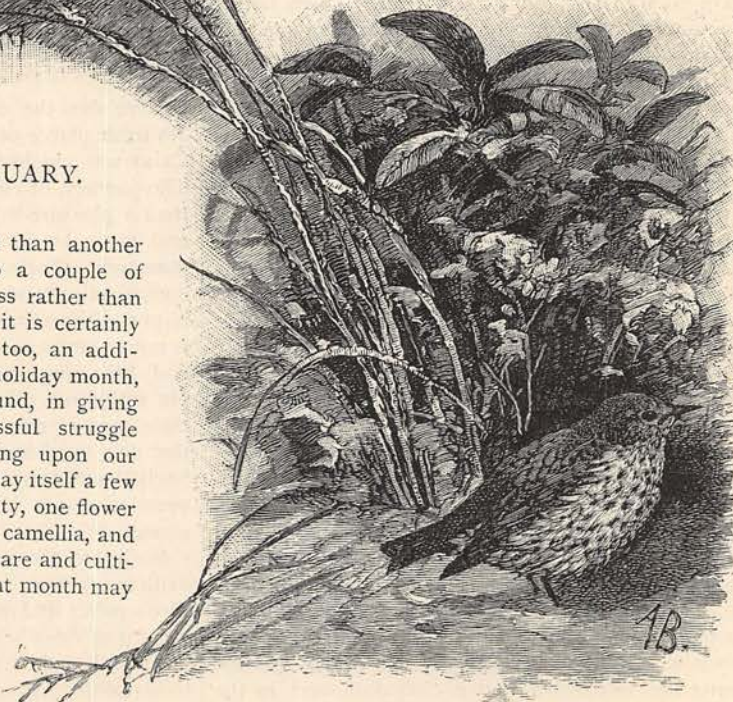


mainly because just now nearly the same temperature is suited to both camellias and heaths. Indeed, at this season of the year—and we will suppose, what is most generally the case, that it is a severe one—the temperature, so far as the well-being of these

OUR GARDEN IN JANUARY.

IF there be one month more than another whose name invites us to a couple of hours' gardening under glass rather than under the frosty canopy of the sky, it is certainly the month of January. We take, too, an additional pleasure in this Christmas holiday month, and when the snow is on the ground, in giving some actual proof of our successful struggle against the outside cold, by placing upon our table on Christmas or New-year's Day itself a few bright flowers. And, in all probability, one flower in our imaginary bouquet will be a camellia, and something therefore relative to the care and cultivation of camellias during the present month may be now said with advantage. With our camellias, too, we may at the same time notice our small collection of heaths. And this we do



two plants is concerned, need not stand higher than barely above freezing.

Take, then, as a general rule for guidance, the following:—Let us suppose that the thermometer *outside* our greenhouse is standing at thirty-six degrees, and that under a clear and bright sky it is still falling: light in the afternoon a gentle fire, increasing it or allowing it to slacken just in proportion to the freak of the varying climate outside. If by any unforeseen mischance the frost should penetrate your house, then, as we hinted last month, expel it very gently, and your plants will probably escape unhurt, whereas a sudden and violent acquisition of artificial heat would undoubtedly injure them. Next, have a free and good circulation of air in your greenhouse, and when there is no frost at all give air by night as well as by day, while even in frosty weather give some fresh air during the middle or warmer part of the day.

Some of us perhaps have run up a small greenhouse, but have not gone to the expense of fitting it up also with a hot-water apparatus, and, it may be, have no appliances at all for artificial heat. A partial remedy, however, for this may be had by having some light wooden shutters, or some good asphalted felt, which could be placed over or around your glass. At all events, we may safely say that protection of this character renders fire-heat at night-time far less necessary. In a thoroughly damp and muggy season have a fire in the middle of the day, with the glass well open, so as to dry your house; the damp, as we too well know, being often as injurious as the frost. And, indeed, as the month advances, and in mild weather, a good day's work may be had in the greenhouse in re-potting, but this is generally not begun until next month. There are, however, plenty of flowers, especially of the early bulbs, that we are perhaps now endeavouring to encourage under the favourable influence of our glass. Crocuses and snowdrops in pots will of course be out much earlier under these conditions than in the open, while our hyacinths in glasses we are now forcing on under the still more genial influence of our dining or drawing-room.

To pass, however, for a few moments to our little garden outside, where we are surely just now trying the cultivation of the Christmas rose or *Helleborus niger*. These, when the plants are fairly well established and in situations at all sheltered, will bloom in the very dead of winter; and it is charming at this season of the year to gather their large spreading white flowers, which, with a few sprays of green or fern, are so effective for table decoration. The Christmas rose is a hardy perennial, and is easily reared. The wonder is that we see it, after all, so seldom as we do.

Now, our London greenhouses, from being of necessity in such close proximity to other buildings, will proportionately require watching after a fall of snow; or rather we should say that any building whose roof towers above your glass should have the snow carefully removed from it, otherwise a disastrous result may follow when the thaw comes, and your unhappy

greenhouse may be well-nigh exterminated in a single night.

Not very much can be done this month in the way of window gardening. A bright supply of evergreens can, however, always be had; and yet by a little forethought and systematic attention to gardening for a portion of the day, all the year round we may be able to have, at all events, some flowers in bloom for the window, even during the coldest months of the year.

For instance, there is the well-known and popular Chinese primrose, the *Primula sinensis*, or *Primula pranitens*, as it is sometimes called. It should be sown in the summer, and carefully kept during the autumn in the greenhouse. It will then bloom admirably in the winter, is a very good decoration for your window, and is exceedingly useful to pick from when making up a bouquet. Then, again, we can draw upon all the early-flowering bulbs for our window display, such as the hyacinth, tulip, crocus, narcissus, and soon afterwards the lily of the valley. Our fuchsias, however, we had better yet keep away in a dark place, and they need also only be kept moist enough to avoid their being entirely parched up.

In our suburban gardens we generally contrive to have a few standard roses, and these should be looked over this month with the purpose of attending to the security of the stakes and fastenings. During a severe gale, if your standard has the ill fortune to break away from its stake, it will doubtless get seriously damaged, and perhaps break off short altogether. Now there is one precaution against this which is too seldom taken; your stake may be driven hard enough into the soil, but the fault so often overlooked is, that it is frequently not long enough, and the head of your rose itself, which is considerably above the top of the stake, is exposed to the full force of the wind.

Your stake, then, should be sufficiently long to have its top partly amongst the foliage of your rose. In the summer the foliage will conceal the unsightly top of the stake, and in the present leafless season it is really of little moment if the stake appear to be too high. And in good open weather, which, after all, in a mild winter we sometimes have during a part of January, stocks for budding upon may be planted at once in good ground. For the purposes of budding in July, it is important to have had first of all a vigorous growth of young wood. Now in planting out these new stocks all the bruised and ragged ends of the roots should be cut off, and, indeed, also any awkward-looking piece that may be in the way, as it is far better to have the roots short and fibrous than to have them all straggling about. The stocks too, when planted, should be well trod in, and if you have many of them in a row some foot and a half apart, they should, if possible, be all fastened to a rail. Some close-rooted and dwarf stocks may even be potted, but, of course, in pots of a size large enough to allow of their growth. The pots should then be plunged in the open ground, and a rail should again be contrived to which the stems should be fastened. One or two stocks, indeed, in pots, that you may succeed afterwards in budding may afford

you much gratification if they are kept at times in your greenhouse and get earlier into bloom.

Plenty of good hard and deep trenching should be done this month, and all the soil left in large lumps so as to allow the frost to act freely upon it. By this means some slugs and vermin, we may hope, will get destroyed. Any pruning of fruit-trees in the fruit-garden which has not yet been carried out, must without any delay—saving only that which a hard frost necessitates—be proceeded with. Sometimes, however, it happens that some one long operation in the garden has unduly occupied our time, or we have been unwisely riding some pet hobby to death.

This is always a mistake in the garden, as it destroys what is so absolutely an essential for successful gardening, and that is routine work. It is well in the opening month of the year to insist upon this caution.

There are many plants more strongly recommended than others for suburban gardens, and on a future occasion we shall hope to enumerate some of them, giving a few hints as we go along on the cultivation of each. Meantime, we are perhaps just now engrossed more or less by the festivities of our Christmas reunions, and who knows but that round the Yule log our gardening may suggest a subject for an animated discussion?

WHAT TO DO FOR THE TOOTHACHE.

BY A FAMILY DOCTOR.



THE experience of most medical men, and that of the older dentist-surgeons, seem to prove that ailments of the teeth and gums, with decay of the former and consequent toothache, are rather on the increase than otherwise. I do not pretend to be able to advance any theory

as to the *causæ morborum*; their name may be legion; but nevertheless the fact remains that five out of every half-dozen young men, or young women, suffer either inconvenience or positive pain from decayed teeth. If I were pressed to give an answer to the question, Why is this so? I should reply that the causes vary with the cases. Inherited weakness of constitution, is doubtless one principal cause of decay in the dental organs. Dyspepsia, no matter how produced, is certainly another; and here I may add that cause and effect often change places.

Another cause of dental degeneration is the abuse of what is called "beer," and of the thousand and one vile mixtures sold under the name of wines and spirits. Neglect of cleanliness, and carelessness in the selection of tooth-powders, will also lead to decay of the teeth, and so too will excessive smoking.

These are general causes, and I may also mention fast living, which tends to weaken the whole system, nervous, muscular, and periosteal; and the abuse of medicines, especially mercury.

Now, while sojourning lately for a short time on the other side of the Atlantic, I could not help noticing that *caries* of the teeth, especially those in front, was far more common in America than even in England. But I was struck at the same time with the fact that our Yankee cousins take much more care of their teeth than we do. Dental surgery is quite an institu-

tion of the country. An American goes to have his teeth seen to with as much regularity as he visits his hairdresser; and even those among them who have not many greenbacks in their pockets, have plenty of gold in their mouths.

Well, with reference to my present paper, I shall be quite satisfied that I have done some little good if I can but succeed in impressing upon the minds of a few of my readers these truths: 1. That the teeth are of the utmost importance to the economy of the system. 2. That their decay is dangerous to the health. 3. That this decay can in most instances be checked. 4. That toothache is in nearly every instance curable and preventible.

A tooth consists of three parts, or rather, I should say, is easily divisible by the anatomist into three: the crown, the portion exposed; the root or roots, the portion or portions fixed in the jaw; and the neck, the portion that joins the two, and is covered by the loose gum. Furthermore, every tooth is hollow, and contains the dental pulp, which is well supplied with bloodvessels and nerves, and is extremely sensitive. The greater part of the tooth is composed of what is called dentine, or ivory; in reality it is bone, but much harder in its construction than any of the other bones of the body. The *cementum*, which covers the roots, or fangs, is more nearly allied to true bone, while the covering of the crown, or exposed portion of the tooth, is dignified by the name of enamel. It is intended by nature to defend the crown from decay, it being of so hard a structure that even acids have little effect on it.

If this enamel is worn off either in the ordinary process of wear-and-tear, or by the injudicious use of tooth-powders, one can easily understand how decay (*caries*) of the tooth may speedily follow.

Now, no one will doubt how important it is to possess really good and capable teeth, who remembers that mastication is the very first process of digestion. But mastication does not mean merely the division of the food into portions small enough for the stomach

to the harbour a matter of exceeding difficulty and risk in stormy weather. Mr. Shields determined to try a series of experiments to prove in what manner oil might most certainly be made available to enable ships and boats to enter the harbour at all seasons.

One of the preliminary tests was of the simplest nature. Captain David Gray, having heard that one drop of oil would smooth four feet of water, determined to try its effect on the heavy surf which breaks over the harbour bar. Selecting a rough wintry day, he lowered an uncorked bottle full of oil into the raging waters. In a few moments the oil floated upward from the bottle, and overspread a large area of the surface, which became smooth and glassy, not reduced in height, but transformed from angry surf into long undulating rollers, over which any boat or ship might glide in safety.

Mr. Shields' tests have been made on a very large scale. He carried 1,200 feet of lead and iron piping from the shore to some distance beyond the mouth of the harbour, where they terminated in deep water. In a shed on the beach stands a 100-gallon cask of oil; a force-pump carries the oil through the pipe, and ejects it through three conical valves at the further end. Thence it rises to the surface, and straightway forms a thin film, which overspreads the tempestuous waters above the bar, and subdues the white crests which are the source of so much danger. Huge billows still swell, but they are transformed into smooth rollers.

Of course, the chief objection to this plan is the very large amount of oil which must be expended every time that a ship or boat approaches in stormy weather, and which would certainly result in making the harbour authorities chary of its use, except in cases of extreme danger. It would appear simpler, and more certain, to devise means for applying the remedy to each several ship at the moment of need. It has been suggested that oil-canisters might be attached to rockets, or shells containing oil might be fired from

mortars, so as to discharge their contents on the water close to the ship in distress, or at the moment she is about to cross the bar.

Still more practical does it appear that every vessel should, as a matter of course, carry her own oil supply with which to make a smooth pathway for herself in the hour of danger. It might be so applied that *the man at the wheel could reach a handle, by which to open a valve or elbow in an oil-tank in the stern of the ship*. In the event of a person falling overboard, the drip of oil thus produced would instantly form a smooth track, and *enable a boat to go straight back to the rescue of the drowning man*. So, too, the life-boat, fitted with a self-acting oil-tank, would find her approach to a ship in distress vastly facilitated were the breaking of the crested waves hindered for even a little while.

Another most desirable application of oil would be *to attach two copper pipes containing oil round every life-buoy—one on the inner, the other on the outer edge—closed by a cork attached to the string by which the buoy is hung up*. A printed notice should be appended, *bidding the person who throws it overboard, jerk the string, and so pull out the cork*. Everyone who has been much at sea must have been struck with the small chance that a drowning man has of even *seeing* the buoy flung to him, as he and it rise and fall amid the mountainous waves. But *this simple addition would at once create a large space of glassy water, visible for perhaps a mile, in which, moreover, he could float securely, till the vessel, probably running before the wind, was able to lower her boat and send him succour*. At present, we all know *how rarely such seekers are able even to find their life-buoy*.

But all these points are matters of detail that will assuredly be wisely worked out by competent persons, if they can once be truly convinced of how great a power for good lies ready to their hand, hitherto neglected only because it has seemed too simple to be true.

OUR GARDEN IN FEBRUARY.

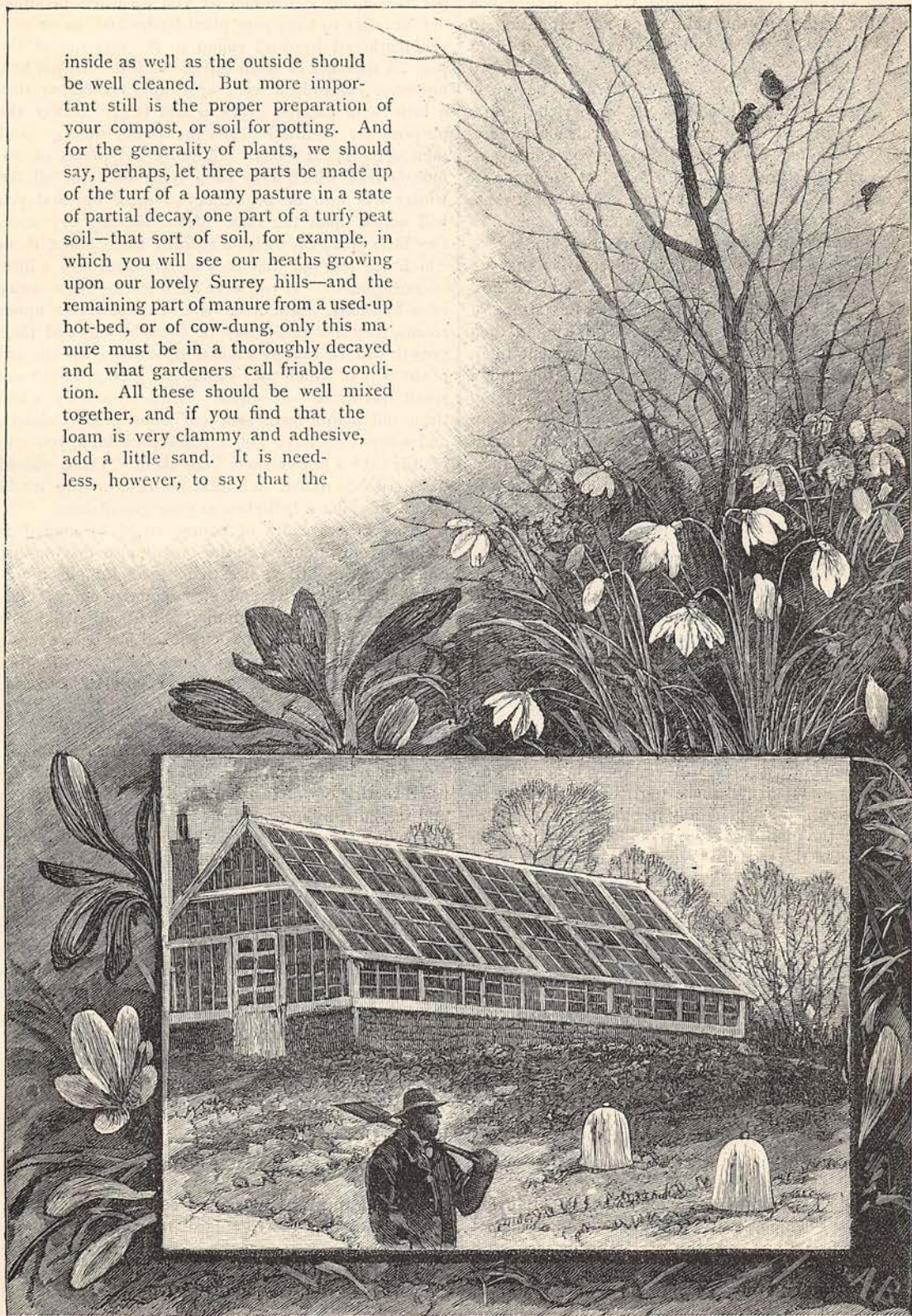


THE dark winter months, to which we gardeners are always so willing to bid farewell, are once again rapidly being left behind, and we find ourselves mayhap, on this still doubtful morning of an early spring, taking a general and eager survey around, full of hope and full of plans for the coming summer. And our little greenhouse operations are still engrossing us, and will very likely occupy much of our time before we settle down to any regular and prolonged outside work, more especially too in our suburban gardens, where the space at our command limits our ambition very provokingly.

In the greenhouse then we are, of course, during this month occupied by the annual re-potting; those plants more particularly which we have been watch-

ing through the winter in their dwarf state and in small pots, and which we want to acquire their full, or at all events a very considerable perfection in the approaching summer. In an ungenial spring, or where winter is disposed to hang on, as we say, the re-potting operation should be postponed. In a fairly mild season we should recommend beginning the re-potting with the most vigorous and healthy flowers, and then continue our work with the more delicate ones when the season is two or three weeks more advanced. The early part of February, however, when the weather is still disposed to be severe, may well be occupied by the preparation of such things as material for drainage of your flower-pots, or the thorough washing and arranging of the pots themselves, and more particularly when pots have been previously used, the

inside as well as the outside should be well cleaned. But more important still is the proper preparation of your compost, or soil for potting. And for the generality of plants, we should say, perhaps, let three parts be made up of the turf of a loamy pasture in a state of partial decay, one part of a turfy peat soil—that sort of soil, for example, in which you will see our heaths growing upon our lovely Surrey hills—and the remaining part of manure from a used-up hot-bed, or of cow-dung, only this manure must be in a thoroughly decayed and what gardeners call friable condition. All these should be well mixed together, and if you find that the loam is very clammy and adhesive, add a little sand. It is needless, however, to say that the



nature of your compost should vary in accordance with the nature of the plants you are proposing to rear. If, for instance, you are desirous of a plant that is to be profuse in its foliage—or rather, we should say, a plant the feature of whose beauty is its foliage—your soil should be very rich; while if, on the other hand, your object is fruit or flowers, your soil should be as little rich as you can make it. A chalky, sandy soil, with but little manure in it, would make the least rich soil. And yet it must not be too dry. But we had better now speak of a few plants in particular that require potting at this time. For instance, those calceolarias that we intend to bloom early in the summer should be now potted finally off, selecting, as we said, the strongest ones first of all for our operations. They should then be placed in a light and airy position to prevent them from growing weakly and tall, and not too much water should be given to them first of all. And the soil most suited to them should be made up of an equal proportion of sandy loam and heath mould and a good sort of white sand, all well mixed together. It has been thought, too, that calceolarias like the soil somewhat lumpy, or not *too* much powdered, and it is quite possible to combine this quality with a soil that has nevertheless been well mixed together. After being potted, your calceolarias may be set in a frame where they need have but little sun. Indeed, we think we have on a former occasion advocated the keeping of calceolarias through a whole winter, all planted in the ground itself, under the protection of a frame, a little additional protection being now and then thrown over the glass during a severe frost. Air, however, may freely be given on most days. As soon as they show evident signs of growth, a little manure-water given once a week will certainly benefit them. The pelargoniums, and more particularly those fancy geraniums which are generally in bloom in our greenhouses by the month of May, should all be potted off by the end of the month. We should certainly except, however, any quite young plants that we intend for late summer flowering; these may conveniently be shifted some time later on. Where you are potting off your fancy or other geraniums for blooming as they are, in your greenhouse, for exhibition there, and not for any bedding-out purpose, it is a good plan to tie down carefully—so as not, however, to break them—all the small branches as near to the rim of the

pot as you can, just in fact as you do when bedding-out, in order to have your plant bushy and, as we say, well feathered down all round to the very rim of the pot. A quantity of small stakes stuck in your pot has, however, certainly a very ugly appearance, so that a little wire painted green would better answer the purpose for securing neatly the young shoots. And then as to the fuchsias. All those old plants of the fuchsia tribe which have been lying dormant all the winter will now be beginning to wake up, and you will notice upon the once lifeless-looking dry stick, tiny little green eyes with a reddish tinge about them which will tell you that they merely want now a little encouragement. If you have been storing these away in a half-dark shed, or in your cupboards or upper rooms, they had better now be brought out, and their growth will be rapidly excited by stirring up the soil of the pots in which they stand, and giving occasional small quantities of water. And by-and-by when these old plants have sent out some healthy shoots, and when they have got a few inches long, you can readily take a few cuttings from them. These should be afterwards rooted in a mild hot-bed, or you might put them under a bell-glass in your greenhouse.

Many other plants of course could be named as claiming our attention in the greenhouse this month, but we can do little more than select for our notice a few of the favourite and most popular ones. Outside, however, we are beginning to hail with delight the yellow petals of the first crocus. And just before these, and their companions the snow-drops, with other kindred bulbs, come in flower, it is advisable to fork up very carefully and gently the soil around them. Attention of this kind very much increases the beauty of your spring bulbs when they burst into flower. Then in the kitchen and fruit garden there is the usual routine of forcing on, for instance, the rhubarb and sea-kale, by means of the ordinary pots made for that purpose, or by boxes, which we afterwards surround with fermenting leaves or manure in a hot state. Our wall-fruit, peaches and nectarines in particular, we prefer not nailing too soon to the wall, as doing so rather accelerates the early swelling of the buds. Peach blossom is very beautiful to look at, but we enjoy it more in March than in February, for this gives us a better hope of gathering in the following September the luscious fruit, that should then have a face far “ruddier than the cherry.”

HOW A CONSUMPTIVE FOUND HEALTH.

BY THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF DENVER.

THERE was a square in ancient Babylon which, as far as I know, was a spot unique on the world's surface. No painter has ventured to depict that square; no poet has described its scenery and its atmosphere. To a stranger with aught of a scientific turn of mind this square must

have been the first place visited in the great city. It was here that the Chaldean law required all the sick to congregate; and the same law required those who had been sick, but were now well, to walk round the square, and finding those who were afflicted as they had been, to give them the benefit of their experience.

air, And to watch, as the lit-tle bird watch - es, when the fal-con is in the air.

tr

f

D.S.

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The second system continues the piano accompaniment, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a *D.S.* (Da Capo) instruction.

OUR GARDEN IN MARCH.



ARCH is, generally speaking, the first month of the year in which we are really conscious that winter is at length left behind us; and if the blaze of crocuses and early hyacinths in our open flower-beds tells us that we have actually begun to enjoy the spring, the advance is still more perceptible when we take a survey under our glass. And here in our greenhouse

our bulb display by this time should be good. All plants of the bulb class should now be kept well watered, while there are other flowers which we shall select to say a few words about before passing on to work outside.

It may sound a melancholy idea to talk early in the year about chrysanthemums; nevertheless, there is something to do to them this month. We gardeners *must* work by routine, or everything will go wrong. We begin, then, preparing them for autumn flowering by taking off, and then potting singly, the best of the off-sets or suckers from the base, or what we may call the old stool of the plant. It matters little if we take them off with hardly any roots attached to them, but they must then be planted in a good, but moderate, heat until they get thoroughly rooted and established. After this they must be potted

off singly, and in the pots in which they are to blow in the autumn, but they must not be nursed up, but grown quite hardy when once they have made a start.

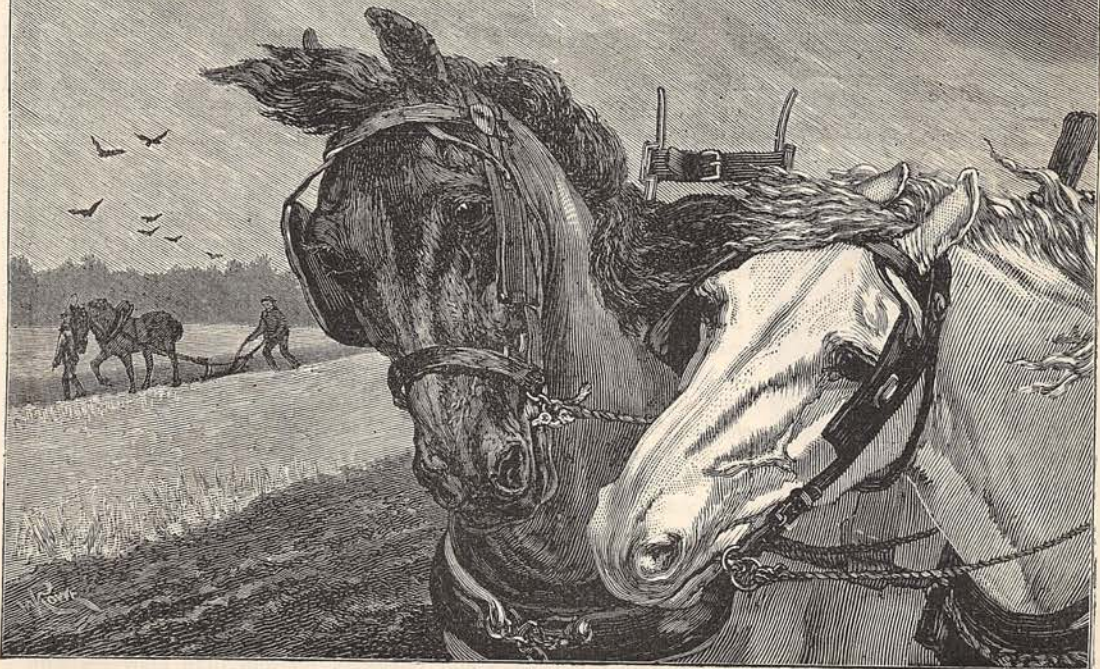
We have on a former occasion spoken of the general management of camellias. Their flowering time over, let them be re-potted, while of those that do not require re-potting you ought at least to examine the drainage, and make perfect there anything you find amiss. The surface of the soil, too, should be renewed. Some, however, have recommended potting in autumn, but it is now most generally done in the early spring, after the flowering is over, and just previous to the start of the new wood.

Akin to our small greenhouse is our window garden. All the plants in our windows this month require as much light as you can give them, but only a very moderate watering. When fresh air, too, is given to your window plants—and this, it is needless to say, should be daily—it is far safer to put your plants entirely outside for a time than by opening your window, having the plants still just inside the room, to expose them thus suddenly to all the cutting draught of a March wind. And as for ferns, hardy ones can be successfully reared in a window, but the more delicate ones should have glass over them, for anything like a smoky atmosphere would certainly affect them.

Another important and necessary operation this month is the pruning of the standard roses; and this should be done some time during the first ten days of the month. Some considerable care, too, is required with the pruning-knife. First of all should be removed all those long, thin, and spindly branches, pretty close to the very point from which they spring, as they are certain to be of little use—we might say of no use—for after-bloom or growth, and only exhaust the roots.

And then the strong shoots must be shortened, but not cut too far back. The objection to pruning earlier in the year is the risk of letting your young branches die back after a severe frost. And as the equinoctial gales are yet in store for us, all the fastenings and stakes should be well seen to, and the soil trodden in all round the roots. The suckers, too, and shoots that make their appearance all along the stock should each be grubbed thoroughly up and rubbed off, and more especially in the early spring of the year, when such a vigorous start is made, the benefit of which we are anxious to reap for the young buds themselves, and not for the worthless suckers and briars.

Nor is it too late in our suburban gardens to transplant shrubs and evergreens, although, of course, the month of October is by far the best time for this operation. Our perennials, too, which are now well showing above the surface of the soil once more, will be materially assisted by carefully forking the ground all round them, then neatly smoothing all over with your rake. You will notice in a very few days afterwards a visible change for the better in the appearance and growth of perennials. And here we might say that the best method of stocking a suburban garden is by means of a plentiful supply of these hardy flowers, that never cease to delight us, and that give so comparatively little trouble. And of shrubs, of which we were just now speaking, the very large variety, for example, of the holly tribe gives us plenty of choice in



this respect ; or there is the common barberry, whose fruit is really a brilliant object, and whose florescence is pretty too. It will grow nearly anywhere, and looks well as a bush feathered down to the ground. The *Wistaria sinensis*, too, is an admirable thing for a suburban garden, or indeed for any garden. It grows very rapidly, and looks very well up the side of a house ; or it can readily be trained over a wire arch. Yet perhaps this would in a short time be hardly strong enough for it, so perhaps a long bent iron rod is better adapted for it. And then at this time in our small suburban gardens we ought to have a plentiful supply of popular flowers. The wall-flower, for example, will scent our whole garden with its delightful fragrance ; and there are very few plants so hardy as it is. To rear it, sow its seed in a common border about the middle of April. Then in July, when it is well established, plant it out in your beds wherever you intend it to bloom, and after a mild winter it will bloom in February, or after a more severe one we certainly have it plentifully with us in this present month of March. When finally planting out your wall-flowers set them some nine inches or a foot apart. It is, however, rare for you to obtain a double variety of the wall-flower from these seedlings. The double wall-flower is propagated by cuttings ; and these little slips you can get in abundance from the wall-flower as soon as it has done blowing, for it shoots out all over the stem. Before they are hardly

two inches long, remove them, and take off the small leaves half an inch or thereabouts up the stem, and set them in pots of soil of some good loam, and a little manure with it. Put a bell-glass over your pot, and your slips will very soon strike. The double varieties of the wall-flower, then, are certainly far best grown in frames, and will not bear the exposure which the single can easily stand. The double ones should then be planted out—we mean after they have been thoroughly well struck—one in a small pot, not two or three together. Carefully water them, and let them have plenty of air, but they must be protected from any cold north-east wind. When their roots have filled your small pot, give them larger ones ; and in all probability a second shifting, indeed, may be required before they come into bloom. As this is the great month for wall-flowers, we have thought it best to say rather more about them. Our primroses, hyacinths, and daffodils, in addition, make a good spring exhibition—a very easy and a really inexpensive one to acquire ; and in many respects an effective spring show of flowers has more charms about it than any we can produce under a summer sun. For some of the finer flowers we cannot do better than refer our readers to the present re-issue of Sir Joseph Paxton's beautiful work on "The Flower Garden,"* where they will see specimens of blooms in their natural colours.

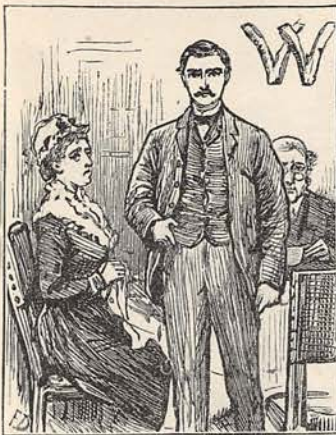
* London : Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co.

DOWN IN THE WORLD.

By the Author of "But for Ilion," "How Vickerscroft was Redeemed," &c. &c.

CHAPTER THE TENTH.

A FAMILY DISCUSSION.



ELL, mother?" inquired Alec the next morning, after breakfast—he had dined the night before at Buckingham Square, and remained to sleep, but found no opportunity of speaking to his mother, she being surrounded, as usual, by visitors—"Well, mother, did you call on

Nellie yesterday, as you promised?" "Yes, I called."

"What did you say? I hope, for my sake and the sake of our future happiness, that you were kind to her. Poor child! she's had trouble enough lately."

Mrs. Fraser smiled grimly. She had not endeavoured to lessen Nellie's sorrows, that was very certain; then she compressed her lips into a hard line

as she recalled the scene of the day before, and what a sorry figure she must have appeared, in her rage and mortification. Had Nellie lost her temper too, and spoken back bitter words, Mrs. Fraser might have forgiven her, but the calm self-possession and amazed superiority, never!

"What did you say, mother?" Alec repeated.

"I spoke my mind, as I generally do. I told her she was an artful, designing person, and that if she married you she would simply ruin you," Mrs. Fraser said, with a certain snap in her voice and an angry flash in her eye. "I told her your father and I would never forgive you, and that she would make as great a pauper of you as she is herself!"

"Jane! You didn't say that to Ernest Brand's daughter?" Mr. Fraser cried. "You couldn't surely have the heart to insult her in her trouble and loneliness?"

"I spoke my mind, as I always do," Mrs. Fraser replied doggedly, with a side-glance at Alec, who sat perfectly quiet, studying the pattern on his plate. "Yes, I told Miss Brand just what I felt on the subject. My son's welfare and interest are dearer to me than all the Brands in the universe, and I have other hopes and prospects for him than marriage with a beggar!"

glass must be covered with some colour. Be sure where and how the tint is to be laid before touching the glass with the brush, and turn the face of the enamel up constantly, so as to be sure that every stroke is correctly given, and that the tints are the best that can be used. Every one is liable to make a false stroke in a hurry, or if suddenly interrupted while at work; the remedy for such mistakes will be found in rectified spirits of turpentine, but it must be used with caution, lest the colours merge into one another.

When all is finished, place the glass on some thick cardboard, and mark off the size of it with a pencil; cut it round, and then fix it to the back of the glass with a strip of gummed paper. Any chance of air getting to the enamel must be averted, or the work will have been done in vain.

The second method mentioned requires but brief notice. Instead of the paste, some artists use starch, and in lieu of the sand-paper for removing the back of the photograph, they immerse the glass, with the photograph adhering to it, in oil. The starch is made as follows:—A tea-spoonful of corn-flour is moistened with cold water and rubbed down till quite smooth; a little boiling water is then added to it, until it is about as thick as milk. It is then put into a saucepan and placed over the fire, but on no consideration must it be allowed to boil; after this, it is poured off into a jar or basin, and left to cool.

The photograph, if on a card, must be removed. Put it in a deep plate, throw over it boiling water, and leave it to cool; continue to do so until it floats off the card, but do not attempt to hurry it by pulling it off, for if it tears it is spoilt. Place it between blotting-papers until dry. When both photograph and starch are ready, dip the finger in the latter, and pass it over the back of the glass, leaving a thin coating over every part; repeat this process on the face of the photograph, and at once lay it in position on the glass, then press it as before described, from the centre outwards, until no air-bubbles or particles of starch are visible. Parchment-paper may be dispensed with; a soft clean linen handkerchief can be rolled round any suitable instrument, and with this the starch may be pressed from beneath the photograph. To render the photograph transparent, it is laid, when fixed on the glass, in a bath of sweet oil; a saucer or plate will do for small pictures, a shallow basin for larger ones. It remains in the oil for a week or more, till perfectly transparent, when the oil is to be dried off it with a linen handkerchief, and the painting can be commenced.

As to frames, choose plush, of a colour that harmonises with the enamel. It is soft-looking, and throws up a delicately-toned painting to advantage; and that is the one great desideratum in a frame—that it should not overpower but enhance the beauty of that which it surrounds.

OUR GARDEN IN APRIL.



APRIL is perhaps the first month in the year in which we begin to talk about the long summer days and what we are intending to do in them among our flower-beds, in our kitchen-garden, and in this newly-erected suburban greenhouse of ours, of which we are so justly proud. In fact, we are in the full tide of work, and find it therefore necessary more than ever to have a thorough system to carry out, having long ago come

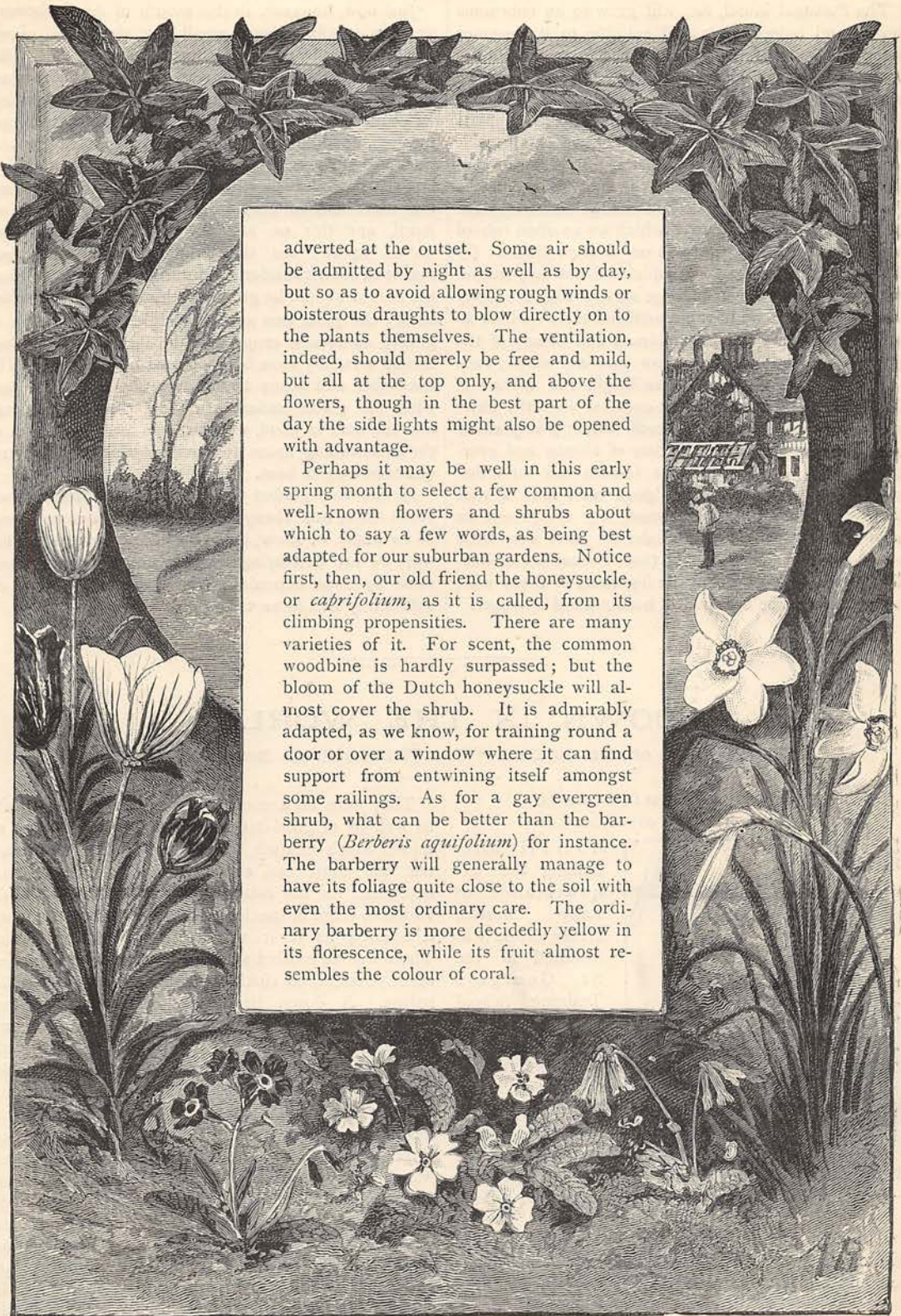
to the conclusion that the hope of achieving successful gardening is to work by routine.

Once again, then, we find ourselves in our greenhouse, and the old difficulty presents itself which comes, like all the rest, periodically round at this time of year, namely, the increasingly overcrowded state of affairs inside. We dare not begin bedding out just

yet, for the winter may again rage over us, so that we never consider ourselves fairly out of the wood until May is almost left behind. Plenty of air, then, we must give our greenhouse in its unavoidably crowded state, as this will tend more than anything else to harden off our entire stock, and embolden us to begin bedding out at a proportionately earlier date; and then as to watering our plants. From now and through the entire summer, all potted plants *must* have a steady supply of water, for any neglect in this respect can only entail disastrous failure.

But one very practical remedy for relieving the overcrowded state of your house is to run your eye over it and select some of your duplicate plants, and carry them off to any pit or frame you may chance to have, or else take them away in-doors, either to your window garden or into any place of safe shelter. And this reminds us that by this means we can begin what is called hardening off some of our strongest plants with a view to early bedding out; and for this purpose our potting shed, or any good outhouse, will be of great service, or by standing one or two long planks or boards against a wall having a south aspect many of our calceolarias and geraniums even might be safely trusted upon it, provided only some protection of tarpaulin or matting be given to young plants at night.

And then as to the ventilation question, to which we



adverted at the outset. Some air should be admitted by night as well as by day, but so as to avoid allowing rough winds or boisterous draughts to blow directly on to the plants themselves. The ventilation, indeed, should merely be free and mild, but all at the top only, and above the flowers, though in the best part of the day the side lights might also be opened with advantage.

Perhaps it may be well in this early spring month to select a few common and well-known flowers and shrubs about which to say a few words, as being best adapted for our suburban gardens. Notice first, then, our old friend the honeysuckle, or *caprifolium*, as it is called, from its climbing propensities. There are many varieties of it. For scent, the common woodbine is hardly surpassed; but the bloom of the Dutch honeysuckle will almost cover the shrub. It is admirably adapted, as we know, for training round a door or over a window where it can find support from entwining itself amongst some railings. As for a gay evergreen shrub, what can be better than the barberry (*Berberis aquifolium*) for instance. The barberry will generally manage to have its foliage quite close to the soil with even the most ordinary care. The ordinary barberry is more decidedly yellow in its florescence, while its fruit almost resembles the colour of coral.

The Portugal laurel, too, will grow to an enormous height, and indeed, in a soil suitable to it, assumes the dimensions of a tree. The luscious scent of its flower in June will, like the hayfield, almost overpower every other scent; but there is a great charm in leafy June to be conscious of the struggle to please that is going on amongst the flowers, which we catch, as it were, "all in one whiff," as from Peggotty's store-room. In thorough contrast, too, with the dark foliage of the Portugal laurel is the pale and orange-yellow-spotted green of the ordinary laurel, which we so often rob of its leaves wherewith to garnish our dessert-dishes. Or there is the plain box with which we not only border our garden, but have in large shrubs like the holly and yew; and if we have an artificial taste—which to our mind rather spoils the boldness and beauty of the garden—we can clip it to grow into any shape, such as that of a dog or bird. The bright red berries of the yew form, again, another contrast with the short little dark foliage of the yew itself. But it is impossible here to name the endless variety of shrubs and evergreens with which we might furnish our suburban garden. All we require is good taste and a wise choice; and if interspersed among our evergreens we have a nice stock of perennials, we have very little occasion to be anxious about those formalities of bedding out which so torment the ingenuity of those who, it may be, despise our modest horticultural attempts.

Just now, however, in this month of April showers, we can supply at very small cost the needs of our flower-garden by sowing plenty of hardy annuals. We can do little more than advert to the most important operations necessary in our kitchen and fruit garden. Of course there is here any amount of work to be got through. March was our great month for sowing and planting, but very often April—especially in a cold or late season—finds us still with a good deal to finish off. Our main beetroot crop, however, we never sow before April, and this we set out in rows some fifteen inches apart; but the ground should have been manured some considerable time before sowing. Then the onions should be gradually thinned, and very often hoed; the peas, now sown fortnightly for the sake of getting successive crops, and the last of the potatoes should certainly have been planted by this time. The cucumber and melon frames, too, should be up, and, while our plants underneath the glass are yet small and the heat is good, we can often avail ourselves of the surrounding space to force anything on that requires sowing in heat.

In the fruit-garden we are watching carefully our south walls, and always destroy now a basking wasp, as for aught we know, for every one now put out of the way, we are destroying a whole nest; and the harm done by these depredators is incalculable, as we all sufficiently well know to our cost.

DOWN IN THE WORLD.

By the Author of "But for Ilion," "How Vickerscroft was Redeemed," &c. &c.

CHAPTER THE THIRTEENTH.

"BOTH USEFUL AND ORNAMENTAL."



MONTH after making the acquaintance of Lady Cheston, Nellie Brand was installed in the St. George's Training School for Nurses, learning patiently the very alphabet of the profession she had chosen, wearing the simple grey dress of the Society—for it was not called a "sisterhood," though

the ladies dwelt in all sisterly love and harmony. There were twelve of them—six fully trained and qualified, and ready to go at a moment's notice wherever there was need of their services, and six probationers like Nell, who usually accompanied the trained sisters, and took charge of simple cases for a short time.

They were all women of refined tastes and habits, as well as of good birth and breeding, and they retained much of their individuality. Doubtless each one had some sad secret history, which, in part, accounted for her retirement from the world and devotion to a life of special usefulness; but on the whole it seemed as if it was a happy, healthy choice. There was no morbid sentimentality about the Society of St. George, no sickly retrospects, no gentle resignation. A dozen healthy, cheerful, hard-working gentlewomen, with a few odd moments in their busy lives for the interchange of intellectual ideas: for music, painting, reading, fancy work, new songs, new books, new crewel designs, found their way from the outer world, and, though the Society had not much time to devote to such matters, the little they had they enjoyed thoroughly. The lady who shared Nell's room was, in every sense of the word, a capital companion for her. Blanche Witney was a large, rosy, good-natured, good-tempered woman of thirty, with plenty of shrewd common sense, and just a little surface cynicism, that served as a wholesome antidote to any sentimentality the young probationers might feel inclined to indulge in just at first. Broken limbs Miss Witney could and did understand; she could dress and bandage them with the skill of a surgeon; but

OUR GARDEN IN MAY.



THE days of the month upon which we have just entered are among the longest of any that we have in the year, and are therefore almost the busiest that we have in our all-important acre of land. Our greenhouse then—for we are still bound to make that one of our first considerations—is, at all events for the first half of the month, nearly at its fullest.

We are preparing for our final bedding-out, and it may be that we still think it prudent, during the prevalence of those noto-

rious east winds, to postpone the last of these operations for a few days longer. And yet even those of us who, rejoicing perhaps in a more sheltered situation, have been venturesome enough to bed out early need not take any real alarm because some of the geraniums, or the stock in general that has been bedded out, look a little blackened or disposed to droop. This, even under the most favourable circumstances, is nearly always the case; for, bear in mind, the change must be great for all flowers when suddenly removed from under the protecting glass, and exposed perhaps, unfortunately, on their first night out, to some boisterous squalls or some chilly east winds.

By way of preparation, then, for our gay transformation scene, the flower-beds themselves must first be got in readiness for their new occupants. Tenanted, however, they probably are already by the long green and untidy-looking foliage of our bulb show that has for some time past lost the best of its beauty. Now we must be careful, in our hurry for a change, not to damage these bulbs, our tulips, hyacinths, crocuses, and all our early spring flowers—least of all must we proceed to clip off with our shears the foliage itself. The bulbs, then, must be carefully lifted, and the already ripening foliage allowed to die down by itself after your bulbs have been all stowed away in your potting-shed or out-house. Some, however, recommend leaving some of the crocus bulbs, for example, in the ground, and then tying the straggling foliage neatly together so as to keep it off the ground, and thus allowing proper space for the bedding-out flowers to go amongst the bulbs. But in addition to this having at best a very untidy appearance, there is also the risk to be run of plunging the trowel through the bulbs themselves in all directions when bedding-out, so that by far the better, the safer, and the neater plan is to lift the entire stock of bulbs.

And next, the soil itself should be got into a good pulverised state: it will never do to have it hard and lumpy when bedding-out, and the bulbs once removed you can fearlessly turn over your bed and get it into proper order for the reception of the greenhouse stock.

And then, as to the actual bedding-out itself, much

may be said which is most important, and not to be overlooked. Avoid overcrowding, for recollect that in two or three months' time your plants will have doubled or trebled themselves in size: then have colours properly blended, and do not, for instance, have a bed of pink by the side of scarlet geraniums.

Finally, do not mind the trouble of pegging down some of the more obstinate shoots of your flowers when once put in, for by this means you will be more sure of a uniform height in your entire stock, which a careful watering when all is done ought certainly to insure—a gratifying reward for the pains you have been at. And, as we have often before remarked, we ought always to supplement our bedding-out stock by a plentiful supply of annuals both of the hardy and half-hardy kinds.

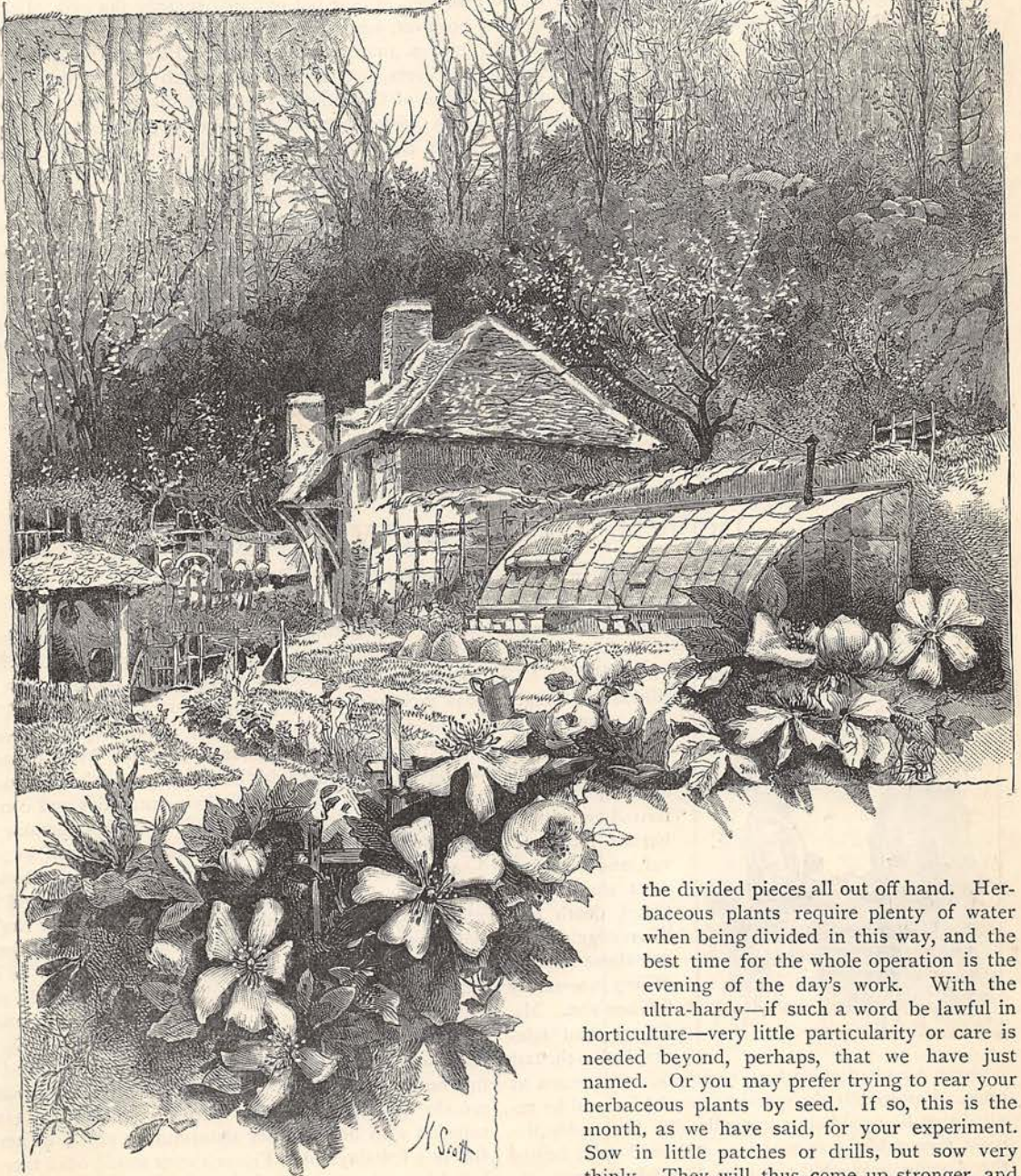
Now our tender annuals, of course, we are not yet exposing to the unprotected uncertainty of May weather. Those that we have not yet changed from their first to their second pots should now be shifted to the pots in which they are to bloom, and annuals in pots that you mean to bloom in their pots should be placed as near as you can to the glass itself under which you are bringing them on. And then, bear in mind, our diminutive greenhouse, once nearly emptied of our ordinary bedding-out stock, enables us to try several experiments with a few good and tender flowers, and especially now with all the best of the year before us.

It is well too in the garden to try to have a constant succession of bloom at least through the spring, summer, and autumn, while many, thinking of Christmas roses, might be disposed to add the winter as well. A garden completely stocked from end to end with nothing but geraniums and verbenas, which go largely to make up an ordinary bedded-out garden, would really leave little room in which to vary the bloom at all, so that we do not intend to be in the least disappointed if our limited glass only allows us to preserve a few bedding-out plants. Or again, a few seeds sown, say in the month of March, in pots and in our greenhouse will enable us to turn them out in the present month or in the third week of it, and dot them all about among our herbaceous plants—such, for example, as our sweet peas and lupins, China asters and ten-week stocks, &c. And, in addition to this, were we to sow a few of these seeds this month in the open ground they will bloom and thrive well when those that we have just now spoken of are beginning to look nasty and shabby.

We alluded just now to herbaceous or hardy perennial plants, upon which, after all, so many of us largely depend for a certain floral display. This is the month, then, for sowing all kinds, and of parting any that have gone out of bloom if we want to increase our stock by propagation.

The pieces you plant out ought not to be too small. You ought, however, to have a good lump of heart and a fair piece of root, and then you should certainly be successful in rearing a new plant. But insure a good

situation, a reasonably good soil, and room in which to grow. One thing, however, while speaking of dividing the roots of these herbaceous plants, is important, and that is, that the parting them and planting them out again should be done at the same time. What we mean is, do not merely allow your divided pieces to be exposed to the sun and to the night chill for four-and-twenty hours, but plant



the divided pieces all out off hand. Herbaceous plants require plenty of water when being divided in this way, and the best time for the whole operation is the evening of the day's work. With the ultra-hardy—if such a word be lawful in horticulture—very little particularity or care is needed beyond, perhaps, that we have just named. Or you may prefer trying to rear your herbaceous plants by seed. If so, this is the month, as we have said, for your experiment. Sow in little patches or drills, but sow very thinly. They will thus come up stronger, and you will have less occasion to thin out, which

would certainly have to be done if you sowed in the mustard-and-cress style.

But it seems impossible now to devote all our time to the flower-garden, when such an enormous amount of work is calling us off at the same time both to the kitchen and fruit-garden. The cucumber and melon frames, for example, may in a bad or cold season have been damaged by the manure having lost a great part of its heat. This should then, if possible—or at all events some of it—be replaced by hot stable manure. That, for example, which projects beyond the frame and in front of it should be got away, and even the whole heap might be slightly undermined, and the hot dung then put in its place should be pressed closely against the whole mass. The back of your frame should be served in the same way. All this, however, may have come from being too much in a hurry earlier in the year in erecting a hot-bed at all. For ordinary gardening purposes we never set them up much before the third week in March. All the early-growing crops should be gone over for the purposes of a careful weeding and thinning. In a really dry season—an event now unknown to us for many years—some watering may be necessary and a little earthing up given to all crops that are sown in drills, while the soil between all the rows should be well stirred up, as all this may lead to the discovery and consequent destruction of vermin that are secreting themselves for a good oppor-

tunity of a raid. On the unpleasant subject of vermin we would recommend to the notice of gardeners who, in common with the children, are anxious to protect the fruit-garden, Miss Ormerod's "Manual of Injurious Insects," published by Messrs. Sonnenschein & Allen.

And this mention of vermin in the month of May makes us run off at once to the fruit-garden to see whether that terrible green caterpillar intends to let us off this year, and allow our gooseberries and currants to ripen. Persistent energy and activity can, we fear, at best but partially remedy the evil. Better, however, surely, to have a thousand caterpillars in the garden than fifty thousand. Hand-picking, shaking the trees, soot, lime, dusting with white hellebore, are some of the remedies known to us, and tried by us all with varied success. As the moth deposits her eggs upon the gooseberry-leaves in July and August, one suggestion has been to burn the leaves themselves in the early part of the autumn.

The strawberries, too, should be this month deprived of their runners. If our idleness allows them to remain on, it is our own fault if our strawberry crop be scanty both in quantity and quality.

And yet the old consolation so often, or nearly always, holds good, for somehow "things all come right in the end," and how often does it happen that if we fail in one crop we have a superabundant supply of another!

DOWN IN THE WORLD.

By the Author of "But for Ilion," "How Vickerscroft was Redeemed," &c. &c.

CHAPTER THE SIXTEENTH.

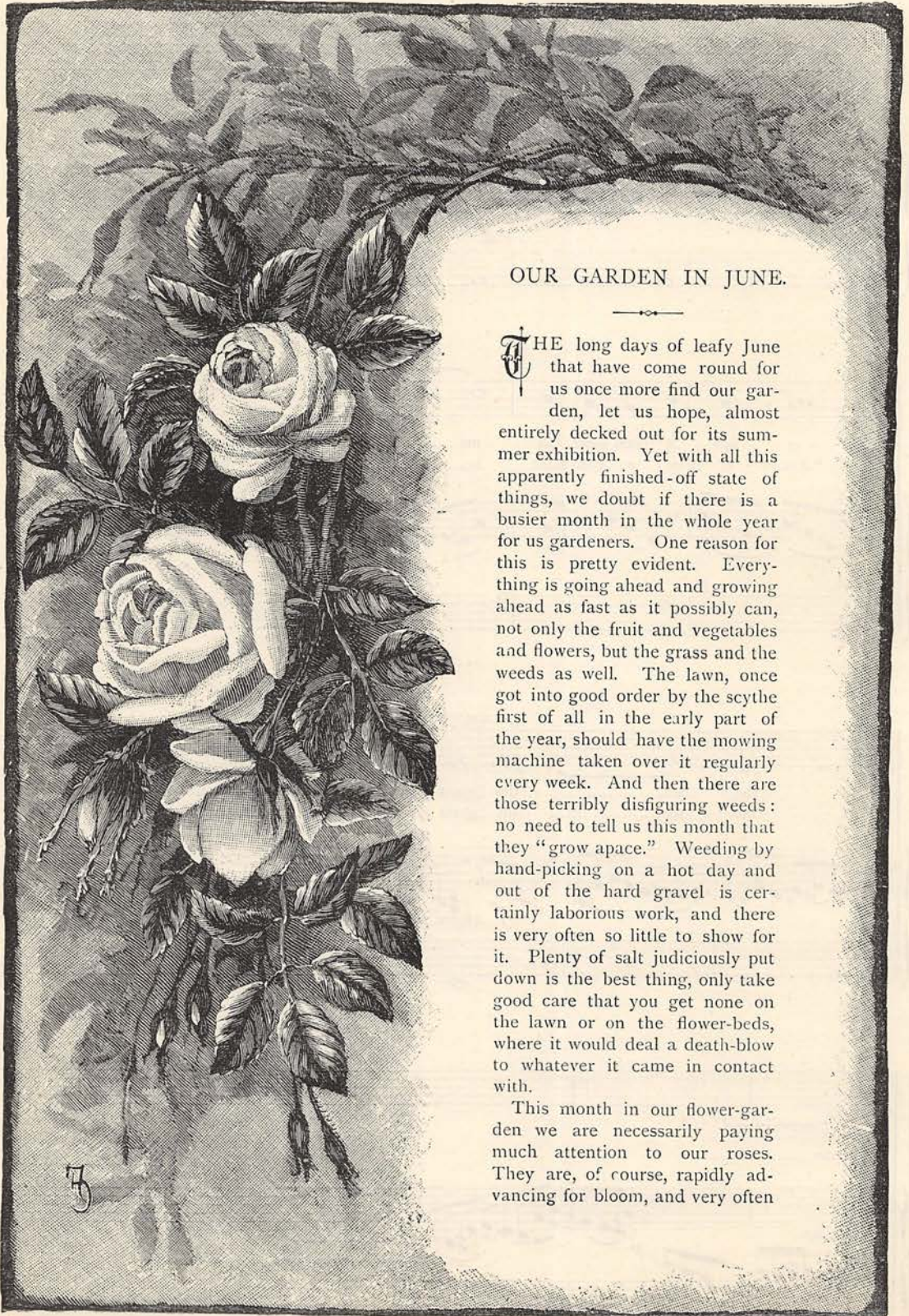
MR. FRASER IS ASHAMED OF HIMSELF.



RS. FRASER'S illness had turned out very much more serious than Dr. Gregson anticipated. She had fretted and fumed herself into a fever, and for many days she lay between death and life, recognising no one about her, and calling incessantly for her son. Mr. Fraser had telegraphed to the last

address Alec had given him, urging him to return at once. Fortunately the message found him, and he replied that he would start immediately; but under the most favourable circumstances it would take nearly three weeks to reach England. Nell felt she was safe at her post till all danger was over, and Mrs. Fraser in a fair way of recovery. During the latter part of her

illness she had taken a great fancy to the nurse; her soft voice soothed her in spite of herself, and Nell's touch was always light and gentle. But although it was pleasant to have a fractious patient amenable to authority, it made it hard for the nurse, who never seemed to get one moment's rest, for Mrs. Fraser would not even take a drink from any other hand; and, worst of all, in spite of Nellie's entreaties and commands, she would speak of her son—his obstinacy, his folly, his ingratitude—for no one but herself knew how Mrs. Fraser had toiled to secure for him the hand of a lady of title. "And that Brand girl spoiled it all," she generally added; "and I have no doubt she's with him now, and keeping him from me!" All that was very hard to bear, and Nell felt sometimes as if she must run out of the house straight to Doris, or Davy, or somebody, and cry out all her trouble and indignation. She had never done anything in her life, she felt, to cause her to be so cruelly misjudged; but, on the other hand, it was so evidently her duty to remain at her post. Dr. Gregson was more than satisfied with her, and her sister-nurses proud of her. But in a few days Mrs. Fraser's eyes would once more be able to bear the light of day; little by little the blinds would be lifted, and the gloom of the darkened chamber exchanged for sunlight, and Nell felt she



OUR GARDEN IN JUNE.

THE long days of leafy June that have come round for us once more find our garden, let us hope, almost entirely decked out for its summer exhibition. Yet with all this apparently finished-off state of things, we doubt if there is a busier month in the whole year for us gardeners. One reason for this is pretty evident. Everything is going ahead and growing ahead as fast as it possibly can, not only the fruit and vegetables and flowers, but the grass and the weeds as well. The lawn, once got into good order by the scythe first of all in the early part of the year, should have the mowing machine taken over it regularly every week. And then there are those terribly disfiguring weeds: no need to tell us this month that they "grow apace." Weeding by hand-picking on a hot day and out of the hard gravel is certainly laborious work, and there is very often so little to show for it. Plenty of salt judiciously put down is the best thing, only take good care that you get none on the lawn or on the flower-beds, where it would deal a death-blow to whatever it came in contact with.

This month in our flower-garden we are necessarily paying much attention to our roses. They are, of course, rapidly advancing for bloom, and very often

you will see a number of buds very close together. It is best to determine to sacrifice some, or the probability is that you will only have an imperfect mass of half-developed roses, and not one as it should be. Remove, then, the side buds when they are quite small; and, indeed, any small buds that you see have not got room to blow should be carefully got off: a pair of scissors is safer for the operation than a knife. Or if you are anxious to have as many flowers on your standard as possible, you might cut out the middle bud and allow the two buds—that is, one on each side of it—to perfect themselves. In the early part of June, or at the end of May, the roses where you see them disposed to be troubled with green fly should be well syringed. A preparation that used to be tried with good effect was a little soft-soap in a pail of water, with just a “suspicion” of turpentine mixed up well with it: an entrée of this kind is highly objected to by the fly and the maggots that feed upon the bud. Following *immediately* upon this should be a second course of a good syringing with plain cold water. Unhappily the bud into which a maggot has eaten its way is, of course, hopelessly done for, and you had better remove it. But you will find plenty of maggots secreting themselves—though perhaps it would be more correct to speak of them singly and say you will find generally the maggot secreting itself—between a couple of leaves, or within a leaf nearly closed up. It is often well to go over the standards by hand and destroy the maggots as you find them, concluding with the syringing.

We must now, before entering our greenhouse and kitchen-garden, take a hurried look round our general flower-garden. Annuals that were sown out in the borders in which they are to bloom ought to be thinned a little, for they never flower half so well if left to go on growing too thickly. Any half-hardy annuals that you have raised in your hot-beds or frames might be planted out; and, indeed, you might now sow in the open a few more, with the object, of course, of keeping up a good succession of bloom. The dahlias may be planted out, and put in their stakes at the same time, though be sure and do not tie them too tightly, as the stems, which swell very rapidly, might very likely be injured by it. And then possibly some of your earliest-blooming flowers are now already past their best: if so, cut down their stems or get them away altogether before they disfigure your garden; by this means you will find room for something fresh.

This is a good month for the propagation of that most popular flower, the wall-flower, by cuttings. We have on a former occasion given many hints as to its cultivation whether by seed or by cuttings, so that there is little need to say much of it here.

As to our window-garden, we shall have no fear for the next three or four months of being at a loss how to fill our balconies, ledges, and recesses. The one thing here that we have to be on our guard against is the scorching and powerful rays of the sun.

At a little trouble and expense, you might on your

window-ledge contrive a complete moss bed and have your flower-pots plunged in it, keeping the moss of course constantly damp.

In our greenhouse we go on, in proportion to the growth of our plants inside, carefully re-potting. Hard-wooded plants, as they are called, seldom, however, require more than one shift in the year to a larger-sized pot, and it is best to do this just before they begin their new growth. Soft-wooded plants, on the other hand, are really benefited by a more frequent re-potting. Another thing to notice, too, in your general greenhouse exhibition stock is the extravagant growth of your plants. For the beauty of a plant nothing is more important than to have it well proportioned by a careful system of pruning. Seedling plants that you have contrived to raise during the season should be potted, so as to get them well established before the winter.

Your bulbs, that are now having their annual rest, and that you perhaps lifted last month to make way for the bedding-out, should be kept in a cool and dry place. And pay attention, too, to all the plants that you intend to bloom through the winter, trying perhaps for this purpose some heliotrope and salvias. The camellias, too, and azaleas that are out of bloom and are now making their new wood must be attended to. As for the camellias, you will be able to judge when these have completed their growth by noticing the *young shoots*. They have done their work of growing for a new season when you remark that they cease to elongate, and when they have become firmer and harder in their texture. Camellias and azaleas then, when they have finished their growth, can be removed into a cooler place, but during the making of their new wood they require nursing up in a warmer temperature.

As for the kitchen-garden, we have already spoken of weeds, and the young growing crops of vegetables too often get half choked with weeds if they are allowed to remain. Notice, then, the onion-bed; thin it out, and take care in doing so that you remove for present use only those that seem to have the poorest bulb. Among the potatoes, earth carefully up, and remove all the blooms as they appear. Herbs had better be cut and put away in a dry place just as they are coming into flower: it is far better to do so in June than at the end of August, when they are all grown coarse and much of their best flavour perhaps is lost. Beans and peas, too, should have their fortnightly sowing, and there is the sticking of those already sown, and coming on, to be seen to. Indeed, the work of the kitchen-garden is very hard labour this month. And in the fruit-garden there is fruit to be thinned, and an occasional nailing of the young wood on the wall and thinning it as well. The strawberry runners must be off by this time, for they will be colouring before the end of the month, and in a really dry season watering will be necessary. And then the cucumber frames must not be forgotten, we mean the closing of them as the day advances, for neither will cucumbers, nor certainly melons, succeed unless covered up at the proper time.

were left to the last, and not till the head was actually cut off did the eyes cease to open and shut, and the mouth to snap, proving that life and sensation were still active.

I write of this horrible subject in the past tense, owing to strenuous and well-enforced police regulations, such barbarity is happily no longer to be witnessed in the open fish-markets. But as a cruel

nature does not change at the bidding of the wisest officials, there is reason to fear that many a poor turtle may still be doomed to die by slow torture in the back courts of many a Tamil home. I should note that the people of Jaffna are all Tamils, an immigrant race from Southern India. The Cingalese themselves are mostly Buddhists, and are consequently exceedingly tender to all living creatures.

YES OR NO?

A RONDEAU.



GOOD man's love! Oh, prithee,
stay,
Before you turn such gift away,
And write no unconsidered "No"
To him who proves he loves you so,
And humbly owns your regal sway.

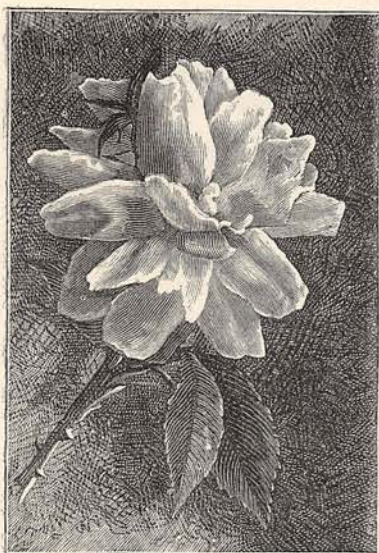
For hearts may change, the wise folk say,
And as full oft the brightest ray

Fades in an hour, so too may go
A good man's love.

Then pause awhile. This short delay
May gladden many an after-day.
Search well your heart, and if it show
True signs of love, bid pride bend low,
And take this great gift while you may—
A good man's love!

G. WEATHERLY.

OUR GARDEN IN JULY.



THE important and interesting operation of budding our roses is that which occupies during the days of this month which are favourable for undertaking it. It may be worth while to give a few brief hints on a matter in which too many of us at times have to record only a failure and disappointment.

Now there is certainly a great risk run if we set about our budding during an intensely hot, dry, and sultry season. Our bud gets simply scorched out of the stock after all has, as we thought, been happily completed. Or it may be that we have allowed too long a time to elapse between the removal of the young buds from the trees and budding them upon our stock, so that our collection, or lapful, has already begun to droop, wither, and dry up; or, lastly, our failure may, alas! be attri-

butable to downright defective manipulation. Our bast matting or worsted has been perhaps tied too tightly, and we choke the very life out of our bud, or perhaps nearly displace it; or we have tied it so loosely that the veriest puff of air carries it away. As for the time of the day in which to bud, the evening is the best, and if with warm weather it be showery and thundery also, so much the better.

Briefly, then, we may recapitulate the operation and then pass on to something else; for although our garden should of course by this time of the year be in all its perfection and glory, there is, as usual, an endless amount of work to be done.

We first of all shave off, so to speak, a thin slice of bark from a rose-tree, taking with it a leaf, while at the base of this leaf is the bud. And next we simply run our knife one inch down the bark of another rose-tree—that is, of the stock upon which we are about to bud. We do not, however, cut deeply in with our knife, but merely cut through the bark to the hard wood, and we make also a small cross-cut of corresponding depth. Then with the thin ivory piece of our budding knife we gently and slightly raise the bark of our stock, which we have just cut sufficiently to enable us to tuck in our little bud under the bark, bringing the leaf just to the point where the cuts in the bark cross each other. Then we tie the bark down with matting or worsted—that is, good coarse worsted, for very fine worsted might easily afterwards break—bringing it round several times to make all secure. The next morning, should the weather turn out to be very



hot, and the rays of the sun rather fierce and scorching, a little bunch of loose moss might with advantage be tied over all. Now, from the very nature of the whole operation, it will be at once apparent that the more quickly the whole is done the better prospect there is of success, and for this reason: we must do all we can to prevent the sap of the bud, and that too of the raised bark, having time to dry.

One occasional cause of failure is that, in taking away our small bud from the tree, we get away too much wood with it. It is for this reason, therefore, that we use the words "*thin slice*" advisedly; but on the other hand, if after we have got our bud off we think it necessary to get away some more of the wood, we must be particularly cautious not to get away, with the wood that we are paring off, the germ of the bud itself.

One other experiment is worth a trial, especially when the space at our command is not large, and the number of our stocks, therefore, is proportionately small. Two different buds you can, if you like, put upon the same stock. In this case the only thing to take care about is that your two buds must be of the same habits and methods of growth, for otherwise the fast-growing bud would very soon absorb all the nutritious properties in the stock to itself, so that the slower-growing one would in a wonderfully short time begin to fail, or at the best your tree would not grow uniformly. There is no reason, however, why you should not choose two different-coloured roses for budding, the effect of which, if properly carried out, might be exceedingly good and pleasing.

The carnations and picotees want some attention this month, and on each stem the buds had better be reduced to only some two or three. And the stems too should be tied quite loosely to the stakes, so that as they go on growing the tie could be easily slipped up.

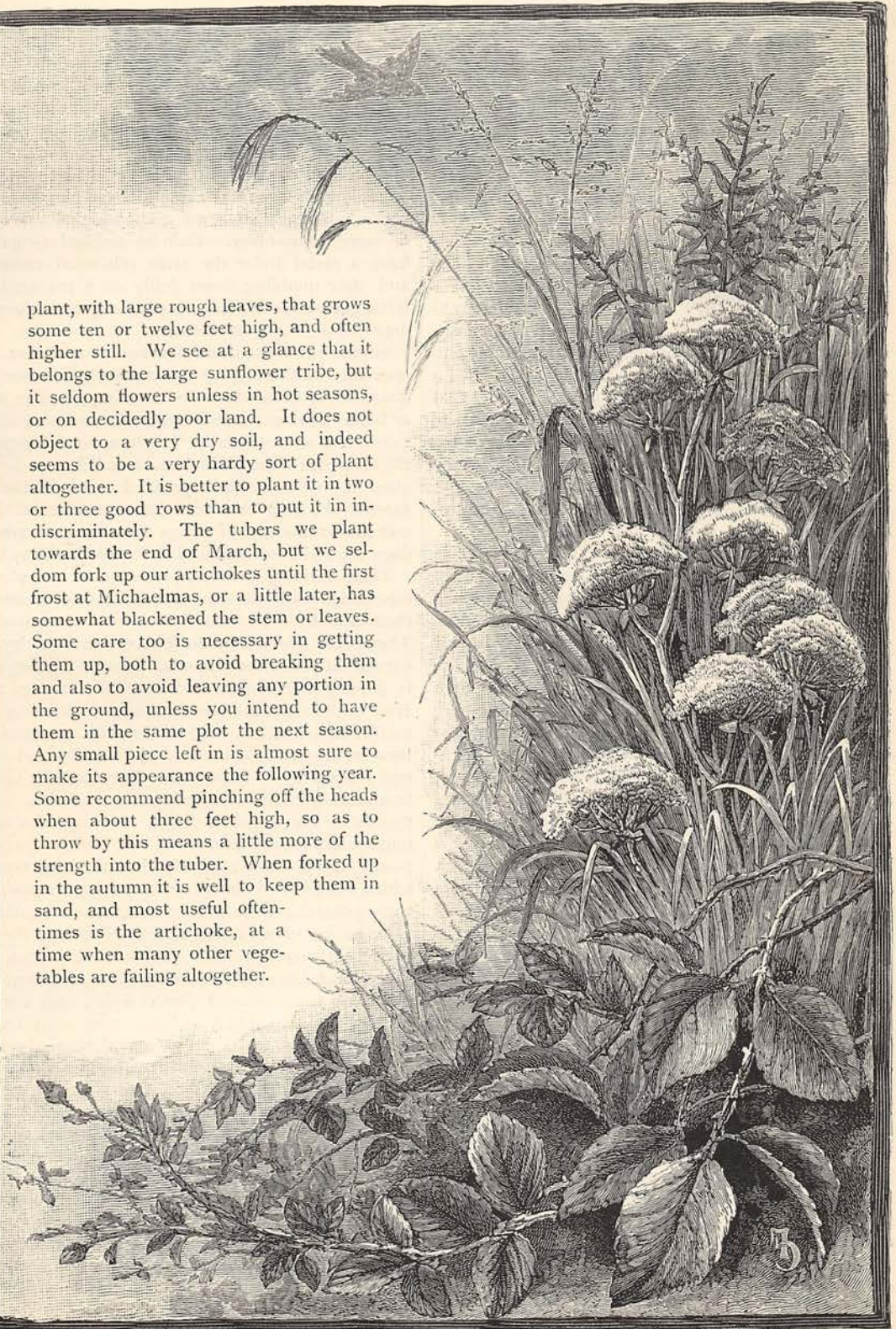
The dahlias, too, will be rapidly advancing, and probably further stakes and support may be necessary. The side branches especially should be well secured in the direction in which they are growing.

And then as to our perennials, which form so important a part of our supply, and especially in suburban gardens: the early-sown ones might this month be transplanted, and no matter either if it be into borders of poor soil; they will then gain vigour and acquire an early-flowering habit.

Least of all, however, must we pass by our greenhouse. And this month, our ordinary bedding-out stock being now displayed in our open borders, we are probably trying to encourage a few tender annuals and some stove plants. And by this time, too, our azaleas and camellias will have finished the growth of their new wood, so that these two we can also, when this is accomplished, turn out of our greenhouse, taking care to give them some protected situation out of doors, where they will be in perfect safety until nearly the end of September, when we again have to fill up our greenhouse with them and our winter stock of cuttings, &c. This then will give us still further room at this time in our greenhouse for experiments, while we also retain a few large and shrubby flowers for general display. Nor is there in July any fear that our window garden will fail in affording us satisfaction, unless indeed we allow the failure to arise from a want of plentiful watering, or from the sun simply scorching up our plants by piercing its rays right through the flower-pots, which we perhaps persist in foolishly exposing to its full glare. And at this time of the year we are often at a loss to know how to get some shade in our kitchen garden, it may be for those things that most stand in need of it. But bear in mind that a goodly row or two of Jerusalem artichokes, or of scarlet runners, not only afford shade, but are very useful for domestic purposes as well.

One or two words then, when we are calling out for shade, may be of use as to the Jerusalem artichoke. A native of South America, it is, as we know, a tall

plant, with large rough leaves, that grows some ten or twelve feet high, and often higher still. We see at a glance that it belongs to the large sunflower tribe, but it seldom flowers unless in hot seasons, or on decidedly poor land. It does not object to a very dry soil, and indeed seems to be a very hardy sort of plant altogether. It is better to plant it in two or three good rows than to put it in indiscriminately. The tubers we plant towards the end of March, but we seldom fork up our artichokes until the first frost at Michaelmas, or a little later, has somewhat blackened the stem or leaves. Some care too is necessary in getting them up, both to avoid breaking them and also to avoid leaving any portion in the ground, unless you intend to have them in the same plot the next season. Any small piece left in is almost sure to make its appearance the following year. Some recommend pinching off the heads when about three feet high, so as to throw by this means a little more of the strength into the tuber. When forked up in the autumn it is well to keep them in sand, and most useful oftentimes is the artichoke, at a time when many other vegetables are failing altogether.



OUR GARDEN IN AUGUST.



THE month of August, although usually the hottest and most settled of our summer months, is nevertheless one of the first in which we begin to make our early preparations for the floral display of the summer which is to follow. Very anomalous this sounds, but so it is, for from our flower beds, which are now in all their glory, we are about to take our whole stock of cuttings, which we shall afterwards watch with so much care and interest under

the glass protection of our little greenhouse through the winter months that are to come.

Now we certainly do not much care to take our stock of cuttings earlier than about the end of the month, for while on the one hand our object certainly is to have our young cuttings thoroughly rooted and established by the time that autumn has well set in, yet on the other hand we should not think it wise to let our cuttings have a month of thoroughly hot summer weather in which to make a sudden and prodigious start, for where only a limited space is at our disposal they will, by the time the following spring has thoroughly advanced, have attained such a size as quite to inconvenience us.

And we should select our cuttings as far as possible from those shoots or small branches that have not borne flowers. Now our geraniums, and indeed most of our soft-stemmed plants, we generally propagate from the parts removed in cutting down our plants when the best of their bloom is over. Round the lower part of the main stem there are plenty of young lateral shoots which serve best for cuttings. Well, we cut through the little stem just above a leaf to form the top of a cutting, and just below another leaf, some three or four inches perhaps, to form the bottom, while we only remove one or two of the lowest leaves. We always take care to use a good keen-edged knife, as it is important to make what is called a clean cut, and not a jagged, awkward one. Of course we merely remove the lower leaf or two so as to admit of our placing our cutting firmly in the soil in which we are planting, while all the upper leaves we retain uninjured as far as possible. And plenty of sand is necessary when we are taking our cuttings. A sandy soil is far more favourable for them, and indeed the more delicate or difficult to root a plant is, the more sand you should mix with your soil. And then the soil should be fairly moist and pressed down firmly.

We put in our cuttings in this way: taking first of all a small piece of wood which we call a dibble, and perhaps of the dimensions, or thereabouts, of an ordinary penny lead-pencil, we make a hole in the

soil sufficiently deep to allow our cutting to feel, as it were, the bottom of the hole when we have inserted it, and we then press with our hands, or with the dibble, the soil firmly round the little stem of our cutting; then when our pots and pans are well filled we give them all a mere sprinkling of water—just enough, in fact, to settle the soil well about them. Perhaps the more delicate of our cuttings we afterwards place under a hand-glass, but even this should be occasionally slightly lifted for a little time so as to allow the collected moisture to pass away, otherwise there is certainly a danger of your cuttings damping off, as it is called.

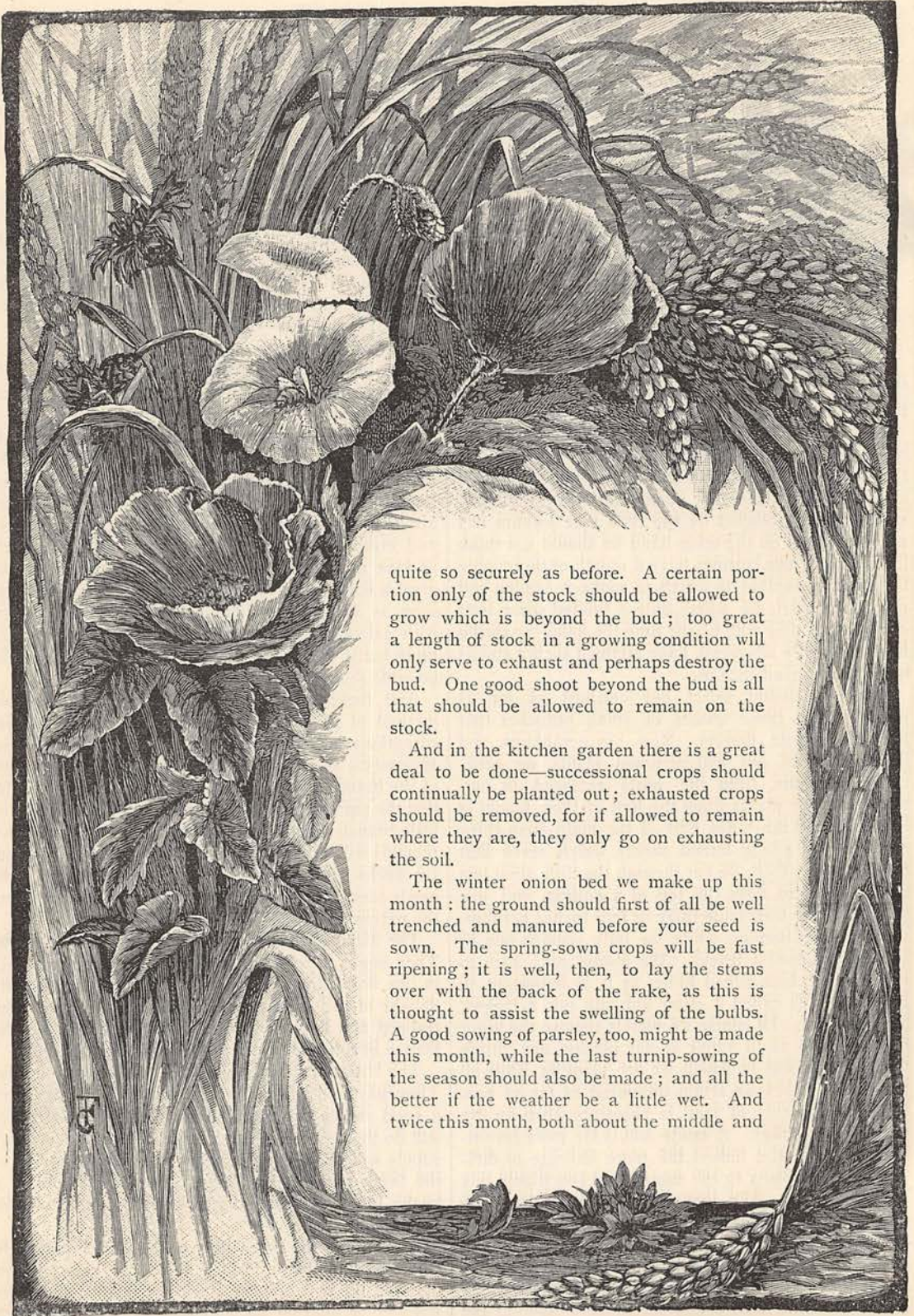
Our ordinary stock of cuttings—geraniums, for instance—require no protection of this kind; they should be merely placed in a good sheltered and shady situation, for certainly a fierce August sun, or even some of that heat which we not unfrequently have in the early part of September, would be very likely fatal to the well-being of the whole stock. And an occasional repetition of that water-sprinkling, especially if they are leafy cuttings, will benefit them, but not the heavy and ordinary watering. The cuttings should merely be kept moderately damp. Nor need you be in too great a hurry to get everything into the greenhouse as soon as all is done. The longer you can postpone with safety the general housing of the plants, the more hardy will they be when they are exposed to the possible severities of the winter season.

And then, too, this month we attend to another method of propagation known as layering. All our carnations and picotees we raise by this process. It consists, as we well know, of simply fixing a portion of the branch of our plant beneath the soil in order that the part so buried may strike out roots, while the little branch or limb that we have thus pegged down remains still attached to the parent plant. In about six weeks' time, when the roots are well made, the newly-rooted plant can with safety be severed from the parent one.

The dahlias are occupying a good deal of our time. They ought this month to occupy a prominent place in our floral display. The dahlia is, unhappily, the delight of the earwig, and these should have been trapped and kept down earlier in the season. A defective bloom had far better be removed at once.

The chrysanthemums will want some attention now. They may be occasionally re-potted, and will also want a good supply of water. A little liquid manure, too, will do them good sometimes. A failure in the water supply will soon show itself in the turning yellow of the lower part of the foliage. In order to obtain a bushy plant, of course the very strong shoots must be "stopped."

And among the roses that we budded last month, where we find that a decided union has been effected between the bud and the stock, we might remove the worsted or matting tie, and retie it, but perhaps not



quite so securely as before. A certain portion only of the stock should be allowed to grow which is beyond the bud ; too great a length of stock in a growing condition will only serve to exhaust and perhaps destroy the bud. One good shoot beyond the bud is all that should be allowed to remain on the stock.

And in the kitchen garden there is a great deal to be done—successional crops should continually be planted out ; exhausted crops should be removed, for if allowed to remain where they are, they only go on exhausting the soil.

The winter onion bed we make up this month : the ground should first of all be well trenched and manured before your seed is sown. The spring-sown crops will be fast ripening ; it is well, then, to lay the stems over with the back of the rake, as this is thought to assist the swelling of the bulbs. A good sowing of parsley, too, might be made this month, while the last turnip-sowing of the season should also be made ; and all the better if the weather be a little wet. And twice this month, both about the middle and

at the end of the month, cauliflower seed should be got in on a light rich border. In the first earthing up of the celery bed more than usual care is advisable, and a dry day ought to be chosen for the operation.

In our fruit garden we are mainly at open war with vermin and the insect tribe in general, as a raid is generally begun about this time on the fruit. The wall fruit, which will be rapidly ripening, might well be gone over at night time, when the slugs and snails think to escape our notice, and climb the trees and walls. We do not mean merely sunset, but quite late, with a lantern, is the best, if not the only, time for the effectual taking of prisoners. New strawberry beds should be made up not later than the second week of the month; while among the grapes do not leave a shoot that is not actually required, and a last thinning out of the berries may be made.

The melon frames, too, especially just as the fruit

is beginning to ripen, will want a good deal of attention. In order to keep the fruit from touching the soil, cover the surface of the bed with some slate or tiles; and, besides, this also materially assists the plant by reflecting the sun's rays. In fact, perhaps the most critical time with the melon is when the fruit is setting. Water should, as the fruit is ripening, be almost entirely withheld, while earlier in the season, whenever water is given at all, it should always be of the temperature of the bed. Plenty of light too when ripening is what the melon likes. When one or two melons have already been cut, and you are hoping still to bring on others that are as yet very backward, the vine should be pruned back a little and the soil stirred: this, together with a good watering and a slight lining of fresh manure, with the frame kept close and moist, will probably ripen the backward melons.

HOME-MADE ICES.



WILL commence by stating that this paper is intended for the sole use of amateurs; by which I mean those who not only have never made an "ice" in their lives, but who, perhaps, have never entertained the idea that they could make one; and to such I will endeavour to prove that it is a simple matter to manipulate a score; indeed, so far as suggesting variety is concerned, my difficulty will be to know where to stop. It would be useless to speak here of the professional system of making ices, because the "freezer" and "spatula" are not in the possession of ordinary people, neither could time be given to the process, which is tedious, whereas in following out the "blocking" system the ices are, in a great measure, independent of attention.

The necessary utensils—which ought to be found in every house—are a bucket, or small tub, or pan, of earthenware or zinc, and a tin mould, having a close-fitting lid. Any size or shape will do, so that it is water-tight, and the lid really fits; if at all loose, a piece of stout calico should be laid over the top of the mould before the lid is put on. I know of nothing that will answer the purpose better than a "Devonshire cream" tin, which is a plain round canister, but having loops of tin on the lid and canister too, it can be securely tied down; besides, as the cream is sent in them to all parts of the country, they are of better make than the ordinary tins, containing mustard, coffee, &c., which, as a rule, will not hold water. A cake tin, or jelly mould, will answer your purpose, but the rim must be plain—a fluted one will not do—to fit which any tinman would make a lid for a few pence.

For a mould that holds a quart or thereabouts, you will need from fifteen to twenty pounds of ice, according to the weather and the nature of your preparation.

In winter time it may probably be collected from your own tubs and pails; but if you buy it at a fishmonger's, ask for "table ice," and you'll get the right thing. Don't have that in which fish has been packed. Presuming, therefore, that you have to purchase it, it will cost but about a penny a pound, and as a quart mould would be sufficient for a dozen people, the extra expense (taking into consideration that the dish is a real treat) is not much. More than half the weight of ice would, however, be required to freeze a pint; so it is cheaper in proportion to make the larger quantity, as for two quarts not more than twenty-four to twenty-six pounds would be needed. I am giving the maximum amount when the weather is really hot, and the recipes are, in most cases, for one quart, and can easily be reduced or increased at pleasure by the reader.

Now for the process, which, besides being simpler than that of "freezing" proper, referred to at the commencement, is cheaper as well, though I do not claim that ices "blocked"—though they are equally delicious and refreshing—are so smooth; this is owing to their not having been worked with the "spatula" at intervals during the "freezing."

First cover the bottom of the tub or pan with ice, broken up into pieces the size of an egg, and mixed with common salt. Next set the mould in, and entirely surround it with more broken ice, until the top is reached; then spread another layer of ice and salt—of which a pound or more will be wanted altogether—all over the top of the mould. You see now the necessity for a tight-fitting lid. Set it in a cold place until required. In cool weather it will probably be firm in two hours, but in hot it may require four, or six, so some of the ice must be reserved and added, with salt, the water being drained off from the first supply as it melts; for unless the mould be kept well covered, the mixture will not be uniformly frozen.

wrong." Then follows a kindly gibe at the reserve which was a characteristic of her young correspondent: "I wish you were an oyster, and I had a good oyster-knife and strength of *wrist* to open you!"

Nobody who had the honour of entering the hospitable home which Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hall upheld during their long married life of more than fifty years will ever forget the pleasing picture. Works of art by famous men adorned the walls; objects of interest lay on every hand. There were the flowers and the music which Mrs. Hall loved so ardently. Above all, there was herself, with a kindly welcome beaming from the lovely Irish face, which could never have

lacked beauty, though it had that which throws beauty into the shade—that something which no artist and no photographer could ever adequately catch, and which since her death, in the winter of 1881, has only lingered in the memories of those who loved her.

Mr. Hall's own volumes of "Recollections" are enriched by engravings from De la Roche's portrait of himself, taken in 1847, and from Maclise's portrait of Mrs. Hall, drawn in 1830. But we have chosen to illustrate this paper from photographs taken in later life, showing them both as surviving friends best remember them.

TO A FOUNTAIN.

AFTER THE SPANISH OF ESTEBAN MANUEL DE VILLEGAS.


 VER sands of gold
 Run thy silvern feet,
 Ever fair and fleet,
 Fountain bright and cold.
 All my tears thou takest,
 Heedless of the giver,
 To the rushing river,
 When his need thou slakest.
 Thou art laughing gaily,
 Yet thy smiles betray me,
 Yet thy glances slay me,
 I am dying daily.

Thou stream of my desire,
 I give thee thus my all,
 I let the gift-drops fall;

Flow on, I will not tire;
 For while thy course thou wearest,
 My years thou with thee bearest,
 And my heart is ever singing
 Of the woe that I am bringing.

O fountain fresh and fair,
 On we pass, an equal pair—
 Thou along thy wonted path,
 I through all that ever hath
 Shadowed me.

Wilt thou lisp a liquid lie,
 Dost thou sparkle thus for ever?
 Thou art something less than I,
 For, once ceasing, thou couldst die—
 Ceasing, dying, I shall never
 Cease to be.

H. W. WATSON.

OUR GARDEN IN SEPTEMBER.



E continue this month our preparations for the flower display of the next season: our stock of cuttings that was taken last month we now stow away in winter quarters in our greenhouse, which, by Michaelmas, we ought to have filled from end to end with all the plants that will occupy us so much when there is less to do outside.

We make a point, however, of giving plenty of air, more particularly at first, and the house itself should be kept thoroughly

clean and dry. We must, too, this month be particularly on our guard against overcrowding: we feel just now so strongly inclined to say, Oh! we must save this plant and that plant, so that almost unawares we get our house more than full. Full of course it ought to be, but not overdone, for the plants in an overstocked house will grow sickly and lanky, and some will, perhaps, die off altogether. In addition, however, to our stock of cuttings, we have perhaps a few large flowers in pots, which are still well in bloom and which, with a little care, we hope will continue so for some time. Among these are sure to be some fuchsias, for we must have noticed these are disposed to continue in flower long after most of our bedding-out plants. A few words, then, on the habits and cultivation of the fuchsia may not be inexpedient. Now it is a mistake to cultivate all classes of the fuchsia in the same way. The old *Fuchsia fulgens*, for instance,

if allowed to develop itself in the ordinary way—that is to say, if each shoot is permitted to grow on unchecked—the whole plant in time becomes a shapeless and almost ugly one, with flowers here and there at the end of each of the shoots. The best plan, therefore, is to rear it as a standard, and when the main shoot has attained the height that you desire it to be, pinch off the head. Meantime, all the lower shoots must be pinched off until the proper height be reached, but after this the lateral shoots may be encouraged.

The old-fashioned *Globosa*, on the other hand, is a dwarf plant, and looks well when grown as a bushy one, because the blooms make their appearance all along the branches and at the base of the leaves—several, indeed, at the base of each leaf. And for potting this plant have for your soil in equal proportion, a little loam, some decayed manure and leaf-mould, and shift into a larger-sized pot when the roots have reached the sides and begun to work and entwine themselves all round. The best of all is that fuchsias can be struck at nearly any time of the year, and in the preparation of these let each cutting have two eyes, one to be the base for the root to strike from, and one just above ground to grow, though many say that there is no occasion to have one eye under the ground at all, so that really every eye could be utilised and turned into a plant.

It is not much to our purpose, however, to go into the discussion of questions of this kind: a little experience and a few experiments will readily teach us how best to utilise our stock. But, in addition to our greenhouse supply, we are very busy this month, or at all events towards the end of it, in preparing our open borders for next season's flowers. The experiment may be tried of sowing a few annuals to stand over the winter in our open beds, as, if you can succeed in saving them through the winter, they will, if allowed to remain on where they are sown, flower not only earlier but stronger than those which are planted out.

Or again, some of those plants which you are afraid to set out in the open until spring has actually come, might now be sown under any old garden frame or light, just to protect them from the severity of the frost, or from what is perhaps still more hurtful to them, and that is excessive rain. And seedling perennials and biennials should be planted out as soon as possible. Such as these, indeed, the columbine, Canterbury-bells, sweet William, &c., would do better if planted out in August, and take care that you put them in the places in which you intend them to blow.

Your old perennials, too—and these are plants, by the way, on which we depend so largely for flower supply in our suburban gardens—when their bloom has faded, may be parted with a spade, and the piece put in elsewhere, for it will be sure to grow; only in doing this it is as well not to disturb the main portion, if it is answering well in its present position. And these perennials are really so good-natured that any piece taken off with hardly any root to it at all will be almost certain to grow, the portion that you leave behind in the ground being really benefited

rather than injured, so that the whole operation is a very satisfactory one.

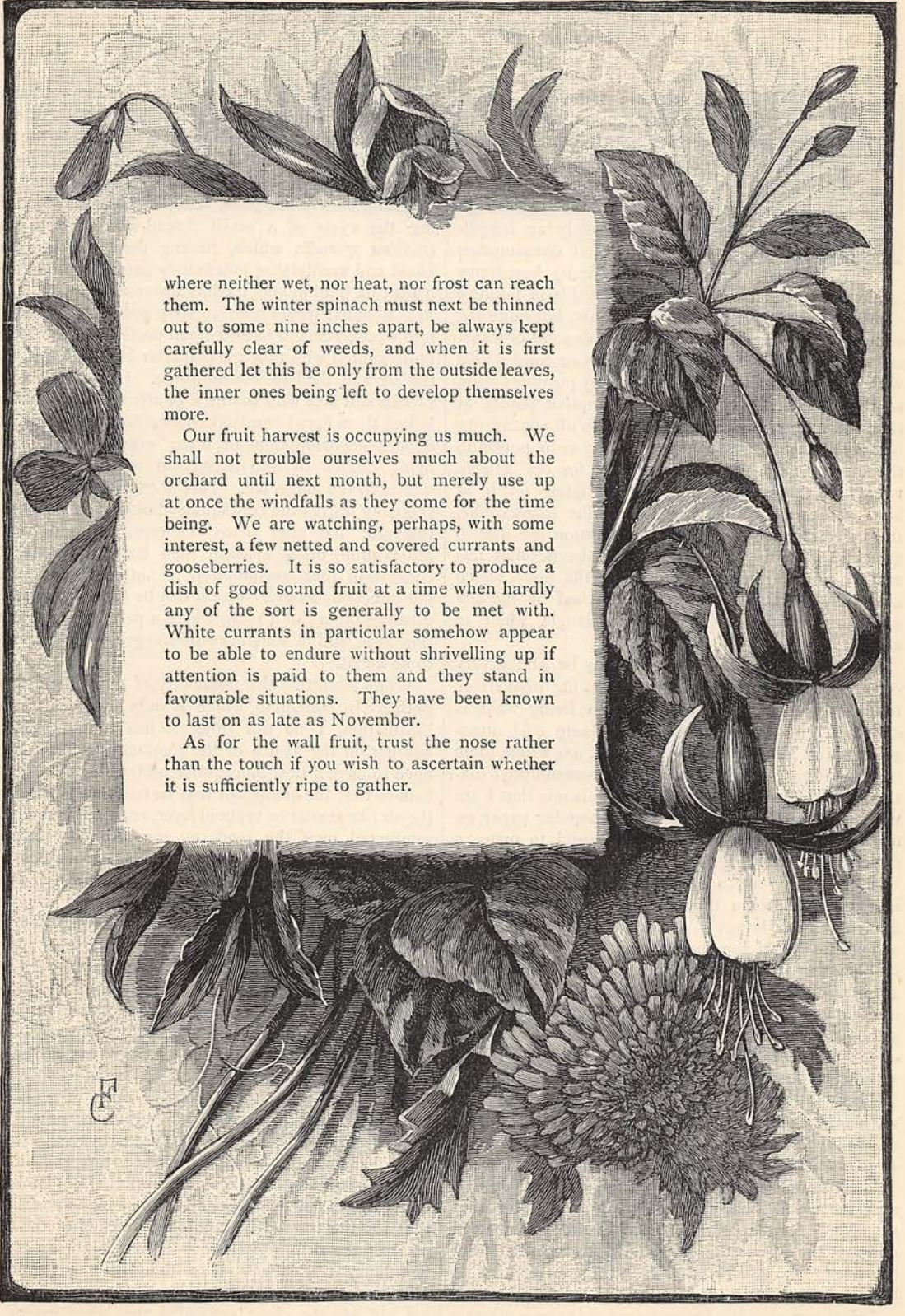
We can begin towards the end of this month, too, to think of preparation for our bulb show. Next month, or even early in November, many of our bulbs could be safely put in; but, on the other hand, early planting—that is, planting about the third week in September—gives them strength and perhaps insures a little earlier bloom. In setting in such bulbs as our snowdrops and crocuses, tulips, &c., have the narcissuses and jonquils further back than the hyacinths, for they are generally rather taller. The snowdrops look best at the foot of a shrub, or even at the base of trees. Crocuses, to look effective, should not be in a long row, a long yellow line being rather ugly than not. They look best in patches, set out here and there at intervals.

This month, too, now that we are on the subject of bulbs, is a very good one to lift any of our bulbous plants that we have hitherto been accustomed to leave in the ground, and indeed any changes of this kind that we meditate had better be carried out now as early as possible, and for this reason: they will in many cases be found germinating, and the fibrous roots will perhaps already be found to have pushed some little distance down. Their removal to another part of your garden will in this case certainly throw them back a little. Most bulbs of the lily tribe are far better not taken out at all. Or if you do so, keep them from the air by having them packed in sand.

And this month we gather from every kind of flower the seed which we think at all worth preserving: do not now take it out of the pod, but gather it carefully, pod and all, and store it away in some thoroughly dry and airy situation where it can ripen itself more perfectly. All stems, too, of flowers that have now quite passed their beauty, and whose seed seems poor in consequence of any damage to or defect in the flower itself, had better be cut down.

Nor is it yet too late to go on striking a few pansies, which can easily be managed under an ordinary hand-glass. If you are trying this at all late in the month, you must give some protection, for in their young state a slight frost would be injurious to them. Any choice varieties that you may have must be struck in a frame with a little bottom heat, while those that you have already in your old beds may be cut down fairly close to the ground, and then, if you give them a little earthing up, they will soon throw out shoots which you can afterwards take off, with, of course, the roots attached to them, and plant them out elsewhere in any vacant or ill-supplied part of your garden.

We can here do little more than advert generally to the many important operations that come upon us in the kitchen and fruit garden. Probably a good proportion of the potato crop is ripe, and when this is the case it is better to have it up at once rather than to leave all in the ground to be the prey of vermin. And, in addition to this, your potato crop once up, a large available space is at once at your service, for we never can afford to allow our land to lie idle. The potatoes, however, must be stored away in a place



where neither wet, nor heat, nor frost can reach them. The winter spinach must next be thinned out to some nine inches apart, be always kept carefully clear of weeds, and when it is first gathered let this be only from the outside leaves, the inner ones being left to develop themselves more.

Our fruit harvest is occupying us much. We shall not trouble ourselves much about the orchard until next month, but merely use up at once the windfalls as they come for the time being. We are watching, perhaps, with some interest, a few netted and covered currants and gooseberries. It is so satisfactory to produce a dish of good sound fruit at a time when hardly any of the sort is generally to be met with. White currants in particular somehow appear to be able to endure without shrivelling up if attention is paid to them and they stand in favourable situations. They have been known to last on as late as November.

As for the wall fruit, trust the nose rather than the touch if you wish to ascertain whether it is sufficiently ripe to gather.

CF

"I was told of it; then I met him and he confessed it."

The girl looked into his face for one glimmer of doubt, but there was nothing to be read in it save the deepest compassion, and bowing her head hopelessly she fled to her room.

Erskine's meeting with Connie was robbed of all sweetness by the miserable news he had to communicate, and he suffered the more acutely because, in a measure, he felt himself answerable for his friend. Not only had he introduced him to the Lathams, but his promise to Beatrice had quickened his sense of responsibility, so that now when Headley had taken the final step of treachery he hardly dared look Mrs. Latham or Connie in the face.

Headley's was a pitiful case of weak impressibility. While the war lasted he had not been tempted to forget Beatrice, but when on the voyage home he was thrown into constant companionship with a girl who simply made up her mind from the first to bring him to her feet, his fidelity wavered and at last broke down altogether. Erskine was powerless, for no sooner did he show himself distinctly antagonistic to her schemes than Miss Laing so contrived that he could not suspect the extent to which she carried on her designs behind his back. Throughout, Headley was conscious and ashamed of his baseness, and whenever opportunities occurred of sending letters overland he wrote to Beatrice in terms of unchanged devotion. It was so difficult to confess his perfidy in black and white.

"What a villain I am," he thought, with his pen between his teeth, on the occasion of his writing from

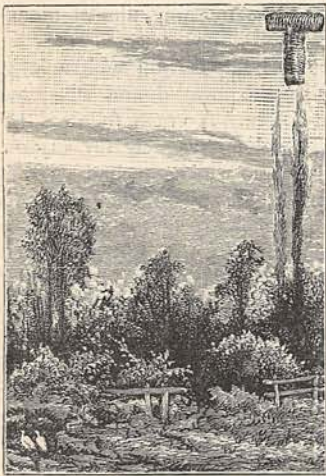
Gibraltar, "to sit down and humbug Beatrice while I'm making love to another girl!"

Then he drew out Beatrice's photograph and her last letter, and dwelt alternately on the sweet sincere face and on the loving words, till his sense of honour was momentarily aroused. "No, no! I'm not scoundrel enough to desert a girl like that! She shall never know what I've been up to. I won't speak to that little witch again—I swear I won't." In which access of virtuous resolve he penned that last loyal letter to Beatrice which she had treasured and delighted in. For the next few hours Miss Laing found him difficult to manage, but her tenacity was greater than his power of resistance, and by the time they reached England his infatuation rendered him a helpless tool in her hands. Well aware that unless the marriage took place clandestinely and at once it probably never would, she prevailed upon him to go through the ceremony without a moment's delay. It is needless to say more, except perhaps that Headley's transgression carried its punishment along with it. He suffered bitterly.

As for the Lathams, Connie is Erskine's wife now, and Beatrice, after a long period of suffering as keen as love was absorbing, is at length regaining something of her former self. She is not the *same*—no woman who has loved and been so cruelly betrayed can ever be that—but though deep in her heart one scar of unforgotten bitterness remains, the changing interests that enter into every life however quiet, have done their kindly work, and blunted the edge of painful memory.

H. L.

OUR GARDEN IN OCTOBER.



THE month of October may not improperly be called the half-way house between Summer and Winter. Our greenhouse stock will very soon show signs of having entered, as it were, upon the transition state.

If we are enjoying a prolonged summer, or a fairly mild and dry season, we should recommend that, if possible, the whole house be not stocked. Yet some

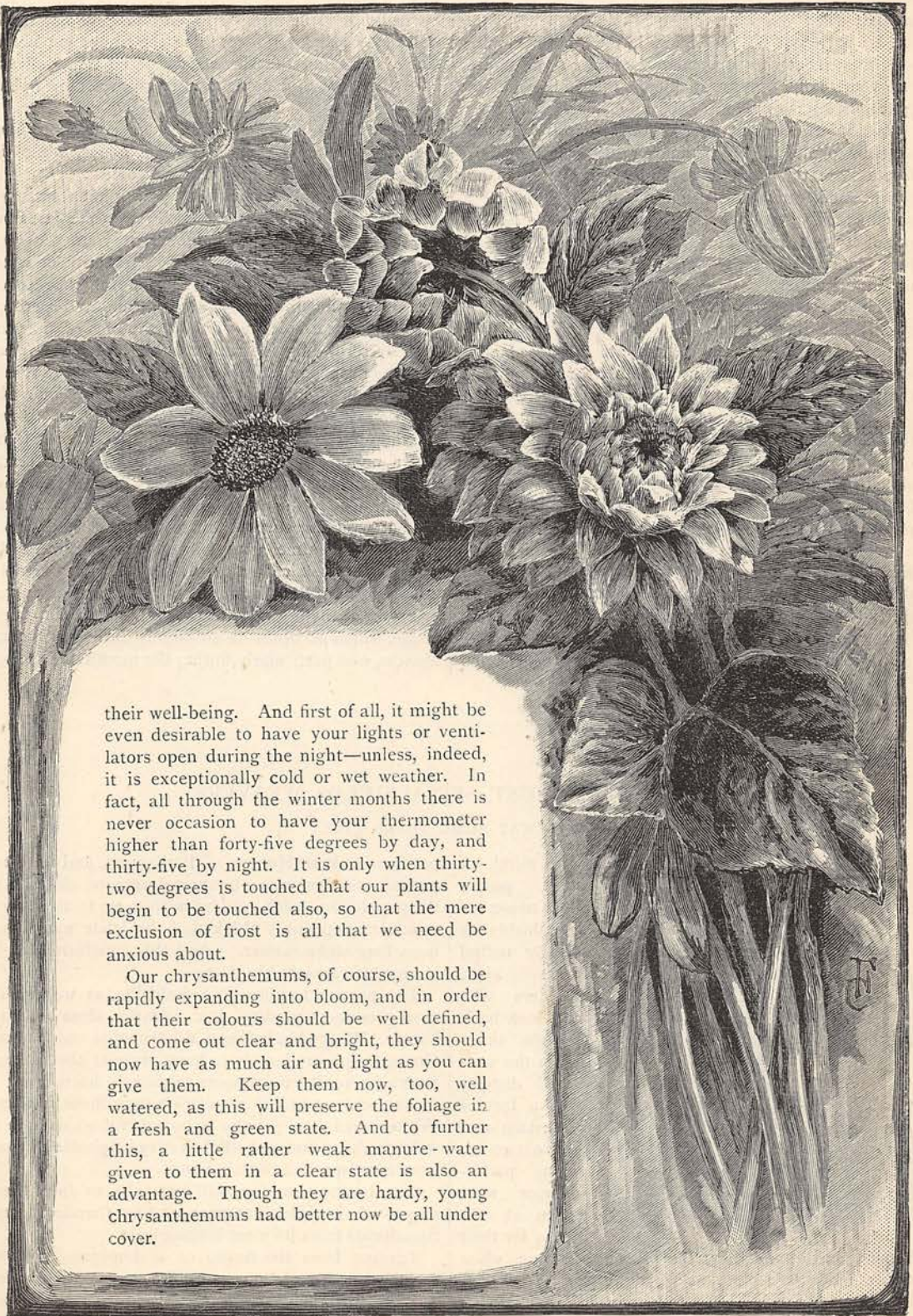
plants ought to be so placed that you could shelter them speedily on an emergency. But in all probability it would be unsafe to allow the greenhouse to remain exposed at night to any change that might take place, much later than the end of the first week in October.

Our treatment of our greenhouse plants this month should tend rather to favour the maturing and hardening of growth that has been already accomplished, than to excite fresh growth in them.

Later on in the month, and once our plants have been all stored away in their winter quarters, there are plenty of little routine matters to be attended to. All dead and decaying leaves should be removed from your greenhouse plants. And even this should sometimes be *carefully* done. It is often better, and especially when the leaf and stalk do not come off entirely and readily when touched, to take off the leaf only, leaving the base of the stalk untouched; otherwise there might, in some cases, be a liability to injure the stem.

And then again, it is a good plan, every two or three weeks perhaps, to stir up carefully the surface of the soil in your pots. We are speaking hardly so much now of our cutting stock as of our established and standard plants in our house.

It is needless to remark that fresh air is very important for your plants, but at no time is it so important as when they are first brought into the house, whilst overcrowding is equally injurious to



their well-being. And first of all, it might be even desirable to have your lights or ventilators open during the night—unless, indeed, it is exceptionally cold or wet weather. In fact, all through the winter months there is never occasion to have your thermometer higher than forty-five degrees by day, and thirty-five by night. It is only when thirty-two degrees is touched that our plants will begin to be touched also, so that the mere exclusion of frost is all that we need be anxious about.

Our chrysanthemums, of course, should be rapidly expanding into bloom, and in order that their colours should be well defined, and come out clear and bright, they should now have as much air and light as you can give them. Keep them now, too, well watered, as this will preserve the foliage in a fresh and green state. And to further this, a little rather weak manure-water given to them in a clear state is also an advantage. Though they are hardy, young chrysanthemums had better now be all under cover.

And then as to watering your plants: always have standing in your greenhouse a large canful of water, so that when you want to use it—which, by the way, we know, is not so very often in the winter months—it may be of the same temperature as the house. Set your plants that are in bloom in good prominent positions, so as to give as good an effect as you can.

Avoid, however, having one long row of large and shrubby plants all of a uniform height; there is a formality in this; but have among your large plants a few smaller and choice ones, either elevated on a small block of wood, or stood upon another flower-pot of its own size placed bottom upwards. And, as far as you can, keep the plants of any particular kind or class together.

The buds on our camellias will be beginning to swell. Let them have plenty of air, and very little water. It is very often a little difficult to manage camellias with thorough success in a house such as that we are supposed to be managing, and devoted to a general collection of miscellaneous plants. All that camellias, as a rule, just now require in the way of water is a very little of it, and that little only at stated times and intervals. The buds, however, would fall if water were not given. As it appears to be a plant that lives by rule, have a day, perhaps once a week, on which to give it only a slight moistening. Fire-heat it is decidedly impatient of, while if your thermometer was allowed carelessly to fall as low as thirty-two degrees, very probably your camellias would be the least injured by the lessened temperature.

All your myrtles or orange-trees should be cleaned

and set in order for the winter. Sometimes they will want a complete washing with a piece of sponge, leaf by leaf. It is certainly a tedious process, but it will well repay you for the trouble; the leaves get nearly black, and often the stems as well, so that you will hardly recognise your plant after the washing operation is over.

If you have any azaleas in your collection, have them in the warmest part of your house, while the camellias might certainly be in the coolest.

Another reason for having your plants arranged according to their kinds, of which we spoke just now, is that you can then be uniform in your watering. It may fairly be said that a large quantity of water which, after having had it, a geranium might recover, would very much damage a camellia, and perhaps even kill a heath. One of the symptoms of suffering from overcrowding is that the lower leaves very often begin to drop, so that the stem, and very often some of the branches too, begin to get bare. Any one who has noticed the difference between, say, a fir-tree standing in the centre of a bed by itself, or on a lawn, and a number of fir-trees in a plantation, will see at once the beauty of the one, and very often the positive unsightliness of the other. A plantation is invariably set out with the shrubs and trees too close together. In process of time some will die outright, while the rest will be like a collection of open umbrellas, namely, a long pole or stick, and only a little something green or brown at the top. Thus much, then, for our greenhouse, which occupies us so largely during the winter months, and particularly during the month of October.

A TURN AMONGST SPITALFIELDS WEAVERS.

(THE WAY SOME FOLKS LIVE.)



IN the minds of most people the name of Spitalfields is closely united with silk. Readers who can look back to the times when the weavers' distress was a fact of almost national importance; when performances were given at the opera for their

benefit, and attended by the Queen in state; when Court balls took place, at which it was a point of honour with the ladies to appear in Spitalfields silk; when the hand-loom weavers ever and anon submitted

petitions to both Houses of Parliament, and were regarded as a dangerous, because desperate, element in the population—such readers, with these facts in their minds, may possibly think that the trade must have been long since extinct. And this conclusion might almost be warranted by facts.

The precise locality of Spitalfields, as well as its most prominent modern characteristics, seem but little known. Wedged in between Whitechapel and Bethnal Green, it appears largely to have escaped the ill-fame attaching to its neighbours, although harbouring a much greater criminal population than these districts. Whitechapel is a popular synonym for whatsoever is wrong; the memory of silk has saved Spitalfields from even more merited reprobation.

Our business to-day will not take us into those streets where vice is rampant, and we therefore enter Spitalfields from its most inviting side.

Turning from the bustle of Bishopsgate into the seclusion of Spital Square, we are at once surrounded by old associations. Here at one time stood the Priory of St. Mary, Spital. Hither on Easter Monday and

favourite of mine, and if you must marry, why, you could not have done better for yourself."

Meanwhile, Colonel Everard has been whispering something to his wife, who at once makes known what it is to the company generally.

"Should you mind all coming into the house whilst the light is still good?" she asks. "George and I have something to show you."

They all rise at once to accede to this request, the majority of them perfectly aware of what they are going to see, and enter the library, where they come to a standstill before a new picture. It has been hung during the afternoon, whilst the tennis-balls were flying over the nets, and the shouts of the players re-echoing in the air.

It is a picture they all know, and yet they look at it with as keen an interest as had it been presented for the first time to their eyes. It represents two little children, bearing a strong resemblance to one another, playing together in the grass: you have not far to search for the originals; they are close by, staring with their big blue eyes at their portraits, and uttering cries of delight at the sight of the colley, their beloved companion, so faithfully portrayed upon the canvas.

It is certainly not a very original subject; and yet, surely it is one that is ever new. To the mother who painted it, it seems there never was a subject so perfectly novel, so entirely *unique*, as this of her son and her nephew. And the love that prompted, the talent that wielded the brush, speak out of every line of the exquisitely graceful picture, so perfectly truthful in its simplicity. Not that it is not idealised, as most pictures are—or ought to be—but the attitudes are those in which Winny has seen the two babies hundreds of times, and which, for all their ease and faithfulness to nature, must, Gilbert Craven knows, have cost no small amount of trouble: are evidences of no mean technical skill. The colouring—Winny's strong point—is so delicate in the flesh tints, so deep and rich in the

drapery about the children, that although there are no intensely marked contrasts, yet many suggest themselves; and the whole is warm and mellow, as had it been painted under an Italian sky.

Involuntarily, Roger comes and stands by his wife, and lays his hand on her shoulder, whilst Gilbert Craven, perfectly serious now, looks at the canvas critically, as had he never seen it before.

"Well, Gilbert," asks Roger, "what do you think of your pupil now?"

"I am prouder of her than ever. This picture goes yet a step further than her portrait of Mrs. Everard."

"And how about her marrying? What have you to say to that now?"

"Ah! there, I hold to my opinion."

"Yet," says Roger, "do you think any one but his own mother could have painted such a likeness of this young villain? Depend upon it, Craven, a dual existence is better than a single one. All your faculties become doubled, and, as a natural consequence, Winny's talents have increased two-fold."

"Winny, will you tell your husband not to talk nonsense?"

But Winny stands wrapt in one of her old mazes, not hearing a word they are saying.

"I never thought," she says, turning to Roger, and speaking in a low whisper, "I never thought at one time that I should see a picture of mine hung in the Tranmere library, and my own dear mother's opposite it; it seems like a dream."

Roger bends down to her.

"Are you satisfied, my wife?" he asks. "Does the reality come up to the anticipation?"

She lifts her beautiful face to his.

"Perfectly, entirely—more than satisfied."

Can we take leave of them better than with these words of Winifred's? Surely not. Let us hope that as the years roll on, bringing with them trials and troubles, she will still continue to look upwards and be satisfied.

THE END.

OUR GARDEN IN NOVEMBER.



NO matter how long the list be of dreary epithets which we are accustomed to heap on the unhappy and much-abused month of November, one thing is certain, that lovers of the garden can always find plenty of good heavy work to do during its four solemn weeks. For instance: changes that last June and July we were conscious it would be advisable to make, but which, for the life of us—or at any rate, of our plants and shrubs—we dared not then make, may now be made with impunity. There is something

exciting, too, in revolutionising our whole garden. A good routing out once in a few years does all the good in the world; and, what is more, this appearance of a sort of temporary state of siege is at times forced upon us as a necessity, and for this reason: a garden, though once well and tastefully laid out, will, in lapse of years, unless some occasional and radical changes be made in it, become partially disfigured, and show evident traces of what Time, the Destroyer, is able to effect. We are, of course, alluding here more particularly to trees and shrubs. Or even, might we not also with advantage alter the shape and position of any flower-beds upon the lawn, for is it not perhaps possible to get our soil rather into an impoverished and sickly condition by bedding out exactly in the

same few little pentagons and circles, the same class of flower year after year, even after making every allowance for the benefits accruing from turning over our soil and the addition of a little fresh compost? Whereas the removal of a corresponding portion of turf from another part of the lawn to cover over our old flower-beds opens up an entirely new piece of land, that has been lying at rest perhaps for years.

This is a thought certainly worth turning over in our mind, and all the better if it result in turning over some



of our flower-beds as well. But what shall we say, then, of our trees and shrubs? Now, we adverted last month to the great inexpediency of overcrowding in our greenhouse, pointing out how that by so doing

the lower leaves of our plants were liable to, and would, fall off, leaving us with little leafless and unsightly stalks. And we took as an illustration of this an overcrowded plantation. Even, then, in the most judiciously laid-out shrubbery, in the course of years our shrubs become overgrown, and hence overcrowded. Or it may be that it is only quite recently that we have begun to fidget ourselves about those two well-grown trees at the

far end of the lawn. But time has been stealing along, and we recollect now that it is fifteen or twenty years since they were put in. And how delighted the children were who frisked around during the ceremony! Already one has gone away a bride, and another has been laid under a turf-heap with a little gay garden all to herself, shaded by the evergreen of the sombre yew; but there are our two trees that once seemed so far apart now half locked together in angry combat, and all the more certain of mutual destruction in the rage of this November gale.

This is the state of things, then, that we cannot put up with, and one of those two trees had better be sacrificed. Apropos of trees, we might here allude to those in our own fruit-garden. Some little time ago we gave a few hints as to how best we might endeavour to re-invigorate an exhausted tree in our orchard by taking off its top and adding plenty of rich manure. A tree allowed to stand for a long course of years—unless, perhaps, it be our old friend the mulberry—without any attention being given to it whatever, will gradually deteriorate in its fruit-bearing quality and quantity as well.

The writer has now in his memory a noble cherry-tree, from which one year over a hundred pounds of cherries were gathered, but which has now so died back and become overshadowed by other trees that he much questions if ten pounds are ever now got off the tree, which is evidently destined to die altogether in another year or so.

Meantime, there are endless matters of other kinds to be attended to all over the garden. Our bulbs should quite early in this month, if not done in October, be all carefully got in, while any potted ones for forcing should at once find a home in warm quarters.

And then there are our roses. New ones can now be with safety put in wherever they are wanted, or removed to other parts of the garden. In sheltered situations, however, some roses, and especially where no severe frosts have set in, will continue to retain their leaves, while some will even, in a mild season, still throw out a bloom.

In this case, we should certainly be disposed to let them be for awhile, though it is, of course, unnecessary to add that when the hour for removal comes it must not be during a frost, but only in an open, damp, or genial season.

Or if you prefer to choose some new roses from a nursery, the most important thing to notice is the nature and condition of the point of union between the rose and the stock. Reject, then, any that seem but slightly connected, or that look as if they could with very little trouble be blown or broken off. Choose rather those that have not only a good hold, but that have been budded on strong wood.

Or this month you may make the excursion yourself into the woods for the purpose of procuring stocks for planting out, on which to bud the following July.

Least of all, however, must we pass by our greenhouse. Much that was said relative to it in October will be applicable to November treatment; more particularly if, as sometimes happens, we suddenly leap into winter.

The camellias must just now be specially watched, for it is about this time that any careless treatment of them begins to develop in the sad result of dropping buds. And unhappily this can be caused by giving too small a supply of water, while at the same time too great a supply or any sudden accession of fire-heat would be equally injurious to them.

A few pots of mignonette blooming in the greenhouse through the winter is a great charm. Indeed, in a small house one good pot of it is almost enough to make the whole greenhouse fragrant and give a sort of summer air to the whole. For this purpose, then, the seed ought really to be sown about the beginning of August, and in pots.

First of all, take great care to have the drainage of your pots in very good order, mignonette never thriving when this is not the case. A very good authority next recommends placing on the drainage a small quantity of one-year-old pigeon's dung, or, when this cannot be procured, a little guano is an admirable substitute. The soil, too, should be of good loam, fairly enriched with rotten manure, with a good intermixture of old mortar or lime rubbish.

The best place in which to set out your newly-sown pots of mignonette is perhaps some old frame, or where they can be sheltered from much rain, this pleasing little flower always objecting to too much water. As the plants advance in size thin them carefully, leaving ultimately only some three or four young plants in a pot. And when water really *is* required, give enough to moisten the whole of the soil, so that a good space of time may perhaps with safety elapse before another watering be actually necessary. Pinch off, also, any little premature flowers that may appear, and be particular in keeping your pot free from weeds; the little plants themselves, too, should not be crowded together. Finally, when you move them off to their winter quarters, put them in your greenhouse as near as you can to the glass, and in a good airy place.

Mignonette sown, then, as we have just said, in August ought to give you some flowers by Christmas, but there is no possible objection to your sowing a second crop a month later to insure a good succession of flowers.

And this mention of successional flowers reminds us that we have always advocated the endeavour to have even our open flower-beds never entirely destitute of *some* flowers at least. With a little management it is surely possible to keep up some kind of a display through the whole of the year, although we cannot expect just now to be as brilliant and as variegated as we were in the months of June and July. If our "daisy chain" be snapped, let us link it together again with a Christmas rose.



not least, let renewed efforts be made, by speeches, by pamphlets, by the newspaper press, to touch the conscience of the purchasing public, and arouse them from their present selfish attitude. What is needed is that public opinion should be formed; and so far only as it tends in this direction can the introduction of Acts in the Houses of Parliament be expected to do any good.

And, Sir, in reply to the Opener of this debate, who maintains that these old methods have been tried and found wanting, I assert that they have not. Much good has already been done, although it is, alas! too true that much more remains to be accomplished. But year by year changes have been brought about. The Saturday half-holiday is becoming more general throughout the country, and although shop-assistants can scarcely hope to obtain this boon, in many towns employers have commenced to close at four or five o'clock on some other day in the week. In many districts all the shops have arrived at a mutual understanding to close at seven, eight, or nine o'clock on certain days, and keeping open till midnight is becoming more and more a thing of the past. Public feeling is being aroused, as the very movements in favour of legislation show, and good must result. It is in no spirit of boasting that the Early Closing Association asserts that, previous to the existence of the society, "the destructive and fatal effects of immoderately prolonged labour upon the bodily and mental constitution were practically known only to the victims of the system which enforced it." And well indeed may the association claim that "working for the whole metropolis, and giving advice and assistance to applicants in all parts of the kingdom, it

has, within a quarter of a century, brought about an enormous change in the condition of many thousands of shop-assistants, while supported by less than a tenth part of those whom it has benefited. "Thanks be to God, Sir, we live in an age of progress towards better and nobler things, and the hearts of men are open as they never were open before to the cries of the sufferers in life's battle. Half-hearted legislation is useless; whole-hearted public feeling is what is required, and when the heart of the nation is once aroused, then, and then only, can any true lasting change be brought about in our shop hours; then, and then only, can our shop-assistants enjoy their lives as other human beings.

[RULES OF DEBATE.—*The course of debate is as follows:—Two principal speakers holding opposite views on the question discussed are selected by the Editor. Readers of the MAGAZINE are then invited to express their own views on the subject, to the Editor, who will at his discretion select some of the most suitable and concise of these communications, or portions of them, for publication in a subsequent Part of the MAGAZINE. The Opener of the Debate is to have the right of reply.*]

TO OUR READERS.—The Editor will be happy to receive the opinions of any Readers on the above Question, on either side, with a view to the publication of the most suitable and concise communications in the February Part. Letters should be addressed "The Editor of CASSELL'S MAGAZINE, La Belle Sauvage Yard, London, E.C.," and in the top left-hand corner of the envelope should be written, "Family Parliament." The speech should be headed with the title of the Debate, and an indication of the side taken by the Reader. All communications on the present Question must reach the Editor not later than December 11.

An Honorarium of £1 1s. will be accorded (subject to the discretion of the Editor) to the best speech on either side of the Question; no speech to exceed 50 lines (500 words).

GARDENING IN DECEMBER.



ONCE again we find ourselves in the sunset month of the year, and more particularly those of us who find themselves among that large and ever-extending suburban population are proportionately fond of talking about the dark days of December. And it is undeniable that we, who are compelled for eleven months out of the twelve to limit our daily travels within that wonderful "ten miles radius" from St. Paul's, do find the days darker than our apple-cheeked country cousins, who bake their own bread and cure their own bacon. A great living statesman was very recently telling us that although for hard upon half a century he had for a large portion of the year resided in London, yet he felt that he really knew comparatively nothing of it, and that he was sure no one was able

to form any idea of what is now meant by that very comprehensive word "London." And the object of all this for our purpose—our horticultural purpose, we mean—is simply this: while we shall still have something to say about the garden in general, we shall have a good deal to say about the management of suburban gardens in particular; and the bare mention of the dark days of December naturally brings up at once to the front that terrible giant with which we are all striving to do battle, and whose shadow so adds to our darkness that we are more than ever envious of these country cousins—we mean Giant Fog. Now, it at once occurs to us that the best protection against all these atmospheric changes and disturbances, whether in London or the country, is a small greenhouse or pit; and now that the ravages and inconveniences occasioned by London fogs seem to be alarmingly extending themselves, and affecting not only the animal but the vegetable world, there seems to be an additional inducement for the erection, according to our means and capabilities, of some such protection. The interest and recreation which it

affords are well worth the little painstaking and expense which, of course, it must entail at the outset, and we shall hope during the coming year, from time to time, to follow its fortunes when giving our general hints for our gardening calendar.

Now, in London and its neighbourhood we can generally boast of plenty of walls, and a sort of greenhouse could easily be fitted up against these in the capacity of what is known as a "fixture"—that is to say, something which upon leaving our



house we could be empowered to take away with us or leave behind at our pleasure. Some such suggestion as this was made some years ago, when it was recommended in the "Gardeners' Chronicle" to have strong movable roofs applied in the end of September, and removed in April, which would almost seem to render greenhouses (in the ordinary acceptance of the word) unnecessary. An old wall with a good wide border in front of it might, then, readily in this way be

fitted up with a movable glass lean-to. Except for the preservation of anything particularly tender, or in seasons of unwonted severity, there would rarely arise occasion for artificial heat. Yet, of course, the erection of a small greenhouse in the ordinary way is the more desirable and the more enjoyable.

And—to revert once again to the fog nuisance—one expedient that has been recommended in order to save your flowers and evergreens from being defaced by a shower of blacks is as follows:—Since at least some fresh air daily is essential to the well-being of all plants, the lights or windows of your greenhouse must certainly be open for a portion of the twenty-four hours; have then the lightest possible gauze or muslin curtain drawn over your open and exposed space whenever in thick or foggy weather the wind is in an unfavourable direction for the prosperity of your flowers and yourself, and is driving the smoke-charged gusts in volumes over you. And again, never be tempted to allow the temperature of your greenhouse to stand too high, especially in the early winter months, and when January and February are yet in store for us. Let your object be merely to save your stock of plants by excluding the frost. The temperature, then, during the month of December should stand at from forty to fifty degrees by day, and from thirty-six to forty degrees by night; in fact, only be anxious to keep on the safe side of thirty-two degrees. Light, too, is, we know, as essential as air to the well-being of plants in your greenhouse. In the vicinity of London, then, an occasional day's work may be had in cleansing your glass, inside as well as outside. Next, as to watering. Very little water should be given during the winter months. Whatever watering is given should always be in the morning, and the water itself should be always also of the same temperature as the house. All syringing should be entirely dispensed with, and it is well also to avoid even spilling any water about the greenhouse, which would have a tendency to cause undue dampness. Those of your plants that are in bloom should merely have enough water to keep the soil ordinarily moistened, while, on the other hand, those that are little more than in a dormant state should have even a less allowance of water. Another admirable winter day's work in the greenhouse is to be found in washing, leaf by leaf, the foliage of evergreens, myrtles, orange-trees, camellias, &c. The stage for your flowers had better be of slate or of stone, in preference to wood. It will naturally occur to any one that the more tender and delicate of your plants should be the nearest to your heating apparatus, if you have one, and those to

which fire-heat is detrimental—such, for example, as your camellias—should be farthest removed from it.

The camellias want especial care just now. The buds of the early-blooming ones are rapidly swelling, and, if you nurse them up through mistaken kindness, they will merely repay you by dropping their buds. Keep the soil, then, only uniformly moistened, but never allow it to grow actually dry. Or should you one morning find that the temperature of the house after a suddenly severe night has fallen to freezing, or to a degree, perhaps, below it, do not in your panic think that the best thing to do is to light a roaring fire, or use any means to gain a sudden and violent acquisition of heat. This is simply the very worst thing you can do. Let your temperature be raised in the slowest and most imperceptible way possible. It is, in fact, these violent atmospheric changes that are so often detrimental to plants. Your stock of geraniums, and other plants that you are endeavouring to preserve for the bedding-out of your small garden next year, should in a mild winter season be watched, with the purpose of pinching them back, and keeping them merely in a dwarf and shrubby condition. The cineraria—an early spring flower—will, perhaps, also be occupying us. These require shifting, it may be, into larger pots.

But we must not forget that the possession of a greenhouse generally supposes also the possession of a plot of land outside more or less extensive. Our suburban gardens are generally pretty well stocked with large and hardy evergreens, and in a mild season these may yet be moved from one place to another, although October and November are the months more favourable for the operation. The same will hold true also with regard to the procuring of fresh rose-stocks, or the formation of a new rose-bed, but nothing of the kind must be attempted upon the first appearance of frost. In the open, protection from coming frost is what we generally think of just now among our flowers or vegetables. A little litter or matting in severe weather had better be laid over the more tender of your bulbs; while should any experimental autumn-sown peas and beans have pushed above ground, draw and earth up the soil round them, as this and the sticking of peas afford admirable protection against frost. On the many other departments of our never-tiring craft we cannot now say much, although the enthusiastic and industrious gardener knows well enough there is plenty to be said, even when merely discussing the best method of turning to account the horticulturally modest pretensions of a London greenhouse and a suburban garden.

Some Literary Queries for Spare Moments.

1. Why is the "Court of Arches" so called?
2. What is a Jihad?
3. Who was Astrophel?
4. What did Shakspeare say "wears out more apparel than a man"?

5. Whom did Wordsworth call "the most unhappy man of men"?

6. Where is this quotation?—

"Midst the tide
Two angel-forms were seen to glide,
The genii of the stream."