

before I was married," Florence,—Miss Atherton,—Mrs.—, I don't know what to call her,—replied, in her bell-like voice. "You see, when I go around with George and the babies, word always seems to precede me that I am the author of 'Argentine,' and everyone is so kind and flattering that I never have a chance to study anyone. I began to despair of ever doing anything so good again, so I just fled and left George to care for the babies. I had a splendid time! It's all in the book."

Miss Wagner and I looked at each other; we had heard every word. We left.

My wife is such a sensible woman, and so very handsome, too, in her matronly dignity, that I often wonder at that summer's aberration, and that I could have been so blind to her charms as well as merits. It is not the least of these that she always reads to me Mrs. Morton's new books, and that she has never once thrown at me the fact that I, a self-respecting clergyman, was once madly in love with a married woman.

POLLY KING.

The Flower Garden in August.

THE garden in August ought to be in its prime; but too often it is not, because few gardens receive the care they require in order to make them satisfactory at this season.

In many localities July and August are, in most seasons, dry months, and plants suffer greatly from lack of moisture at the roots. Indeed, plants often receive such a serious check from midsummer drought that they never recover, and all through the early autumn, when they ought to be in fine condition, they are at a point between life and death.

But it is not necessary to have plants in this dead-alive condition if the owner of them is willing to take a little trouble on their account; and unless people are willing to do this, they ought never to undertake their cultivation. If water is applied daily during a "dry spell," plants weather the ordeal of drought in such a manner as to make one oblivious to the fact that there has been one. It is true that in late July and early August, when the heat is most intense, the plants may seem at a standstill, and there may be few flowers; but if they are holding their own, much may be expected from them later on, when the air becomes cooler and the drought gives way to showery weather, as it generally does after midsummer.

Most persons having gardens to water find it quite a task to supply the needs of the plants in this respect. Many use water extravagantly and wastefully. They apply it with a watering-pot having a rose or spray nozzle, which scatters the water thinly all over the surface of the soil, doing very little good because there is not enough, at any point, to produce sufficient moisture to penetrate to the roots of the plants. Remove spray, put the spout of the watering-pot close to the base of the plant, and concentrate the stream there. In this way it is possible to derive much benefit from an amount of water that would be of no value if applied with a sprinkler.

Dahlias must be watered freely if you would have them flower well. In wet seasons these plants are always at their best. Save the water of washing-day for them, and all the slops from the kitchen. They are gross feeders, and you cannot easily give them more food than they will make use of to advantage. You will not be likely to get many flowers from them in August, but all through September they will be a blaze of gorgeous color, and this show of brilliant beauty will be kept up until the coming of frost. There are

three very important items to be considered in the culture of the dahlia: early starting, rich and abundant food, and plenty of moisture at the roots. Given these, few flowers will be more satisfactory than the dahlia during the late summer and early autumn, when flowers are appreciated best because of their scarcity.

We have few better flowers for cutting than the single and semi-double dahlias with their rich and varied colors. They last well, are graceful in habit, and are easily arranged in bowls or tall vases. The soil about the plants should be kept light and open, and stakes should be provided to tie the main stalks to, to prevent their being blown over or broken by high winds.

The gladiolus is the flower, *par excellence*, for the amateur florist. It requires the minimum of care and gives the maximum of beauty. Plant the bulbs any time after the coming of warm weather, up to the middle of June, four inches deep, in a light, mellow, rich soil, and keep the weeds down about them. Beyond this they ask nothing. Some early varieties, if planted early in the season, will begin to bloom in July; but most kinds will wait until August. The rich and varied show of color to be obtained by the outlay of a very small amount of money in gladioli bulbs will give quite as much surprise as gratification to those not familiar with its possibilities. The cheap, mixed collections contain all colors common to the family, and many plants will produce flowers quite as fine, in all respects, as those of the more expensive, named varieties. In this respect the gladiolus is like the pansy: there may be a general resemblance, but closer inspection will convince you that it is difficult to find two plants bearing flowers exactly alike. The gladiolus is one of our best flowers for cutting. Its flowers last for a week or more, if the water in which the stalks are placed is changed daily. Half-grown buds will develop into perfect flowers, a little lighter in color than those grown out of doors, perhaps, but otherwise quite as fine.

Sweet peas, as usually grown, give but few flowers at this season; but it is an easy matter to have these most charming flowers until the coming of very cold weather. To begin with, the seed should be sown early in the season,—in April, if possible,—in trenches six inches deep. Cover the seed to the depth of an inch only, at first. As the plants shoot up, draw soil about them until you have the trench filled. When the first buds appear clip them off, and prevent the plants from flowering any before the latter part of July. It may seem cruel to do this; it may involve some sacrifice on your part, if you are fond of this flower; but what you lose now will be fully made up for later, and I am confident sweet peas in August and September will be more highly appreciated than during the summer, when there are so many other flowers to enjoy. If you do not feel willing to put off the enjoyment of them, have a little patch for early blooming; by picking the blossoms constantly, allowing none to go to seed, the blooming season can be greatly prolonged. During the hot, dry, midsummer season, keep the ground about the plants well covered with grass clippings from the lawn. When these decay, dig them into the soil and spread on fresh ones. In this way the roots of the plants can be kept from getting dry, and this is of the greatest importance. In fact, you cannot grow good sweet peas in a dry soil.

When the crop of August flowers begins, go over the plants every day and remove every blossom as it fades. It is very important that no seed be allowed to form. Reserve all the strength and vitality of the plant for the formation of flowers. Sweet peas will be found among the most useful of all flowers for cutting; but never try to "arrange" them. Let them do that for themselves. Gather them with long stems, bunching them loosely in the hand; when you have all you think you need,—do not have so many that they will

crowd each other,—simply drop the stems into the vase or bowl and give them a shake, and they will “arrange” themselves in a more satisfactory manner than you could attain if you were to work over them all day.

The scarlet salvia is one of the flowers to depend on for a brilliant show this month. Nothing excels it in magnificent color. It is so intense that a clump of it seems to pervade the whole garden with brilliancy. It glows like fire in the blaze of the sun. This is another good flower for cutting.

Pansies, from seed sown in spring, should be coming into bloom. While the weather is warm they cannot be expected to give large flowers; but when cooler weather comes, the blossoms will increase in size and richness of color, and September and October—yes, even cold November, with its threats of snow—will give you finer flowers than you found in your pansy-bed in April. The pansy is essentially a fall flower, though we have some fine ones in spring.

In the border, the perennial phlox should be out in full glory. We have no herbaceous plant that excels this in strong color-effect. The trusses of flowers are so large, the individual blossoms so thickly set on every cluster, and each stalk so sure to be crowned with bloom, that a three-year-old clump gives an almost solid mass of color,—which can be said of few other plants. The scarlet and rose varieties are very beautiful, and every collection should include some of the milky white kinds, to afford contrast with varieties of more vivid color. This plant is so entirely hardy, so easily grown, and so profuse a bloomer, that it is one of the best border-plants we have.

Every garden should have its bed of hollyhocks. If it has not, it is not what it ought to be. A great clump of scarlet and yellow and white varieties is sure to attract everybody's attention. Give them a place in the background if your garden is small. If large, give them a prominent place on the lawn. Grow them once, and you will not willingly be without them again.

If chrysanthemums are planted out in the garden they must receive good care this month. They will be getting ready to form buds, and water and food must be given in liberal quantities. Too much of either can hardly be given.

Tea-roses and others of the ever-blooming class should be getting ready for the autumn campaign, but they cannot do this satisfactorily without some assistance from you. Cut back the old branches to strong and healthy buds (branch, not flowering, buds). Make the soil rich, and keep the ground mulched with grass-clippings. As soon as the dry spell is past, or, rather, the hot spell, they will begin to make vigorous growth, and every shoot will be terminated with a cluster of buds.

Asters are not generally “out” much before the latter part of the month, at the north. September is their season, but they should receive some attention now. At this season an aphid often works about their roots. If not discovered promptly he soon injures the plants to such an extent that it is impossible to save them. He can be put to rout by making a tea of tobacco and pouring it about the roots of the plants. Do this as soon as you find the first one.

Among the shrubs and vines, honeysuckles and clematis hold the first place for late summer flowering, and every home should have some of these delightful plants growing about door and window and veranda. Nothing adds a finer touch of grace to the home than the embroidery a vine makes. Morning-glories are excellent all-season bloomers.

Hybrid perpetual roses should be cut back well, have a rich soil given, and free growth encouraged. On branches formed and developed at this season fall flowers will be produced in moderate quantities; and what is more enjoyable than a beautiful rose at a time when few of them are to be had?

EBEN E. REXFORD.

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What Women Are Doing.

Miss M. F. Cain, of Lancaster, recently passed successfully the examination of the State Pharmaceutical Examining Board of Pennsylvania. She was the only woman applicant.

Miss Kate Sessions is the leading florist of San Diego, Cal. She does not consider her college education too good to apply to the cultivation of nature's most exquisite productions.

The Countess of Aberdeen made about \$100,000 from the Irish village at the World's Fair. It will be used to promote domestic industry among Irish peasants.

Carolina Bruse and Agnes Kjellberg, two Swedish ladies, have received honorable mention at the Paris Salon for sculpture. The latter holds the scholarship of the Swedish Academy.

All the members of the school board in Tiverton, R. I., are women; and the superintendent says the schools of that town are the best conducted in the State.

Miss Callie French, of St. Louis, has been made a United States pilot for vessels on the Mississippi River. She is twenty-two years old, and knows the river thoroughly from St. Louis to New Orleans.

Mrs. Eva M. Blackman is a Police Commissioner of Leavenworth, Kan., and also the editor and proprietor of a Populist paper. She is twenty-seven years old. She believes that right ought to conquer wrong, and advocates reform.

There are nearly 40,000 women cyclists in the United States. New England and New York claim half of this number; but with good roads the sport is fast spreading in the West, and it is only a question of time before the East will hold second place in numbers.

Mrs. Julia Josephine Irvine, who has been chosen acting president of Wellesley College, was graduated from Cornell University in 1885, and was for several years a teacher in New York City. She afterward became a student of Leipsic University, and in 1890 was appointed professor of Greek in Wellesley.

Queen Victoria speaks ten languages fluently. The queen's granddaughter-in-law, the German Empress, is also clever as a linguist. She surprised her guests at a recent court entertainment by talking Norwegian to one of them who came from that country. She plays the violin very well, and when she and her husband manage to get a quiet evening together, they generally devote it to music.

Mrs. James G. Blaine is working steadily upon the life of her husband. The family have all been doing literary work. Mrs. Blaine is to do more than collect the material for Gail Hamilton to write. She is a literary woman herself, and the two will collaborate. The son and the daughter help to get up the material.

Miss Frances Willard has returned to the United States, improved in health and with renewed energy, after an absence of a year and a half, and the great reception tendered her in New York took on the character of a jubilee. Officers and leading members of Temperance Societies all over the country were present to welcome the honored and loved President of the World's and National W. C. T. U., and she was the recipient of many gifts of a substantial character.

Miss Badger, about forty-six years ago, started an Institution for the blind in Birmingham, England, and has held up to the present day the post of honorable lady superintendent. She began with only seven pupils, but these gradually increased, and in 1848 Islington House was opened for twenty-five pupils. Miss Badger's work having become gradually recognized as a public good. In 1852 a new building was opened. For some time more space still has been required, and a new Blind Institution has been built and was opened recently.

A woman in Farmington township, Ohio, in 1866 conceived the plan of constructing a sidewalk from her home to the village, a distance of two and a half miles. She headed a subscription list which was presented to women only, and collected and disbursed \$225 in money, besides soliciting and procuring many times that amount in work. She personally superintended the construction of bridges and culverts, and assisted in the grading. The sidewalk is in good repair today, and for twenty-eight years has been a monument of what one unpretending woman can accomplish when backed by energy and perseverance.