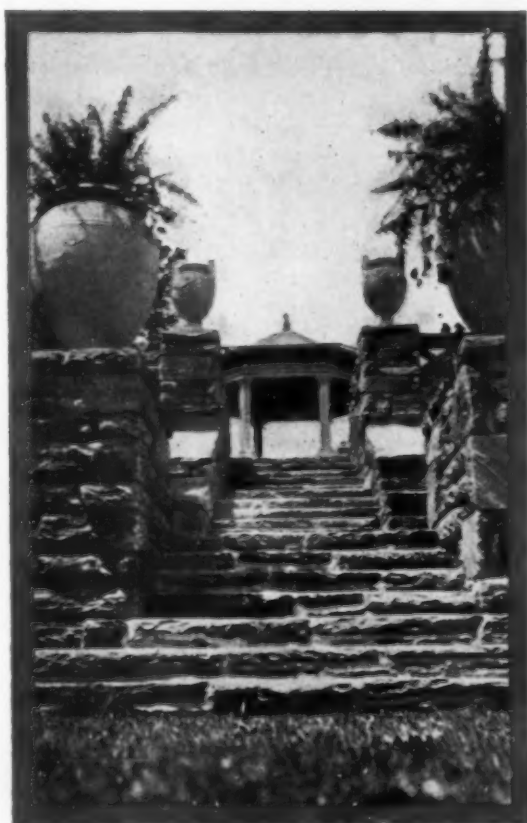


Types of Garden Architecture

THE STYLE AND ARRANGEMENT OF GARDEN ORNAMENT IN RELATION TO THE HOUSE AND ITS SITE

SEVERAL elements enter into the proper treatment of garden architecture. Perhaps the most important to note is that the style of the house should determine the style of garden architectural decoration. In this way the garden not only becomes an expression of the house in a larger and freer way but the two are intimately related and bound together. The purpose of garden ornament should also be borne in mind, and the pergola, the pool, the sundial or the bird bath should be located strictly in regard to their use and function. There is, finally, the general contour and position of the land to be considered, and in the planning of the garden and the placing of garden ornament it should be remembered that the successful garden is one which, in a special sense, belongs to its site.





Planting the Winter Garden

IN AUGUST SHOULD BE SET OUT EVERGREENS FOR SHELTER BELTS AND WIND-BREAKS TO MAKE ATTRACTIVE AND SNUG THE GARDEN NEXT WINTER

BY GRACE TABOR



ALL too commonly is gardening activity and thought concentrated upon the spring, summer and autumn—as if these were the only seasons when out of doors invites! Win-

ter is left to shift for itself; to furnish a dreary, dragging interval of unloveliness and desolation—exactly what winter can and will do, superlatively, if left to itself. But that the intelligent and enthusiastic gardener should be content to allow even the winter season to conquer him seems really a reflection upon either his intelligence or his enthusiasm. For there is no time during the year when Nature and the garden can be helped so much with so little effort—providing that effort is made at the proper time and is properly directed.

And then the indolent joys of the winter garden! No spraying, no weeding, no perpetual cutting off of dead flower heads, nothing for the gardener to do but take his ease and contemplate in peace! Surely just this phase of it alone is enough to stimulate to its realization, for what a garden paradise such negatives promise to the summer-jaded struggler with bug and blight and brigandage of weed, and precocious going to seed!

The winter garden, rather more than the gardens of other gladder seasons, should be closely related to the house. For one thing, its trim snugness is too precious and comforting a sight to be removed from indoor window contemplation; and for the other, access to it should be as nearly direct as may be, to avoid the unpleasant exposure of a walk outside its protective shelter. The real winter garden should be so complete a shelter that walking about and loitering within it will be not only possible but pleasant, when such out-of-doors walking would not be considered save under the lash of necessity.

How is this highly desir-



The wall of unclipped arborvitae sifts and scatters the wind, this variety being peculiarly fitted for wind resistance

able state of snugness to be brought about? Is it actually possible to achieve such a happy retreat? These are the two questions that always come tumbling over each other when a winter garden is first broached to the man that is a stranger to the idea.

Such perfect retreats are possible, though in full perfection only where ground space for planting is not limited—at least, not too limited. For to make use of shelter belts to the best advantage requires considerable space, the principle governing their employ being the gradual breaking up, sifting and scattering of wind rather than the actual stoppage of it. As a matter of fact, wind is never stopped, and any obstacle interposed in its path only diverts it, turns it up or aside where, more likely than not, it drags after it the otherwise still air on the opposite side of the

barrier, creating a cross current and no end of draughts and unpleasant, penetrating little streams of chilliness. Long range shelter belts, however, do not divert wind; they receive it and pull it apart as it passes through them, until its speed is reduced and its strength tamed little by little—and at last it is nil. All sorts of evergreens furnish the material from which, or by means of which, the winter garden is to be developed. From the biggest and most splendid forest monarch down to the wee dwarf of the horticulturist's art, there is an opportunity to use everything—and whatever the circumstances or opportunity there is happily something to use. The outer belts or screens demand the sturdiest and hardest varieties; the garden itself may be enclosed by any one of several varieties; and, finally, it may be planted within its enclosure with one or several of the smaller growth varieties. It is only in some such definite arrangement as an evergreen

garden that the myriad fancy forms of Biotas and Retinospores and Arborvitæ, with which the nursery catalogues teem, may be suitably and tastefully used.

Probably no garden material in the world is more mistakenly used than these fancy forms of conifers that are constantly urged upon the possible buyer—these and rhododendrons. It would be tragic, if it were not irritating, to see how combinations of every known variety are eagerly sought, laboriously planted, and triumphantly displayed, even as a collection of curios might be. As a matter of fact, such plantings are curio collections, and nothing more. The only relation they bear to the art of the garden is in the fact that they are plants—and gardening as an art depends upon plants to a very great degree. Apart from this very obvious association, these assemblages have really nothing to do with garden making—except that they present an obstacle to the real work, if one proposes to undertake it.

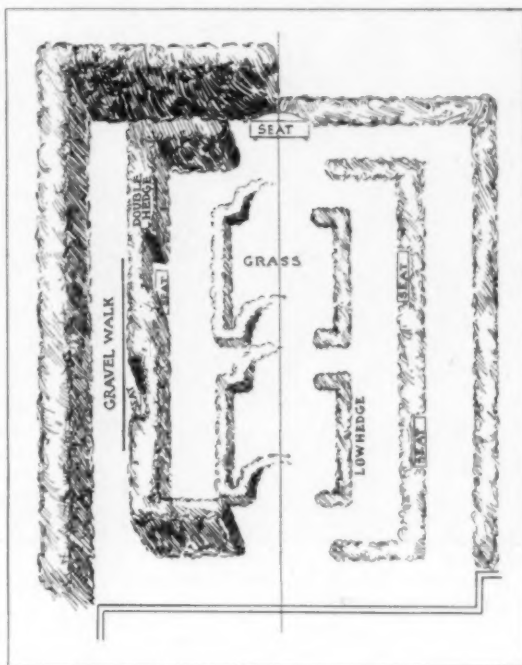
To get this class of evergreens at rest where it belongs will be well, I suppose, now that these varieties are under consideration—although the beginning of the winter garden lies, of course, away out with the outermost shelter belt, whence the planting works in. So we will consider the planting of the garden proper first of all, and its protective wind

screens and the setting out of various kinds of shelter belts later.

The material which is to make the winter garden, let us bear in mind, is of the most precise character. To preserve the eternal harmonies must be provided a garden design of precision, of symmetry, of formal lines. No slouching, no picturesque disarray here, but polite elegance, courtly perfection and elegant simplicity. All visual effects are secondary to and dependent upon this pervading beauty of order and proportion, which must be assured in the design before even a tree is planted. However snug and warm and sheltered the winter garden may be, it will be less than perfect if it fails to please the eye.

With the design the work really begins, in this instance as in every other, with the purity and beauty of that design occupying even a little more exalted position than in an ordinary flowery summer garden. For flowers are like charity and will cover an almost endless multitude of designing sins, from which the garden that is not to have them must be free.

Wherever the winter garden is, therefore, consider its relation to the house and the form and pattern of it most carefully. The axis of any prominent house feature—a wing or porch or window—or the axis of the entire house, should furnish the axis of the garden.



The form and pattern of the winter garden must be laid out with relation to the house. A preliminary sketch is advisable



In addition to being a bulwark, the windbreak should preserve the garden harmonies of symmetry and formality



White pine makes a regular, interesting hedge, with the additional advantage of growing well in light, sandy soil



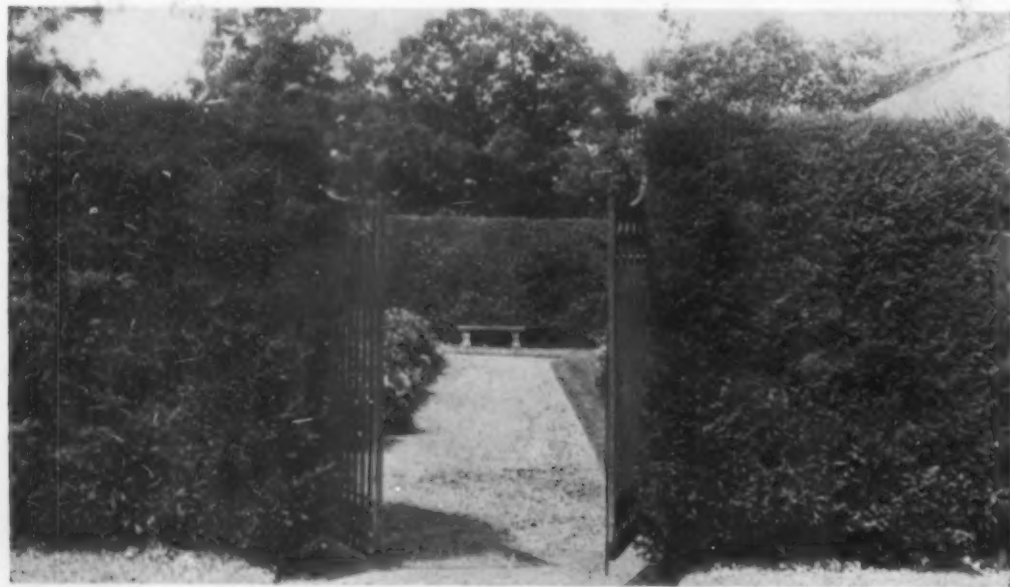
A good planting of hemlock spruce masses the evergreens in a manner that diverts the wind and affords the garden, both winter and summer, a fitting background

It is along an axial line that unity is attained. Start with this, then extend the limits of the garden as far in each direction as may be convenient, and consistent with complete shelter. A winter garden may be large if desired, for suitable planting will provide shelter over even a good-sized area, but small spaces develop into charming little winter retreats, delightful to humans and birds alike.

Nothing will ever excel an inclosure of unclipped arborvitæ around the garden proper, although a sheared hedge of these, or of hemlock or spruce or pine will serve as well for protection. Pine, however, even though it stands shearing and makes a very rugged and interesting hedge, is not very satisfactory, to my mind, because of its naturally open growth. By its very nature it cannot present as even and perfect a surface when sheared as does hemlock or spruce; and when soil conditions are favorable to any-

dictates, and the pattern or design marked out with these. The thing to avoid in this, as in every other kind of garden, is too many kinds. Select with deliberation that kind which best pleases you individually, then use it, mainly, with perhaps one or two other kinds where circumstances may demand or permit. Such planting will produce restful and dignified effects—the exact opposite of what a mixture will do.

In the garden of the little diagram, for example, the entire design might be carried out in arborvitæ, sheared to the different heights required; or the outer and inner hedge might be of hemlock, sheared, with the inside borders around the squares of *Retinospora obtusa*, unsheared, and the arches of *Thuya occidentalis pyramidalis*; or hemlock or pine or spruce might form the outer protective hedge with the Chinese arborvitæ, which is *Biota orientalis conspicua* or *Biota orientalis pyramidalis* for the inner



When sheared, the spruce hedge presents an even and perfect surface. Its use for inclosures and for the formal garden near the house is unexcelled



Good taste frowns on the "fancy massing" of varieties. Stick to one

thing else, I should not advise the use of it. In light and sandy soil it may be advisable to plant it, but under ordinary conditions hemlock will grow and thrive, and so will arborvitæ and the white spruce (*picea alba*). The latter, however, is not satisfactory south of the fortieth parallel, for its home is in the coldest regions of the north, and it languishes under heat.

All these are native trees, and there is really no reason for considering any exotic species except, perhaps, the Norway spruce (*picea excelsa*), which grows faster than the native and is therefore sometimes to be preferred. It is commonly used more for hedges than the native *picea alba*, but there seems to be no good reason for this; it does not stand pruning any better, neither is it any handsomer as a tree. And the native is more aromatic, which is a decided advantage if one wants the spicy odor of the winter garden to be a feature.

Inside the inclosing hedge, walks may be bordered with almost any of the smaller growing evergreens that fancy

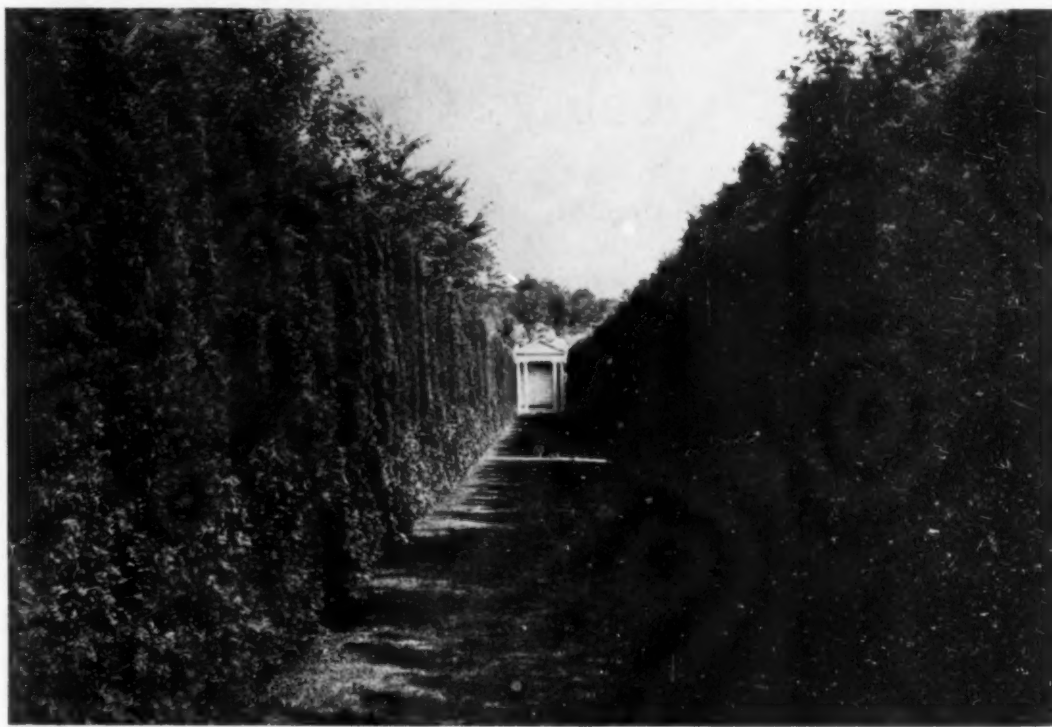
double one. These will not grow high enough to make of the outer walk a fully protected promenade in very cold weather, but they sometimes reach the shoulder, and will make an effective barrier. With these the dwarf *Biota orientalis compacta* might be used for the center hedges, with the arches of the common native arborvitae—*Thuja occidentalis* or the pyramidal form of this. The latter retains its fresh green color all through the winter somewhat better than the type.

Outside the garden proper a screen planting of some one variety should be grouped, densest on the north and northeast or northwest, according to the direction from which the prevailing coldest winter winds come. Out and beyond these, other broken groups, arranged according to the principle which the diagram illustrates, should intercept these same winds and begin their undoing while they are still some distance away.

No finer tree than Nordman's fir can be found for the outermost screen plantations; it is strong and hardy, retains its lower branches even in old age, and a single specimen offers a formidable "wind-shredder," for its sturdy leaves are thicker than those of other similar trees. Groups of these and of the white spruce planted to shield the space where the winter garden lies will form of themselves delightfully sheltered little groves.

In planting these, or any other evergreen, set the individuals far enough apart so that they do not touch, or more than touch, at the time of planting. They may be planted in much more open spacing than this, but they should never go nearer, the idea being to give them an opportunity naturally to commingle their branches as they grow and to adapt themselves each to each.

Plantings that are made for immediate effect will therefore take fewer specimens than would be needed if small plants were used. For sheared hedges it is best not to start with them very large, lest gaps that will not cover show between the fully de-



Double rows of arborvitae sheared, and even unclipped, form a fully protected promenade in very cold weather. Spruce, hemlock or pine serve effectively for the outer row

veloped specimens. The smallest size is placed one foot apart in the row, this being as close as they need ever be planted. I should never advise using plants so large that they will require more than twenty inches between them.

I have purposely avoided suggesting any of the fancy evergreens so commonly and impetuously admired, for it is doubtful if any arrangement of these can be made that will add anything to the landscape; under any save the most exceptional circumstances their use cannot be too resolutely avoided. But within a winter garden one is free to choose material that would not be to the general advantage of a place if used outside this space. If there is a favored variety, choose it in place of what I have suggested for the inner planting. Do not mix many varieties, however; stick to the one, notwithstanding all that may be said

(Continued on page 112)



Broken groups on the outer rim of a garden prove perfect wind shredders



The planting of white spruce should be plotted out with an eye for their eventual forest grouping and the forming of sheltered groves



Quality Crops for the Home

IN THE BERRY PATCH—STRAWBERRY CULTIVATION FROM INITIAL SOIL TREATMENT TO WINTER MULCH—WHAT ARE THE BETTER VARIETIES?

BY D. R. EDSON



OF the various small fruits which may be grown in the home garden, none are more highly prized than strawberries. Properly cared for, a very small patch will yield enough berries to supply the family table through the season, which, with modern varieties, should extend over some six weeks in early summer, with a very worth-while fall crop from the autumn-fruiting varieties.

Strawberries are comparatively free from injury by insects or disease. But two very common causes of failure are late frosts and early drouth. These must be kept in mind and guarded against as much as possible while planning and caring for the beds. Any average good garden soil, provided it is well drained, will grow good berries; but if it is likely to dry out quickly when the spring rains stop, provision should be made for supplying water if one would be sure of results. Good culture and mulching will help, but the only absolute safeguard is a system of irrigation, such as that described in last month's *HOUSE AND GARDEN*. The trifling expense involved in installing such a system over the berry patch will be more than repaid on the first crop. If there is any choice as to location, put your strawberry plants where they will not be too much protected. A warm sheltered pocket, lying to the sun, will bring the blossoms out too quickly in the spring, so that, while you may stand a chance of getting some earlier berries, you also take a big risk of losing all the first setting by having the blossoms nipped by a late frost. Late sorts, planted on a northern slope, will considerably lengthen the season. Removing the winter mulch too early in the spring also induces premature flowering, and consequent risk of losing the first part of the crop.

There is no better time than the present for planting. If pot-grown plants are used a full crop of the best berries may be gathered next season. These cost slightly more than "runners," but are well worth the difference; 150 pot-grown plants costing \$3 to \$5 will just about fill a bed of the size described above when set in rows 2 feet apart, 15 inches apart in the rows.

The plants may be set out any time up to the first of September; but, as a rule, the sooner after the middle of July or the first of August, according to locality (the farther north the earlier), the better. The plants are usually ready to be shipped about August first.

The fine varieties are many. Michael's Early is a standard early sort, but it is small and the quality is not of the finest. Early Ozark, a new sort, is almost if not quite as early, and very large and fine flavored. For mid-season the old favorite, Glen Mary and Bubach are hard to beat; they are both very healthy, strong

growers, with extra large fruit of the finest quality. Fendall is a new mid-season sort with an exceptionally long fruiting season, which makes it especially desirable for the home garden. For the latest berries, Commonwealth is very fine, and Sample and Lester Lovett are old favorites. These by no means cover the whole list, but unless you have had experience to show you just what varieties give you the best results, Early Ozark, Glen Mary and Commonwealth will give you a satisfactory succession of berries over a long season.

The most important part of the job is the preparation of the bed. Strawberries are heavy feeders, and next season's crop will depend almost entirely upon the growth the plants make this fall before freezing weather. If manure is available, spread on a good dressing of it; if not, try to select for the strawberry bed a part of the garden which was heavily manured in the spring or last season, or where grass or some other green crop has been growing the previous season. In addition to this a good dressing of high-grade garden fertilizer, and ashes if you have them, should be worked into the soil with a rake after the ground is plowed or forked. If you have the various ingredients for mixing your own fertilizers on hand, a mixture of nitrate of soda, tankage, acid phosphate and muriate of potash, in the proportions of one, two, three, and two parts respectively, will be right. Prepare the soil until the surface is as fine as an ash heap.

When you do get ready to plant, go over the surface again and set the plants on a fresh surface, so that the dry top soil will not fall into the hole. Put them in as firmly as possible, after first accurately marking out the rows both ways, if there are several, to facilitate after culture until they get too large. Make the holes to receive the roots large enough so that they may be spread out in a natural position. Set them well down to the "crown," but not over it. When the plants arrive the roots should still be fresh and moist. If they seem dried out, place them in a shallow pan of water. Should the roots be so long or ragged as to be inconvenient to handle, trim them back. The large outside leaves, especially if they seem inclined to wilt, should also be removed. Have the roots wet, or very moist, when planting, and if the soil is very dry, watering in the holes just before setting the plants will help.

The plants may be grown either in "hills," a single plant by itself, or in rows, in which the plants are set out singly, but the runners are allowed to fall on either side of the main row, until there is a solid strip of vines, a foot or more, according to the method of cultivation to be used. By the former method, plants are set out every year, or every two years at the most, the object

(Continued on page 112)



Water Gardening at a Minimum

SAND DUNES IN FRONT, MODELING CLAY IN THE REAR, AND GOOD GARDEN SOIL BOUGHT AT A PREMIUM BY THE SPOONFUL: IN SUCH A PLOT WAS MADE AN ALLURING GARDEN POOL

BY ELSIN GREY STARR



It represented the outlay of seven dollars and selections from Nature's store

IN the face of the most discouraging conditions was my water garden begun. Behind our summer cottage on the lake shore lay a plot of sunbaked modeling clay, a veritable slough of despond to the unwary neighbor who ventured through on a dark, wet night. A more unattractive spot could not be imagined. The soil was so poor that it afforded scant pasturage even to grasshoppers.

This I had plowed up by a farmer, who looked unutterable skepticism when I confided my plans to him. He turned up eighteen furrows, each thirty feet long, of leaden rubber. When these were sufficiently dried

into the beguiling depths of loam. It was hard to choose from the distracting list of water lilies, but I felt sure that in this, as in almost all other gardening, if a picture is wanted, the simplest way should be used. Shutting my eyes to the temptation of blue and lavender, I painted this picture with white and pale yellow and pink, selecting the hardiest varieties listed.

These were planted in June, and they settled down into their new homes and began at once to show their appreciation of proper soil conditions by a sturdy growth. In July the first blossoms gladdened the gardener's heart, as well as the hearts of her neighbors who sauntered over to scoff at the unsanitary frog-pond, but who remained to admire the beauty of the lilies in the pool and the margin of blue flag, transplanted by the hundred from a nearby pasture.

They gave a riotous profusion of bloom and were a blending and unifying factor in my background scheme—a bold splash of one color that led a visitor to tell me that, outside of Japan, he had not seen blue flag so treated. The iris were brought from the pasture in company with the Royal Osmunda fern, the Water Arum, the bodkin-like Pickerel weed, and a plant resembling the *Gypsophila* in its daintiness of bloom, which was very beautiful the first year, but which later proved to be a pest, its growth being so lusty that it bade fair to take possession of the entire pond,

and had to be pulled by the babies of the family, who waded out in their little bathing suits, clinging to the rampant cat-tails on shore. They clamored for tin pails in which to store the tadpoles, goldfish and caddis worms they were momentarily discovering; the very ones we had stocked the pond with for the purpose of destroying the mosquito larvæ.

The cat-tails delighted the children, and if one has a large pond area these should be planted. In my small space they proved a rank weed and were also pulled out, "though it took huskier arms than the babies'" to do it.

The garden had cost in coin just seven dollars, five for the water lilies and two for my plow man's work. The rest had been gathered from Nature's store from nearby



The lily roots were placed in old baskets and lowered into loam hauled from nearby bogs and swamps

they were thrown out by the enthusiastic gardener and the colored man-of-all-work, who sighed and sulked and confided to the cook that "Nuffin gwine to grow in dat ole soil, harder 'n de heart of Phar'o."

Neither inspiration nor perspiration was lacking, however, and heroic perseverance finally effected an excavation of one foot in depth over the whole pond area, with deeper holes the size of washtubs which were filled with the soil, I have learned, water lilies love. Oddly enough, all water garden experts bid you beware of soil taken from old bogs or swampy places!

Since I was surrounded by sand dunes in front and modeling clay in the rear, and good garden soil must be brought from a distance and paid for by the spoonful, I determined to make an experiment, and sent the darkey out, his trousers rolled to his knees, his woolly pate adorned with a paper cap made from the end of a flour sack bearing the word "Glory" in prominent blue letters. These caps seemed to stimulate his halting appetite for adventure. Perhaps he drank in the rather too openly voiced opinion of the neighbors that he added a tropical touch to a northern landscape, and should be encouraged.

The same farmer who had charged me a dollar for a microscopic load of garden soil was obviously pleased to give us as much of his bog as we cared to remove. This was mixed in the proportion of two-thirds muck and one-third well rotted manure.

The lily roots were placed in old baskets and carefully lowered

fields and fence corners, and served as reminders of joyous trips made with the babies perched beside me on an old spring wagon, the mollified and somewhat more interested negro driving old "Topsy," and admonishing the children from time to time that "he done toled



'em outen de las swamp he gwine to, an' lessen dey stay close by dis time he sho' nuff gwine to trim dem up."

All that summer I had the pleasure of picking from one to a dozen lilies a day, for they began to bloom the last of July and continued until the frost nipped them in October, and the additional pleasure of seeing other water gardens spring up from the grounds of my friends, some of them larger and more elaborate, but none of them nearer to Nature's heart or more keenly enjoyed than this one.

Realization so seldom outstrips anticipation that when it does, one feels impelled to pass on the possibility to others. Of course a water garden presupposes a reliable water supply. In this case a windmill supplying our cottage and two other neighbors could be depended upon to furnish water as often as was needed to make up the loss from evaporation and transpiration by plant life. Ordinarily the hose was turned on for a couple of hours once in two weeks during the hottest summer months.

A few years later I made another pond on our farm. Here the conditions were entirely different. We had an ideal situation: the ground sloped gradually from the garden, our water supply was the overflow from a spring further up the slope, and we had a beautiful forest background.

But the despised modeling clay which had made the first pond such a simple and inexpensive thing to construct was lacking here, and as inclination and means have obliged me to practice only the free and inexpensive ways of gardening, which really give the greatest happiness for the least expenditure, a cement pool was not to be considered. Knowing that I had neither moles nor water rats to burrow through my pond walls, I decided upon a puddled clay bottom and sides.

The men who were doing the excavating were fearful that stiff clay would not be found on the place, but a charge of dynamite which was fired to dislodge a sulky granite boulder from the pond site disclosed a bed of blue clay. This I hailed with delight and instructed the men to use it in covering the sides and bottom of the pond to a depth of four inches, after it had been well worked and kneaded to the consistency of puddle. One end was dammed up and here I was obliged to use cement, but the shoulder came below the water surface, and the hard edge of walling was disguised by the judicious use of moss-covered boulders.

One must remember, however, that no rocks of any kind can



From a neighboring field were brought blue flags that were planted by the hundred on the margin

possibly be an ornament unless they are natural or appear to be so, and are associated with suitable plants.

Here we used the native shrubs as a background, and I have gratefully observed that those found within a radius of a few miles give a better effect and grow more vigorously than those ordered from a distance. An old lady in the neighborhood shamelessly shared her sumac and wild cherry, and that most generous of all shrubs, the lovely white alder, informing Eli with a knowing wink that she "w'ant going to let it get out in the neighborhood that I was collecting such rubbish."

The rugged old boulders that were rolled up from the bed of the pond and which were sparingly used as rockwork on one side, simply demanded pine trees as companions, and these too came from a nearby pasture.

Whenever we see natural waterfalls we see either close by or at a distance still higher ground from which the water has sprung. So in this case I was glad to have my tiny streamlet visible above the waterfall as it found its way through crisp mint and sweet flag. And, as the water supply in this case is somewhat limited during a dry season, we contrived a little cave in the inlet end of the pond which gives that most necessary thing, a dark background. The tiniest stream as it falls over this can be inveigled into giving out a pleasant tinkle, and the background gives a double life and charm to the little stream as it flows over the mossy boulders and trickles finally into the pool.

We had the pond site plowed up first, then two men with a team scraped out the soil to a depth of three feet in the center, and about one foot near the edges. We gave it an irregular pear shape, and covered the bottom with good garden soil. The work of planting is of the very simplest description. The lily roots, which were the overflow from my first pond, were placed in ancient pieces of burlaps with soil as ballast, and dropped into position; sometimes we simply fastened a stone to a root and dropped it into place, being careful always to use old, tender pieces of burlaps, that the roots might escape easily.

They were planted in May, and the pond was sheltered, though not shady, for water lilies *must* have full sunlight. The second year we had from fifty to seventy-five blossoms at a time from May to October.

The plants used in the margin and banks of the pond were cow parsnips, the native blue flag, the

(Continued on page 108)



My ideal was an informal garden, where children might have a safe and glorious time

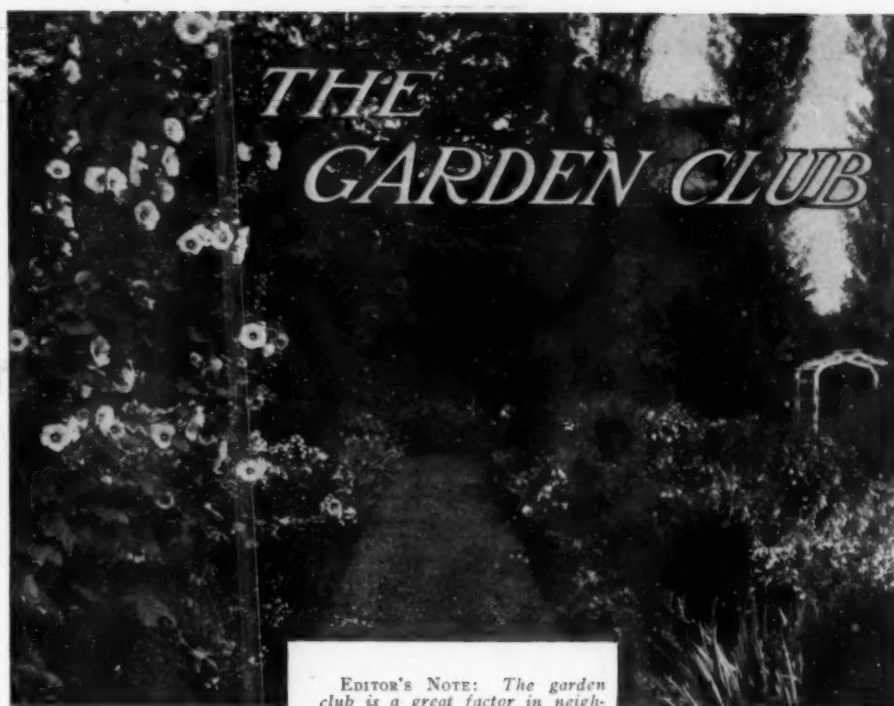
NO one but Polly Addicks would have wanted to have the Club at her house and to go in for the decorations when the subject was weeds. But Polly can turn a weed into triumph—and did. And the talk which she furnished us about weeds put these abominations in an altogether new light. It was given by an artist—a real one, not the Salton-Appleby kind—and he said so much about weeds that no one save an artist would ever have thought of. Consequently, everyone was enthusiastic by the time the meeting was over. And a goodly percentage of the dinner tables in town that were decorated at all were decorated that night—

or, anyway, the next night—with weeds, I am perfectly sure.

The Addicks house is as unusual and as interesting as both Polly and Hal—one of those houses that ordinary people go into ecstasies about and say, "How clever!" and "What a charming idea!" fifty times over in the course of a visit, but would die before they would dare attempt for themselves—happily! And decorated with weeds it was lovely! But then, decorated with anything it would be lovely. The tables in the contest, which was for a luncheon table decorated with weeds, were outdoors in the paved arbor-like transition that joins the house to the garden wall, which in its turn shuts out all hint of the railroad track immediately below, but through openings discreetly placed high up in it, lets in vistas of the distant hills and the bay, blue and dimpling. So of course they were enough indoors to seem like real luncheon tables, tiny though they were.

The contest was judged by the Club judges, by the artist—a great celebrity whose name is a "household word"—and by popular vote; consequently there had to be three prizes. Polly herself provided the prize awarded according to the artist's pronouncement, for this was over and above anything the Club had planned, and just a little surprise of hers, but the other two came in the regular program. The judges awarded first to a really lovely scheme in white and gold—daisies and "butter-and-eggs"—arranged in an elaborate center mountain over which no one could possibly see his *vis-a-vis*, with place bouquets in matching holders second only to it in towering majesty; all very lovely but somewhat overpowering and not somehow what I should call truly "wild" in scheme.

My idea of decorating with weeds is just what Polly did—and won the artist's prize and almost won the popular prize; a simple arrangement of the flowers chosen, conforming as nearly as possible to their habit of growth. She chose for hers wild carrot or Queen's lace, and the berries of the cornel which grows thickly in the old woods back of the gas house—*cornus amomum*, I think it is—which are bluish. She cut them with short stems and stuck them into sand in a very low, broad, Japanese bowl of wood, so that the lines of the entire composition were spreading and flat, the round of the bowl being a repetition of the round, flat cymes



EDITOR'S NOTE: The garden club is a great factor in neighborhood betterment. Here is a true story of the work of a certain such club and its accomplishments taken from the diary of one of its members. What this club actually did should be a stimulus to all who love gardens and a guide to the ways and means of improving our towns and villages. These chapters began in the February issue, when the organization of the Club was discussed. Each installment shows how the program of activities was followed out.

of both the flowers and the berries; for leafage she used wild grape branches that lay over the edges of the bowl, trailing off naturally and with their own natural lovely lines tracing a pattern on the wood of the table beneath.

This table and the winner of the popular vote prize almost tied, but the general taste was not equal to overlooking the glories of red clover and bindweed and those feathery headed grasses that go to seed so decoratively. And these were exquisite, I am bound to admit. I think the artist had difficulty in deciding between them; but somehow the harmony of line in the Queen's lace and berries and low shallow bowl was very

alluring. And his fame is as a draughtsman rather than a colorist, so line and composition would appeal to him rather more convincingly than it would to ordinary people, I suppose.

A weed is, of course, "a plant out of place"—this is how he began—yet it would be a very ugly world if weeds were not as persistent and life-loving and determined to grow, in place or out of it, as they are. For they clothe the waste places which, unclothed, would be simply unbearable to the sense of sight under the glare of the summer sun. And they furnish food for some of the most delightful and most worthy members of the aerial brotherhood, as well as sketch material for painters innumerable, worthy and unworthy, delightful and tiresome!

But, as a matter of fact, almost anything is a weed in some part of the earth—for of course everything must grow naturally and wild somewhere. And, after all, the natural wild growth of a region is what man regards as "weed" growth in every part of the world. Taken up and sent to the other ends of the earth, where it has never been seen, and the natives will fall over each other to secure specimens for their gardens!

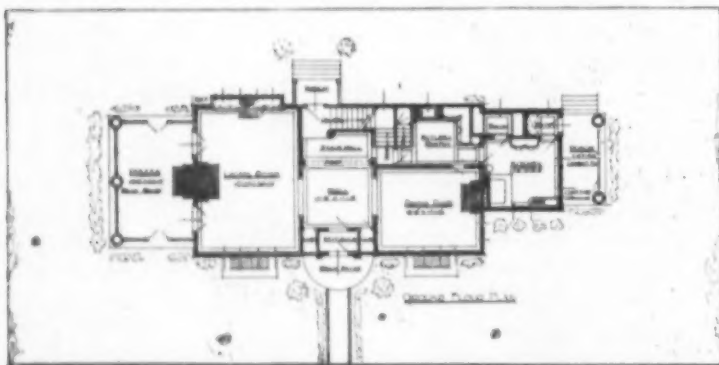
All weeds are not by any means pests, even to the gardener. So being a weed is not the despicable thing; but being a pestiferous, presuming, overbearing bully, is. Just as any upstart—crowding, elbowing, pushing—always is. Moreover, there are weeds to be feared as well as weeds to be despised—and weeds to be respected and loved. For there are the noxious ones, masquerading often in the loveliest forms, deluding the unaware into thinking them desirable, and so getting in their deadly work; actually deadly more often perhaps than we have much of an idea. For the number of children who are fatally poisoned annually by eating some one of the toxic plants is really considerable; and grown-ups do not escape.

When he had gone this far, everyone wanted to ask questions—and did! And having been badly poisoned by the venomous sumach once upon a time when sketching, he told us he had made a special study of poisonous plants. "Beautiful poison ivy," as he called it, had almost blinded a friend, too, whose baby brought him a bouquet of wild flowers to smell which contained some

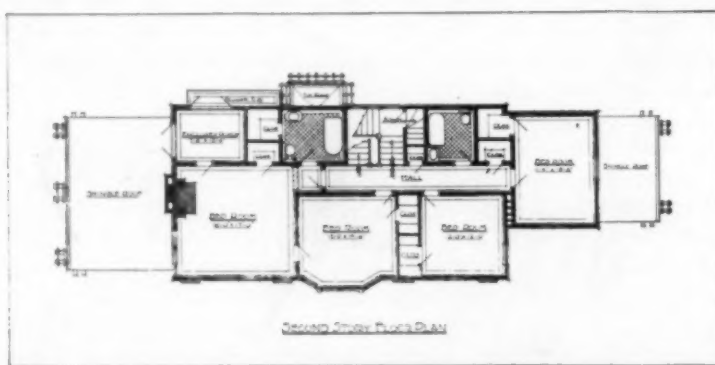
(Continued on page 109)



Broad lines, over-all length, the pitch of porch roofs, the long casements and the snug way the house sits on the ground, give it the effect of strength and solidity



The corridors from the service section to the front door and from the front door to the rear are an excellent arrangement



The second story enclosed porch and the larger bedroom—the master's—practically form a separate suite

THE HOUSE OF MR. CHARLES HERNSHEIM AT WEST ORANGE, N. J.

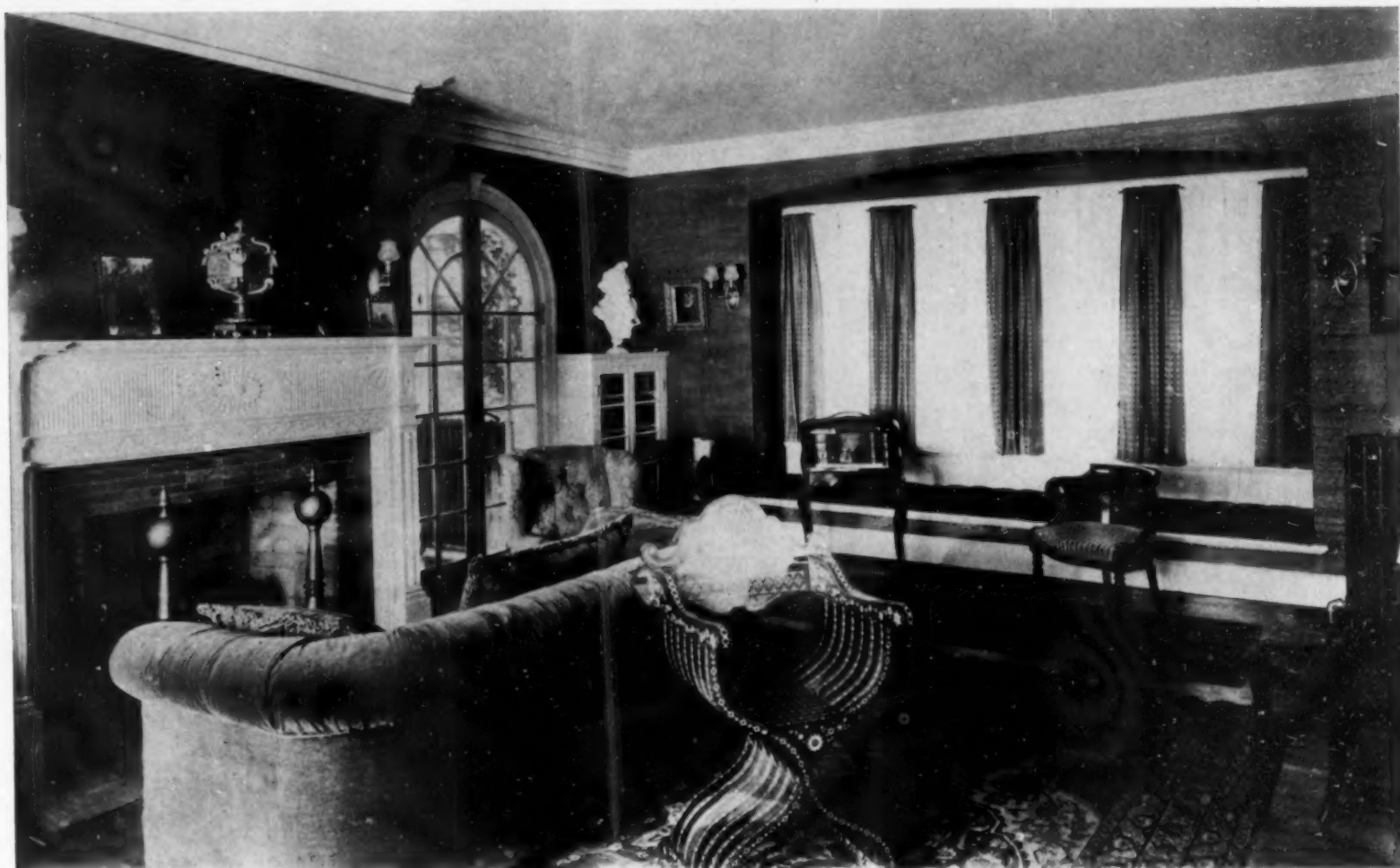
B. Halsted Shepard, architect



Spanning the front hallway the broad arch is peculiarly in keeping with the general broad lines of the house



A combination of shoulder-high white woodwork, wainscoting, and many windows make the dining-room a cheery place



Livableness predominates this room—broad window seats set low to the floor, a generous fireplace and the double porch door suggesting the all-season comfort so necessary to the living-room, but so rarely attained



The service porch has a cement floor and is screened with a lattice both practical and decorative. It affords easy access to the built-in refrigerator and an unbroken passage for the ventilation of the kitchen itself



Inside the House

Timely Suggestions
and Answers to
Correspondents



The editor will gladly answer queries pertaining to individual problems of interior decoration and furnishing. When an immediate reply is desired, a self-addressed stamped envelope should be enclosed. This department

will also purchase any of the articles here described for subscribers living at a distance, or will furnish the names of the places where they may be obtained.

The August Willow Call

FOR the furnisher who responds to the call of "Wicker-willow!" comes an effective screen woven of wicker and stained to match any tone of furniture in the room. Each fold has a woven border of about six inches deep, a little wider at the bottom than at top, which acts as a frame for a linen panel of a cross stitch design. The linen tones in with the color of the wicker and the design may repeat the design of the hangings or the table covers. A very attractive figure has a gateway, on either post of which is perched a peacock spreading a tail of rich colors. This is placed near the top of the panel. The same design on linen is used as a valance at the window, and the curtains have a running pattern carrying out the same idea in color and design.

Most attractive are the sets that facilitate the serving of cold drinks on the porch or lawn, and, in addition to the useful wicker trays with glass tops over cretonne, there are now to be had individual coasters for glasses to match the trays. One particularly serviceable tray is of green wicker with cretonne top, and has a high handle, under which there is room for the pitcher or bottle, with holders for half a dozen glasses, while another is of natural-color wicker, into which fit a quaint pitcher and six mugs of red and blue Hungarian ware.

For late summer and early fall, when the weather permits the taking of meals out of doors, the porch serving table should come in handy. It is of wicker, simple of line, strong yet graceful. A well-supported shelf is hung below, and the top shelf carries a protecting rail into which fits the serving tray. The cost is moderate enough and the advantages obvious. Such a table is light enough to be moved about and yet sturdy enough to withstand outdoor use. Its place in the scheme of summer decoration, like that of willow in general, is plain; though the use of willow throughout the year is being adopted—and rightly—by bungalow dwellers. In the small informal house such a table will enhance the dining-room the

year around and may be put to summer uses when that season comes around.

Old Lamps Made New

IN many houses where electricity has been introduced in the past few years, the kerosene lamp has been relegated to the garret, and the regulation electric lamp fixtures introduced. Why discard the fine old lamps that have perhaps been in the family for years, many of which have much artistic value? Also why spend more money than necessary for new electric fixtures when a perfectly satisfactory



The wicker serving table possesses the possibilities for all-the-year use—in summer, out of doors, and winter for the enclosed porch

lamp can be made from the old kerosene lamp, which is perhaps one of the memories of the household? Every one of these lamps which has any pretensions to artistic lines should be utilized as an electric lamp.

Some folks are much like cats in that they dislike to change their habitations. Many of us dislike to have our environment changed in the least, but the objection to doing away with the cherished old lamp is no longer an objection, because the

process of turning the old lamp into the new is very simple. An electric socket need only be soldered to the base of the old oil burner, the cord connection being led through the side. The burner screws into the oil tank, as originally intended, leaving the lamp complete and ready at any moment to serve its old-time function as the center of the family circle. A floor outlet to connect with the electric current is desirable, or a baseboard connection, but even a connection with the chandelier is feasible. To do away with the constant filling of the lamp, the occasional overflow of the tank and consequent ill odor, and the odor from badly trimmed wicks, or a wick turned too high in the old kerosene lamp, will be well worth the extra trouble. Old brass candlesticks may also be electrified by having brass plugs made to fit the candle sockets, and threaded to attach to the electric lamp socket. This can be done by an intelligent machinist. These lights will do away with the grimy look the candles very soon assume, and will not "melt and run over" in summer as the average candle does.

Get Acquainted with the Meter

WHAT would you think of a householder who installed a butler, and, making no inquiry as to the amount of wages required, at the end of the month paid the bill he presented without question? You would undoubtedly think the householder crazy. Nevertheless, you may be this very householder, only instead of the butler, the servant you are trusting so implicitly is your electric meter. Why not meet the meter at once, get acquainted with it? If you do this you will have no difficulty in making your monthly bill tally with the meter, instead of drawing a check for the amount, with sublime trust that no one makes mistakes, and that the amount of the bill must be paid whether large or small.

The electric company does not want to cheat you in any way, but it is only human to make mistakes, and undoubtedly there

are sometimes mistakes in your bill. If you understand the meter first, and then make it a habit in your household to read it regularly on the day that the representative of the electric company calls for the same purpose, you will have no difficulty in keeping track of your bill. If you are interested to keep closer track of the meter, you can do this by reading it every week and noting how much of an increase there is when you have guests or parties and when the seasons change.

You will find four dials on your meter, with numbers from 1 to 10 or 0. The hands on the dials revolve in alternate directions, instead of emulating the clock. When the hand points between two numerals, take the smaller one just passed by the hand, and read the meter dials from left to right. Each dial will give you a number, the first one meaning thousands, the second hundreds, the third tens, and the fourth units. Therefore, if the hand on the dial furthest to the left points to one, on the next to 6, on the next to 9, and on the next to 3, your reading will be correct at 1693 kilowatt hours, which is the term used for the unit for the smallest amount of electricity consumed. Your electricity bill will be made out for so many kilowatt hours. To find the amount used in one month, or since the last reading of the meter, subtract the figure on your last bill from the new total indicated by the dials, and this will be the amount of your new bill. When all lights are off, of course the meter stops its work, lying ready in wait for the least signal, however, from any of the various lights.

Beside an acquaintance with her meter, the householder should know the common facts of electricity. It is not the complex thing many people believe it to be; because of its magical qualities it is often regarded with awe, and perhaps, too, because of the puzzling terms used in connection with the current and lights.

Electric current has become almost as much of a home commodity as is coal, and as it is a friend in need and one come to stay in our midst, it behooves us to get acquainted with its terms—just as we become acquainted with quarts and pecks and pounds in varieties of commodities. The measure of electricity being different, requires a different set of terms, just as the doctor, the lawyer, the musician, uses terms familiar to himself but unfamiliar to the masses. As electricity is no longer a specialty, but is classed as a commodity, it is up to the householder to understand its simple terms.

Electric current flows along a wire much as water flows through a pipe.

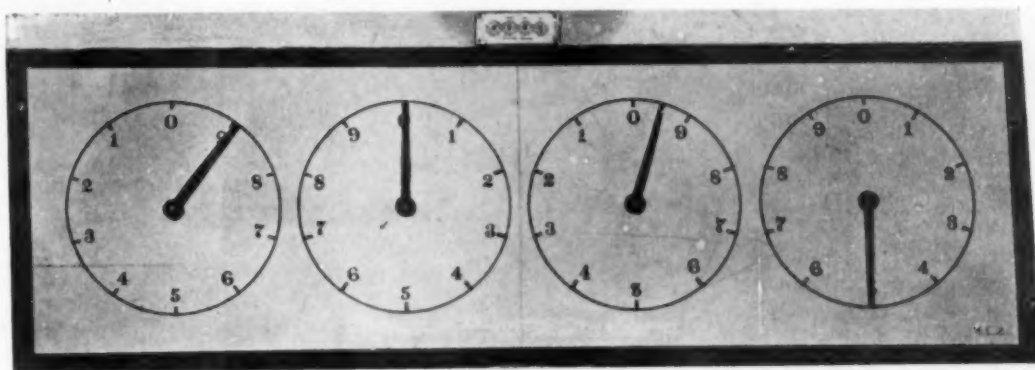
The *size* of the stream of electricity flowing along the wire is measured in *amperes*. The pressure, or speed with which it flows, is measured in *volts*. The *quantity* of electricity passing through is measured in *watts*. Kilowatt means 1,000 watts (regular metric system). A "kilowatt hour" means a kilowatt quantity of electric current used for an hour's time to

light lamps or cook, or use with a sweeper or any other implement.

Shopping Suggestions

A new chair that makes its appearance under the rather attractive name of "slipper chair" is designed especially for use in the boudoir or bedroom. Primarily intended, as its name designates, for use when one's shoes are being put on, it is quite low, with rather a broad back, and so thoroughly comfortable that it will doubtless see much service in other ways. The frame is of mahogany, and the chair may be had upholstered in cretonne of any pattern that may be desired.

Small glass candle-lamps for use on the



In the last analysis, reading the meter is a very simple process, a habit every housewife should cultivate

dinner table will no doubt be found serviceable in houses that are not lighted by electricity, particularly in summer, when candles are not always satisfactory. These little lamps have tiny wicks that are equal to about one-candle power, and they are fitted with circular glass globes, over which the shades can be placed, so that as far as appearances go they give the same effect as candles, with none of the melting or dripping of wax that so often happens when candles are used in hot weather.

Many houses are built largely from material found on the site. Where the house stands on a ledge with a cellar under it the material from the cellar can be used in the walls. This is the reason why a rustic material looks best in a cottage among trees. The dwellings which have rough stone foundations look well in a rocky setting along the coast or among boulders at the lakeshore.

Another piece suitable for a dainty bedroom is a little stand for holding shoes, with two boxes for small articles such as are usually kept in the top drawer. The stand is of wood, painted white, with cretonne-covered sides, and is about the size of the ordinary bedside stand, so

that it will serve as a bedside table as well. In the upper part are the two flat cretonne-covered boxes, one of which is divided into a number of small compartments, while in the lower part is a door which, when opened, shows compartments for four pairs of shoes.

For the informal summer breakfast or luncheon, whether served indoors or *al fresco*, there are fascinating novelties in colored cloths and doilies that are quite inexpensive and provide a welcome change from the more ceremonious white damask. The Japanese toweling cloths with doilies to match are now made in green and white, as well as blue and white, and in a number of pretty designs. The doilies are 12 inches square, and the cloths from 30 to 54 inches

square. Then there are breakfast or luncheon sets that consist of center-piece and plate doilies in two sizes, made of colored linen in figured patterns and edged with rather coarse lace.

Intended for hard usage in camps or bungalows are some couch covers with table-covers to match, made of heavy linen in the natural color with borders formed of wide bands in contrasting colors, which include green, blue and brown. They are quite inexpensive and will come out of the tub as good as new. Sets of the same sort may be had in burlap, done in designs suggestive of the futurist craze and in colors suitable for summer use. Colored linen is also used for table-covers which are perfectly plain and finished with a hemstitched hem about two inches deep.

Inexpensive cushions made particularly for use outdoors or on the piazza are covered with a Madagascar grass cloth that is not affected by dampness, and that comes in solid colors or in a variety of contrasting stripes. The pillows are filled with silk floss and are 22 inches square. Another useful addition to the porch outfit is the hand-woven grass mat, 18 inches in diameter and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, that is quite ornamental, with its alternating circles in Oriental colorings.



Garden Suggestions and Queries

CONDUCTED BY F. F. ROCKWELL
Author of *Home Vegetable Gardening and Gardening
Indoors and Under Glass*



The August Garden

AUGUST always makes me think of the three-quarter pole at the races. Entries are all pretty well bunched at the start; at the half they are strung out, but you are still guessing; but as they come into the home stretch, the winners and the also-rans have separated into two groups, and the odds are going up against the lagers. How does your garden look? Straight, clean rows, with fine dry dust between them, where never a weed can sprout, or two shades of green showing in the rows where should be but one, and here and there a weed-top?

But August usually isn't too late to clean up things, even if one has been slack during the last few weeks. The thing to keep firmly in mind is that the fall garden is just as important as the spring. One of the most surprising and agreeable things in gardening is the revolution which a day or two of conscientious, steady work can accomplish in a patch that has been neglected but is not hopelessly a mass of weeds. Go out into your garden now, and resolutely tackle the "bad spots." By all means, let no weeds go to seed. If they are too big to be hoed or pulled out, cut them off close to the soil, or below it, with a knife. This can be done very quickly, and will kill or check beyond further injury most garden weeds. The most prolific source of weed seeds in the majority of gardens is the strip of early vegetables which goes by and is allowed to grow up to weeds and ripen seeds insidiously in the late fall days when one is no longer thinking of them. Keep after the late weeds in spent crops, around the edges of the garden, along fences. If you cut weeds which have matured but not yet ripened seeds, remove them from the garden at once and burn them. This is especially true of purslane, the worst mid-summer weed pest. Unlike most garden weeds, it begins to ripen seed almost as soon as it begins to grow, and will live in dry weather even when pulled completely out of the soil. Moreover, every little piece broken or cut off will root readily.

Making the Soil Feed Itself

While the first and most important job for August is keeping this year's and next year's garden clean, there are plenty of other things to think of, mainly growing humus and green manure on your idle soil. Just so soon as a crop is used up or too old, cut off the old vines and weeds,

rake them to one side to dry and burn—they may contain weed seed, insect eggs or disease spores, which you don't want to put into the soil—and sow some quick-growing summer or hardy winter "cover" or "catch" crop. One good combination is oats and sorghum; if it's moist and cold the oats will thrive, if hot and dry the sorghum. Another is buckwheat and crimson clover, for latitudes as far north as northern New Jersey; the buckwheat, which grows rapidly and is killed down by frost, making a protection for the clover. For more northern sections, rye and winter vetch (*Vicia villosa*) make a splendid combination, adding not only humus but nitrogen to the soil, and being ready to plow or spade under early the following spring. If your garden plot occupies but part of your ground, an excellent plan is to "rotate" it every second or third year, growing Medium Red clover in the meantime to fill the soil with humus and abundant nitrogen. To make the clover grow, apply wood-ashes or a heavy dressing of lime, and in mid-spring or mid-fall a light one of potash (muriate or sulphate) before sowing.

"At ten o'clock in the morning, August 15, sow alfalfa." Thus the instruction a prominent agriculturist gave his class; not because alfalfa wouldn't grow as well if sowed at four-thirty P. M., but because he wanted to make the proper date for sowing stick in their minds. Doubtless you have heard more or less of alfalfa, the wonder crop of the West. You may not have heard that it can be grown successfully in most sections of the East. If you keep a horse or a cow, or if your live stock is only limited to poultry, you certainly should have a small patch of it. Like clover, or any other legume, it thrives in a soil well supplied with lime and potash.

There are still a few things which can be put in for late fall and winter crops. Turnips and table rutabagas, such as Breadstone, are among the most important, and a generous sowing should be made at once, where some crop has been cleared off. And the last sowings of lettuce and radishes will be in order. Don't plant the sorts you have been using throughout the summer, but hunt up the partially used packets—or get some new ones—of the earlier varieties: Grand Rapids and Big Boston lettuce, and Crimson Giant and Icicle radishes. If the soil is too dry to make good germination of the lettuce seed probable in the garden, sow it

in a frame, or any sheltered spot which may be made and kept moist and used as a seed bed. By the time the plants are large enough to transplant—after thinning—the beginning of the fall rains will probably have put the garden soil into better shape. Plant enough at this time and a week or two later to furnish a supply of plants for cold-frame and hot-bed to come along from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

Save on Your Flowers

A number of the hardy and half-hardy perennials and biennials, most of which cost but a few cents a packet for seed, can be started now and carried over the winter in a cold-frame. If sash are used over them, they can be taken off the first thing in the spring, but most of them, except in very cold localities, will come through the winter all right with the protection of the frames and a good mulching. The ideal place for starting them is a hot-bed or cold-frame, which can be made and kept sufficiently moist and shaded to keep the soil cool and prevent its baking or crust- ing until the little plants are up. The shutter, or a frame the same size as a regular glass sash and covered with plant cloth or bagging, should be supported firmly a foot or so above the sash, to provide ample circulation of air. Give the soil a thorough soaking the day before planting; scatter the seeds rather thinly, press them lightly into the soil and cover very lightly. Scatter flowers of sulphur over the surface thick enough to make it slightly yellow. This discourages mildew. When the seedlings are up, a generous sprinkling of tobacco dust will keep off insects. When the third or fourth leaf appears, transplant to four or six inches apart each way, in winter quarters, where they may remain until transplanted to permanent positions the following spring.

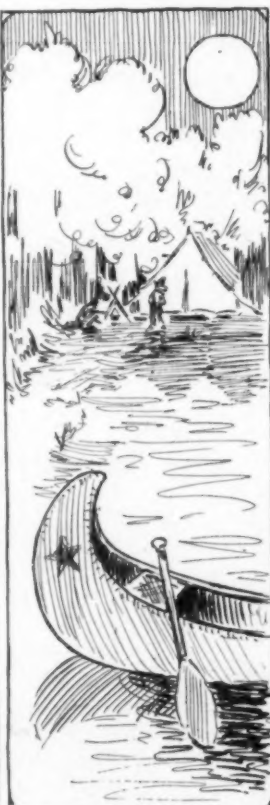
Fall Catalogs

Send for some of the fall catalogs, which will describe in detail the various sorts of flowers, including pansies, of which you should provide for yourself a generous supply, that may be started by the method described above. Beside seeds for autumn sowing, they cover thoroughly the whole question of bulbs, and some of the sorts which require early planting, such as the Madonna and fall-flowering crocus, and which should be ordered at once.

THE GARDENER'S CALENDAR

Wherein is laid out his daily work for the year, together with sundry facts useful or interesting

Eighth month
Morning stars—Mercury, Saturn
August, 1914
Thirty-one days
Evening stars—Venus, Mars, Jupiter

Sunday	30. ☉ A system of small ditches between garden rows, which may be filled with water once or twice a week, is better than any number of daily sprinklings.	2. ☉ This is the month also of weed seeding. Purslane, which gives us the proverb, "As mean as pusley," will get the best of the gardener who does not take it away and burn it.	9. ☉ Remember that a mulch of lawn clippings everywhere will help by conserving root moisture and preventing root sun-burn.	16. ☉ Katydid's are due to begin their perennial dispute about now. This is the month to start perennials from seed for next summer bloom.	23. ☉ The Madonna lily will grow perfectly in the garden if planted this month. It is the one lily that must make leaf growth in the fall. Dust the bulbs with sulphur.
Monday	31. ☉ Cut off the flower heads on everything as fast as they fade. This keeps up the bloom by not allowing seed to form—as well as keeps up the appearance of the garden.	3. ☉ Columbus set sail from Palos 1492. A planting day. Sow for this year's use early peas, endive, bush beans, radish, spinach, beets and mustard for pot herbs, cucumber for pickles.	10. ☉ Jupiter becomes an evening star. Mow the lawn regularly, no matter how dry it may be, and keep the weeds out. After sunset is good mowing time at this season.	17. ☉ It is time now to order bulbs for indoor winter bloom and for outdoor planting also.	24. ☉ Sun enters Virgo. Capitol at Washington burned 1814. A planting day. Transplant young garden plants to cold frame for December use.
Tuesday		4. ☉ A planting day. Till to-day and spray roses with potassium sulphide. Sow for next spring's use corn, salad, salsify and Welsh onion.	11. ☉ Till to-day and spray roses as usual. Tie up the first endive for blanching. The final spraying for codling moth comes somewhere around the middle of this month. Watch out!	18. ☉ Virginia Dare born 1587; first white child born on this continent; she shared the fate, whatever it may have been, that overwhelmed Raleigh's "lost colony." Till and spray to-day.	25. ☉ Till to-day and spray roses. The Teas and Hybrid Teas will be in as full bloom now, and for six weeks more, as they were in June. A planting day.
Wednesday		5. ☉ Full moon 7h. 41m. P. M. Atlantic Cable completed 1858. Mercury will be visible in the east just before sunrise.	12. ☉ Clear all spaces in the vegetable garden as soon as a crop is over, and seed with red clover if you do not intend planting again to a vegetable. This keeps down weeds and is good fertilizer when turned in.	19. ☉ Now is the time for root-pruning any large deciduous tree which is to be moved. Dig a circle four feet across around such a tree, severing the roots at this point.	26. ☉ A greenhouse may be put up for very little. Made a part of the dwelling, it is a delight all the year. Build now for use this year.
Thursday		6. ☉ Look for unusual number of shooting stars from to-night on for a week. Order evergreens for delivery on the 22d, or one of the three days following. All these are good planting days.	13. ☉ Last quar. 7h. 56m. P. M. Pears should be picked while green, but not until their stems part readily from the branch. Ripen in a cool, dark place.	20. ☉ The tree sends out new fibrous roots immediately and is prepared for transfer by October when its leaves fall.	27. ☉ First quar. 11h. 53m. P. M. The garden should be as full of bloom this month as earlier in the season; there are at least ten perennials will furnish it, not to mention the annuals.
Friday		7. ☉ Till to-day. Keep suckers rubbed off grapes, tomatoes and everything which sends them out. They rob the maturing fruits and weaken the plants.	14. ☉ Printing invented 1457. Till to-day. Carnations that have been growing outside must now be brought indoors.	21. ☉ New moon 7h. 27m. A. M. A total eclipse of the sun, visible as partial eclipse in Eastern Canada and North-eastern United States. Till to-day.	28. ☉ Till to-day. Masses of <i>Hibiscus Syriacus</i> and <i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> scattered through shrubbery keep up bloom here. Vars. <i>Van Houttei</i> and <i>Jeanne d'Arc</i> are the best of the former.
Saturday		1. ☉ This is the month for pruning evergreen hedges. These are trimmed only enough to shape them. Keep them narrow at top and tapering to wider at base.	15. ☉ Wrap late pears each in paper as oranges come and they will keep much more satisfactorily.	22. ☉ A planting day. Take cuttings of heliotrope and geranium. Sow pansies and English daisies for early cold frame bloom. Plant evergreens.	29. ☉ Tillage is undoubtedly better than irrigation—but both together are ideal. Remember, however, that deep watering is the thing; surface sprinkling draws roots to the surface, which is bad.

"Mislike me not for my complexion
The shadowed livery of the burnished sun."—Shakespeare.
Considerable rain during the month and sultry weather prevailing
"Bright gold at sunset, wind will soon fret;
Pale gold at sunset, rain will soon wet."



EDITORIAL



AMONG the axioms engraven indelibly on the mind of many a householder is the fact that experiments are generally inadvisable if the results must be permanent. Especially is this true if the experiment is to gratify a whim. There are instances, however, where that assertion is refuted, and for such an instance one has but to turn to the pictures of "Iristhorpe" on another page of this issue of *HOUSE AND GARDEN*. Here baldly are the facts of the experiment—an old house was taken and remodeled. The owner's favorite flower was the iris, and, appreciative of its variations in color and tone, she started with it as the keynote for her decorative scheme. She believed the iris to be the one flower that would lend itself to such elastic usages and universal application, its shape assuring unity, its variations preventing monotony. As can be readily seen, the results were a success.

Few flowers would permit such use, roses and violets perhaps, though even these do not afford the conventional lines found in the iris. But although "Iristhorpe" was a brilliant achievement, there arises, apropos of it, a question that perplexes amateur decorators and even professionals: Can a room be "built up" from a single object? Can one decorate a room around—a pair of vases, a chair, a rug?

The bare statement that this can be done might very simply be filed away among the *effete* absurdities of an esthetic fad, were it not for the fact that the experiment is constantly being tried. There was, for example, the man in Stockton's story. He bought unto himself a fire screen, but when he put it in his room he discovered that it threw the room out of proportion, and he was obliged to change the room. And having changed the room, he found that it threw the rest of the house out of proportion, so he had to set to and change the house. However amusing the story, it is not without its modicum of hard common sense. In ordinary experience, one or two things will happen if the room be "built up" from a single object: either the room will remain commonplace by reason of the mediocrity of the object, or else the basic object will be completely overshadowed in the too exaggerated development of the room. And imagine the catastrophe if the vases then were broken or the chair smashed! Moreover, there might be a dozen different ways to develop the decoration of a room from the solitary lovely thing, just as a dozen different harmonies can be arranged for middle C. The problem would arise, what is the right sort of room? One might have—to quote a plausible example—a pair of beautiful Nanking ginger jars. Chinese Chippendale would be the immediate choice for the style of decoration. But forthwith would arise the problem, what variety of Chinese Chippendale, what one of the various lacquers and stains? More than once have amateurs—and even professional—decorators discovered the results of their experiment to be the wrong sort of room! *Hinc illæ lacrymæ!*



Decorating a room to one's ultimate gratification and the satisfaction of artistic demands can only be accomplished after exercising infinite patience and untiring selection. And there are some rules that, put in homely phrase, might well be remembered. The personality of a room should be the personality of the person who dwells in it, for a room is more than chairs and rugs and curtains and tables. Those objects should be the choice of the person who has to live in the room. In passing from room to room in a house one should be able to sense not merely a change in periods but a change in personalities as well.

Again, the dweller in the room should be the predominating

factor in it. No object, howsoever lovely of itself, should be more lovely than the woman who graces the apartment. No table should be more sturdy than the lad who studies at it. A man should be hero to the chair in which he sits.

These ideas, of course, apply merely to the simple house, for were every woman her own decorator a healthy profession would pass out of existence. And even in the simple house the decorator stands, not as the ultimate mentor of things artistic, but as the one who, through hard-won experience, knows intuitively the most pleasing arrangement for the materials at hand.



Every man has within him at least one house and one garden which, were he able to create them, would bring Nirvana. It's his dream house and his dream garden, the sort of house and garden that he will make when he gets enough money. Some would have "a country place and shooting," others just "a little place at Tooting," but whatever the size or wherever the place, it will be his, his alone.

A man doesn't begin to dream this dream until he had some responsibility. Then it pours on him in a flood. He goes about its attainment almost secretly. He acquires the habit of consorting with antique dealers. He picks up here a lamp and there a chair. He drops into auction sales and buys into bondage a pair of candlesticks. Constantly is the dream house and the dream garden before him—he will put all these things in them!

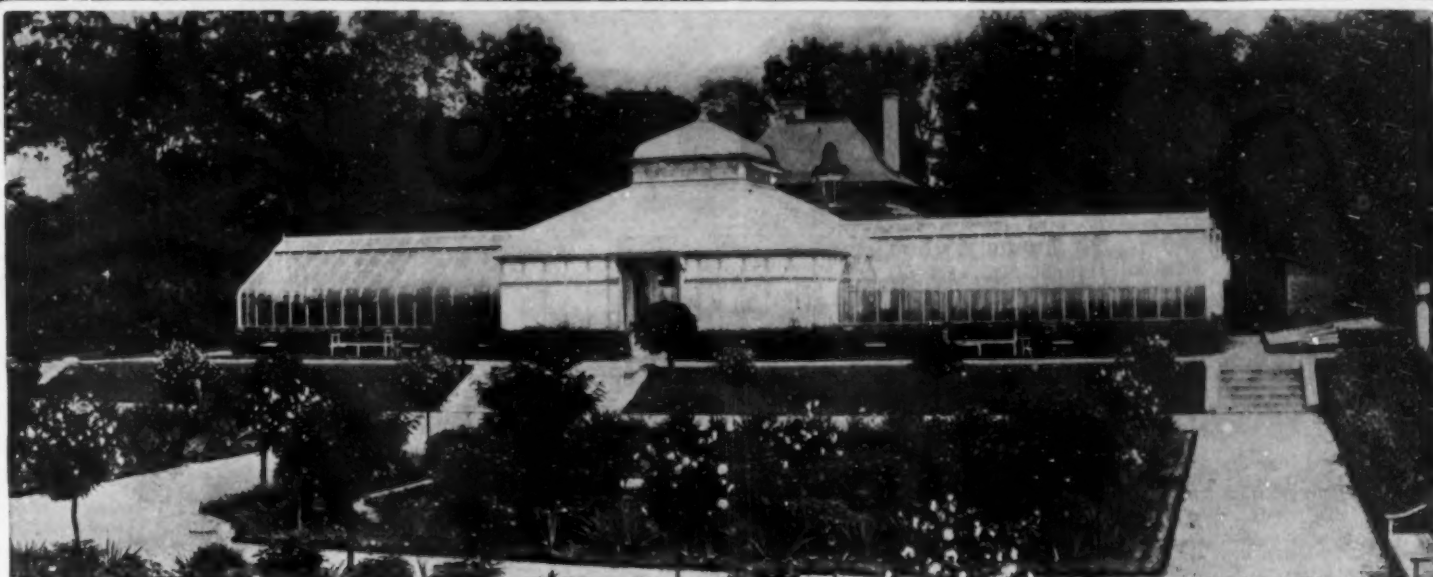
Perhaps it is good for that man that he never actually attains his house, that he dies in a bachelor's apartment and leaves his treasures to unappreciative nieces and nephews. But it has been better still for him to have acquired the practice of "picking up" things. The phrase is unforgivably *banale*, but it contrasts so well with the technical phrase of "building up" things—and means so much more. For the ideal house is the house that is picked up: A *lit-clos* from Brittany, a refectory table from Italy, Spanish iron work, roundels from Switzerland, English linen-fold paneling, a German chest. Or it may be that the table comes from Grand Rapids and the chairs from Philadelphia. Already he has begun the house that is to be his and his alone—his own choice, his own buying.

He may be of an utilitarian turn of mind and lay much store by fine mahogany doors and the staunch woodwork of an older generation. He will search the house-wreckers' heaps that dot New York wharves, he will go into the country, where, despite assertions to the contrary, there still linger real antiques waiting to be lured from out their ancient environment.

Then it is that he calls in a decorator who can assemble, arrange, or suggest changes that will make livable the house he has picked up. In the last analysis, this is the decorator's *raison d'être*—to serve those who don't know how or haven't the time, the patience, or the facilities for decorating their own houses to the best advantage.

A house picked up is ultimately satisfying because it gives that best of all results—it becomes a part of you. The neighbors may not appreciate your choice nor your decorator's arrangements, but you have the contentment which comes with being satisfied yourself. As a gentleman in *The Spectator* once observed:

I give a loving glance as I go
To three brass pots on a shelf in a row,
To my grandfather's grandfather's loving cup
And a bandy-leg chair I once picked up.
And I can't for the life of me make you see
Why just these things are a part of me.



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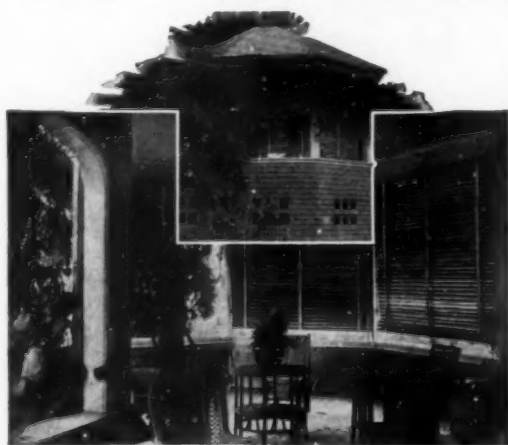
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Water Gardening at a Minimum

(Continued from page 98)

Japanese and German iris, the dear old "daffy," the bulbs of which had been in the old orchard for fifty years and had merely to be plowed up and transplanted to be given a new lease of life and beauty. The marsh marigold and Ostwego Tea Balm were found in the copse. The forget-me-not and watercress seed were sown broadcast, and I verily believe every blessed seed answered present at roll call next spring.

The ice is scarcely gone in the spring when my first pond picture is thrown on the canvas. The little pine trees nod and whisper to the granite boulders nestled at their feet, and the whole margin of the pool glows with the luscious tufts of the marsh marigold. After these come the daffodils, which were planted by the thousand on the further bank of the pond. After the daffodils come the iris; first, the native blue flag, then the varieties of Spanish, German and Japanese, which vary in height, and can be used from the water's edge to the top of the bank, and give two months of bloom. Perhaps the most dramatic moment comes when the scarlet balm and the common white elder bloom together. Last of all, the manager of my art gallery submits the native wild aster, great masses of white and many shades of lavender, with glints of golden rod, and the enduring crimson of the wild cherry which flashes out among the pines and waves a cheery good-bye when the ground is white with snow.

If your heart is set on the beauties of a formal garden pool, with stone or cement coping, this little article is not for you. But if you feel, with me, that the hard edge of walling and cement is only for the consistently formal garden, and is quite fatal to the beauty of wild water margin, and that you want an informal pond which can be the natural finish to a lived-in, informal garden where the informal children of the family can have a safe and glorious time from morning till night—meantime laying up an inexhaustible store of knowledge of the habits of the greenest of frogs, and the bluest of dragon flies, and all the dozens of interesting creatures that find their way to such a spot as this—then let me joyfully commend a pool like mine, which is easy to construct, costs nothing to maintain, and is cared for by the children, who might object to weeding a land garden, but literally cry aloud for the privilege of weeding in a water garden.



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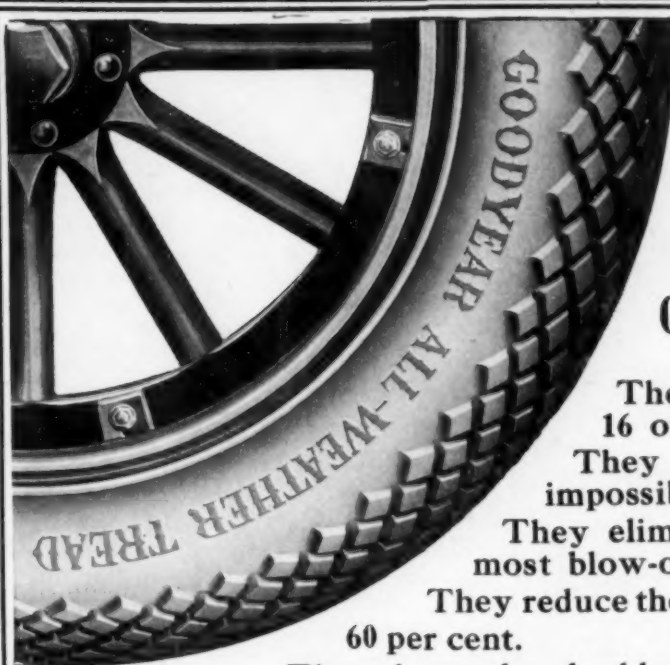
(Continued from page 99)

branches of it. "Smelling hard," to please her, he had buried his face in the branches, and for weeks it was an even toss-up as to whether he would be able to see or not. And I myself know how people who do not know it are deceived by it. One day this spring, for instance, I was strolling down a lane with a woman I know who is not a member of the Garden Club, and who reviles gardening when one has to do any of it oneself, and she reached down to pluck a shining leaf by the side of the way, calling my attention to its gloss. But I stopped her, for it was poison ivy!

That is just the trouble with it; it shines, and colors so gorgeously in autumn, and sometimes is bushy instead of being a vine, and it looks so clean and thrifty; really, it is a most shifty, "cagey" sort of plant, resorting to everything admirable, as far as appearance goes, to deceive. But always it has the three leaves: that is its hallmark. Woodbine grows in clusters of five, poison ivy and poison oak in clusters of *three*, and these leaves very often have a little ready-to-wilt droop at their edges that reminds me of Uriah Heep somehow—a mean, little smirk of self-deprecation and butter-wouldn't-melt-in-my-mouth! In winter white ghostly berries distinguish this from harmless trailers, and the white, drooping clusters of fruits of the poison sumach are what distinguish it also in winter from its benign relatives. Other sumachs' fruits stand erect and are not white; beware of the droop and the color.

Poison sumach is *very* poison, and people have died from it. It is as beautiful as the poison ivy—a splendid shrub anywhere from 6 to 18 feet high, with great leaves made up of an uneven number of leaflets. Sometimes there are only seven, sometimes there are as many as thirteen, and of course all the way between—but always an uneven number. And of course the blossoms droop just as the fruits do later, so be on guard against this modest attitude.

But of all things, the most to be dreaded—almost—is the American water hemlock, for nothing can be done for the person who has eaten of this deadly herb, and the death it brings is frightful. It has a pleasant aromatic scent something like sweet cicely, or parsnip, or artichoke, or horse radish, to some nostrils. And it is the root that beguiles the unsuspecting into nibbling, owing to this sweet flavor so eloquently suggested. Clustered this root is, each individual in the group being from 1½ to 3 inches long, fattest at the middle and tapering a little towards *both* ends. The leaves are in clusters of five or six and are very much saw-toothed, and it grows from 3 up to 7 or 8 feet high sometimes, with *hollow* smooth stems that are streaked with purple. It frequents



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damp places especially, all over the United States.

The hemlock of classic lore is not native to this continent, but it is as common a weed as any by our roadsides, nevertheless. Happily it is not tempting, and the colloquial name of "stinkweed" tells why. But it is poisonous in leaves and seeds and roots; and as its stems make excellent whistles, children are often poisoned by blowing on these. Then, too, its seeds are mistaken for anise sometimes, and its roots for parsnips, and so it gets in its deadly work. And deadly it is, too, although not painful in its effect. Instead, slow paralysis steals over the victim, all the powers failing gradually except the mind, which is clear until the end. This is the hemlock which furnished the brew to Socrates.

Then there is the beautiful pokeweed, big and striking and rich growing, often as tall as our heads. It has gorgeous red berries that look like pigeon-blood rubies, and when crushed bleed a crimson life-juice. In root and berry this is deadly. So are wild black cherry pits' kernels, and, of course, many fungi forms of the toad-stool order, the "death-cup" being quite as dreadful as the water hemlock. A piece the size of a peanut has killed the unfortunate who ate it. There is no antidote, for the poison does not begin to manifest itself until many hours have elapsed—from nine to fourteen usually. By that time it is, of course, assimilated, and a lingering, agonizing death is the only end.

"Never taste anything you do not know," said the painter as a last word, before he came back to talking about the "weeds" that are in danger of extermination because people always want to pick everything that they find blooming in woods or meadows. "Leave them there! They belong to every man. No man shall claim them for his own." The fringed gentians, for example—"weeds" surely, for wild they are and native—will be exterminated; and the sweet trailing arbutus, and even the great laurel, and I do not know how many others. I only know I came away cherishing a firm resolution to refrain from plucking anything when I go walking in the woods, save wild asters—a few now and then—and golden-rod, and daisies and clovers and black-eyed Susans and a few such old standbys.

Homes That Architects Have Built for Themselves

(Continued from page 82)

place is fairly alive with songsters of all sorts and, though scarlet tanagers can scarcely be praised for their vocal powers, a pair of them has come to lend distinction to the spot by nesting in that, not twenty feet from the piazza. Bird boxes and suet blocks add cordiality to the invitation to bird colonists, and their nesting liberties

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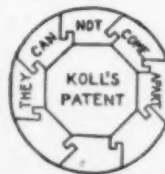
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Quality Crops for the Home

(Continued from page 96)

being to get one or two big fine crops and then discard the plants. In the latter way the "beds" are left for three years or more, until the plants become so crowded as to produce poor fruit; then a new bed is formed either by planting in a new place, or by forking up the soil between the beds, allowing the runners to root there, and then cutting out the old rows. By setting runners in the usual way, either in the spring or fall, to form matted rows or beds, a whole season or more is lost before a good crop of berries is obtained. By setting out potted plants in the fall, growing by the hill system, there is a full crop the following season.

With a hundred or two small clay pots, one may grow his own potted plants each season with little trouble, and it is no more work to set out a new bed, with the potted plants on hand, than to clean the weeds, grass, and surplus plants out of an old one. The pots are simply sunk or buried up to the rim and filled level full of soil. The runner is pushed slightly down into it, where the plant is forming, and helped in place with a clothespin or a small stone, which served the additional purpose of marking where the pot is. In a few weeks the pots will be filled with roots and strong plants, disturbed practically not at all by transplanting, which will be ready to set out in the new bed, or in regular rows in the vegetable garden.

Whichever method is followed, the soil in the rows and between the newly set plants should be raked over as soon as the plants are set, and gone over frequently enough with the wheel hoe to keep the surface loose and dry and free from weeds. The newly set plants, as soon as they become well established, will begin



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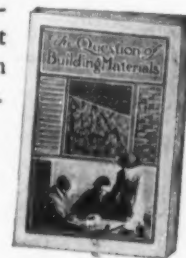
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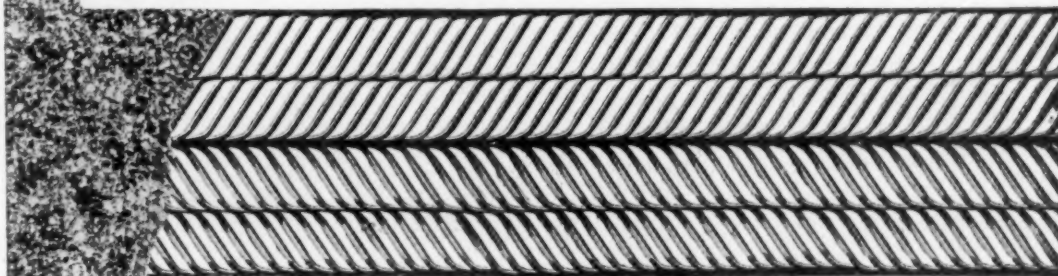


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to throw out runners. If the plants are to be grown in hills, as described above, to produce a maximum crop of fine berries the following spring, cut off every runner as soon as it appears. All the strength of the plant must be concentrated in making a fine large head of fruiting crowns, which by freezing weather will be a foot or so across. If the "matted row" method of growing the berries is preferred, push the tips of the first runners which form into the soil, to make secondary plants for some six inches on either side of the plants which have been set out. As soon as these are well rooted, they should be cut from the parent plant. All other runners must be kept cut off, as in the hill system.

As soon as the plants have taken hold, a dressing of nitrate of soda—a small handful to several plants worked into the soil with the hoe—will assist in giving them a quick start. If irrigation is available, that, in connection with the soda, will produce splendid large plants which will assure a bumper crop in the spring.

If the strawberries in your garden have previously suffered from disease, or disease was prevalent in the patch from which your newly set plants were taken, spray with Bordeaux, every ten days or so after planting, and again in the spring until after blossoming. Look for dark purplish spots on the leaves, which finally dry and crack as if they were burned. The large white grub is likely to cause trouble by eating the plants below the surface.

In the fall a supply of material for mulching should be obtained. It should not be put on until quite late, after the ground is frozen hard, which will be usually not earlier than the first of December, and sometimes considerably later. Marsh or meadow hay is one of the best material to use. Straw or leaves are sometimes employed, but they are likely to blow about. The mulching should be put on over the entire bed, covering the ground as well as the plants three or four inches deep. If necessary board or brush may be used to hold it in place. In the spring, as the plants begin to push through and the blossom stalks are thrown up, the mulching is pushed a little to either side, uncovering the plants, but leaving the ground between the rows covered. This keeps the ground shaded and cool, and holds the berries up so that they are much cleaner and much more readily picked than otherwise.

Planting the Winter Garden

(Continued from page 95)

induce a "fancy massing" by those whose interest lies in promoting this sort of thing. Evergreens both little and big are too individual, too positively assertive, to be planted in mixed groups. Wherever it may be, whoever may have planted it, and however thrifty the plants themselves, such arrangement of them is bad. Group

them as much as circumstances permit—but group them in kind, never in variety. It is doubtful, indeed, if there is a greater offense against Nature and art than mixed planting of this, the most splendid material at our disposal.

The Blooming at "Iristhorpe"

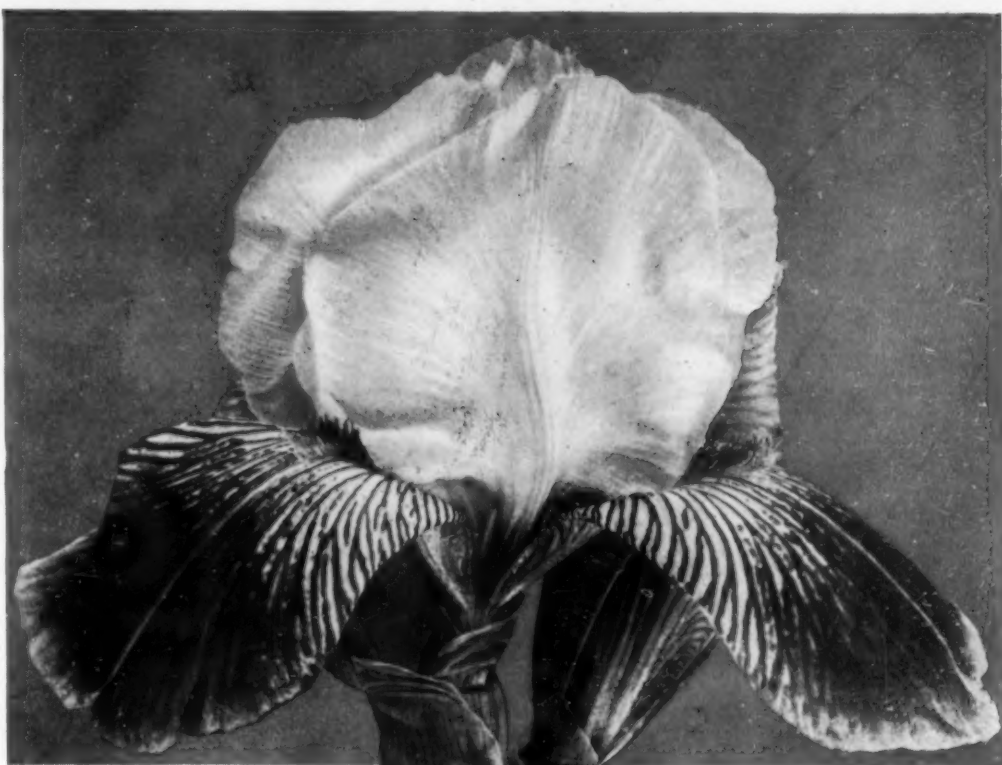
(Continued from page 89)

elaborate form. Iris panels adorn the dining-room overmantel, the upholstery of the chair seats echoes the *motif*, and the screen before the pantry door likewise bears this favorite flower. Its delicate hues are particularly effective with the white woodwork and mahogany furniture. The iris device is even to be found on the harness and horse blankets in the stable; it is worked into the lattices and treillage on the walls and in the garden, and, by its ubiquitous presence, makes "Iristhorpe" one of the most original estates in New England.

Our Eccentric Insect Neighbors

(Continued from page 78)

and a long lance-like appendage at the end of the body. This is used in imbedding the eggs deeply in soft soil. The males have shiny, wrinkled wings, the hardened edges of which are used in singing. The males are much given to fighting, and their pugnacious combats are exceedingly amusing. Little damage is ever done except the wounding of the vanquished opponent's pride or the loss of a leg or two. The latter incident is a mere trifle in the life of the fussy little cricket. So bold and thoroughly at home is the average cricket in a small cage of ordinary window-screen that it will sing while the observer's nose is but a few inches away. It is sad to explain, however, that the "song" of the cricket is most frequently a torrent of impertinent talk to a nearby rival, and energetic tussles inevitably follow. Crickets should have plenty of water, and this is best given by moistening a few crisp lettuce leaves placed in the bottom of the cage. From these the little creatures will drink the drops and later eat the leaves themselves. They are also fond of slices of apple or shreds of corn silk, and are delighted if occasionally given some fragments of raw beef. One thing about them the writer is sorry to explain. When a weaker member of the colony dies, the body is not permitted to remain unburied—it is immediately eaten! And here a word of caution: if crickets are not regularly fed they become fiendish cannibals. There is a terrific battle, and all but the strongest members of the party fall. The cricket cage should have a floor of clean sand and a few chips of bark to form hiding places.



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So many of the insects are tiny, almost microscopic creatures, and so many of them perform their characteristic capers in inaccessible places, that the writer constructed a laboratory for the special purpose of recording habits on motion picture film. By these methods students are enabled to see habits the greater number of them would never in any other way observe. Not one child in a million has seen the katy-did singing, the praying mantis rear in frightful pose, grasp and devour a fly, the toilette of a gaudy grasshopper as she carefully brushes pollen rust from her face, or the wolf spider, magnified ten thousand areas, carrying her family of hundreds of babies piled upon her back, and presenting an indescribable spectacle.

It is not so difficult to obtain motion pictures of insects eating, as these creatures are ever hungry and persist in satisfying their appetites even under greatly disturbed conditions, but to obtain scenes of nervous spiders caring for their young and to show insects singing—that is a different matter. To induce the spiders to spin nurseries it was necessary to build special cases, painted black inside, make the spider feel at home by keeping her quiet for some time, feeding her and giving her water, when she usually hatched her young, spun her nursery and stood guard over it. Then the case was placed upon the photographic table, the motion pictures' camera adjusted, and a cruel deed performed. The photographer destroyed the silken nursery and removed the tangled ruin while the baby spiders ran frantically about their distracted mother, who immediately started the construction of a new and generally more elaborated nursery, and while she was doing this and her infants were being reinstalled, the camera was steadily clicking away to tell the story later on the projecting screen.

To photograph the katy-did singing by its scraping the wings was a difficult matter. This insect sings only at night. A light of any kind will stop it. Yet to photograph a singing specimen at night meant that a stream of powerful electric light must be turned upon the songster. The deed was done in a grove of young oaks close to the motion picture studio. Several dozen katy-dids were placed in the trees and the camera—on a high tripod—focused on the vegetation of a tree in the center of the grove. The instrument, with special long focus lens, was to record the movements of a single insect that watched all proceedings, but remained silent owing to our close arrangements with the machines. The camera was then belted to a small motor so that no operator would stand by the instrument to disturb the insect. A searchlight such as is used in the navy was then trained on the single tree, in which reposed the actor, the powerful rays making photography possible. With the remainder of the grove in darkness the decoy katy-dids sang vigorously. In the intense beam of violet light the princi-

pal in this educational drama was seen turning slowly. Was it irritated by the light, and would it crawl from the lines of focus? This would mean much labor in moving the heavy apparatus in what seemed a fruitless and costly experiment. But its uneasiness was caused by the saucy taunts of the decoys. Its wings were elevated slightly. It could not resist answering some of those rasping calls. The man behind the searchlight could be seen glistening with perspiration as he "fed" the carbons of the great arc light. The writer's fingers were upon the switch of the camera motor. Then the insect's wings began to rhythmically move and another chant was added to the chorus of "katy-did, katy-didn't." So it continued until the picture was taken. And this picture has been seen by thousands of school children who previously never knew how the insects "sing."

Sun-Hot Water Day and Night

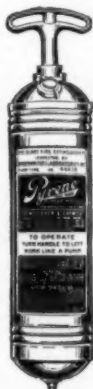
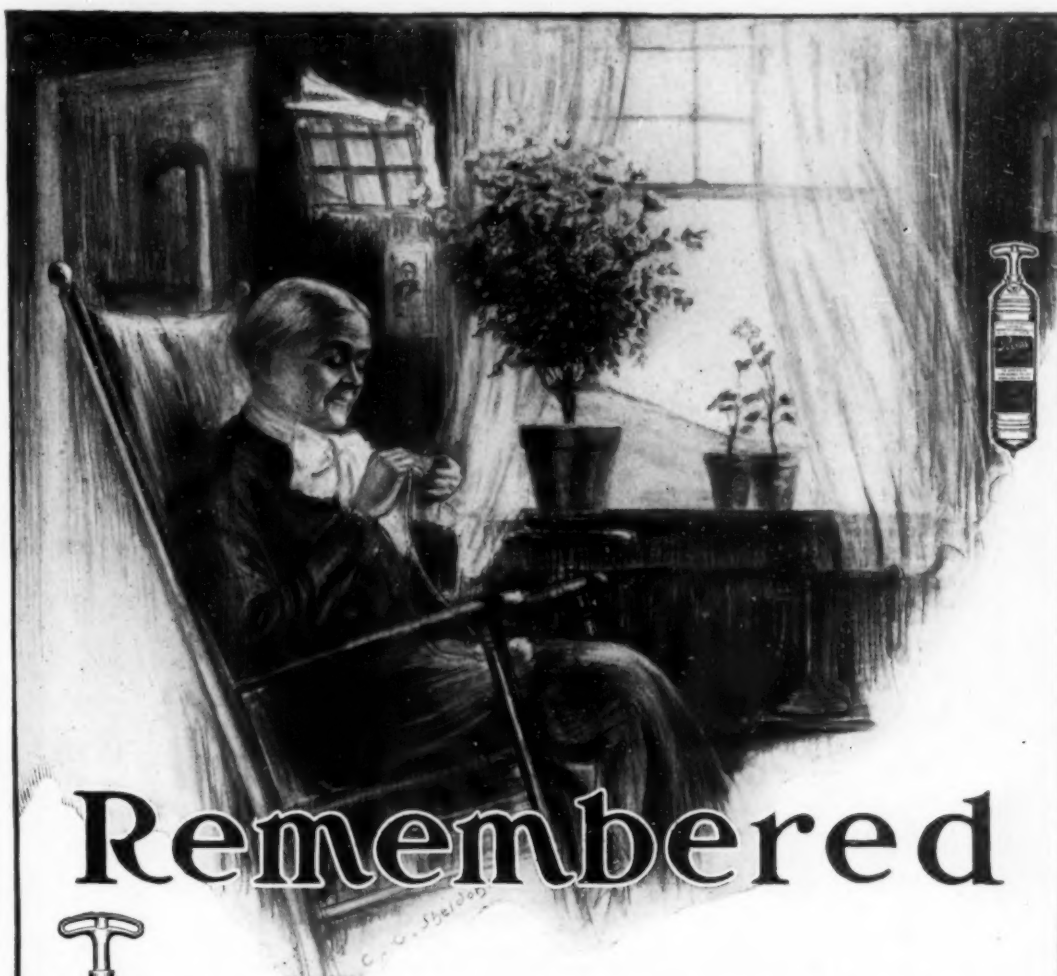
MODERN building methods have made forward strides within recent years to the extent that now householders in ordinary circumstances may enjoy the privilege of hot water day and night without resorting to the expenditure of a penny for fuel.

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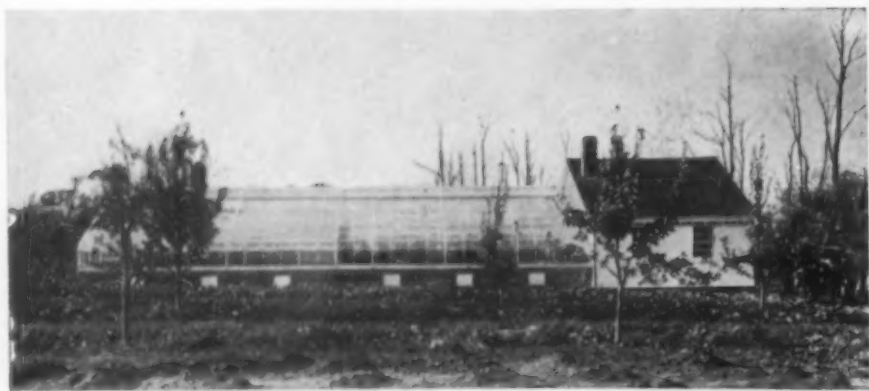
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Of course the warmer months have less hindrances, and if possible we would suggest your

placing your order as soon now as possible, so we can get your house up and ready for the plants before snow flies.

What is the use of putting off building until next Spring, when Winter is the time when you most want your house? Why deprive yourself and family of its real joys for practically another year?

Send for a catalog, or if you wish, we will arrange to come and talk things over at once with you, so as to obviate all possible delays in correspondence between us both, in its goings to and from.

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Every garden plot, large or small, offers an opportunity for the expression of your individuality. Consider how much more charm your garden would have if you were to add only a simple stone bench, a sundial, or a bird bath. Our catalogue illustrating some of the models in our remarkable collection of garden ornaments will help you in your selection. When you are in New York, call at our warerooms and see the collection for yourself. You will enjoy the visit.

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that the sunlight can strike it throughout the greater part of the day. The ordinary bungalow roof, however, is hardly slanting enough to afford the best of results in solar heating. The heater frame should rest at an incline of about 35 degrees.

The Californian in question built a bungalow with a roof which is rather flat, so he didn't mount the heater thereon. Instead, he built a set of pergola standards and supports and mounted the heater upon them in such a manner that the heater frame faces the direct sunlight, and at the same time acts as a sunshade for the back porch and the summer kitchen windows.

This heating outfit has a forty-gallon storage tank which is built into the kitchen wall. The tank is packed like a thermos bottle and works on the principle of a fireless cooker. When the coils of the solar heater are filled with hot water, the water



A solar water-heater mounted on the roof and supplying water at a temperature of 100 deg. F.

is turned into the storage tank, where it will remain hot for forty-eight hours without losing more than ten per cent of its original temperature. The water in the storage tank and the coils gives the family an eighty-gallon supply day and night for baths, dishwater and washing. In case of sickness it is a great advantage to be able to step to a faucet and tap the supply tank for a quantity of water ranging from 100 to 115 degrees in temperature.

The original cost of installing a solar heater is the only item worthy of consideration, for a solar heater has nothing to get out of repair and if not abused it will last almost a lifetime. Hundreds of people are building their own solar heaters or hiring plumbers or tanners to do the work for them. In dollars and cents the solar heater has a tremendous advantage over the ordinary water-heater, both in fuel economy and upkeep, and in the matter of supplying hot water at any hour of the day or night without a moment's delay, it is of incalculable value to the housewife from the standpoint of convenience.



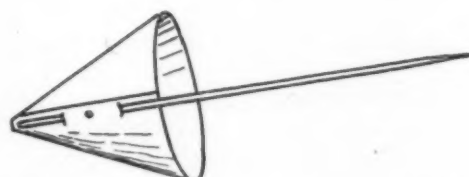
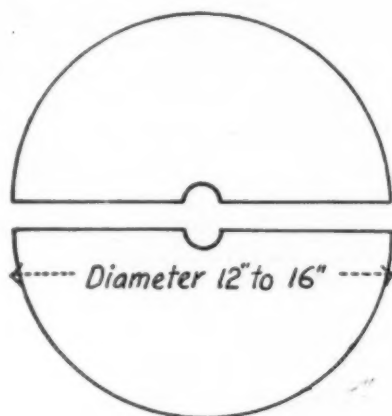
Protecting Tender Plants

IF one wishes to obtain the full fruits of one's labors it is necessary to set the plants out early, especially in latitudes where the season is short. For this reason people often take the risk, and in consequence are obliged to plant their gardens two or three times over before they are finally successful.

My own sad experience in this respect led me, some years ago, to invent a little device which has proved effectual in protecting tender plants from both heat and frost.

Out of building paper I made some disks twelve to sixteen inches in diameter, with a one and a half inch hole in the middle of each disk. These I cut in half.

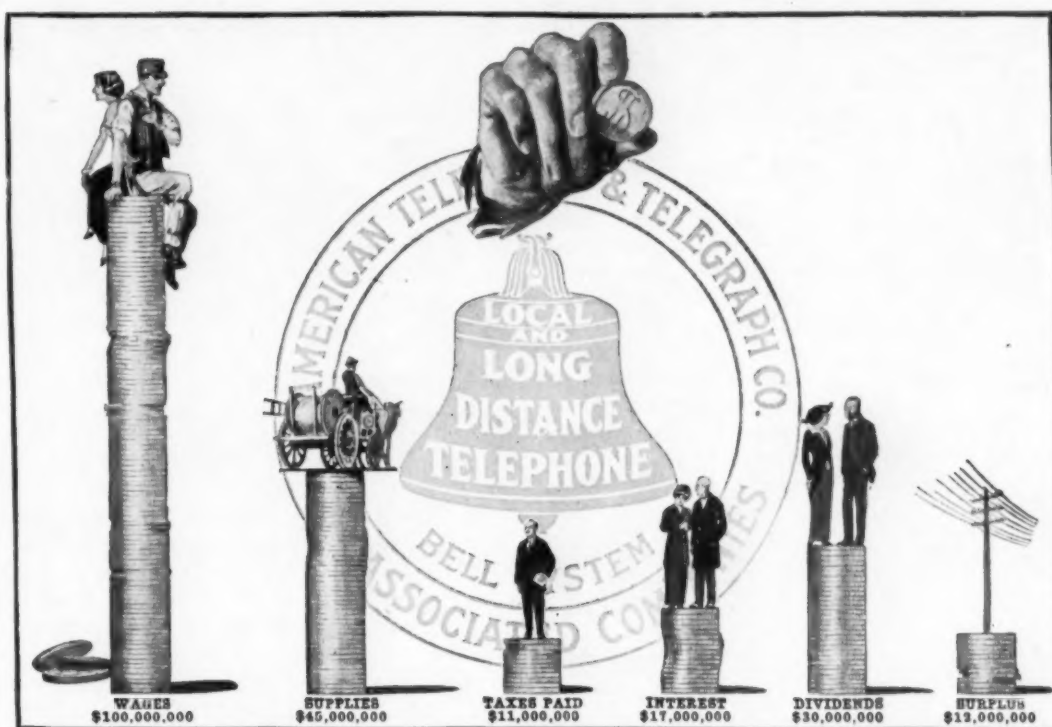
Then I selected some straight-grained shingles which I split up into sticks three-eighths of an inch wide. Forming the half disks into cones by lapping the edges, I pinned them together with these very sharp-pointed sticks, running them through until the thick ends were even with the tops of the cones.



A simple and effective plant covering made of paper and wooden pins

Placing one of these cones over each plant I was able to defy the weather. If it were warm I stuck it lightly in the ground; if the night promised to be cold I pushed the stick down until the cone almost touched the ground, protecting the plant completely.

Made of building paper, these cones will last for years if unpinned and put carefully away at the end of the season. I have had mine for more than five years. But equally good results may be obtained by using several thicknesses of ordinary newspaper.



How the Bell System Spends its Money

Every subscriber's telephone represents an actual investment averaging \$153, and the gross average revenue is \$41.75. The total revenue is distributed as follows:

Employees—\$100,000,000

Nearly half the total—\$100,000,000—paid in wages to more than one hundred thousand employees engaged in giving to the public the best and the cheapest telephone service in the world.

For Supplies—\$45,000,000

Paid to merchants, supply dealers and others for materials and apparatus, and for rent, light, heat, traveling, etc.

Tax Collector—\$11,000,000

Taxes of more than \$11,000,000 are paid to the Federal, state and local authorities. The people derive the benefit in better highways, schools and the like.

Bondholders—\$17,000,000

Paid in interest to thousands of men and women, savings banks, insurance companies and other institutions owning bonds and notes.

Stockholders—\$30,000,000

70,000 stockholders, about half of whom are women, receive \$30,000,000.

(These payments to stockholders and bondholders who have put their savings into the telephone business represent 6.05% on the investment.)

Surplus—\$12,000,000

This is invested in telephone plant and equipment, to furnish and keep telephone service always up to the Bell standard.

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AVERITABLE mint of information on bulb planting and bulb care will be found in the 1914 issue of Thorburn's Bulb Catalog. Register your name for a copy now.

J. M. THORBURN & CO.
53-E Barclay St., New York

Breaking Into the Farming Business

(Continued from page 75)

dozen rows across my garden. They did finely, and I harvested in the fall over eighty bushels of fine-looking roots, congratulating myself that at least one crop was going to pay well for the small investment. But I was too hasty. My horse refused to taste them. Apparently she was as particular in regard to her diet as to her method of working! My chickens did not care much for them and were made sick every time they ate them, and when I finally bought a cow (beyond the accounts of the year and not considered here), she also refused to have anything to do with them. I tried in vain to sell them, but no one wanted them, and they were finally allowed to rot away in a pile where they were stored. Perhaps they will make good fertilizer!

I need not go into details here in regard to my chicken department. It was not to be expected that the first year would be a paying one. We will let it go with the simple statement that the expenditures for stock and feed alone were \$144.94, while the receipts from all sources were only \$63.15, including what was used on our table, a deficit of \$81.79. It is probable that the increase in value of stock would make up a great part of the deficit, but that would be only an estimate. It is to be noted, however, that the chickens produced no income, but were an actual expense.

In the fall I had the wheat field plowed and sowed it in crimson clover to turn under the following season, in the hope of improving the land. I also bought and set out about thirty fruit trees of various kinds, and some grapes, berries, etc.

The potato crop was the only one that actually gave a profit. Not including prospective values, my different crops were produced at a net loss of \$24.43. If, however, the estimated values of prospective crops be taken into consideration, it is probable that they would show a profit. The nine acres of wheat produced \$63.90, or some \$7 per acre, while part of the two acres of garden produced \$124.17, without counting the value of the asparagus, strawberries, etc. The cost of producing these crops was \$132.65, which might be called prohibitive.

I have no intention of saying or implying here that farming does not pay. On the contrary, I am sure that, under certain conditions, it does pay. It would seem that it holds forth as many elusive hopes and brings as many bitter disappointments as any other business, except, perhaps, playing the stock market.

The year's experience taken from my books is shown in tables below:

INITIAL INVESTMENT

Cost of land	\$1,152.00
House	5,495.70
Barn	1,117.00
Chicken house	183.00
Sundry buildings, etc.	147.00
Total	\$8,094.70

The expenses in the operation of the farm were as follows:

Month.	Implements.	Stock.	Seeds, Etc.	Labor.	Maintenance.	Total.
April	\$97.71	\$16.00	\$60.80	\$16.75	....	\$191.26
May	22.80	....	17.50	39.75	2.05	82.10
June	25.05	3.00	....	42.15	32.15	103.25
July	4.95	15.00	....	28.00	46.40	94.35
August	14.75	201.20	7.70	30.30	32.80	286.75
September	19.70	11.90	....	17.50	48.45	97.55
October	2.00	41.10	....	28.75	28.95	100.80
November	3.95	....	8.75	18.00	68.25	98.95
December .....	....	....	....	11.50	16.58	28.08
Totals	\$190.91	\$289.10	\$94.75	\$323.70	\$275.63	\$1,083.29

In the above account, I included under implements, cultivators, carriage wagon, wheelbarrows, harness, and all tools I purchased. The stock was my horse and chickens. Under seed is included manure and fertilizer, and under maintenance is classed feed for the horse and chickens, and other supplies required for keeping up the stock. Housekeeping expenses are not touched upon.

	Expenditures.	Receipts.	Profit.	Loss.	December 31. Estim'd Value.
Wheat	\$81.85	\$63.90	....	\$7.95	....
Celery	21.50	10.30	....	11.20	....
Lima beans	25.00	19.82	....	5.18	....
Melons	13.50	13.50	....	....	....
Potatoes	16.65	28.80	12.15	....	....
Sugar beets	8.00	....	....	8.00	....
Garden truck	56.00	51.75	....	4.25	....
Asparagus	32.20	....	....	....	\$150.00
Strawberries	6.50	....	....	....	25.00
Fruit trees	25.75	....	....	....	50.00
Clover	13.25	....	....	....	50.00
Grapes, berries, etc.	10.00	....	....	....	25.00
Total	\$310.20	\$188.07	\$12.15	\$36.58	\$300.00

SUMMARY

Operating expenses for the year.	\$1,083.29	Actual returns.....	\$188.07
		Prospective values.....	300.00
		Stock and implements.....	480.00
		Deficit	115.22
	\$1,083.29	Total	\$1,083.29

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Dry Cleaning Wall Paper

IN these days of labor-saving devices, we can appreciate a simple method of cleaning the walls and ceilings, instead of removing wall paper or re-calculating, and creating no end of fuss and dirt. There is a splendid preparation on the market, its formula being the result of years of scientific research and experimentation, which dry cleans like a rubber eraser, saving much of the annual expense of repapering and calcimining.

It is often the case that a whole room is repapered just because the surface near the radiators or near the gas or lamps is discolored, when all that is necessary is a gentle rubbing of the surface with a handful of this cleaning preparation, which reminds one somewhat of soft art-gum or of putty minus its adhering quality. The delicate surface of wall paper when carefully rubbed, stands out bright and new; the soot and grime of smoke disappear like magic, and while the dry cleaner cleans, it odorlessly disinfects.

When one realizes that for seventy-five cents or a dollar one can clean and preserve the favorite wall coloring of one's room, saving a large decorator's bill, one realizes that the scientific dry-cleaner has come to stay. This dry-cleaner is also valuable in cleaning window shades, removing the soiled spots and leaving the surface fresh and new.

The Weatherproof Plant Label

DOUBTLESS all amateur gardeners have had the experience of carefully labeling plants with a piece of tape or wood, or with the original paper labels, only to find afterwards that the rain or wind or the birds have destroyed the labels, so that there is no way of identifying the plant.

A very efficient, convenient and permanent label is made in weatherproof form, and fully repays the small initial cost of a cent or two a piece, according to size. The label is strictly waterproof, and is composed of a card made from some opaque material similar to celluloid, on which one writes the name of the plant with a lead pencil or with India ink. A second slide, transparent, slips over the name written on the opaque surface of the first slide, making a perfect covering. The two sections are joined at either end, and the whole attached to the plant by a copper wire. This label is simple, practical and permanent, as the name can be rubbed from the opaque slide on which it is written, and the label used again another season. These waterproof labels are procurable in several sizes, allowing plenty of space for the name.



Residence of Mr. H. E. Dodge, Grosse Pointe, Mich. Albert Kahn and Ernest Wilby, Architects, Detroit, Mich.

J-M System of Refrigeration installed. Maintains a very low, dry temperature in several refrigerators, also supplies pure ice for table use.

(At right—one of the refrigerators. Below—the A-S Refrigerating Machine.)



Refrigeration with the trouble left out

You can now have your own refrigeration or ice supply without the trouble and inconvenience of the old-style machines. It's as simple as A, B, C when you install the

J-M SYSTEM of Refrigeration (Using A-S Machine)

No complex parts. So simple in operation that any intelligent person can run it. No pounding noise. Does not have to be recharged. No dangerous gases. When your home is equipped with this machine the mess and nuisance of icing refrigerators are done away with. And furthermore, you are independent of the dealer who charges exorbitant prices because of a shortage in the ice supply. Can be used for refrigeration or ice-making. Makes 11 to 110 pounds of ice per hour, according to size of machine. Hundreds of these machines are in daily use, many of which have been in operation for six years without a cent for repairs.

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Underground Garbage and Refuse Receivers

A Fireproof, sanitary disposal for oily waste and sweepings in your garage. Our Underground Earth Closet means freedom from polluted water.

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SEEDS: to be sown now. My special collection, 12 popular varieties 25 cts., worth 50 cts. **Plants:** Iris, Peonies, and many other varieties transplant well during August and following month. Special lists with full culture directions free. **FRANK KOEHLER,** Grower of Perennials for 20 years. **Rosedale Hardy Plant Farm, Camden, N. J.**



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as shown in the cut are much the best. The roots are all there—and good roots, too. If set out in August and September will produce a crop of berries next June. I have the finest stock of plants in the New England States. Send for Catalogue and Price List.

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Cover Drawing by Helen Dryden

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How to Find the Dream Farm

NEVER believe all you hear about any place, either for or against it. The man who has it for sale will naturally tell all the good qualities. You can trust the neighbors, former tenants and the village loungers to describe in detail the bad features. Look for yourself and strike a happy medium between the two. If you are not competent to decide, get some one of your friends who is a good judge of real estate to look at the place and give you an expert opinion. Whenever possible, buy your farm in a locality with which you are well acquainted, where you know the people, the rural conditions, the soil, climate, etc. It is best to locate near your old home and acquaintances. If you are city born and bred, purchase near your own city—the nearer the better—so that you can run in now and then to see your friends and to seek such amusement as appeals to you and your family.

You will be surprised to see the really fine places which can be picked up in the country by searching carefully. Folk get old in the country, just as in the city. Very often such old people desire to go and live with their children. Then the homestead can be purchased for a very reasonable cash offer, generally with the stock and implements. In the case of the death of the owner the farm is appraised by two or three competent judges, selected from the neighbors, and sold by the executor for its true value. This is always a good time to buy a place. The executor can usually give a good title and the price is generally right. Do not try to buy out a prosperous farmer who is well satisfied with his farm. It will cost a handsome premium. Those with plenty of money can afford to do this—but they seldom do. There are enough good farms for sale—keep on looking.

There are many ways of searching for a farm. Obviously a working man and his wife cannot go walking aimlessly through the country looking for the Dream Place. When one is working six days a week, Sunday is all too short for visits to the country. Looking for a farm is a good way to spend a vacation. Visit the locality in which you desire to purchase. You can stop at the hotel in the village over Sunday for a small sum. Or you can usually board there, and board well, for a week or two during vacation. In the city when a place is for sale a neatly lettered sign is hung out announcing the fact. In the country this is seldom done. Look over the country papers first. Examine all "for sale" advertisements. Then look for the legal notices to see what estates are being closed. Make a list of all the places for sale and pay each one a visit.

(Continued on page 181)

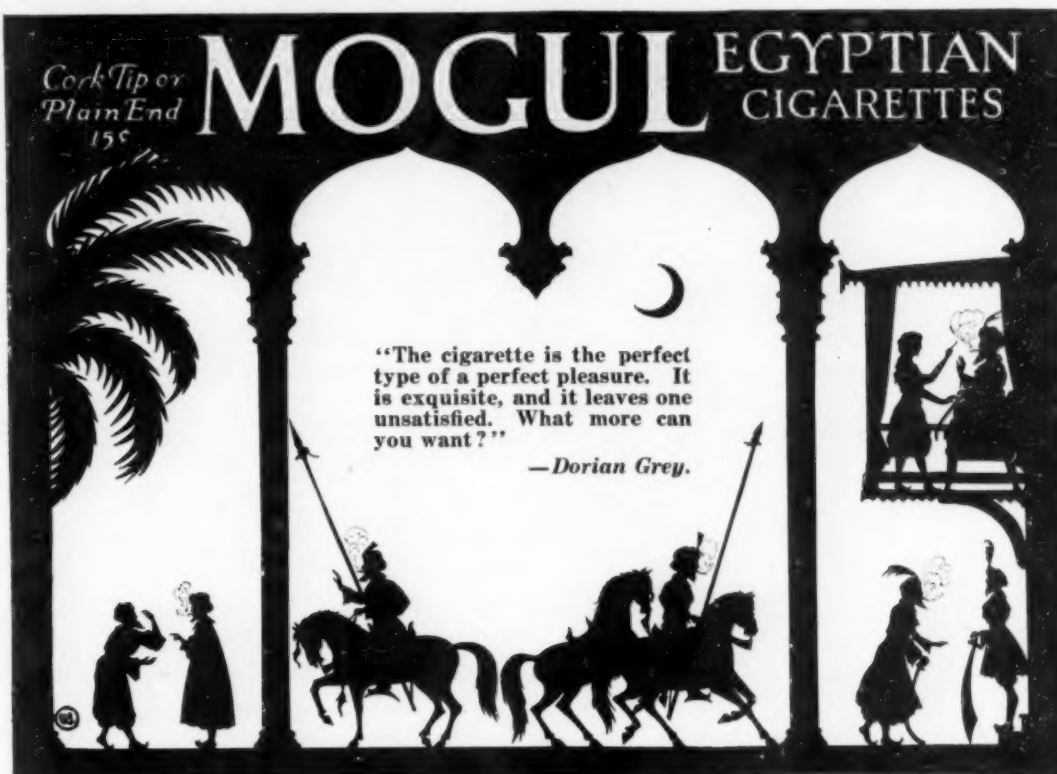
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Tabulating the Breeds

THE average layman who may find classifying the breeds of poultry a complicated matter will be helped were he to tabulate the more popular breeds under the three general racial classes: Asiatic, Mediterranean and Game. The first includes Brahmas, dark and light; Cochins, white, black and buff; Langshans, white, black and blue; and, in addition, some that are generally known as American breeds—Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Reds and Orpingtons. These are the largest of our breeds, are heavily feathered and consequently can stand much cold and require the least space in the yard to maintain a maximum of health. They are the setting breeds and lay brown eggs.

The egg-machines are the Mediterranean breeds, of which the greatest are the Leghorns, white, black, brown, buff, single comb and white and brown rose combs. To them must be added the Anconas, which are close rivals, the Minorcas, black and white; Andalusians, and White Face Black Spanish. This class are non-setters and lay white eggs. To distinguish between the two great subdivisions, it is best to remember that the Minorcas is a larger bird than the Leghorn and is a bird of angles, whereas the Leghorn is a bird of curves. The former lays the larger eggs which, when weighed, almost equal the Leghorn's prolific output.

There are more of the above breeds that are really popular, both at home in America and in England, than there are of any of the other classes of breeds. This claim applies to the different varieties of Plymouth Rocks, the Barred, white and buff, and the different varieties of Wyandottes, the Silver, Golden, White and buff, the Partridge or Golden Penciled Wyandotte, which is certain to become very extensively bred and popular, as well as the Silver Penciled Wyandotte. The Columbian Wyandotte does not yet appear to appeal to our fancies like the other varieties. The Black Wyandotte is another variety that has comparatively few admirers. Yet all are of the same breed, "As shape makes a breed, color, a variety," and all varieties of Wyandottes should have the same shape, the weight clause the same, the same comb, eyes, etc., with color the only distinction.

Skin Troubles in Dogs

IT is doubtful whether any group of canine ailments is more apt to be wrongly diagnosed by the layman than that which comprises eczema, erysipelas and a number of other troubles which manifest themselves in inflamed, itching and often pustulous skin. "Mange," assert fourteen out of every fifteen people when they see a dog scratching and chewing out his hair in patches where the skin shows red and swollen. But in the majority of cases the trouble is not mange at all, and mange remedies will have no more than a temporary effect upon it. True mange is caused by one of two kinds of parasites in the skin itself, and yields to external applications of the proper lotion. Eczema and similar eruptions, which in many respects resemble mange and are more common, are the result of deranged blood or digestion, and must be treated internally. External applications do no more than temporarily relieve the intense irritation.

Most cases of eczema are the result of too rich feeding, coupled with insufficient exercise, or else poor assimilation, chronic indigestion, or generally deranged condition of all digestive organs.

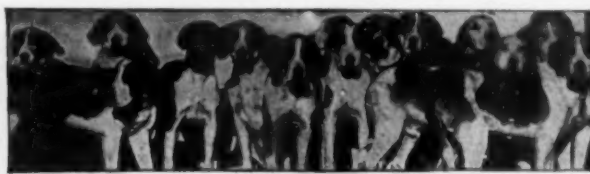
If over-rich blood is the cause, change the dog's diet to one of a cooling character: boiled green vegetables, stale bread soaked in a little milk, well boiled rice, and very little meat. Also give him sulphur in tablet form—any druggist can supply you with one of the standard prescriptions for such cases. Lump sulphur placed in the drinking pan is absolutely useless, for it is insoluble in water.

Where the eruption results from digestive troubles, the remedy is less easy. Irregular appetite, diarrhoea, a tendency to eat unclean and unnatural foods, all indicate deranged digestion. A pallid color of the inside of the upper lips shows non-assimilation and anæmia arising from the same condition. Where these symptoms exist, be very careful of the dog's food. Let his diet be entirely of raw lean meat fed in limited quantities three times a day. This is the most easily digested food for a dog, and the old belief that it induces stomach worms, distemper, etc., has been entirely exploded.

Feed the meat slowly, not allowing the dog to bolt it in great gulps, and immediately after each meal administer one of the dog digestive pills with which your druggist can supply you. Also keep where the dog can always reach it a pan of fresh, cold water containing lime water in the proportion of 1 to 30. Where the dog is thin, undertoned and dispirited, give him also the standard condition pills made up for the purpose.

In connection with internal treatment, apply oil of tar to the inflamed places on the skin.

R. S. LEMMON.



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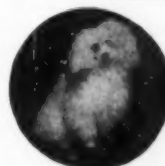
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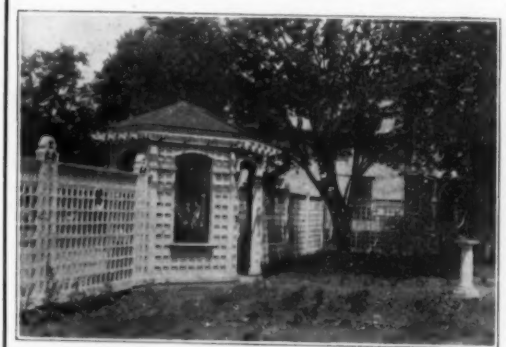
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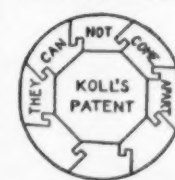
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The Children's Pony

"A BOY or a girl can get more fun, physical development and health to the square inch out of a Shetland pony than in any other way of which I know, besides more real, unalloyed happiness than he or she will be apt to find in a fortune in later life," said a friend the other day, as his two small boys, aged eight and ten, came galloping in from their jolly morning's ride with red cheeks and sparkling eyes. And certainly when they jumped to the ground their enthusiasm over the pretty ponies bore out to the letter their father's summing up.

The Shetland pony is the most reliable, hardiest, prettiest, and the freest from defects of any of the known breeds, besides having no vicious traits and suffering least from neglect, which readily accounts for some of its popularity. Once happily adopted into the family he becomes the beloved companion of the children, and seems to enter into their various play with what is almost the intelligence of a human,



The extreme hardiness and good humor of the Shetland accounts for his popularity

while it is really no exaggeration to say that as a restorer to and preserver of health this pony for children knows no equal. The Shetland being also practically immune to all diseases and full to the bubbling over point of vital force, animal spirits and magnetism, he seems to impart more or less of this vigor to his riders, while the very fact, of course, that children have a pony to ride and drive keeps them out in the healthful atmosphere of the open air, when otherwise they might be lolling about indoors.

But to see the Shetlands at their best and to learn something of their proper care and keep a trip should be made to one of the famous breeders of these ponies, such as Dr. Elliot, at Belle Meade Farm, Markham, Fauquier County, Virginia, where is the home of many of the sturdy Shetland Island champions which have won fame for their owner. To speak of the beauty of such well-known stal-

Prize Winning Shetlands

Our big herd of nearly 300 ponies contains many prize winners and all are well bred, reliable and constitutionally strong. Naturally you wish your children to be robust and self-reliant and nothing will help them so much as having a good Shetland pony for a play-fellow. They are not expensive and their cost of keep is small. They can be ridden or driven equally well, and Belle Meade Farm ponies can be trusted anywhere. They are not afraid of anything. Get one—it will repay you a thousand fold in the health and happiness of your children. Complete outfits. Write for catalogue.

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lions as Howard B., Vespa, Signold, etc., would only be to repeat what has already been said many times over, so we will not indulge in a mere "horse show" description of these prize winners, but confine ourselves instead to what the average reader would most like to know, viz.: for how much a good Shetland pony can be purchased and where, and the necessary details of his proper care and keep. Shetland ponies date as far back as the year 872, having been found useful in many capacities ever since then; they average from 36 to 44 inches in height, are very strong, and are fortunately endowed with wonderful constitutions, while an important point in their favor is that they are inexpensive to keep and will eat almost anything—indeed, they have been known to live royally on a fair-sized lawn, for which, by the way, they make a most charming and attractive ornament.

In providing quarters for a Shetland always remember where he comes from, and that his ancestors for generations were used to live entirely in the open air, both in summer and winter; so provide plenty of ventilation and sunshine for him. To prevent moisture and bad air in the stable, run a wooden box shaft from about 18 to 24 inches above the floor up and out through the roof, where it may be capped to keep out the rain. This shaft should have a slide in the bottom which may be closed or opened, as the weather demands. If the pony is not to be used in winter he should be provided with a box-stall and a small paddock for exercise; no shoes will be necessary for him unless the roads are hard. The feed for a pony ridden by a little child should consist of good, bright, clean hay, with some cut up corn or oat fodder (the latter cut when in the milk and dried, for a change) in addition to an occasional quart of bran, fed as a mash to keep the bowels in order, and a few carrots, say one or two every other day; but if there are fresh lawn clippings in the summer, then no other feed except the bran will be found necessary. It will be noticed here that no oats are recommended for ponies used solely for little children, but if the Shetland is kept for a boy or girl strong enough to control him, and is also used to do errands besides being ridden, then he should receive a quart and a half of oats three times a day, substituting the bran mash at least once a week for a meal. Salt should always be kept in the form of rock where the pony may get at it. Another point well to impress on the prospective owner is the danger of watering and feeding while the pony is hot, for many a fine beast has been utterly ruined in this way. On bringing the pony into the stable, if he is warm, unharness him and throw a blanket over him, covering the chest. If there happens to be a draught, stand him with his back to it; a few swallows of water will do no harm, but that's all he should have until quite cooled off.

E. K. P.

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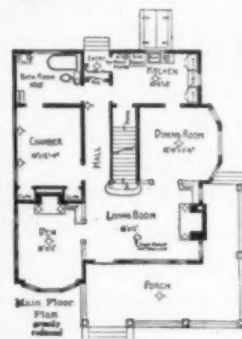
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