

GARDENING IN JANUARY.

GARDENING in January" to one who is not an enthusiast in the craft does not, perhaps, sound a very inviting subject. We must, however, leave our self-indulgent friends to discuss our enthusiasm over their fire, while we ourselves hurry outside into the cold blast, to work in a way which, if they would believe us, is more truly and healthily warming.

Now of course, as before, the nature of our work must in a very great measure depend upon the kind of season through which we are passing. Our winter a year ago was an exceptionally mild one, and we were able to carry on through a greater part of it much of what are generally considered autumnal operations; and as we, perhaps, during this month find our work to be more particularly in the fruit and kitchen, rather than in the flower garden, we shall mostly confine what we have to say to these two important branches. And in our orchard and fruit garden, for instance, we can in a mild winter still go on planting trees of all kinds; one important thing is, to dig your hole large

enough to allow the thorough spreading out of the roots of your new tree, and in addition to this, dig also all about the *bottom* of your hole, so as to have the soil loose and pulverised on the surface, rather than all hard and trodden down. A little manure may be useful, but where your soil is fairly good there will be no occasion for it. But avoid particularly planting too deep, as this—too common a mistake—is often fatal to the well-being of your plant, and at all events injures it. And next, when your tree is put in, spread the roots well about, and crumble the earth and soil slowly and thoroughly around and amongst them, but do not shovel it all in pell-mell, just as if you were shooting coals in against time. The roots should be high in the ground, and when the whole is covered in, let it be well and uniformly trodden down, while a good and strong stake will prevent the wind from disturbing the roots, for that constant oscillation to and fro is bad, and hinders the roots from commencing their firm grip of the soil.

And while on this subject of trees we may say something of our currant and gooseberry bushes. We should not prune them, perhaps, for another month. It is a good plan now, however, to put some lime round the stems, and then to carry away a portion of the surface soil which is immediately around them. By this means we may destroy that pest, the caterpillar, that is so wont to devour the leaves of our trees in the months of May and June, and about which so much has been said and written. This great enemy of our currant and gooseberry trees, the magpie moth (*Abraxas grossulariata*), lays her eggs on the leaves of our trees towards the end of summer—about August, perhaps—so that some fresh soil just round our trees at this time of the year is a good thing.

We think it was last month that we suggested that only thorns and briars ought ever to be burned, but that leaves make a good manure; but perhaps we may add to our bonfire the carefully collected leaves of our gooseberry and currant trees, when the first frost has brought them all down; and acting upon the principle that "prevention is better than cure," our October or November bonfire, and the lime and fresh soil in January, ought to enable us to dispense with the other remedy of "cure," by dusting our trees with white hellebore in the months of May and June, when the mischief has already begun.

And then next there are our raspberry canes to be attended to if not already done, for these are often—and it does not hurt them much to do so—left for a considerable period to see after themselves when the fruiting is over. Coming, however, to look at them after this period of neglect we find the old canes, and round them a large number of weakly-looking young canes. So we, assuming still that it is good open

weather, reduce the number of new canes to some three or four, cutting away the old ones and the rest, but naturally selecting for our new ones those only that are well-grown and developed, and that look stronger than the rest. But they must have a good stake, and January is a grand month for fresh staking, there being a good deal of boisterous and blustering weather in store for us. Then we should finally dig well and put in a little manure between the rows of the canes, and then for another long time our raspberries, as a rule, require no gardener.

And then our espalier fruit-trees—apples and pears, &c.—must be attended to, and in non-frosty weather pruned into their proper shape. When well-grown and cared for, they look very graceful in April in their white and roseate blossom, and very satisfactory in October when laden with their still more roseate burden of fruit. All the branches of these espalier fruit-trees—cherrie-, or what not—that show a disposition to grow away from the trellis-work and stick out from it, or the weaker of two branches that are evidently growing in one another's way, should be cut away, and, in fact, the whole tree carefully trained and pruned.

Now our wall-fruit trees ought to have been pruned and trained before this, but in any case do not delay a day longer, for we know that sometimes after a mild winter the trees show a disposition to bloom as early as the middle of February, and to pull wall-fruit trees about when they are in an advanced state is more or less risky. But there is one thing we can do for them, and, what is more, the harder the frost the better chance have we of success in our operation. What we generally find in the spring and summer is that our wall-trees are perpetually infested with insects and creeping things innumerable; and, for the most part, the home of these little creatures is the wall itself. Carefully, then, with a fine rose, during intense frost, syringe your wall well over, until it is all covered with a coating of ice, and the creatures and small vermin that harbour in the crevices of the wall will be all speedily frozen up. This plan, we understand, has been found to be a success.

Of the all-important and heavy operation of trenching, which is essential this month, we have often spoken; only avoid doing any kind of work in the garden, such as heavy wheeling, when the ground is rotten and spongy, as after a thaw. Wheel manure on to your land in frosty weather only.

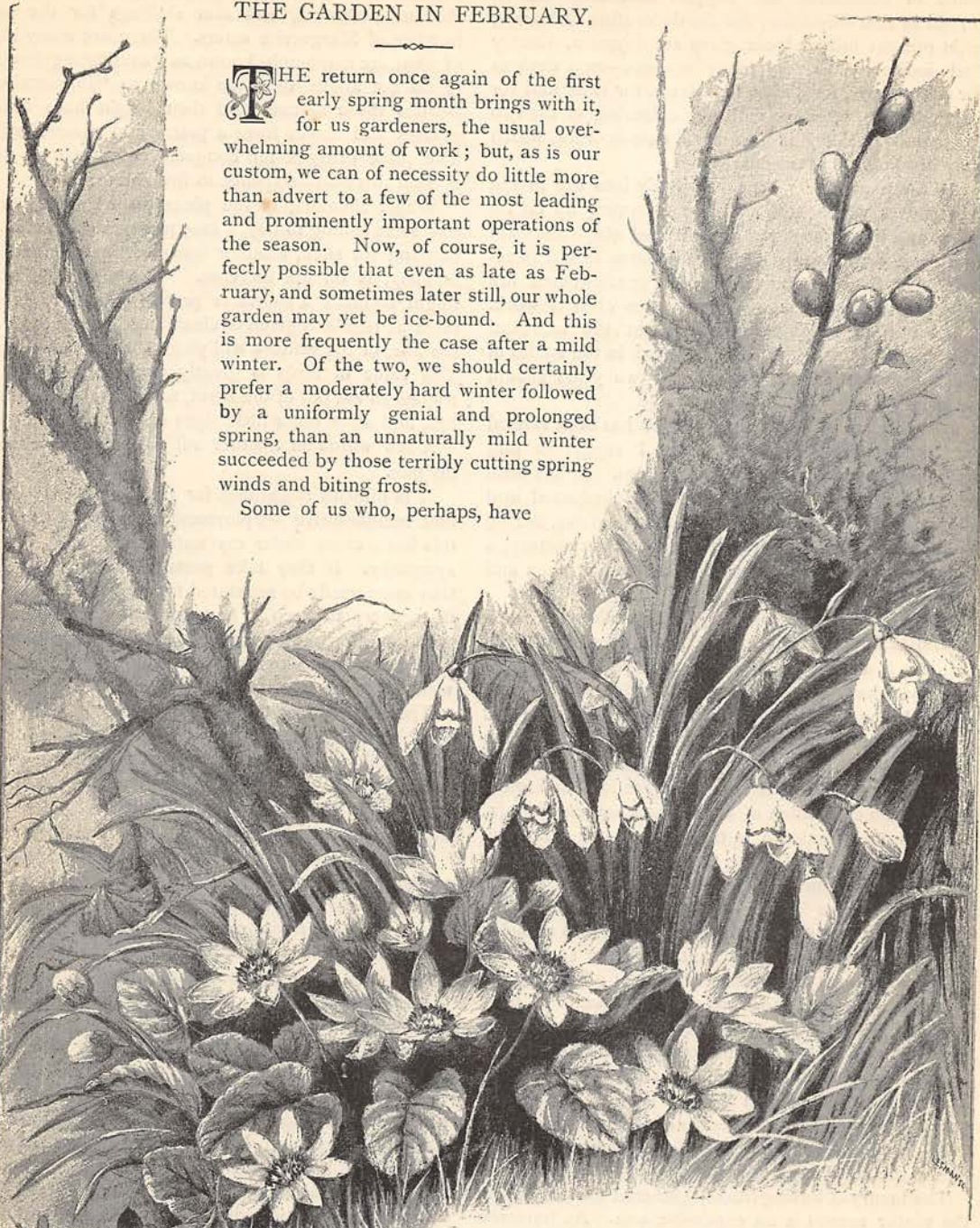
A good month is this too for lawn alterations, laying down new turf, or putting in small drain-pipes, &c. And the greenhouse—for we cannot speak of every quarter in the garden—will, doubtless, give us a few fresh flowers for table decoration to intersperse among the holly-berries.



THE GARDEN IN FEBRUARY.

THE return once again of the first early spring month brings with it, for us gardeners, the usual overwhelming amount of work ; but, as is our custom, we can of necessity do little more than advert to a few of the most leading and prominently important operations of the season. Now, of course, it is perfectly possible that even as late as February, and sometimes later still, our whole garden may yet be ice-bound. And this is more frequently the case after a mild winter. Of the two, we should certainly prefer a moderately hard winter followed by a uniformly genial and prolonged spring, than an unnaturally mild winter succeeded by those terribly cutting spring winds and biting frosts.

Some of us who, perhaps, have



no proper greenhouse, yet endeavour to shield and protect a small stock of flowers either in a shed or unused room, or sometimes in a pit over which we throw some covering. Now, where we wish to try the preservation of plants in a pit, it must be borne in mind that our plants may thrive very well covered over in the depth of the darkest winter months, yet if we prolong this darkness beyond the natural season, we shall injure and

simply bleach our whole stock, just as sea-kale or celery is when covered up. Hence transparent waterproof cloth used to be recommended as protection for our pits in the very early spring months.

And now that we are on this subject of spring protection, we must speak of our open flower-beds as well. All our choice beds of such things as pansies and pinks, and all those bulbs of hyacinths, &c., that we planted last autumn must certainly, in a keen spring that has followed upon a mild winter, be most carefully protected. A few fine warm and bright days will cause them to make a start, and then a sharp night will terribly injure their small green tops, and you will notice that where it has been unsheltered and entirely unprotected, the whole will look brown or blackened up as if by fire. A little light litter in the shape of fragments of worn-out sacks, or a little straw, thrown over them will well answer the purpose.

Again, where we have the protection of a small greenhouse, it is about this time that we begin to find ourselves perhaps excessively crowded, and this overcrowding is a great inducement to the green fly and other such pests. You will notice that your cinerarias will probably be the first attacked, and if you look underneath the leaves you will spy little shoals of the enemy, and not only there, but all along the main stem and stalks. The best thing to do is : first close your doors and lights, get a little charcoal and have it on your brick floors, or in the large saucer of a flower-pot, pretty nearly heated red-hot ; over this put half a pound or so of tobacco ; do not let it be too dry so as all to burn away quickly in a flame. What you want is a good thick, choking smoke, as thick as one of our best and first-prize London fogs. Then if you go into your house an hour afterwards you will find your enemy all lying dead on the surface of the mould of your pots. This should be followed by a syringing with water of the temperature of the house.

But *the* February operation in the greenhouse is repotting. Now, all those pots that have been in use before should first of all be washed and thoroughly dried ; this again might be a winter operation, done at a time when you thought you were a little slack of work in the garden. The most vigorous growers, and those plants in the most forward state, should first be attended to. And in doing this be particular about the drainage of your pots : cover the little pieces of tile and crocks with a little moss or turf, so as to prevent the soil mixing up with them. And when you find the roots matted as you take out the ball of earth from the pot, very carefully loosen them a little, and pierce the ball of earth so as to allow it to admit water more readily. But the greatest care is necessary to have your new soil filled into every crevice around the ball of earth, which should be placed so deep in the pot as to admit of being just covered over, when you are shifting. And speaking of soils reminds us

that all our different kinds of composts should be kept protected from rain. It is of no good to have them perpetually washed and soaked through, but they should be kept in a dry potting-shed, well turned over, and in a good friable condition for use when required.

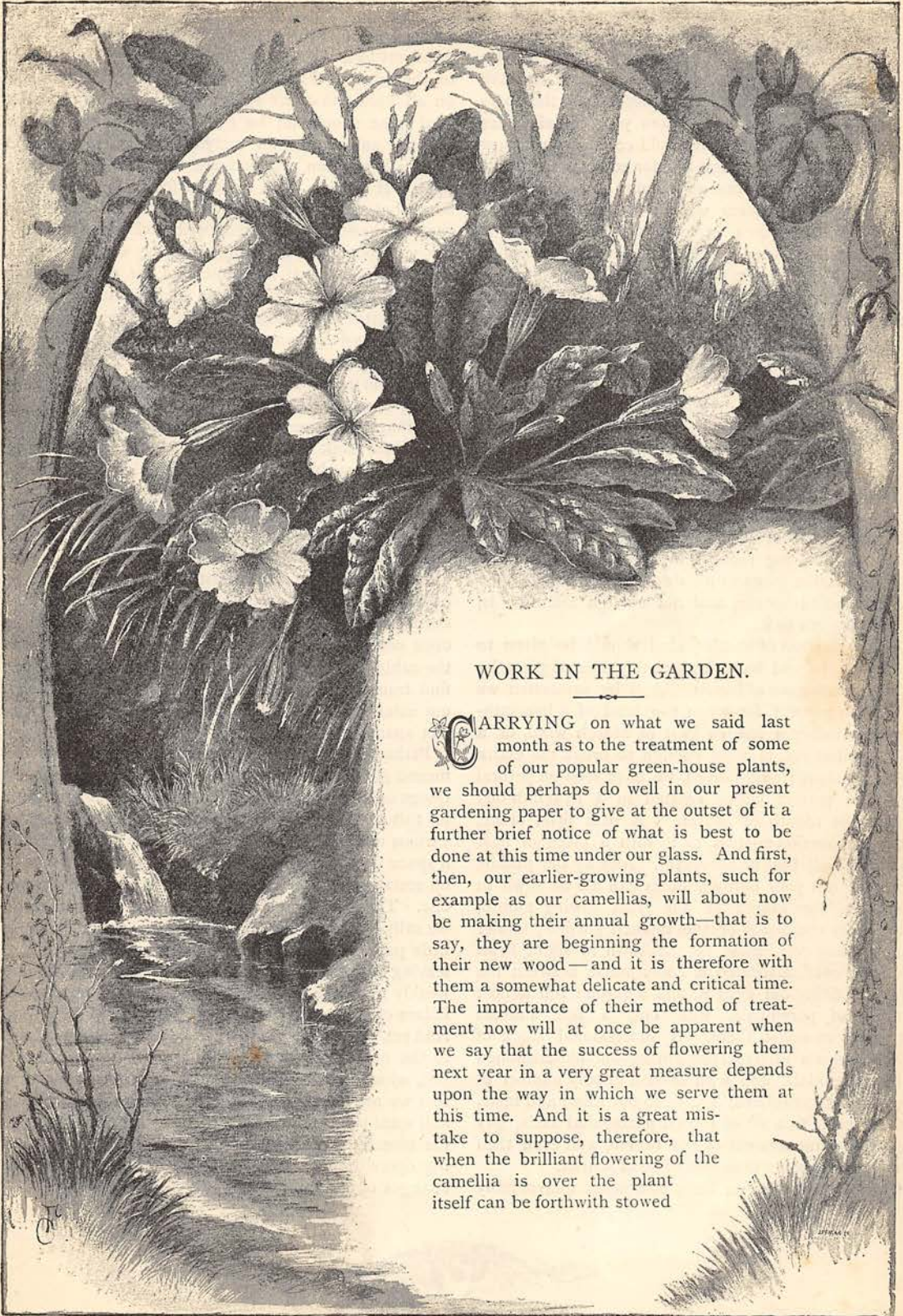
A few annuals may be sown now in pots, such for example as phlox or lobelia, or any other showy flowers ; they will want a slight bottom heat, and should be transplanted into small pots as soon as they are fairly grown, and then put them near your glass and where they may get plenty of air in mild weather.

It is of course a good thing then to have a small stock of annuals forced on, as when a more genial season comes, these annuals can be turned out to bloom or plunged just as they are, so as to form the very first of a good series of bright successional blooms in your garden, and these interspersed with your good old-fashioned perennials will, in a very great degree, enable you to do away with the formality—or, at all events, with a good deal of it—of the modern bedding-out system.

If you are bringing on any cinerarias in your greenhouse, give them plenty of room where they are large specimens, and keep fairly cool ; but those that you want to flower early should be confined in small pots, and watered with liquid manure when you see that they are forming their flower-buds ; and use water almost tepid when you have occasion to use it at all. If you have any camellias whose bloom is over, they had better be shifted, when you should use a soil made up of equal parts of loam and peat. They should then, however, go into a warm place—for instance, the pit of a vinery, if you have anything so luxurious. And, going on with the round of some of our greenhouse favourites, put your mignonette-pots in a light and dry part of your greenhouse, and water carefully. Should you see that all of them will come on into bloom at once, and if you are anxious for a successional bloom, stop a few of your present ones by pinching them off.

As for your bulbs, such as *ixias*, *gladiolus*, &c., if you want them early, you can forward them by placing them in gentle heat ; but your general stock of bulbs in pots will do very well in a cold frame, so long as frost does not reach them ; or you can put them on shelves in your greenhouse, but let them be near to the glass. Then there are our fuchsias. The early-started ones should be shifted into good-sized pots, and in doing so use equal parts of loam, leaf-mould, and some decomposed manure, with a little sand ; all irregular and over-crowded shoots should be thinned out, and where branches are scanty, stop the young shoots. And in a little bottom heat you can now strike cuttings very easily. Here then we have treated of a goodly assortment of flowers which, in a little time, ought amply to repay our labour.





WORK IN THE GARDEN.

CARRYING on what we said last month as to the treatment of some of our popular green-house plants, we should perhaps do well in our present gardening paper to give at the outset of it a further brief notice of what is best to be done at this time under our glass. And first, then, our earlier-growing plants, such for example as our camellias, will about now be making their annual growth—that is to say, they are beginning the formation of their new wood—and it is therefore with them a somewhat delicate and critical time. The importance of their method of treatment now will at once be apparent when we say that the success of flowering them next year in a very great measure depends upon the way in which we serve them at this time. And it is a great mistake to suppose, therefore, that when the brilliant flowering of the camellia is over the plant itself can be forthwith stowed

away on a shelf until the next flowering season comes round. On the contrary, a little more warmth and attention is necessary. Let then your camellia have all the sun it can, and even, as is sometimes the case on a March day, do not, if the sun should chance to have considerable power, open on that account all the doors and windows of your house when your camellias are inside, as a chilling draught would certainly just now be injurious to them. And this for some of us makes it a little difficult how best to manage our green-house affairs, especially where we can only boast of one small one; have then, at least, the camellias in a sunny and dry corner. Plants, however, that are in flower very soon droop where exposed to the full rays of even a March sun, and very often as much harm is done to them then by the sun's rays striking the sides of the pots and acting on the tender and delicate spongioles of the roots. Protect then, by some process, the sides of the pots.

Enough about our green-house at present, for in the month of March we have more than enough to do in our open flower garden. In a genial March, pansies will begin to flower a little in the open air, and will be fast making growth, unless a frost checks them. A little light litter then thrown over them will certainly be of service. Indeed, all through the winter and spring months in severe weather, some such protection given to all dwarf plants in the open is a decided advantage, and not enough attention is, as a rule, given to it.

And protection of another kind should be given to our hyacinths and bulbs, that at this time ought to be in their perfection of bloom. And by protection we now mean support, for when the head of a hyacinth-bloom is heavy a sudden gust of March wind, or a sharp hail-storm, is often enough to break the entire flower off short; and, indeed, we have seen on several occasions perfect havoc created in a hyacinth-bed during the month of March. A neat little stake, securing your flower-stem to it with a piece of bast matting, is all that is necessary. And by the middle of the month your hardy annuals can all be sown in the open, for March is our great sowing month, whether in the flower or the kitchen garden; tender annuals, however, must yet be sown in slight heat. We have ever advocated a compromise between the formal bedding-out system, and a garden full almost entirely of perennials, with only a few annuals dispersed amongst them. A successional stock of bright annuals interspersed among our old-fashioned hardy perennials, and with these a goodly number of bedding-out geraniums, &c., is, to our mind and taste, far preferable to a set of formal pentagonal beds, gay for only five months out of the twelve, and even then often nothing more than one blaze of scarlet.

Of late, however, we have somewhat unavoidably

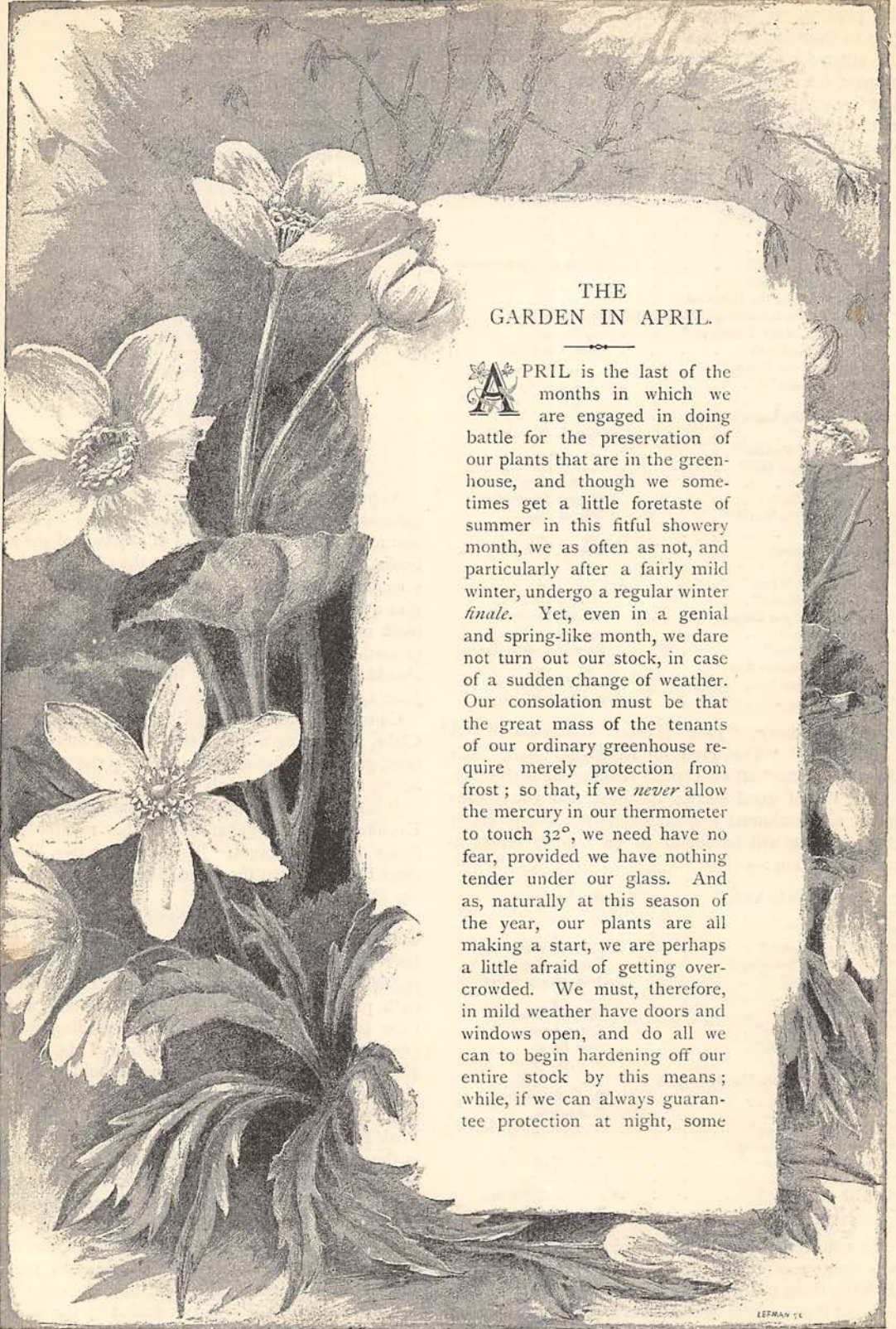
taken but little notice of our kitchen garden, as also of our fruit garden, so that this month we must no longer keep silence—not indeed that we shall be able to advert to a tithe of what could and ought to be said on the subject. First then, perhaps, it will be admitted on all hands that our staple vegetable is the potato. And these should all be got in this month. And if you are anxious for an early crop, there is a method by which you can almost force them, and that in the open. It is this: dig a trench a foot deep, put into it some hot stable dung and tread it well in, filling up the top three or four inches with soil. On this soil lay your potatoes, choosing an early sort of course, and of a class best recommended for early growing in the locality in which you happen to live. Put your potatoes in a foot apart in your row, and the rows themselves some two and a half feet apart—probably you will only have two or three of them. Cover your potatoes with soil from between the rows, taking care that the covering soil is well pulverised, and that there are no lumps in it. Finally, protect your little bank of potatoes thus planted with some good litter, such as peas-haulm, and let your litter be of sufficient thickness to keep in the heat underneath, and to keep off frost and wind above, yet without totally excluding light and air. Your main crop of course you will sow in the ordinary way, but your forced two or three rows must be quickly earthed up as soon as their top makes its appearance. The successional sowing of peas and beans, too, should be at once commenced. And then there is our old friend the cabbage. Prick out the strongest plants you can find from your seed-bed or hot-bed, and plant them out some foot and a half apart, and your rows two feet apart.

Perhaps we ought to have said that most domestic gardeners—even those of us who can only do things on a small scale—sow a month or more previous to this time a few selections of vegetable seeds of various useful kinds in deep box-lids or pans, and find a space for them in the green-house, which we turn to all sorts of accounts, especially where we only have one. Then by the middle of March, or early in April, we sally forth into our kitchen garden, armed with our little pan of young plants, which we soon prick out, leaving still for awhile a few of the smaller and more weakly plants in our pan, for after-use in the event of failure of some of those we now proceed to plant out. And yet, even now, we can do little more than advert to the necessity of making up at once our cucumber-bed, which we can also utilise at once for fifty things that we are anxious to force on. Our wall-fruit may still want protection, at all events in the early part of the month; though here, as in most of our gardening operations, we must be mainly influenced by the changes of our variable climate.



THE GARDEN IN APRIL.

APRIL is the last of the months in which we are engaged in doing battle for the preservation of our plants that are in the greenhouse, and though we sometimes get a little foretaste of summer in this fitful showery month, we as often as not, and particularly after a fairly mild winter, undergo a regular winter *finale*. Yet, even in a genial and spring-like month, we dare not turn out our stock, in case of a sudden change of weather. Our consolation must be that the great mass of the tenants of our ordinary greenhouse require merely protection from frost; so that, if we *never* allow the mercury in our thermometer to touch 32° , we need have no fear, provided we have nothing tender under our glass. And as, naturally at this season of the year, our plants are all making a start, we are perhaps a little afraid of getting overcrowded. We must, therefore, in mild weather have doors and windows open, and do all we can to begin hardening off our entire stock by this means; while, if we can always guarantee protection at night, some



of our hardiest plants—our calceolarias, for example—may be stood outside under a wall or in an out-house, so as to give us a little more space for carrying on our operations inside. On the other hand, the presence of actual frost will involve the presence also of a fire in our stove, and then comes the risk of allowing the temperature of the greenhouse to rise too high; and this we have to check by the admission of air at the top, which, unless done with caution, will certainly involve more or less of risk.

A good syringing is very useful in our greenhouse when we are getting at all crowded; and of our tender annuals, successive sowings should be made this month—such, for example, as some of our balsams, cockscombs, &c. These will do very well in the frames which at the early stages of our cucumbers we are so well able to utilise for a variety of plants by standing them all round against the side of the frame. As for our half-hardy annuals, towards the end of this month a great number of those that we have raised in pots or in slight heat may be planted out—of course, putting those out first that we consider the hardiest, and planting, as far as we can, first of all in sheltered situations. And then a little attention may be paid to our Neapolitan violets—ever-popular favourites as they are. Runners of them may be taken now, and planted out for the summer in good rich soil; but towards the end of September they should be taken up, and, if you can spare the room, planted in frames.

And, beginning with this month, a little further progress may be made in our window gardening. During the past winter months we have not been able to do much more than have a bright display of berried evergreens in some of our windows, with the exception, perhaps, of a few crocuses, hyacinths, and tulips; but if we have been trying to save or cultivate a few greenhouse plants, they ought now to be placed daily out of doors, except during rough or stormy weather, and should be taken in to their customary shelter at night. And, for window exhibition, plant out now, in pots of considerable size, some of the early-sown annuals or of the ordinary summer bedding-out plants. Give a little water in the evening, avoid overcrowding, and at day-time give all the air and light you can. Your fuchsias for the windows will do better with plenty of pot-room. Choose those with good straight leading shoots, and if you manage them well, they will throw out little side shoots all round, and these, when they droop in their usual graceful way, are very effective. Many of the verberna tribe also do well for window shows, but choose well-marked and distinct colours; and, of course, if you can train a few climbers round your balcony or window-frame, so

much the better. Of these we may name the varieties of the *Maurandya* or the *Lophospermum*, &c.

In the flower garden we are still busy finishing off, or, rather, we should be more accurate in saying, continuing our seed-sowing. For this successive sowing carried on every month up to the middle of July will insure an unbroken display of flowers, especially when sown in rich soil. Biennials, if not already sown, should be got in at once, and those who are fond of an old friend should sow the Canterbury bell now for next year's blooming; and if a sowing be wanted of hardy perennials, it may be made this month. The plants of these will not flower this year, save in some exceptional circumstances—such, perhaps, as a prolonged summer, &c. But the advantage of having a good and well-chosen stock of hardy perennials in our garden is very great, as it makes us much more independent at times when we are at all pushed by other work, as we have not then the thought that our beds are entirely destitute; and this, where the bedding-out system is alone carried out in the flower garden, must sometimes occasion a fear.

The kitchen garden ought to be looking in good order by this time, as, independent of the fortnightly successional pea-sowing, many of our beds should be already laid out; the potatoes put in last month will be showing now, but in the event of a terrible spring frost, protect them if possible, as they have been known to turn black in a single severe night, such as we sometimes experience even in April. And now that we are on vegetable subjects, we may notice that many complain at times that tomatoes very often fail to ripen as the season advances, but turn mouldy and wither away instead. They certainly thrive better in a hot summer than in a wet or chilly one; we must have noticed, for example, how abundant they were in 1884. It is best, then, to sow them in a hotbed in April, and have them thoroughly well forwarded in pots before they are planted out against a wall, where they will eventually thrive and ripen the best, provided, of course, that they have plenty of sun.

In our fruit garden we shall soon be wondering if the gooseberry caterpillar is to be very voracious this year; we have so often hinted at some of the remedies for this calamity, that we shall not at any rate advert to it now. As the month wears to its close and spring is more set, see to the strawberries: the runners must be got carefully off if the fruit is to be of any size or merit—a tedious and a stooping operation, but very necessary—and when your runners are all off, scatter some grass from your mowing-machine between the rows, or some tan. When the fruit is set, a little liquid manure is a good thing, carefully administered at the root.



The sanitary arrangements of institutions such as this present a very difficult problem; but at Auburn it is overcome by the best methods that can be devised by constant watchfulness and rigorous discipline.

On our way from the cells we passed through an inner waiting-room, and there beheld a touching scene. A convict, in the presence of a keeper, was receiving a visit from his wife and little daughter. Oh, rare glimpse of happiness to the wretched man! Oh, humane system that permits even so little to cheer a broken heart! I cannot but feel that it is an evidence of the highest wisdom, on the part of the prison authorities, in thus allowing an occasional visit from the nearest relatives of a prisoner; it is carrying out the reformatory idea in the best and most beneficent manner. A woman's tears and a child's laughter will do more to touch that soft spot in the heart than all other human means put together. The convict is shut out from the society which he has wronged, but by these brief moments of happiness, permitted to him by a justice that is also merciful, he is made to feel that he is not utterly cast down—that there is still one link that binds him to his fellow-men.

I will pass quickly over the dark side of prison life—the punishments, which seem to many, unacquainted

with the subject, so barbarous and inhuman—the solitary confinement, the shackles, the heavy iron cage or muzzle, which we saw one poor fellow bearing on his shoulders for some infraction of prison rules. But in general the men are all on their good behaviour. And they have something more than the negative reason of immunity from cage or shackles to keep them so; they have the positive incentive of a commutation of sentence. By a recent law of the State of New York, the good behaviour of a convict, duly certified to by the prison authorities, reduces his term of incarceration in a certain definite ratio to the term of sentence. The working of this law has proved most happy. It was another long advance in the reformatory spirit of prison administration.

We bade farewell to the Warden, walked again through the broad court, and heard the great gate clash behind us as we passed into the street; and, looking up at the walls of the gaol, as we saw the sentries pacing up and down the ramparts, each one of us felt that during that brief visit to Auburn Prison he had learned something new of human misery and woe, and, at the same time, had discovered that in this mighty working of the State's strong arm there was everywhere the plainest evidence that justice was tempered with Christian charity.

WALTER SQUIRES.

THE FLOWER GARDEN IN MAY.



THE gardeners may fairly call May our transformation month; certainly those of us who rely wholly upon the bedding-out system may do so, though, on the other hand, we have never held to the practice of allowing a garden to have a dreary, desert-like appearance for nearly half a year. Some sort of consecutive bloom and

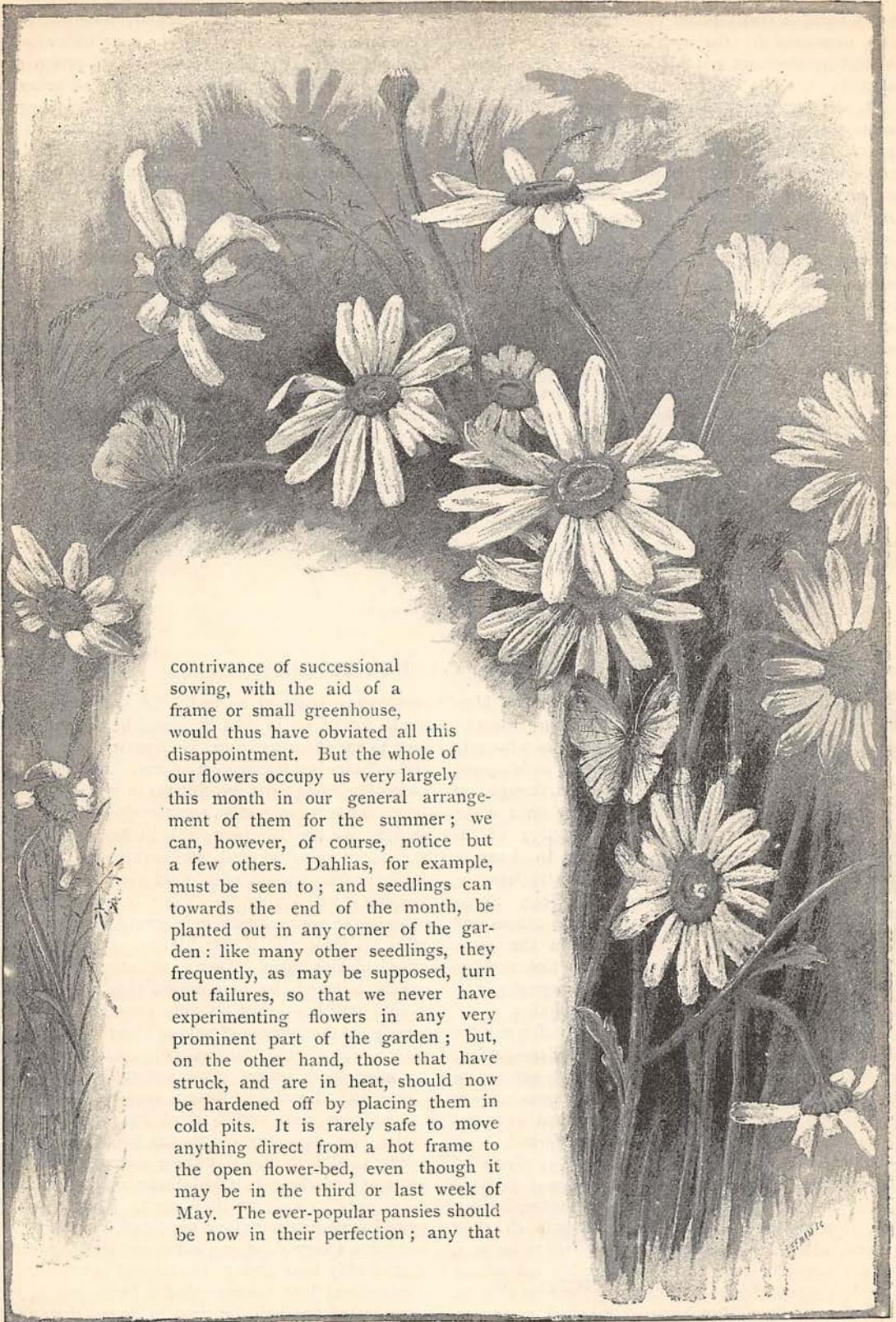
brightness, even though in the worst season of the year we can find nothing better than variegated evergreens, can be maintained through the twelve long months.

Having in view, then, our decided preference for plenty of prolonged brilliancy in the garden—and in some of our small gardens that are much exposed to view this is almost forced of necessity upon us—we may as well give at the outset a few hints as to the best method of maintaining consecutive bloom.

What we want, then, for our purpose is plenty of pot culture, and our small greenhouse, and perhaps single frame, may be well utilised to accomplish our end. For instance, our hyacinth and bulb shows in general, which about this time may be said to be over, we are naturally anxious to get speedily out of the way, leaving our flower-beds clear for the next change.

By the middle of May, however, we shall, of course, for some months, find most of our difficulty to obtain

continuous bloom at an end. Yet had we a few annuals forced on in pots, it would be a great advantage to set them out now, interspersed with a few of the ordinary bedding-out geraniums. And for the purpose of bringing on a few flowers in pots, an ordinary frame is really better than our greenhouse, and for this reason: we are then better able to have our pots with the face close to the glass, and nothing conduces more to the healthy growth of a plant than the practice of keeping it well against the glass. If, however, you are bringing on your annuals in a greenhouse, grow them all in the front, and in the highest part that you can afford to give them. There are many flowers, then, which, although by their nature they do not need it, should have been sown in pots some little time back, merely for the purpose of having them in an advanced state now, and ready to turn out—such, for example, as mignonette, sweet peas, nemophila, stocks, &c. These, and all such-like flowers, may also be sown now in the open, and even a third lot forced on again under your glass: by this means you will have these bright annuals in flower at three different times of the summer; for, bear in mind, these annuals are useful to us only so long as they are in bloom, and this period is never a very long one; and, indeed, in some instances a very short one, a hot and dry summer like that of 1884 soon drying up many of our flowers. It was noticed last summer that a large bed of sweet peas lasted not half the time in flower that a similar bed did in 1883. A little management by this



contrivance of successional sowing, with the aid of a frame or small greenhouse, would thus have obviated all this disappointment. But the whole of our flowers occupy us very largely this month in our general arrangement of them for the summer; we can, however, of course, notice but a few others. Dahlias, for example, must be seen to; and seedlings can towards the end of the month, be planted out in any corner of the garden: like many other seedlings, they frequently, as may be supposed, turn out failures, so that we never have experimenting flowers in any very prominent part of the garden; but, on the other hand, those that have struck, and are in heat, should now be hardened off by placing them in cold pits. It is rarely safe to move anything direct from a hot frame to the open flower-bed, even though it may be in the third or last week of May. The ever-popular pansies should be now in their perfection; any that

are blooming finer than the rest should have a mark set on them for seed, as it is far better to have your seed from a few flowers that have bloomed finely than by-and-by to take off seed-pods indiscriminately. And the heartsease, again, can be kept in flower for a longer time if you pull off at once any bloom that you see at a glance will be a failure, as by this means you strengthen the whole plant, and no doubt add size and beauty to those blooms that have yet to come. And, moreover, unless you positively want some seed for another season, it is best to allow no seed-pod to ripen itself on your plant, as every one that is allowed to remain on much weakens your whole plant. And these pansies are well worth a little painstaking, as any one who has seen a garden where thorough attention is paid to them could testify.

Then, next, about the roses we must have a few words. Stocks which last autumn we planted for budding will now be throwing out shoots. Now all these shoots, with the exception of the top two or three shoots, should be carefully and thoroughly cut off or rubbed off close to the stock, so as to throw all the strength into the upper ones on which you intend in July next to bud. And these, again, should be carefully chosen, for only the really strong shoots should be selected for budding purposes.

And roses of all kinds that are already growing on your stocks must this month be carefully examined, the stock shoots rubbed off, and the suckers got up, as these, if allowed to remain on, will soon exhaust,

and perhaps altogether destroy, your standard rose. And sometimes, especially where bedding-out plants—geraniums, &c.—are planted out among the roses, and in close proximity to the stocks of your standards, you will find that the foliage of your bedding-out plants has managed to conceal from your view two or three obstinate suckers, which have on that account gone on growing a long time, and damaging your standard roses without your being aware of it. A little diligent search, then, for suckers, under these circumstances, should be made at intervals all round, and at some little distance from the base of your stock.

By the end of the month, the double wallflower will be out of bloom, and will then throw out a good many shoots. These, when they are large enough to handle easily, should be stripped off, and can then be struck under a hand-glass in a shady border. But then these young shoots should be got off whilst they are young, and when, at the outside, not more than an inch and a half long.

Sweet Williams, too, may be similarly served. The shoots, when taken off quite young, will strike more readily, and make better plants. Indeed, all biennials may well be sown now, as well as perennials, if you think of raising them from seed. More often than not, however, we propagate the latter by parting the roots when they have gone out of bloom. The pieces, when parted, should not be too small; but a good heart and piece of root ought to give you a good plant. And bear in mind that in our system of gardening we attach much importance to our perennials.

FAITH.

WHAT thing is faith? Ask thou the gleesome boy
Who for the first time breasts the buoyant
wave;

'Tis faith that leads him with adventurous joy
To follow where they plunge, his comrades brave.
Ask thou the boor who eats and drinks and sleeps,
And loves and hates and hopes, and fears and prays,
Fishes and fowls, work-day and Sabbath keeps,
And, where life's sign-post points his path, obeys.

Or ask the sage, with subtle-searching looks,
Well trained all things in heaven and earth to scan;
Or ask the scholar primed with Greekish books:
All live by faith of what is best in man.
Or him, sharp-eyed, with fine atomic science,
The loves and hates of lively dust pursuing;
Who tortures Nature with all strange appliance
To drag to light the secret of her doing.

Ask thou the captain who with guess sublime
Mapped forth new worlds on his night-watching
pillow,
And saw in vision a fresh start of time,
Big with grand hopes beyond the Atlantic billow.
Ask thou the soldier who on bristling lances

Rushes undaunted, breathing valorous breath,
And, where his leader cheers him on, advances
To glorious victory o'er huge heaps of death.

Or ask the patriot who, when foes were strong,
And faithless friends had sold their rights for pelf,
Waits till harsh need and shame rouse the base throng
Into the high-souled echo of himself.

Ask thou the statesman, when the infuriate mob
Brays senseless vetoes on his wisest plans;
Unmoved he stands, his bosom knows no throb;
His eye the calm evolving future scans.

Or ask the martyr, who, when tyrants tear
His quivering flesh, with calm assurance dies;
Sweet life he loves, but scorns to breathe an air
Drugged with the taint of soul-destroying lies.
In such know faith, faith or in man or God,
In thine own heart, or tried tradition's stream;
'Tis one same sun that paints the flowery sod,
And shoots from pole to pole the quickening beam.

God is the Power which shapes this pictured scene,
Soul of all creatures, substance of all creeds;
Faith intuition quick and instinct keen
To know His voice and follow where He leads.

JOHN STUART BLACKIE.



THE GARDEN IN JUNE.

WITH June upon us once more, everything in the garden is making such a rapid advance that it is all we can do to keep pace with the work entailed upon us; and perhaps it is the finishing touch to our flower-beds that we must first of all speak of. Our general bedding-out should, under ordinary circumstances, have been completed by the end of the third week in last month; but already we notice some refractory geraniums that were too carelessly or hurriedly pegged down, and that, therefore, want a little attention; for while, on the one hand, a too-studied uniformity in the garden, to our mind, gives a general unpleasing stiffness, yet, on the other hand, anything which prominently catches the eye as at once irregular or out of proportion should be avoided. Our tall-growing flowers will require the support of something in the way of a small stake. And with our annuals, interspersed among our bedding-plants, we take especial pains. Those that were sown

in the borders where they were intended to bloom should in some cases be thinned a little, for they will not bloom so well if left too thick. And for the purpose of maintaining successional bloom, sow now a few annuals in good-sized pots, that we can in a month or six weeks turn out into our blanks left by failures or faded flowers. Anemones that were planted in the spring will now be coming into bloom, but they must be shaded from the sun, and should have plenty of water, not *over* the plants, but between them. And if we sow any biennials this month, a poor soil will do for them very well in which to stand the following winter; and the same direction will apply also to perennials if we sow any, though, as we have often remarked, these can be as readily propagated by a division of the roots.

Our tulips will be all gone, or going, out of flower; but though the seed-pods may, without injury to the plant, be broken off soon after the fall of all the petals, it is the best plan perhaps not to take up the bulbs till the foliage has turned brown, if we are anxious, that is, to preserve any particular ones. The propagation, also, of our double wallflowers can be proceeded with at this time. Once out of bloom, they can be either placed in a shady situation just as they stand in their pots, or else turned out into the open, where they will grow apace if well watered. And then as to our lawn: there is a great temptation at this time of the year, when work is so abundant in the garden, and perhaps hands are scarce, to allow the lawn to go at times too long unmown. When this is done, and the grass gets almost long, the machine must be laid aside for the scythe, and it will be some little time perhaps before our lawn again assumes that soft green carpet-like appearance. Properly managed, however, and the machine used regularly, and never less than once a week in the summer months, the lawn need never get into that brown and rugged hayfield appearance. The weather, of course, will influence it, the grass naturally growing far more slowly in a hot and dry summer.

In the kitchen garden, again, we are busy enough. The hoe must be very actively employed. Careful weeding, and turning the surface of the soil by this means, tends both to purify and enrich it, while at the

same time your crops are invigorated and many insects and vermin destroyed, not to speak of the general tidying effect that a well-hoed vegetable bed always has. Previously, however, to hoeing the beetroot bed, thin the whole carefully, leaving each beet a foot apart, or nearly so. Our old and useful friends, the Jerusalem artichokes, where they are growing thickly, should also be thinned, and the weakest of them got away. There appears to be little gained by the old-fashioned practice of topping them. About the middle of the month some plantings of broccoli should be made. The young plants should be lifted with a little ball of the soil round the roots, and planted with the trowel. The space between each plant should vary according to the richness of your soil, as well as according to the quality of the plants you have. As for the lettuce, it can be planted out anywhere—on the ridges of your celery-bed, or here and there, if you are husbanding your room, along the borders of your asparagus-bed. And the asparagus itself will be improved by a few dressings of salt strewn lightly on the beds, which should afterwards be watered; and it is well to discontinue the cutting of the young shoots at a fairly early date, as you will thereby strengthen them for next season. A well-established bed can however, of course, be cut from more plentifully. In purchasing asparagus plants, get them some two or three years old.

In the fruit garden there is also plenty to be done. A judicious thinning of the wall-fruit is one June operation, and this requires a careful hand, while any branch or shoot that is really not wanted, or that persists in growing straight out from the wall, had better be removed. The trees, too, should be occasionally syringed, and the wall kept clear as far as possible of grubs, snails, and any insects. One other hint, too, we may give as to our wall-trees on a matter which is too often not noticed. Do not let your vegetable crops interpose their shadows between the roots of your wall-trees and the rays of the sun; and, indeed, in the neighbourhood of the base of your fruit-trees have only quite light vegetable crops, such as lettuces or French beans; but avoid anything like carrots or beet, or, in fact, anything that completely covers the soil, or that tends very much to exhaust it. Little precautions of this kind are very often the secret of a good deal of our garden success.

THE PRICE OF A COAT.



EVERYTHING that is made by human labour has a price, and may, under ordinary circumstances, be had by any one for so much gold or silver, or other equivalent. Let us suppose, for instance, that the price of a coat is two sovereigns: that is to say, the condition upon which any one may acquire that coat is to give to the owner two sovereigns. Now, why should two sovereigns be fixed upon any more than

three, four, or five sovereigns? This is a question that does not often occur to one to ask. It deals with matters as familiar to us as the boiling of a kettle or the falling of an apple from the tree. Fortunately Newton did not allow his familiarity with falling bodies to prevent him from asking why they did fall.

Returning to our couple of sovereigns and our coat, we ask, why should two sovereigns be fixed upon as the price of the coat? What relation can there be

THE GARDEN IN JULY.



UNDER the blaze of a July sun, and with an occasional warm thunder-shower, it is our own fault if our garden does not this month look its best. Very much, however, of our floral success depends not so much upon the nature of our soil (for a large number of flowers can in the best of the year be grown in most places in nearly any soil), but upon our taste and our method of arrangement of such details, for example, as the height of our plants and the combination of colours.

Let us take the commonest illustration: an old homestead standing in its acre of land, more than one-half of which we devote to kitchen vegetable and fruit garden, and the remainder comprising our lawn and flower garden. Long usage and notions of propriety have rendered it necessary to conceal from view such very matter-of-fact and domestic articles as cabbages and gooseberry bushes, so these and their companions we conceal from view by a few evergreens, which form, as it were, the boundaries between our two gardens.

But a further and most charming method of concealment is by having, some foot or two from the base of our evergreens, a little floral wall. By this we mean a few climbing flowers, such as sweet peas, or the still more elegant convolvulus major—*Ipomoea purpurea*. This showy climber flowers with varied shade of colour, and will run up sometimes as high as eight feet; nor are we surprised sometimes, when it has got to the top of the boughs round which we have trained it, to see it throwing out a tiny arm to catch hold of the nearest evergreen branch, so great are its climbing propensities. This convolvulus will grow in common soil, and may be sown in April, when many of our ordinary annuals are also sown.

One thing also we notice relative to the convolvulus when in full bloom: the flower will shut up its petals if exposed to the full blaze of the July sun, of which we spoke at the outset, or it will do so in a drought; it looks its best in the early morning or towards evening, after a good watering. Very often you will see a brilliant specimen of bloom concealed under some of its own foliage. Unhappily the flower is useless for a bouquet or for table show, as on plucking one, you will find that its petals close almost instantaneously.

The convolvulus minor, or *Convolvulus tricolor*, also requires merely ordinary soil, but seldom attains a greater height than about a foot or a little over; it has a spreading habit, and is very showy in patches.

While, however, on this convolvulus subject, it is difficult to avoid saying a word about the flower in its wild state—the old bindweed, or bearbine, with which, nevertheless, we are many of us only too familiar, as we know to our cost.

When wandering along our old English green lanes it is certainly a charming object in the hedgerows, either as a large pure white flower, or as a smaller and pale pinkish one, but in our kitchen garden the destruction that its winding roots cause among some of our various fruit trees is immense: a gooseberry or a currant bush will in time be utterly killed by it. A very good winter operation, then, is a good day's digging in the neighbourhood of where you know the enemy to be, and once you get hold of a root, try and trace it to its source, and by gently drawing it out you will often get rid of a far greater quantity of these roots than by breaking them off short in your impatience to free your fruit trees of the pest. The rank and acrid juice which comes from the root the moment you have broken it, makes it next to impossible to mistake the root for that of anything else. Grub it all up, then, root and branch, whenever you have an opportunity, and not only will your fruit trees thank you, but the pigs will do so also, for these wild convolvulus roots are a dainty dish, of which they always make very short work.

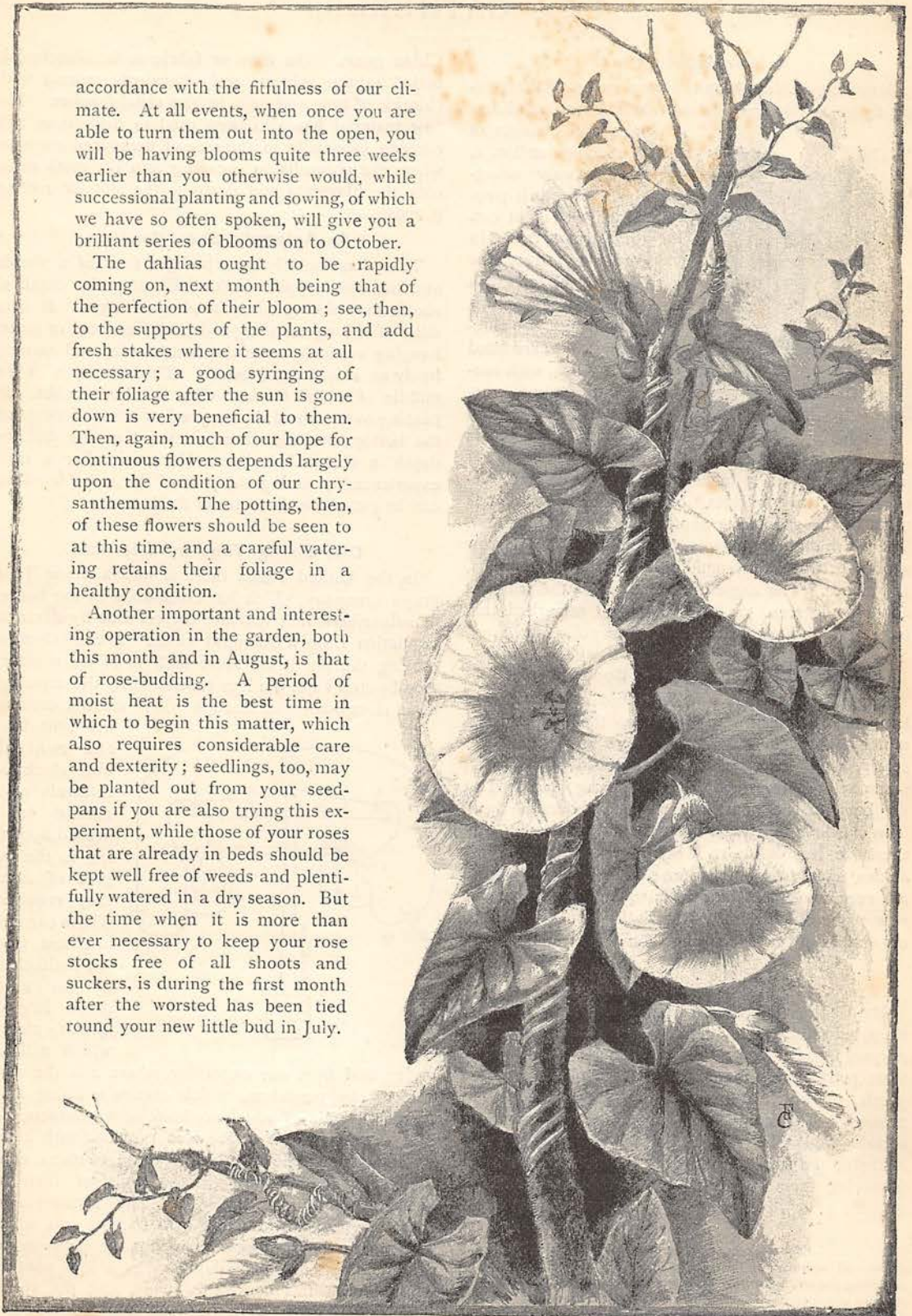
Alternating with your convolvuluses as a boundary between your kitchen and flower garden should be some well-trained sweet peas, and these, with here and there a few tall perennials, and your large evergreens as a background, will produce an admirable effect. Between these and the box-edging of your flower beds, have a varied display of bedding-out plants, interspersed with some pretty dwarf annuals, and the whole display will be far more pleasing than a stiff arrangement of bedded plants by themselves.

Another, but a far more matter-of-fact arrangement for a division between fruit and flower garden, is a simple wooden paling painted green—not by any means so expensive as a wall, yet if strongly and well put up it answers very much the same purpose; it gives you sheltered situations from cutting winds, and under its wing you can often harden off some of your greenhouse bedding plants, when by perhaps the end of the third week in April you begin to move some of them out, while many flowers or creepers can be trained up its side. Then, again, if you are anxious to have your annuals early in bloom, you can accelerate their growth by sowing them early in March in gentle heat, in pots or in boxes. When they have thoroughly formed a pair of leaves—in addition, that is, to the seed-lobes—turn them out two or three in a pot, or into a bed of soil where they will still have a little artificial heat, and probably indeed up to the end of April, or it may be even later on in the year, they will still want some protection, varied in

accordance with the fitfulness of our climate. At all events, when once you are able to turn them out into the open, you will be having blooms quite three weeks earlier than you otherwise would, while successional planting and sowing, of which we have so often spoken, will give you a brilliant series of blooms on to October.

The dahlias ought to be rapidly coming on, next month being that of the perfection of their bloom; see, then, to the supports of the plants, and add fresh stakes where it seems at all necessary; a good syringing of their foliage after the sun is gone down is very beneficial to them. Then, again, much of our hope for continuous flowers depends largely upon the condition of our chrysanthemums. The potting, then, of these flowers should be seen to at this time, and a careful watering retains their foliage in a healthy condition.

Another important and interesting operation in the garden, both this month and in August, is that of rose-budding. A period of moist heat is the best time in which to begin this matter, which also requires considerable care and dexterity; seedlings, too, may be planted out from your seed-pans if you are also trying this experiment, while those of your roses that are already in beds should be kept well free of weeds and plentifully watered in a dry season. But the time when it is more than ever necessary to keep your rose stocks free of all shoots and suckers, is during the first month after the worsted has been tied round your new little bud in July.



THE GARDEN IN AUGUST.



AFTER all, the best gardener is Nature. And a long country ramble on one of these dreamy, summer, harvest days will give us a capital lesson in horticulture, for there is plenty to be learnt from noticing how one class of flower seems to flourish under "the shadow of a great rock," another under the moistening influence of a neighbouring lake, or the canopy of a

avenue, while amid the half-cut corn we see the "scarlet poppies burn," in striking contrast with the golden grain.

And we must say something about those poppies, for it is a folly to despise them because we find them so radiant in their wild state. *Everything* once grew wild, and by noticing the habits of a plant in its wild state, the locality to which it is indigenous, the soil that it thrives in, the season of its perfection, &c., we learn how to improve upon and cultivate it accordingly, and lavish upon it by every artificial means all that we saw its nature craved after.

The poppy, then, is best suited to large gardens, and while its railway danger-signal brilliancy is certainly very effective at intervals down a long walk, it should at the same time serve to caution us against being too partial to it, for otherwise our domain will be rapidly overspread with a perpetual series of this danger-signal beauty.

What we mean is that the seed-pods ought to be constantly taken off before the seed has had time to perfect itself, if we wish to prevent our garden being covered with poppies in one season. In the sowing months, then, of March and April, at the corners of large shrubberies, along a carriage drive, or even in a few places along the border of a long, straight, kitchen garden walk, put in a pinch of well-selected poppy-seed. Sow thinly and in rich sandy soil. When they are well up, thin them out with the hoe to such a distance, one plant from another, as will enable them to grow and bloom well. As soon as they begin to show for flowering, pull up and destroy all single blooms or poor specimens. Any one that is striking in size or colour, mark for seed, but quickly remove all decaying flowers.

Of a widely different nature from the homely poppy is another class of flower about which we have hitherto

said almost nothing at all, but of which we must in future occasionally speak. We allude to those exquisitely wonderful orchids. Who that has seen them grown in their perfection, under circumstances where expense is never spared in the garden, could fail to be struck by their marvellous beauty or occasional eccentricity of structure?

Not, however, to discourage the aspirations of gardeners of only limited capabilities, let us say at the outset that a very considerable number of this charming species of plant may be grown in any greenhouse that has a hot-water apparatus. We will do our best, then, although we cannot all of us boast a house of Indian temperature. The mean temperature of a house in which a whole collection is grown should be some sixty-eight degrees.

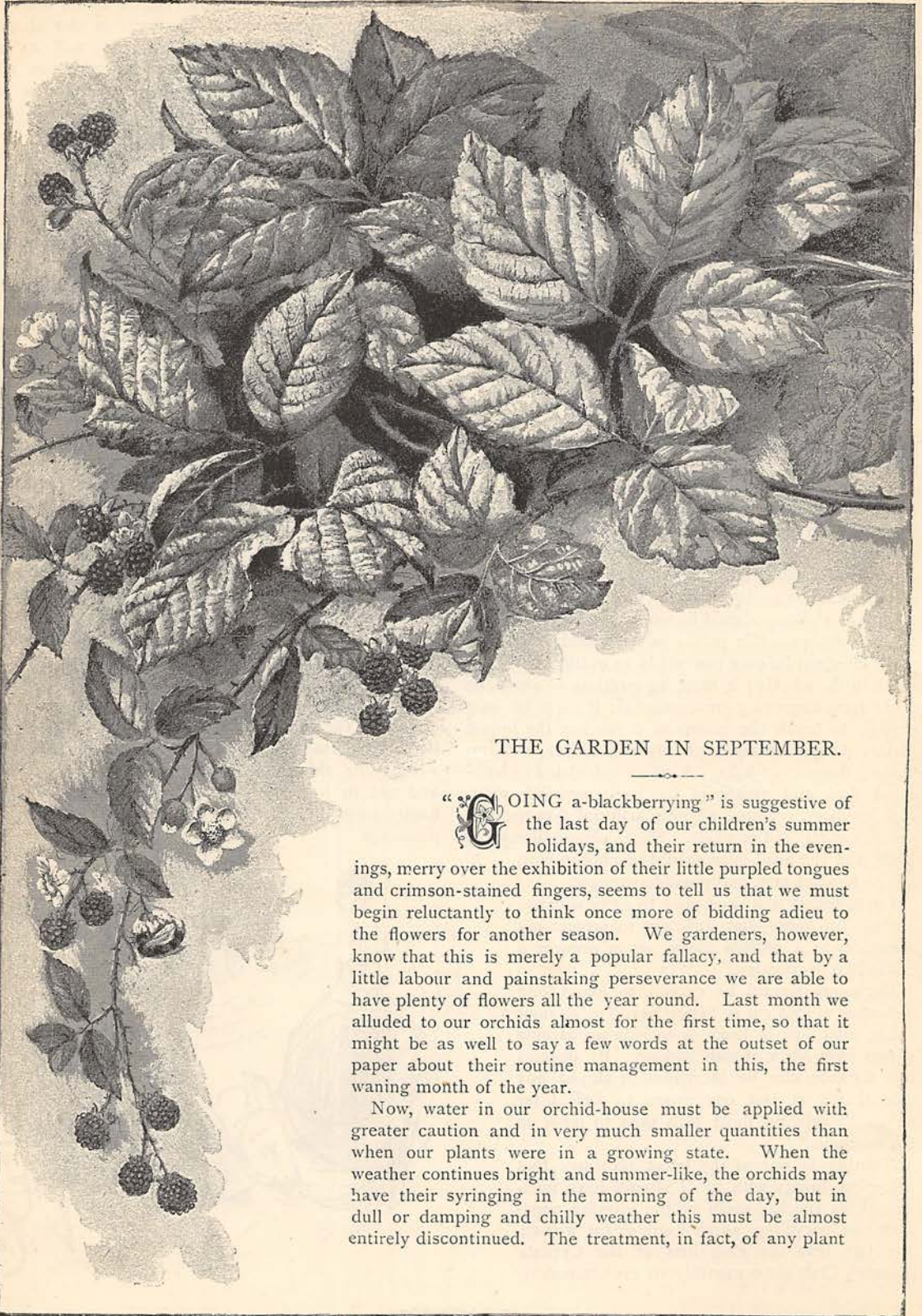
As a general rule, let us say that a moist heat is what the orchid thrives best in. Of course at this time of the year there is very rarely much difficulty in maintaining the above-named temperature. In August, then, it may stand at from seventy-five to eighty during the day, and at about sixty-five at night, but as by the end of the month the temperature visibly falls, it is well to try as far as we can to acclimatise our plants by a very graduated scale of heat, so as to render them as far as we are able a trifle more hardy, for no change of treatment of any kind should be brought about abruptly or suddenly. Most important also is it that the pot in which an orchid is should be well drained. One good authority on this subject tells us that a pot should be two-thirds filled with potsherds or charcoal, or else a smaller pot placed inversely inside it, and filled round with cinders or charcoal. This is important, as although we have already said that a moist heat is what the orchid delights in, yet it will not thrive properly if the water is allowed to remain stagnating about the roots. Nor in potting should the plant be placed deep in the pot, but kept above the rim, and on the surface of the turfy peat soil on which it grows. A wide and shallow pot is the best for all orchidaceous plants.

Only some, however, of these plants are properly grown in pots; others are grown in loose open baskets or on blocks of wood, only take care that the size and strength of your block is proportionate to that of the orchid you are growing upon it. The best possible block is that of the cork-tree with the bark attached to it. Another and most important operation is that of syringing, to which orchids will not object if they have it twice daily. Or, again, the large lumps of the root of some of the larger ferns are admirably adapted for attaching our plants to. And for soil material for pot-growing, a good one is some sods from a turf-bog mixed with a few pieces of broken charcoal. The bloom of an orchid, it is thought, will keep much longer in perfection in a moist than in a dry air, nor should the temperature then be too heated. Some of the routine management of orchids we shall at times in future advert to.

An important operation this month is the layering of our carnations and picotees; and, to get them to stand the winter well, they should be well rooted before they are cut off. The shoots once pegged down in the ordinary way—take care especially, in this for the most part very dry month, that your layers are well and regularly watered, or they will undoubtedly fail—they ought to be well struck in about six weeks after this operation. And as we attach plenty of importance to our perennials in our variegated system of gardening, we may remark that seed of these may be sown early in this month, and in some three



months' time your young seedling perennials will have grown enough to be planted out in nursery beds to gain strength. If, however, you wish them to get strength enough to stand the winter, sow quite six weeks earlier than this, and it is best to do so at once in the place in which you intend them to remain permanently. And for the making up of new strawberry beds, not a day later than the 12th of this month should the runners be put in. Should you have no edging to the borders of your fruit or kitchen garden, edge forthwith, at all events the warm side of it, with your new strawberry runners.



THE GARDEN IN SEPTEMBER.

“GOING a-blackberrying” is suggestive of the last day of our children’s summer holidays, and their return in the evenings, merry over the exhibition of their little purpled tongues and crimson-stained fingers, seems to tell us that we must begin reluctantly to think once more of bidding adieu to the flowers for another season. We gardeners, however, know that this is merely a popular fallacy, and that by a little labour and painstaking perseverance we are able to have plenty of flowers all the year round. Last month we alluded to our orchids almost for the first time, so that it might be as well to say a few words at the outset of our paper about their routine management in this, the first waning month of the year.

Now, water in our orchid-house must be applied with greater caution and in very much smaller quantities than when our plants were in a growing state. When the weather continues bright and summer-like, the orchids may have their syringing in the morning of the day, but in dull or damping and chilly weather this must be almost entirely discontinued. The treatment, in fact, of any plant

when it has entered on its quiescent stage varies, as we know, immensely from that which we bestow upon it when it is in a rapidly growing state. Our dendrobiums, for example, will most of them about this time have done growing; beginning, then, as they now do, their state of rest, withhold water from them, but except perhaps for any very hot periods of the day, of which a few may yet be left to us, let them have for a time in their house the brightest sunlight you can give them. Similarly, ventilation must also be given cautiously to orchids in a state of rest, though at the same time they should have air pretty freely in the best of the daytime; but the house must be closed early, and a proper temperature maintained by fire-heat. Of course, if we can afford to put up a second and a small house in which to maintain a high temperature, we can then do wonderful things in the way of orchids; and not only so, for we shall be able to force a few other plants or bulbs, and bring them at times for exhibition in our greenhouse, or indeed into our drawing-room. In the case of having this little luxury, the temperature now for orchids of the Indian class should be some 85° by day and 70° by night. Not, however, to disappoint those gardeners who can boast of no Indian house, there are orchids—such, for example, as some of the class *Oncidium*—which are fairly hardy, and do not require so high a temperature and such artistic training. The *Oncidium flexuosum* may be named as a hardy one; but keep a look-out against insects, and take every opportunity you can of collecting the necessary composts and soil contrivances in your orchid-house.

It is time, however, that we passed on to a few of the many other departments in our garden which this month must demand our special attention. And this being a great harvest month, it may be as well to speak first of our fruit garden before we give a few hints as to the management of our flowers in general. The peaches and nectarines, then, are rapidly, of course, coming on, and many have doubtless been already gathered from our south walls. While gathering them, they should be handled and touched as little as possible; treat them just as a careful schoolboy would his collection of eggs that he has got together and blown. Those brown-looking indentations that you often see on a peach are nearly always caused by awkward pinching and handling, to see whether the fruit is ripe. The least touch will easily detach a ripe peach from its hold on the tree, and the nose will tell you what are beginning to ripen: just as when you pull down the glass of your melon-frame in the morning a whiff of fragrance warns you that at least one melon is, not perhaps *ripe*, but ripening. Fine gauze is a good thing for the protection of wall fruit just now, as sometimes in September the wasps and blue-bottles have a fine time of it. With these pests it is, however, possible in a measure to come to terms. You will often find on your tree one or more malformed or blighted fruit, which appears to fascinate the winged vermin. Do not, then, pick it off, but leave it carefully exposed for them, and protect the rest, trapping all others, or

course, that you can; and as for the slugs and snails, a night attack upon them is the best and only means of getting at them, as these horned adventurers are easily captured by the aid of a lantern. The generality of our keeping apples we do not, of course, trouble ourselves much about until October, yet we can keep ourselves supplied temporarily by windfalls, though there are some few sorts ripe for early gathering by the end of August. Where the pips of the apple are white, and not beginning to turn brown, you may decide that the tree is not ripe.

The heat of melon frames can be maintained by a fresh lining of manure; only water your melons early in the morning. When you are a little in doubt as to others being able to ripen before the warm weather entirely goes, close up the frames early, when the sun is still fairly strong upon them, so as to bottle up, as it were, all the heat you can. From the old strawberry plantations remove all the runners, and then give to your bed a top-dressing of rich loam and some decomposed manure.

The work, however, in the flower garden this month is certainly heavy and laborious, for by Michaelmas we strip our beds of their annual bedding-out attire, and begin of necessity to cram our greenhouse with as many plants as it will hold. Now, where our space is limited—and too often, alas! is this the case—it is a good plan to cut down some of the largest geraniums to little more than dwarf stumps with one or two arms, and pot them, perhaps half a dozen of them together, in one good large pot, round its edge. Our object is to have next season a few good sturdy plants that we can set out at the first opportunity that the months of April and May will afford. The calceolarias, being, if anything, more hardy than the geraniums, can readily, unless in a winter of more than usual severity, be planted out in the open—say, in a sheltered part of the kitchen garden—and covered over with some bell-glasses, or set out under the protection of a discarded cucumber-frame. When the severe weather comes, any that you are experimenting upon under a bell-glass or two will need some matting over them as an additional protection.

The general stock of cuttings should have been taken off last month, but it is not too late to do so in the first week in September, if the weather is still more or less summer-like; but it should not be postponed later than this, as it is well to have the cutting stock for a short time stood out in the open before removal to the greenhouse for winter quarters, as this tends to harden off the plants. We must not omit to say a word about the chrysanthemums, to which we look for our farewell floral display of the year. Where they have been planted out in order to obtain good strong plants, they should now be carefully taken up and potted, and placed in your greenhouse till they have recovered themselves; or if they have been grown in pots, give them a final shift. A little clear manure-water will benefit them. By-and-by these will form an admirable show along the lowest stand in your greenhouse.

A FIRST LOVE-MAKING.

A LAND there is beyond the sea
 That I have never seen,
 But Johnny says he'll take me there
 And I shall be a queen.
 He'll build for me a palace there,
 Its roof will be of thatch,
 And it will have a little porch
 And everything to match.
 And he'll give me a garden-green,
 And he'll give me a crown
 Of flowers that love the wood and field
 And never grow in town.

And we shall be so happy there,
 And never, never part,
 And I shall be the grandest queen—
 The queen of Johnny's heart.

Then, Johnny, man your little boat
 To sail across the sea ;
 There's only room for king and queen—
 For Johnny and for me.
 And, Johnny dear, I'm not afraid
 Of any wind or tide,
 For I am always safe, my dear,
 If you are by my side.

LUCY CLIFFORD.

THE GARDEN IN OCTOBER.



ONCE again we find ourselves entering the transition period of the year, and many of our flowers, as well as their owners, seem to be variously affected by it. Just as we very often do not as yet quite know what dress to wear, so do our flowers seem unable to make up their mind whether to shut up their petals or keep them open for a little while longer. And, carrying out our simile, just as sometimes a little indiscretion on our part lays us by for the winter, so will a little careless treatment of our flowers in the month of October either damage them severely or kill them outright.

In our green-house, then—for it is of that we will first speak—let us bear in mind that our object should be more to mature the growth that our plants have made in the summer that is now past, than to excite any fresh growth in them by artificial means. One reason for this is that no growth can be perfect without the aid of *light*, and it is this very light that is so rapidly and daily diminishing at this time of the year : hence it is perhaps that very often our forced fruit and vegetables have, with some few exceptions, not that full and vigorous flavour about them that those of their fellows have that we ripen under the full influence of the sun and in their due season.

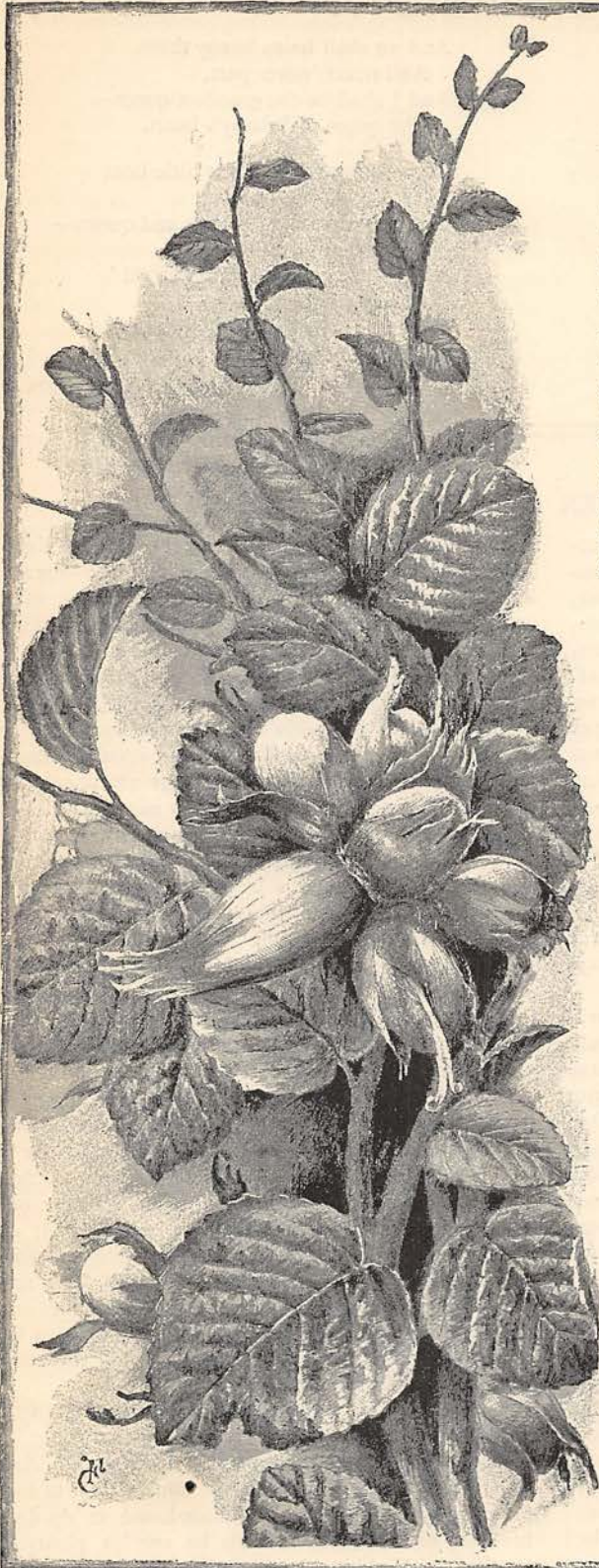
When, however, we speak of not wishing at this time of the year to excite the growth of our plants, we are of course more particularly alluding to our large stock of bedding-out plants that by this time, with all else that we wish to preserve from the cold, we are housing under our glass. We are, very probably, quite crowded enough inside as it is, and as the spring by-and-by comes round again, we shall find the inconvenience of somewhat overgrown plants

a very serious matter ; so let us be wise in time, and not—especially where our space is limited—for the sake of amusing ourselves with the experiment of a little winter exhibition, foster the growth of our cuttings and dwarf plants more than we can help.

The sere and yellow leaf is certainly a beautiful object when, wandering through a nut-grove enlivened only by the music of the robin's chirp or the hoarse cry of the cock-pheasant, we suddenly break upon the landscape in every tint of decay ; but our sentimentality must not be carried so far as to allow us to leave these same sere and yellow leaves as an autumnal decoration on the plants in our green-house. A very important item of our garden routine is, indeed, at this time the removal of all dead and decaying leaves, and, what is more, it should be carefully done. It is well when going over our green-house stock to pick off leaves so as to leave the base of the foot-stalk intact, as removing the stalk and leaf both—unless the whole comes off readily in the hand—tends perhaps to damage the parent stem.

Another important operation under our glass at this season of the year, and more particularly among those few plants perhaps that we are keeping for a sort of winter show in combination with our cutting stock, is every two or three weeks to go over our pots and carefully examine the soil in them. At all events, let it be well stirred up, and where it seems exhausted, overgrown with moss, or caked down and of little worth, remove the top two or three inches and replace it with fresh compost, only taking care, as far as possible, that your new compost be of the same compound as that you have removed.

October, too, is really the first month of the year in which we fully embark upon the campaign of preservation of our stock of any description. And in doing so we often, as formerly, think it best to suppose the case of having one green-house to do duty for every sort of work. If this be our lot, plenty of ventilation should be given by night as well as by day



when the weather is at all mild and genial. As for the temperature of the house for the winter months, a good average one to name is 45° by day and 35° by night. Then, again, sometimes even in the winter we get some hours of brilliant sunshine, and this of course will make the temperature of the house rise suddenly: take the opportunity when this occurs of giving a plentiful and proportionately increased current of fresh air. And, lastly, as to the watering of the green-house stock, give no more water than is barely sufficient to keep your plants from drying up, as a short allowance in this respect tends to check the development of further growth, while an over-dose of water would, on the other hand, tend to get your house in the winter months in a mouldy condition, in which probably many of your plants would rot away. And even where we may have the good fortune to have a small and hotter house approached from the general one, in which to keep our orchids and more delicate plants, the same remarks as to watering will in like manner apply. Orchids that have gone out of bloom may now, if necessary, be re-potted, or where they are grown in baskets or blocks, the material about their roots carefully removed, and the plants kept comparatively dry.

We must not, however, pass by unnoticed the wide field of work that lies outside our green-house, though we can but barely allude to some important operations in fruit, flower, and kitchen garden. Alterations in any part of our garden and on any large scale may safely be begun this month, while, in the flower garden, beds and borders may be dug and got into good order for the winter; bulbs of all kinds may be put in as soon as possible, taking the precaution to use some taste in the combination or colours; the crocuses, for example, being planted in patches, and each colour, whether of yellow or blue, by itself: these, by the way, in the *front* of a border, alternating with a row behind of hyacinths, will have a charming effect. It is seldom, however, that we can contrive to have our

crocuses and hyacinths in their perfection during the self-same time. As for the fruit garden, the orchard alone will keep us busy enough in October, while in the kitchen garden we choose dry days in which to earth up our celery and remove all those

of the heads which seem disposed to run away to seed; and towards the end of the month a good large planting of cabbages should be made, that will come in early in spring, having your ground first well dug and manured.

WHAT FIXES MY WAGES.



OW often does one hear of the hardness of masters in beating down to the lowest possible point the wages of their *employés*! There are many large capitalists and extensive employers of labour noted in their various districts for their great goodness to their fellow-men. These capitalists give away thousands of pounds yearly for the advancement of such objects as seem likely to promote the welfare of their poorer brethren: their motives are of the very purest, and cannot be misconstrued. Notwithstanding all this, how often does one hear it said of such men that they would do far more good, and that it would be much more in keeping with their public character, if they paid their men better wages! It is not easy to understand how a man who seems to all appearance to be prompted by the very kindest of feelings in nearly all the relations of life, can make his men work for him day after day for wages that just keep them decently and respectably. It would almost appear that a man when he went down to his office changed his disposition with his coat.

This censure that is passed on employers of labour is not deserved. It is not my employer at all that fixes my wages. If he were perfectly free in the matter, I have no doubt whatever that the same liberality that distinguishes him as a citizen would be found to distinguish him as a master. Masters are not any harder-hearted than other men; they are just as much—ay, more—concerned about the condition of their work-people than the latter themselves are in many cases. We shall now proceed to explain these statements.

Suppose you are travelling, and as you issue from the railway station two boys rush up and volunteer to carry your portmanteau. One boy will do it for sixpence, another for a penny. One can carry it as well as another. Which of the boys are you to engage? Strict business would at once make you close with the offer of the second boy; so, however, would considerations of a purely humane kind. Why does the second boy offer to do the work for one-sixth of the amount required by the first boy? Because he is poorer; he is, perhaps, verging on starvation, and your penny may save him from very acute distress. A penny is worth six times as much to him as to the first boy, as is evidenced by the fact that he is willing to do six times as much work for it. By engaging this boy, then, you benefit him as much, perhaps more, with a penny, as you would have benefited

the other boy with sixpence; this is surely neither wrong nor mean.

Let us suppose the contrary case now—two travellers, each with a portmanteau. These travellers want a boy to carry their portmanteaus; they are going in different directions, and they can command the services of only one boy. This boy will, of course, have no hesitation in closing with the best offer. Who will make the best offer? If the travellers are equally well off, it will be the one to whom it is most important that his bag should be carried, and this will be as it should be. If, however, they are not equally well off, if one is very much richer than the other, then, even though it should be a matter of life and death for this other to have his portmanteau carried, he will not get the boy to carry it for him unless he offers at least as great a reward as his richer competitor. No one can blame the boy for acting in this way; perhaps he has a mother to provide for; perhaps he has no shoes to wear—at any rate he must be very poor, otherwise he would not pursue so humble a calling.

These cases, though not exactly parallel to cases of masters and workmen, at least illustrate the principle that determines the wages that my master pays me. In the first case the boys compete with one another and fix the remuneration; in the second case the travellers compete with one another. Hence the name given to this principle—the principle of competition. Let us now examine this principle at work in the wider field of every-day life.

The condition of match-box makers, and of those engaged in kindred occupations, is considered to be very hard. See how cheaply these boxes sell! So insignificant is the value of the box, that as soon as it is empty—no matter though it be quite uninjured—you esteem it as worthless and throw it away. Our match-makers are wealthy firms, and in no respect less honourable than other firms, yet you are often told that they amass fortunes out of the flesh and bone of their operatives. This is a very cruel and unjust statement. The remuneration of the operatives is low—perhaps merely enables them to keep body and soul together—because these operatives compete with one another for the work just as in the case of the boys competing for the traveller's portmanteau. In that case we saw nothing wrong in the action of the traveller when he decided to engage the boy that offered his services at the lowest figure; on the contrary, there was something that might be considered commendable in it. The same reasoning

captivity of the Scottish Queen, under the Earl of Shrewsbury and his masculine consort, "Bess of Hardwick," and of the struggles between Roundhead and Royalist, and now a ruin, beautiful in its desolation, as all the historic mansions are where Mary was confined in England—and may take from thence a pleasant field-path to Lea Hurst, dropping afterwards into the Matlock Valley. But which-

ever route he may elect, he will find scenic combinations that may fairly challenge in wild and alluring beauty any landscapes in these isles or in other climes.

Our illustrations include a representation of the jewel presented to Miss Nightingale by Her Majesty in recognition of her work amongst the sick and wounded of our troops.

EDWARD BRADBURY.

THE GARDEN IN NOVEMBER.



JUST now the return once again of this, the first of the winter months and, not unfrequently, a suddenly severe and snowy one, drives us, especially those of us who cannot boast of much in the way of green-houses and conservatories, to consider how far we can utilise and make the most of any spare space in our own homes for the preservation of many of our favourite flowers and ferns, with a view afterwards, perhaps, of keeping some of them for exhibition permanently in-doors. A few words then about the general treatment and management of plants in-doors may not be out of place in this month of November, when the outlook beyond the window-pane is anything but inviting.

Now, when at Michaelmas, although our stock of cuttings had been taken a month previously, we found ourselves busy among the flower-beds, stripping them very reluctantly of their gay attire, it seemed to us a thousand pities to have to discard for good and all so large a number of sturdy and well-grown geraniums. Yet certainly we are, for the most part, often obliged to do this from sheer want of space and house-room. Yet now we say, warmly, why not select a few of the best-grown, strongest and healthiest plants, a dozen or so that still have plenty of buds upon them, and resolve to take them up bodily, pot them off and keep them for in-door exhibition?

In getting them up then, and especially some of the finest-grown geraniums, you will naturally find that the roots have struck out a good deal, but avoid breaking or damaging them unnecessarily, and in potting them do not shake off all the soil that adheres to them, but allow it to remain on, though at the same time some new and nourishing compost had better be used when potting off, and not the now exhausted soil in your surrounding flower-beds: have the pots of a good size, new if possible, or well washed, and above all see more particularly to the drainage of your pots, as this is of the greatest importance, standing as they are about to do in-doors. Choose then a good dry room in your house for what we will call the floral exhibition room, with a south aspect if possible, well lighted and bright and, above all, one capable of plenty of ventilation.

Yet it was of the mere *preservation* of our garden

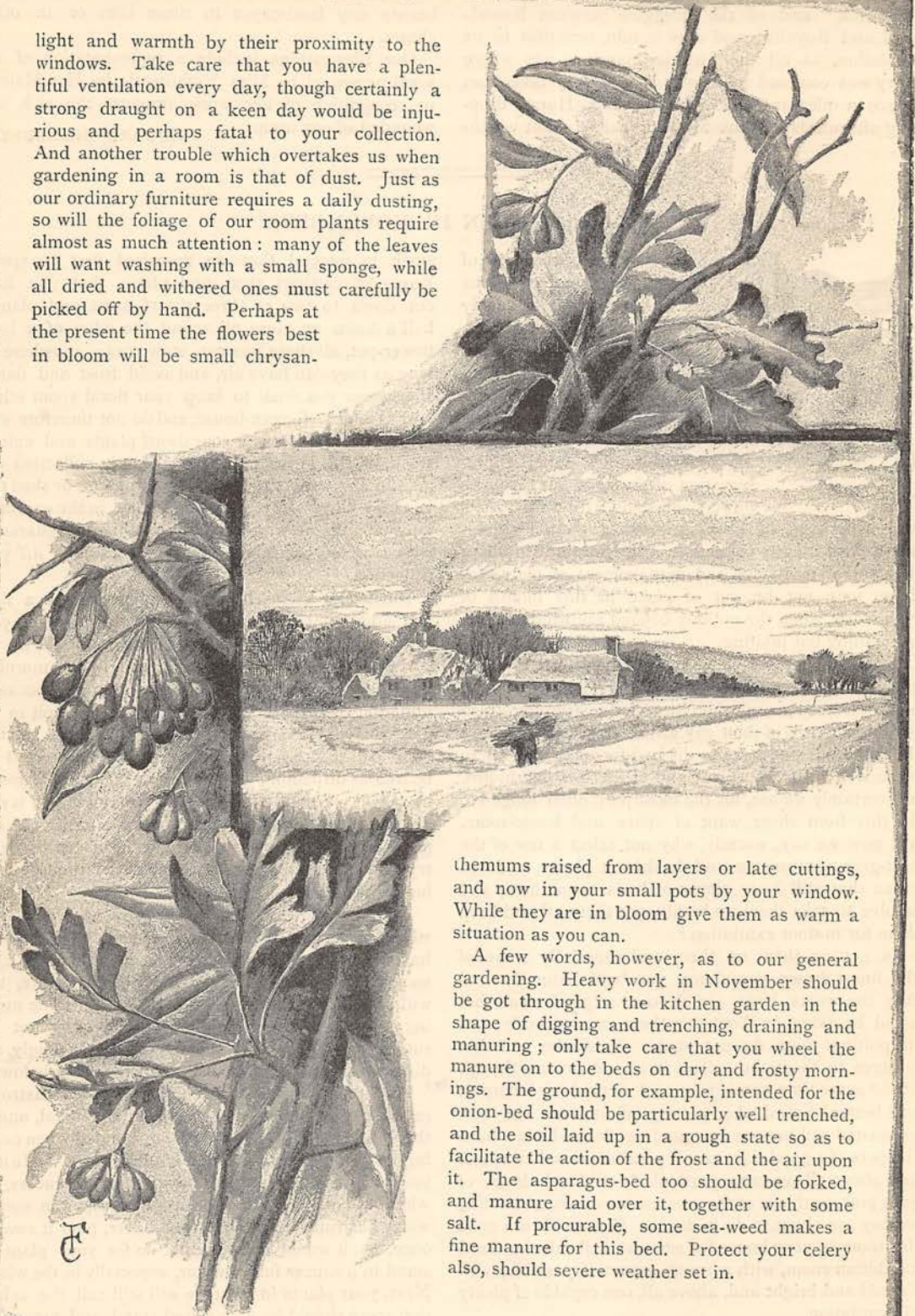
stock in general that we promised first to speak. Boxes of cuttings then, and plants that you have cut down to two or three dwarf arms and planted half a dozen or more all round the edge of a large flower-pot, all these you can stow away anywhere so long as they can have air, and avoid frost and damp. If however you wish to keep your floral room select, and as a sort of green-house, and do not therefore wish to litter your room with your dwarf plants and cutting stock, all this latter and more unsightly collection can go into airy cupboards or to any out-house or shed that you may have. Only bear in mind that, in the case of an unusually severe winter, it is impossible to guarantee with absolute certainty the preservation of *all* your collection.

During an intensely frosty January night a light and additional covering might be thrown over your dwarf stock, a piece of matting for example, or an old curtain, only see that you remove it in the morning. We think also that we have on a former occasion hinted at the experiment of digging a small pit in the garden itself, of sufficient area and depth to contain your cuttings, &c., and which can be protected by boards or tarpaulin; but all this is a source of trouble as well as expense, while the risk of damping off is very great, so that perhaps on the whole we prefer the original experiment, where there is no green-house, of trying to save all the stock in one of the rooms of the house itself.

One other precaution by the way we would give where we have a large collection of plants in a room: have no carpet down but a piece of floor-cloth, or something of a thoroughly water-proof nature, that will spare you the mortification of finding some morning that the water from some refractory plant has run through your floor and traced out an ugly and dirty-looking map on the ceiling of the room below.

And this allusion to such a possible catastrophe reminds us of the watering subject in general, and of the difficulties with which it is surrounded when carrying on gardening in a room of the house. Most of your plants will certainly have to stand in saucers, but when the watering has been given and the surplus water has run through into the saucer, pour it away at once, as it would certainly not do for your plants to stand in a saucer full of water, especially in the winter. Next, your plants in what we will still call the exhibition room should be on a raised stand, and not on the floor, so as by this means to obtain for them increased

light and warmth by their proximity to the windows. Take care that you have a plentiful ventilation every day, though certainly a strong draught on a keen day would be injurious and perhaps fatal to your collection. And another trouble which overtakes us when gardening in a room is that of dust. Just as our ordinary furniture requires a daily dusting, so will the foliage of our room plants require almost as much attention: many of the leaves will want washing with a small sponge, while all dried and withered ones must carefully be picked off by hand. Perhaps at the present time the flowers best in bloom will be small chrysan-



themums raised from layers or late cuttings, and now in your small pots by your window. While they are in bloom give them as warm a situation as you can.

A few words, however, as to our general gardening. Heavy work in November should be got through in the kitchen garden in the shape of digging and trenching, draining and manuring; only take care that you wheel the manure on to the beds on dry and frosty mornings. The ground, for example, intended for the onion-bed should be particularly well trenched, and the soil laid up in a rough state so as to facilitate the action of the frost and the air upon it. The asparagus-bed too should be forked, and manure laid over it, together with some salt. If procurable, some sea-weed makes a fine manure for this bed. Protect your celery also, should severe weather set in.

THE GARDEN IN DECEMBER.

IT by no means follows that because the vast majority of our plants and flowers are at this time of the year in a quiescent state, the gardeners themselves should follow their example, and seek a prolonged period of repose, albeit the temptation to do so is undeniable in the early hours of the morning, when the thermometer is hovering over 32°. The gardeners of the idlers, however, we shall leave



to take care of themselves while we readily find work more than enough to keep us warm without an overcoat, and to make our hands horny. Now, although it has been said that "May and December can never agree," one of our endeavours this month will be to effect a compromise with the adage, in so far as the garden is concerned. Call our garden the "old man" if you will, but we intend to deck him out, even now, in such a costume as to make him worthy, in some respect at least, to stand by the side of May. And May, too, be it remembered, is not all flowers and sunshine;

it can boast of plenty of east wind, and sometimes some keen frosts as well.

To begin with our December garden decoration before going on to still warmer work. Our flower-beds and borders are certainly just at present stripped of their bedding-out plants, while underneath the soil we may assume were placed, in October or November at latest, all the hyacinth and other bulbs that are to beautify our garden in the coming spring. But without damaging our bulbs we can carefully plunge between them some bright little and varied evergreens in pots. And the variety to be had in evergreen foliage, both as to colour and form, is simply wonderful. And then, too, there is a marked contrast between the Pinus and the fir tribe, and of this we ought to take due advantage, while the Portugal laurel and the common laurel vary, not only in their colour, but in the shape of the leaf; and our old and familiar friend of this month, the holly, is still more variegated. Add to these the *Aucuba Japonica*, the plain and striped *Alaternus* and *Euonymus*, with the tribe of *Arbutus*, &c., not to mention the Christmas rose, while there are many late autumn or early spring flowers that even at this season, if it be at all a mild one, either prolong or hasten their appearance amongst us.

And in good open weather, by which we mean damp or mild and "muggy," all heavy alteration in the garden can be still proceeded with, such as the removal of shrubs or trees, the formation of new beds or walks, and, indeed, any work on a large scale, which we should find it more difficult to carry out in the full spring-tide of the year.

All our newly-planted shrubs and trees should just now be constantly examined, the heavy gales to which we are liable during the months of November, December, and January testing them very much; if they are allowed to sway about before they have got well hold of the soil in which they have been planted, they will probably fail entirely; and a failure of this kind often proves seriously inconvenient, as it leaves us perhaps with a large gap or a part of the house or garden, as the case may be, exposed, that we want protected or enclosed. See, then, that all the stakes are holding fast your young trees and shrubs.

Another important December operation is the collection of soils and compost for your potting, for next month, or certainly in February, we are busy in our greenhouse over our shifting of plants. All our heaps of soil, then, already collected will be improved by being thoroughly turned over, so as to allow the frost to act upon them, and at the same time be sure to carefully pick out all the wire-worm and grubs that you find; for ill-prepared soil, if once used in your greenhouse, may make havoc with many of your plants inside. And by this time, too, the collection of leaves and stalks, with the rakings of beds and borders, and all the autumnal waste and decayed foliage, must be very large: have all this thrown on to your dung-heap, and in due course let all be dug into the soil. Except

for actual thorns and brambles, a bonfire in your garden is nearly always a very unnecessary, and even a wasteful thing, for recollect that every dead leaf that is afterwards dug into your garden affords a certain amount of nourishment for all that you are striving to grow in it, while the frequent purchase of a load of manure is a heavy expense.

And in the kitchen garden, where these loads of manure must certainly be had every year, have them wheeled on to your beds only in frosty weather, and set out in the usual small heaps at intervals, ready for use; this heavy work, however, should not be done during wet weather, or you will turn your garden paths into the appearance of a newly-ploughed field. And it is well to select at once the various plots of ground for your different vegetable beds; trench in the manure carefully, so doing it that your soil is well exposed in large lumps to the beneficial action of the frost, for on this painstaking preparation of your beds for future crops so much of your after-success must necessarily depend. In the fruit garden, trees can yet be pruned in open weather, but they must not, of course, be touched while the frost is about. And sometimes, too, the gooseberry caterpillar may be got out of the way by a good digging done now under the bushes.

See particularly that your fruit garden is thoroughly drained. A venerable horticultural authority tells us that "nine-tenths of the mischief among fruit-trees may be attributed to bad drainage, and the other tenth to the roots coming in contact with a sub-soil which they do not like." For one of these evils the remedy, of course, is in our own hands, while with the other we naturally find it more difficult to cope; though, in planting new fruit-trees at this time of the year, if regard be had to the soil best adapted to them, we can even partially remedy this latter evil, even though our soil be adverse, by first of all throwing out a good quantity of soil, and then filling up with imported stuff, according to the wants of our tree or the defects of our own soil.

And much of our time is spent upon watching our greenhouse stock of flowers and cuttings for the following year. Very often we can hardly help just now being a little over-crowded, in which case give all the air you can, and for the purpose of avoiding that terrible "damping off," which is often a more injurious enemy than the frost, give but very little water. Should you find a pot the soil of which is perpetually wet, see to it at once: the cause is either defective drainage at the bottom of it, or else the pot is exposed to the drip of some cracked pane of glass overhead. It is the Christmas month of 1884, and we have been striving to make our old garden look bright even in the death of the year. Idleness in the garden means the death of the garden as well, but with honest and persistent toil do we not know that a few inches beneath the surface we have laid the certain hope of a wonderful resurrection of flowers and fruit in the coming year?

