

A GIRL'S FLOWER GARDEN, AND WHAT SHE CAN DO WITH IT.

PART I. WINTER.



AQUILEGIAS

I AM going to select out of my experiences as an amateur gardener, which now extend over a period of eleven to twelve years, any that I believe will be of benefit to my readers. In taking up flower-gardening, the difficulty is to know where and how to begin, at least that was my difficulty. Those who live in the country and have been gardening more or less all their lives, do it automatically, and if you, as a novice, go to them for advice and help, you get very little of either, because those you inquire of have never thought or reasoned the subject out for themselves, and are therefore little able to supply you with what you seek. Then as for a list of the plants best worth growing, such a desideratum is not to be obtained. A certain number of well-known plants are cultivated in most gardens, but step outside this circumscribed

list and you are in *terra incognita*. In these four articles your Editor has commissioned me to write, I shall devote much of my space to bringing before my readers those plants which I have found best repay cultivation. I hope many of them will prove novelties, but one has necessarily to tell some readers what they may be already familiar with.

It is quite astonishing how circumscribed are the views of most gardeners. Some dozen or so plants are found in nearly every garden, but when one thinks of what one can grow in any ordinary garden with no extraordinary means or appliances, it is the more remarkable that the range of plants is so limited. It seems well-nigh hopeless work looking through an illustrated catalogue, so bewildering is it to select from the dozens, nay, hundreds of plants figured, for it is absurd to contend that all which are glorified in illustration are equally worth growing: this is not so, as I have proved, and many plants that appear attractive in a cut turn out to be disappointing in a border. Therefore to bring a certain number of plants which thrive under all ordinary conditions and yield a good return for the trouble taken in growing them, before my readers is, as I have said, one of the ways I can best help them.



HELIANTHUS

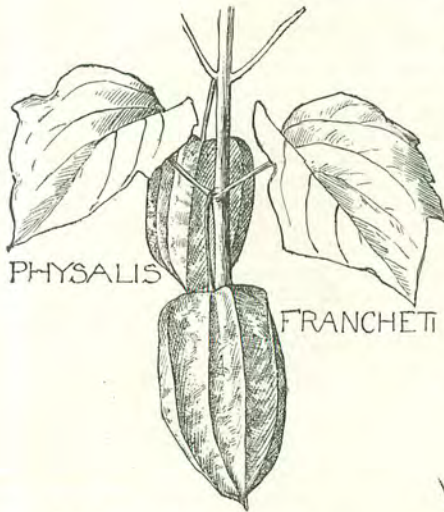


RANUNCULUS

TROLLIUS

HEUCHERA

If I add a new plant to my garden, it is because it is beautiful in itself and can be cultivated without much trouble; for, let me tell you, I have only a very limited amount of time to give to the work, and want therefore to produce the maximum of effect with a minimum expenditure of trouble and money. It is easy to get well-filled borders where money is no object, and where labour is always to be had; it is not by any means so easy to keep a succession of bloom where the work has to be done largely by one pair of hands in a limited amount of time, and at a small cost. I have no glass, only a two-light frame, and therefore cannot well keep tender plants



border, it will fill out by natural increase in a few years. You must be careful in moving the surface not to disturb your bulbs. Use a small hand fork or at all events a narrow fine-pronged one to loosen the surface of the border, and this should be done every autumn or winter, for flower borders want nourishment if your plants are to do well. The best manure is that from an old hot-bed, as it is nice and powdery and can be forked in easily. It is enough, however, to fork over the border and then top dress with manure. If you haven't old manure, then



through the winter, nor start seeds very early in the year. I take it therefore that I garden under very ordinary conditions, such as apply to a large number of amateurs, which is, as your Editor would say, just as it should be.

What can we do at this period of the year? If the weather is open, as it has been for some years past, hardy bulbs and tuberous rooted plants like iris can be planted. I leave my tulip, hyacinth, and narcissus bulbs in year after year, for though the two former may get a little long in the flower stalk, they do not degenerate as one is told happens. Your hyacinths won't be quite such cylinders of bloom as those figured in catalogues, but as all bulbs increase year by year, you will find that where they are left undisturbed in a



use what you can get and leave it to winter rains and worms to draw below the surface.

Road scrapings are excellent for bulbs, especially in heavy soil, and I get the road man to wheel me some in every spring and autumn. It is very necessary in a heavy wet soil to do all you can to lighten it, for the great loss of bulbs year by year is due to their rotting in the ground owing to excess of moisture. Those who have a heavy soil to deal with should, in planting fresh bulbs, use road scrapings, and burnt garden refuse, and even finely-sifted ashes. Make a trench and plant the bulbs in the ashes and scrapings. A little soot sprinkled over the ground when it is forked up is a good thing, for it is not only a fertiliser but keeps wireworm and other pests in check. Half-hardy bulbs that require lifting every autumn, such as gladioli, should not be planted with those which



HELLEBORE (Christmas rose).
ACONITE.

GIANT SNOWDROP.
HEPATICA.

SNOWFLAKE.

IRIS RETICULATA.

ANEMONE FULGENS.
TRILLIUM (Wood-lily).

can be left in the ground, but should be kept to themselves. Those who go in for tub-gardening, a subject I brought before the readers of the "G.O.P." in No. 1058, would find tubs a first-rate position for these half-hardy bulbs.

The hardy lilies, such as candidum and tigrinum, should not be touched if it can be helped. This applies particularly to the white Madonna lily, though this year I have had to replant several groups, as the bulbs had worked to the surface of the border. I forked them up carefully, pulled them apart where necessary, and replanted at once giving them a good bed of road scrapings to rest upon.

A cheap way to get a collection of bulbs is to attend some of the advertised bulb sales. You run a certain amount of risk as to what you get, but even if the bulbs are not of the choicest, they fill out a border, which is after all a great consideration. For pots and glasses it is better to buy suitable bulbs of a reliable house. In growing hyacinths, tulips, narcissus, etc., in pots, make up a compost of road scrapings, burnt garden refuse and earth. Rotted turves cut from the side of the road and sifted garden refuse help to make a good compost. Put plenty of broken flower-pots at bottom to ensure perfect drainage, a thing amateurs too much neglect, and just bury the bulbs up to their crowns, well pressing the soil around them so that they root into a firm bed. This latter is a most important consideration and applies to all seeds and plants. More seedlings are lost through hollow ground than any other cause. Where there is a liability to wire-worm (a narrow yellow worm about an inch long) and slugs, a little soot should be mixed with the compost. When the bulbs are potted, stand them in an empty case the bottom of which has been knocked out, and cover with sifted ashes, and leave them until the bulbs begin to push their way upwards. By starting them away from the light the bulbs make good root growth, which ensures fine blooms.

Any time now is propitious for shifting plants and shrubs. The tall-growing perennials, such as phlox, gillardias, iris, Michaelmas daisies and helianthus, can be taken up, divided and replanted. Even if not absolutely necessary, it does them good to be replanted, especially such plants as phloxes. The soil should be well turned up and a little manure dug in before replanting, and where you do not replant, fork in between the plants and top dress with manure; this will greatly improve your blooms the following year. Notice any seedlings that may have come up from self-sown seeds and plant where you want them.

As regards fertilisers, those who have a light hot soil should give the preference to cow manure, which is cooler than any other. Artificial manure is handy but is better for heavy ground than for light, for in the latter case you want something that will tend to keep moisture in the soil when the hot weather comes. Artificial manures, if used at all strongly, will kill tender plants; therefore it is a good plan to mix it with dry soil and sift on to the border. For pot plants it is useful. There are several kinds advertised, almost any of which may be chosen.

In making up a hot-bed upon which to place a garden frame, get fresh stable manure and stack in a heap, somewhat larger than the frame. A load costing about four shillings will do for a frame about five feet square. When it is stacked, place the frame upon it and then throw in some garden soil covering the space inside the frame about five inches deep. Press this down well, keeping it level and

then leave it for some days. The heat is far too great at first, and the lights should be left partly open to allow of some of the heat to escape. When the heat has dropped until the ground is just pleasantly warm to the hand, your seeds may be planted in the soil covering the manure, but it is better, I find, to plant them in shallow boxes, seedpans or pots. Those sweet boxes about two inches deep do very well if a few holes are bored in the bottom to allow of drainage. The same compost used for potting does for seeds, the main point being to have something light, rather than heavy. Sprinkle the seeds on the surface after you have made the soil firm and then dust a little soil over them, just enough to cover the seeds, but no more. If the soil is dry, give a sprinkling of water and then place in the frame and keep the lights on, though if the heat gets up, then give plenty of ventilation, especially when the seeds have germinated, for excess of heat then will prove fatal to the delicate plants.

Seeds of all perennials can be started as early as January, but should the weather set in severe, there will be trouble to keep frost out. The lights should be covered over at night with old carpet, sacks, etc. By starting thus early, many perennials can be made to bloom the first year, but as it will be some four or five months before you can with safety plant out in the open, you must be prepared to take some trouble in the matter. A frame will keep out any ordinary frost; it is only in the event of really severe weather in January and February that danger is incurred.

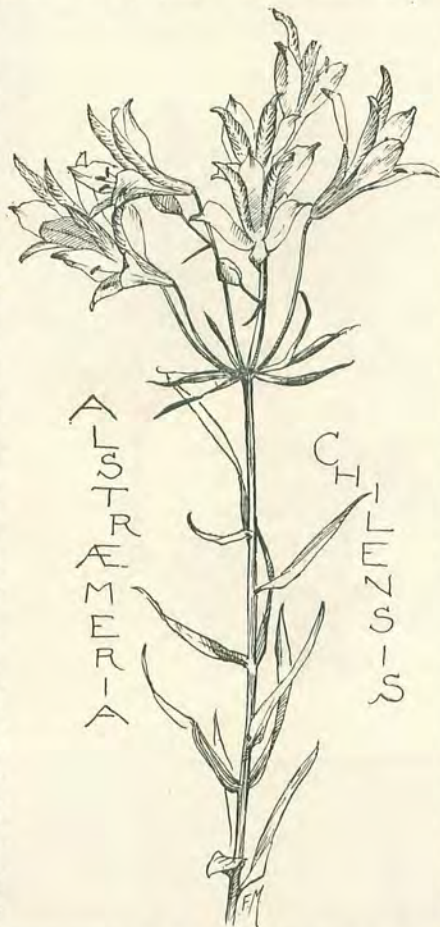
I must not forget to mention the need of pricking out seedlings when they are large enough to handle. If they are in boxes, then turn out all the contents, and plant the seedlings in the soil covering the manure, or better still in small thumb pots. Where a number of seedlings have to be pricked out, make a long shallow drill with a small hoe and then lay the seedlings in, resting on the side opposite to where the surplus soil is. When you have put your seedlings along at intervals of a couple of inches or so, put back the soil and see that it well covers their roots, and then press firm. Hundreds of seedlings may be soon pricked out in this way, whereas it is a long job to make a separate hole for each. If you put them in thumb pots, you can later on turn them out of the pots and into the borders without disturbing the roots, and in the case of choice plants this is worth troubling to do. If seedlings are left crowded in the seed-bed,

they are apt to damp off or get stunted or drawn, drawbacks from which they never recover.

You will remember that the heat is gradually diminishing in your frame as the manure spends itself, so that in a couple of months after starting it, there will be little left. This manure in the autumn is in splendid condition for putting on your flower borders.

Those who cannot trouble about starting a frame must defer operations until March. They can then sow in seedpans, boxes or pots and cover with sheets of glass to check evaporation. A friendly nurseryman might for a small sum put your boxes in one of his warm houses and keep them until you can take the work on for yourself. Those who have a heated conservatory can dispense with a frame.

A frame with lights is not a difficult thing to make or adapt. An empty packing-case, not too deep, with the bottom knocked out will do for the former. A frame can be made with strips of wood three inches wide. This must be divided with strips running lengthways and rebated to



take the glass. I got a carpenter to supply me with these strips, and the glazing I did with old negatives from which the films had been washed off.

I will now give a list of plants that are the earliest to bloom in the year, some of which I have figured so that those readers not familiar with them may get an idea of what they are like.

The Christmas rose, or black hellebore, is the only one of the family I think worth growing. There are many varieties, but their flowers are not nearly as beautiful as the white one. To get perfect blooms very early, bell-glasses or boxes from which the bottom has been knocked out, and with a sheet of glass in lieu of a lid, should be placed over the roots.

There are several varieties of *Hepatica*, the most beautiful, as well as the rarest being the double blue.

The giant snowdrop (*galanthus Elwesi*) is quite the best and should be extensively cultivated; so, too, should the snowflakes, all of which are charming, early-blooming bulbs.

Among the dwarf irises, *reticulata* is the earliest to flower, and in a mild season will bloom in January.

The *Trilliums*, or wood lilies, are charming plants for naturalising, as they prefer a shady spot and will do under trees, as will the *Aconites*.

Among the *Anemones*, *Fulgens*, the scarlet wind flower, is one of the most beautiful. Anemones can easily be grown from seed. Sow where they are to flower. Tubers, of course, will bloom earlier.

Ranunculus and *Trollius*, like anemones, can be grown from seed, but tubers are more reliable and can be bloomed soon after planting. No border should be without these two tuberous plants, as they are free-flowering and with

handsome foliage. Another excellent tuberous plant is *Alstrameria*. I have figured *Chilensis*, but *Aurea* is richer in colour. When well established it is a most beautiful border plant. I have raised it from seed, but it takes two years at least to bloom it.

Heuchera Sanguinea is a most brilliant scarlet bloomer and most effective in a border. It is a good plan after flowering to replant the roots, burying them up to their necks. The plants can be increased in this way, and they make fresh growth, which ensures good blooms next season.

Of *Aquilegias* or columbines, the two figured are among the most distinct. The long spurred one of a golden yellow is *Chrysantha*, and the one with dark outer petals is *Grandulosa*. They are both much more beautiful than the ordinary columbines and have a longer flowering period. *Cerulea* is another good one; so is *Skinneri*, with its yellow and scarlet flowers. All *Aquilegias* can be raised from seed, but it takes two to three years to grow fine plants, though they will bloom a second year.

The new form of winter cherry, *Physalis Franchetti*, is a great improvement on the old one, being three times the size. For winter decoration it is charming, the seed pods being three inches long and a lovely orange red. This is easily raised from seed, and if started early in January can be fruited the same autumn.

Among the tulips none are richer in colour or quaint than the one figured. The parrot tulips should be grown by everyone, and I give the preference to them over the ordinary kind.

All the plants mentioned are hardy perennials. It saves two years to buy plants, but raising them from seed is certainly the more interesting proceeding as well as much the cheaper.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

TWILIGHT CIRCLE.

E. B.—It must be a trial to you that those so near and dear never attend any place of worship. As you are in a situation and not living at home, you have fewer opportunities of letting your daily life testify to the reality of your faith. It is very difficult for the young girl to speak to brothers who are so much older, but, happily, you can speak to God on their behalf. I know that many of our members will think of you, dear, and join in the petition, that those you love may learn to love and serve God. Your account of your work and surroundings interests me very much, and I am specially glad that the little volume containing part of our "Twilight Talks," is so often referred to for help, and not in vain. How those imaginary gatherings still hold us together as a happy band of friends! And, now, through our Circle, I am getting to know my great family of girls individually. What rare friends you all are to me!

SHEILA (New Zealand).—You are quite right to spend part of the little money at your disposal in buying books. A good book is a friend that lasts through life. It enables us to hold quiet communion with persons and minds far beyond our own narrow circle, and, in imagination, to visit far-away lands without leaving our firesides. We should choose our books as carefully as our friends, not for looks or mere amusement, but for lasting qualities in combination with these. I do so feel for you, Sheila dear, and I can so understand the miserable ever-present consciousness of the little personal blemish caused by no fault of your own. Probably others think far less of it than you do. In any case you may, by God's help, become such a dear, kind and really charming girl, that it will be forgotten altogether. You tell me you are trying very hard to be a Christian, to conquer the temptation to say those stinging, hasty words, the memory of which hurts you more than those against whom they were directed. Persevere in effort and in prayer. Try to forget self, and specially that personal blemish the thought of which is a constant torture. Your self-consciousness reminds other people of it. Believe me, one of the best-loved people I ever knew was one who through an accident was seriously deformed, and in such a manner that the blemish was always visible. Nobody ever thought of it because the man himself was such a delightful personality. Highly educated, and with polished manners, joined to a kind, noble, generous nature, he was idolised by all who knew him. Determine that you will be such in yourself that others will find it impossible to dwell upon that one unimportant drawback to your appearance. You ask if it is wrong not to wish to attain old age? Dear, I advise you not to trouble about it. At twenty, old age is in the far distant future. Let it be your desire and prayer to live every day to the glory of God and in a spirit of unselfish love towards your neighbour, and, whether your life be long or short, you will be happy and contented.

LILLIE.—Any "help or friendship" I can extend to you will be willingly given. It is rather difficult to advise you in such a case; but if you are right in the conclusion you have come to, it would be easy to make a gradual change in your manner towards the individual in question. I assume that you meet in society; if so, your smile of welcome and the tone in which you return his greeting may be eloquent enough to tell what your friend would be so glad to know. If you feel utterly incapable of these simple manifestations of regard, I think only a reliable friend, who is the friend of both, can be of use. I wish I could serve you better. I will do what you ask from my heart.

VIOLET.—I have already answered your question, but I will add a few words of advice from *The Imitation of Christ*, by Thomas à Kempis, which may be of service to you and other dear girl correspondents who are too fond of dwelling on isolated texts hard to be understood:—"We should rather search after our soul's profit in the Scriptures than after subtle arguments." "Our own curiosity often hinders us in reading the Scriptures, when we examine and discuss that which we should rather pass over without more ado." "What availeth it to cavil and dispute about dark and hidden things, for ignorance of which we shall not be reproved in the day of judgment?" "He is truly learned that doeth the will of God and forsaketh his own will." You shall have a correspondent. I say "yes" to your other question.

AUSTRALIAN MAID.—You write that despite the rapid growth of our Circle Column there is not half enough of it for you. I think our Editor deals generously with us in regard to space, though I regret that replies are unavoidably a long time in reaching you all. You want the old "Twilight Talks" resumed without giving up the Correspondence. They will be shortly, as so many readers have asked for them. I cannot think your going to Communion would be hypocrisy, though you cannot yet say, "I am wholly Christ's," or "I have perfect peace." You believe in Jesus. You long and you pray for light and guidance to serve God in the way He appoints for you. You avoid all so-called pleasures which seem inconsistent with your Christian profession. You work among the little ones of the flock, "In His name." Would you not find "the strengthening and refreshing of your soul" follow the going to the Lord's table and comfort in simple obedience to His command, "Do this in remembrance of Me"? You know the spirit in which you should go. Penitence for sin, faith in God's mercy through Christ, a spirit of self-dedication to His service and of love and goodwill to your neighbour. I advise you as I would speak to a daughter. It would, doubtless, help you very much if you were to talk over your heart-searchings and difficulties with your clergyman. I can write but little of what is in my heart, and so much can be said in a short time. I wish that you and I may meet some day, though it seems hardly likely.

Englishmen,' or to 'favour' the base Southerner's opinion?"

Dr. John would have laughed, whereas Aunt Anneys only said tranquilly—

"It was a foolish age."

"I don't know that I want to be any wiser. That's one of my troubles, auntie. It is in my blood to think of a journey to England in the light of a raid, and I misdoubt me if I can keep the peace——"

"For thy father's sake, child."

"No, if it stops short of 'scarting and biting'—you don't know what a dreadful temper I have, Aunt Anneys!—it will be for your sake and Uncle John's. I don't think father can expect more from me. Oh, why couldn't he let me be, here? He is opening his home to those Hazlett girls—I think—I think—I could bear it better if I weren't there to see. And if he has them, Aunt Anneys, I don't think I can stand it if he makes comparisons—if he judges me by them."

There were tears in the girl's voice as all these perplexities and fears surged in her brain. Her trouble had pierced beyond the surface feelings of anger and jealousy and was quiveringly alive in her heart. The woman beside her with the still manner and the steadfast eyes paused a moment to find the way to comfort. Perhaps she found it best in the wordless sympathy that made her lay her cheek against the curly head and hold the hand laid on her knee in a firm and tender clasp.

It was Beth who first broke the silence.

"I will try to like them," she said, and her voice had steadied itself. "Perhaps they are nice, even if they are English. Father always has good taste. And if it is too hard, you won't shut the door against me?"

"It will always be open to thee, love."

Bethia gave a little sigh, as if some small part of her burden were rolled off at the assurance. It was perhaps a greater help to her that her aunt was too scrupulously sincere to minimise her difficulties than if she had striven to make light of them. It braced Beth in making her struggle to feel that the necessity for it was understood.

"I'm glad we're all going to Edinburgh," she said, trying to give the conversation a lighter strain. "Can you realise, auntie, that we've never been there together, we three? The hair trunk has always gone with us separately before, like a kind of chaperon. How sorry I'll be to part with the dear old mottled thing for the bravest new one we can buy in Princes Street."

"The new clothes must have a new box."

"And you'll want it for your London journey. You will come? You won't fail me?"

"If thy father asks us, child."

"If he doesn't, I'll punish him by running away. But he will. Mrs. Hazlett says in her note she is quite longing to know you and Uncle John, so you see we mustn't disappoint her. Oh, dear me, shall I ever get used to calling her Mrs. Bethune? I suppose it wouldn't be proper to keep on calling her Hazlett, would it? I don't like her having our name."

"I see no remedy for that but for thee to change thine."

"No, I won't do that," said Beth stoutly. "No base Southron shall ever tempt me. You needn't be afraid of any Mr. Beth turning up inconveniently, auntie. In a very few years I'll be a confirmed old maid, and then I'll come back to Kingsbarns and never leave it!"

(To be continued.)

A GIRL'S FLOWER GARDEN, AND WHAT SHE CAN DO WITH IT.

PART II.

SPRING WORK.

THE sowing of hardy annuals can be made quite early in the year, as soon, in fact, as the soil is workable. The winter of 1899 was mild enough to allow of sweet peas,



which were self-sown the previous autumn, to flower late in the spring, and these peas not only bloomed earlier by a couple of months than those sown early in the year, but they made stronger and more bushy plants. All self-sown annuals can be transplanted if they are lifted carefully with a fork so that the roots are not broken.

One often hears it said that self-sown plants are best. They certainly do well, and the reason, I take it, is that they are not so crowded as those which come up in drills: also those which have germinated in the autumn and survive the winter make good root-growth and so produce sturdy plants, capable of holding their own in the struggle for existence. It is worth while to sow some hardy annuals in the autumn, such as sweet peas, cornflowers, Shirley poppies, etc., and let them take their chance of pulling through the winter, and we have had no winter this last three years severe enough to kill hardy seedlings.

Position has much to do with the growth of plants. Under a south wall many things, like stocks, wallflowers, and scabious, will hardly receive a check during such a winter as this last, while in the open late frosts following a mild winter seriously check and often kill similar plants.

A great many plants, both annuals and perennials, sow themselves, and in looking over the borders in the spring be careful to notice any seedlings worth saving. For instance, such perennials as lupins, geums, antirrhinums, and wallflowers, sow themselves, and one has only then to transplant the seedlings to where you want them to bloom. Fork up the soil to a good depth and thoroughly loosen it, so that you can take up the seedlings without disturbing the roots, and replant them at once, making the soil firm around them, and, if necessary, watering them when planted.



SCABIOSA CAUCASICA.

Annuals can be transplanted, even such ones as Shirley poppies. Here it is important not to disturb the long tap root. Although it says in gardening books, poppies and mignonette will not transplant, it comes to this, that any seedlings can be moved provided care is taken to prevent injury to the roots: it is nevertheless true that such plants as poppies do not transplant well.

The first time I ever tried growing annuals I had the idea, and it is quite a common one, that all one had to do was to buy packets of seeds, sow them in drills and wait for the flowers to greet one with their colour. Now the actual result was most disappointing,



ANTHERICUM.

for either the seeds did not germinate, or the seedlings died off or were eaten by slugs, or were choked by weeds or pulled up in my subsequent efforts to weed the border; but certain it is that very few plants ever came to blooming; and this is not a solitary experience, for years after, in a garden attached to a cottage I took as a studio just off the high road, I made a great effort in order that the patch should blossom as the rose, but with very disappointing results. I tried such flowers as coreopsis, bartonia, sweet sultan and helichrysum (everlasting flowers), but very few plants came to perfection. There is no doubt slugs have a great partiality for seedlings, but a good many do not germinate. Raising them in boxes or pans saves much disappointment, and it is not such a big undertaking, transplanting them, as it appears. Shirley poppies, one of the best annuals for showiness, nasturtiums, and sweet peas and mignonette can be sown out in the borders, but the other flowers I have just mentioned together with corn-



DIELYTRA.

flowers, Indian pinks, sweet scabious, etc., are better raised in boxes and pricked out when large enough.

Most small seeds, like poppy, are sown far too thickly, the result being that the plants get crowded, and hence never come to perfection. Be most drastic in the thinning and give them plenty of room. One poppy or cornflower will cover a circle two feet or more in diameter, and yet often twenty plants will be left to fill such a space! This is where transplanting tells, for there is no danger of overcrowding where every plant is put out singly, whereas in sowing seed one cannot realise that such minute grains will, if they germinate, grow into big plants. These hardy annuals can be started in heat but must on no account be coddled, or they will get drawn and lose their vigour. Where no heat is available, boxes or pots covered with sheets of glass and placed in a warm sheltered position will be sufficient, though plants so raised will be later in blooming than where seeds are started in a frame early in the spring.

The half hardy annuals like petunias, salpiglossis, stocks, etc., must be raised

in the warm if any good results are to follow, as otherwise the plants are not forward enough for a long flowering season to follow. Early March is a



ICELAND POPPY.

good time to commence operations, and get a frame in working order, as your plants are good ones by the end of May, and your blooming period is then a long one. As soon as the seeds are up in the frame give plenty of ventilation, for nothing so robs plants of their constitution as allowing them to get "drawn" and wiry in the seedbed. Transplant into thumb pots or shallow boxes as soon as large enough. A compost of road scrapings and garden soil sifted does well. There should be no rank manure in soil where seedlings are to be grown.

Late flowering bulbs and tubers, such as lilioms, iris, montbretia, gladioli, tritomas (poker plants), tigridias, milla biflora as well as dahlias, should be got in now. Gladioli, blooming as they do in the late autumn, should be extensively cultivated. The commoner kinds and seedlings can be had from one shilling a dozen. Those who have bulbs by them will find it a good plan to start them in pots in the warm, and then put



DORONICUM (LEOPARD'S BANE).



GEUM, DOUBLE AND SINGLE.

out in the borders. Leaf mould, road scrapings, burnt refuse, especially where the soil is heavy, make a good compost for such plants. Those who go in for tub-gardening (see No. 1058 of the "G. O. P.") would find lilies and tuberous plants of the lily tribe do well in them. Dahlias are too spreading and take up too much room. These, by the way, can be kept year after year if the tubers are stored in sand or other dry siftings and kept out of the way of frost. I lost all mine a year ago through the damp rotting the tubers. If one could assure a winter as mild as the late ones, then dahlias could be left in the ground. The only plant which I had to bloom was a tuber left in the ground accidentally. Those who have dahlias by them should start them now in a frame (a cold one does). Put the plants just as you took them up into the frame and almost cover with soil, and when they have well shot up they can be divided with a sharp knife, taking care to cut them so that each shoot has a tuber to it. One shoot will make a good plant later on when you put them out in the borders, towards the end of May. Single dahlias are more effective and useful for cutting

than the double varieties. Those who haven't plants should sow a packet of seed in heat early in March. Plants from these seeds if put out into thumb pots when large enough from the seed-bed, and then turned out into the borders in June will bloom in the autumn.

I spoke just now about a cold frame.



ADONIS.

This is a frame with no manure under it, and it is very useful to have such a frame to put seedlings in when they have germinated in the hot bed, as they do not then get coddled or drawn.

Those who have not already sown sweet peas should get them in at once. It is a flower I always have plenty of in my garden, for there is nothing better for cutting or table decoration.

Get good seed, as sweet peas have much improved these last few years, the varieties of colour being very numerous and the blooms large. Some gardeners sow sweet peas in pans and then transplant the seedlings, but I have never resorted to this plan nor do I think it necessary. Don't sow too thickly, as better results are obtained where each plant has room to expand. This is advice that has general application, for all seeds are invariably sown far too thickly, as I have before pointed out.

All other hardy seeds can be drilled now; such as mignonette, poppies, cornflowers, coreopsis, sweet sultan, bartonia, helichrysum (the best of the everlastings), nasturtiums, larkspur, but, as I have said, with the exception of the first two, it is better to sow in boxes, or, at all events, in a seed-bed and transplant carefully, than sow at once in the borders.



BALLOON FLOWER.



SQUILL.

DOGTOOTH VIOLET.

MUSK HYACINTHS.

IRIS RETICULATA.

PUSCHKINIA.

ALLIUM PEDEMONTANUM.

Those who buy their plants instead of raising them should lose no time in getting such things as pansies, sweet Williams, scabious, dwarf antirrhinums, pentstemons, campanulas, Indian pinks, carnations, lupins, hollyhocks, etc., into their borders, though by the time this article appears it will be getting late in the season for any but bedding plants, as nothing shifts well when it is in full growth. Those who have seedlings which require shifting should very carefully fork them up by sending a fork (one of the narrow ones is best) well down below the roots, and, if possible, take up the plants with plenty of earth to them, so that their growth is not checked. If the weather sets in dry, water for a few days to help them to get hold of the ground.

It is now too late to make any radical change to one's borders, for large-growing perennials should not be shifted as late as this. The surface where it has not been disturbed should be carefully forked up, for bulbs that have been in all the winter will be well through by this time, so that there will be no danger of disturbing them, and if any stimulant be applied it is better now to use some kind of artificial, but be careful to sow it on very sparingly and see that it does not touch the plants. Slugs and snails are very troublesome at this season, and thousands of seedlings are lost in one night by being eaten off. A little soot dusted over the ground and around any particular plant will prove a check, but a walk round with a lamp in the evening will well repay one, as the wretches can be picked off and destroyed.

Where plants are crowded, which is often the case with self-sown ones, be relentless in thinning them, even if you have to destroy them, for more borders are spoilt by overcrowding than any other thing. One is inclined to be too tender in this matter, and look upon a plant as something too precious to be destroyed. This feeling must not be encouraged.

A word or two now with regard to the illustrations. In the long one I have grouped together a number of bulbous plants which should be found in every garden. The ordinary squill is well known, but there is a large flowering variety which is far superior. Grape hyacinths again should be more often seen than they are, for they increase very rapidly and will grow anywhere. The allium has purple flowers, which last long in water.

The dwarf iris is very curious, and flowering as it does early and taking up little room should cause it to have a place in every border.

Adonis vernalis is a good border plant and should be extensively cultivated, as the flowers are bright yellow and from two to three inches across.

Other bulbous plants in bloom now worth growing are crown imperials.

The anthericum (St. Bruno's lily), with its white flowers and grass-like foliage, is a charming plant.

The ordinary German scabious is one of the freest

blooming plants that can be grown. It is a biennial, but blooms the first year if sown in heat early. The other one figured is a perennial, and a most beautiful and effective plant, with its large pale mauvish blue or white flowers. Other effective perennials are the campanulas (the one figured is one of the best), though *pyramidalis* and *persicifolia* are good, so too is the balloon flower (*C. Mariesi*) of the Japanese, which is far too little known, as it is quite unique from its dwarf free-flowering habit.

Gaillardias are amongst the showiest of perennials, and as they are easily raised from seed, should be extensively grown. They vary somewhat in colour, but the showiest are those in which red, black and yellow are found. They have a tendency to die out if left year after year, though seedlings are usually found where old plants have bloomed.

Geums and potentillas are very striking. Both can be raised from seed, though like gaillardias and most perennials, they will not often bloom the first year.

The geum, with its scarlet flowers which keep coming all through the summer, is most useful for cutting. Potentillas are classed amongst florists' flowers, and to ensure good varieties plants had better be purchased, though I must confess it greatly adds to the interest of gardening to raise all one can from seed. Expectancy is aroused, and though much of what one rears may not be of the choicest, yet a few successes atone for many disappointments.

The musk mallow is a very effective plant, with its white delicate petalled blooms. It is very free-flowering and readily seeds itself, so that when once introduced into a garden it can always be depended upon to propagate itself; in fact, it will over-run the border unless kept in check. The sweet-scented rocket, too, is worth having for its fragrance, though it is somewhat plebeian in appearance.

The dielytra or "bleeding heart," with its white and red pendulous, quaint-shaped flowers, should be seen in every garden. Plants should be purchased, as it is difficult to raise from seed.

Doronicums with their yellow daisy-like flowers are a feature in the garden at this time. It is a plant that keeps spreading when once established.

Shirley poppies are among the showiest of annuals, but it is well to keep seed-pods picked off as much as possible, as the flowering season is thereby prolonged. If seeded year after year without fresh purchase of seed, it has a tendency to lose variety of colouring and will eventually revert to the wild state. The Iceland poppy, with its white, yellow and copper-coloured flowers, is an excellent dwarf perennial, but it has a tendency to die out unless fresh plants are raised from seed. It is most useful for cutting and table decoration.

Ranunculus, *trollius*, and other tuberous-rooted plants may be put in in the early spring, but if left too late they will not bloom the same year. Anemones planted now may bloom in the autumn.

VARIETIES.

SHE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND IT.

A lady in India, sent to the hills by her husband, was given a banking account for the first time.

In a few weeks—such was the joy of signing her name on the perforated slips of paper—she received a letter from the manager of the bank informing her that her account was overdrawn.

To this the lady replied as follows:—"Dear Sir, I cannot understand how there can be no more money in the bank as I have several more cheques left in my book. However, as you say so, I suppose it is true, and enclose one of the remaining cheques made out for the amount overdrawn."

THE HAPPY LIFE.

Would you live an angel's days,
Be honest, just, and wise always.

USELESS LABOUR.

Some hunts are vain—no earthly gain has she
Who searches for her needle in the sea.

Chinese Saying.

WOMEN YOUNG AND WOMEN OLD.

A well-known philosopher was, once asked by a pretty young girl of seventeen why it was he liked women she would call old. Said he—

"Perhaps it lies in the fact that the woman of twenty must be pleased, while the woman of forty tries to please, and the older woman's power consists, not as has been so often said, in understanding and making the most of her own charms, but in comprehending and with happy tact calling out and making the most of the good qualities of the man whose favour she seeks."



GIRL'S FLOWER GARDEN, AND WHAT SHE CAN DO WITH IT.

PART III.

SUMMER GARDENING FOR GIRLS.

THE work of the summer divides itself into getting out the plants still under

cover, and thinking of the following year; for a gardener can only enjoy the present by keeping an eye fixed on the future. Where there are gaps in the borders, now is the time to fill them with bedding-plants raised in your frame, or where that has been impossible, by plants purchased. The one thing to aim at in arranging a border is to have a good show of bloom for as long a period as possible, and to accomplish this means looking well ahead. Many bulbs, for instance, are now over, as well as early blooming plants. Narcissus will now be in bloom, with the white madonna lilies to follow; but we must have things ready to take the place of those flowers which have bloomed and faded. I grow my bulbs together, *i.e.*, I have crocuses, daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, and narcissus mixed, and by planting them in rows, I know pretty well where they are, so that when forking up the borders I can avoid disturbing them. But as these go off, and I do not take them up, it is necessary to have plants coming on to keep the borders filled; and here annuals are of great use. As seedlings, they take up little room, and can therefore be put out close to a row of bulbs, and while the former go off, these latter come on. I keep my late flowering perennials, such as phlox, helianthus, asters, pyrethrums, etc., at the back of the borders, so that as the year wanes and the borders begin to give out, these perennials last until the frosts end the blooming season. Dahlias should be placed well at the back, for they take up a great deal of room, and tend to choke small plants. Those who have raised single ones from seed, or started tubers, should get them out at once. Those who go in for begonias

should plant them out now. Tubers should have been started in pots some time in March or April, but as frost is death to them, do not plant out until June. The large-flowered single and double begonias are very showy, and as the tubers keep like dahlias, I think my readers would find them more effective and more economical than geraniums. For tubs they are admirable. If started in pots, they can be planted out late in the season, and so take the place of plants which have failed or finished blooming. Gladioli,



CAMPANULA.



PENTSTEMON AND DWARF ANTIRRHINUM.



NIGHT AND DAY-FLOWERING TOBACCO.

started in pots, should now be got out without disturbing the roots.

Tom Thumb or dwarf nasturtiums make a capital border-plant, varied in colour, taking up little room, and with a long blooming period. It is not too late to plant seed, or, better still, plant out seedlings raised in pots. *Tropaeolum tuberosum* and *speciosum*, which are perennial varieties, should be added.

A second sowing of sweet peas can be made quite early in June, but it is late, as they will come into flower in the dry hot season, and unless they can be kept watered, will soon go off. A word as to watering a border. It is better to give it a good soaking one night and then leave it for a week or more, than just to sprinkle the surface nightly, for it is the moisture at the roots that does the good. I get the maid to give bath-water and all waste water to the borders so soon as dry weather sets in, and by putting it on a fresh part day by day the borders

close to the house are thus kept watered. Well-water is always considered by country folk to be injurious; but this can only be because it is too cold. If drawn and stood out for a day or two in the sun, this objection is removed. The parks are watered with water straight from the mains, and it does not appear to hurt these borders.

Where there are a large number of seedlings to put out, you will find it a good plan to go round and make holes with a small hand-fork. I prefer this to a trowel, as the fork loosens the ground as well as makes a hole, and when the seedling is put in you can press the soil firmly around the roots—a very important point. When you have made holes wherever necessary, then just lay in your seedlings, afterwards going round to press them into the ground. In this way hundreds can be quickly got out.

In my own garden I go in for mixed borders, with no rigid formality, and therefore the ordinary bedding-stuff, such as lobelia, geraniums, and calceolarias, arranged in lines, is not what I affect. So long as my borders yield plenty of bloom and look gay, I don't much care how the plants are placed, though there should be a certain method in one's madness. A few ten-week stocks and asters are always welcome, and fill up pleasantly many a vacant spot; but I do not believe in making them a leading feature in the garden, for this putting of all one's energies into two or three species is surely a mistake, for when these have bloomed and begin to go off, the borders look seedy before their time. I prefer to have a good many varieties of plants in my borders, and I am sure it is the wiser course for those who have to rely chiefly on themselves, and cannot get much, if any, hired help.

Some plants are sure to fail, so it is



DAHLIAS, SINGLE AND CACTUS.

always well to keep a few in reserve with which to fill up gaps. Keep seed-pods off as much as you can, for the period of flowering is greatly prolonged if plants are not allowed to seed. Therefore cut your flowers freely; the more you cut the more you have.

Now is the time to sow perennials and biennials, as by the autumn you ought to have good sturdy plants, which will bloom the following year. I am an advocate of using seed-pans, boxes, or pots in preference to the open ground, for it is so much easier to keep small seedlings weeded if so grown than if raised out in the open. However, that is a matter each gardener must decide for him or herself. If you sow in the open, put the seeds in drills. Sow thinly, cover lightly; have a firm seed-bed. Label the rows, and keep carefully weeded. In the case of antirrhinums



TULIP GRIGEI, AND PERSICA.
GENTIAN.

HOOP-PETTICOAT DAFFODIL.
PRIMULAS.

FRITILLARY.

CALOCHORTUS.

and wallflowers, the dwarf varieties will be found more compact, and therefore better adapted for narrow borders than the tall varieties. Carnations are worth raising from seed, as, though many may turn out single, yet seed from a good grower will always throw a fair percentage of doubles. The marguerite variety can be bloomed the first year if raised early. Dianthus or Indian pinks and mule pinks are worthy of more attention than they usually receive, though the fact that they are scentless is thought by some to be a great drawback; still, Indian pinks are very showy and freeblooming. Don't forget foxgloves, evening primroses, honesty, scabious, and hollyhocks. *Physalis Fanchetti* sown now will bloom and fruit the following year. Anemones should be sown where they are to bloom. Polyanthus, hardy primulas, pansies, violas, Canterbury bells, Iceland and oriental poppies, hollyhocks, myosotis (*decussata*), aquilegias, gaillardias, should be sown now to bloom next year.

The taller perennials, such as phloxes, campanulas, delphiniums, and even pyrethrums, take two years to bloom, or at all events do very little the year after they are raised from seed, while tuberous-rooted and bulbous plants, like alstræmerias, asphodels, anthericums, and gladioli do not bloom until the third year, *i.e.*, two years from the time the seed is sown. Some seeds, too, are very slow in germinating. Those who have a frame should certainly use it to raise seeds in during the summer, as, the area being confined, one is much more likely to keep all that is in it under one's ken.

In the long drawing the two species of tulip are somewhat of a novelty, as is the calochortus, but they are all worth growing. The fritillary again, which is found in certain fields round Oxford, makes a capital border-plant. The narcissus, too, though of unique shape, is far too seldom seen. The two primulas are both worth growing, with the old-fashioned polyanthus and the oxlip, hose-in-hose and auricula, and crimson primrose. All these can be raised from seed.

The gentian figured is a dwarf species, but there are several other kinds growing from one to two feet high. The fact that there are only a few blue flowers should make the gentians worth cultivating. Salvias are treated as half-hardy annuals, and their deep blue flowers, very much the colour of the gentian, make them noticeable in a border. *Anchusa Italica* is a blue flowering perennial, grown often by bee-keepers, and should find a place in a garden.

Of all half-hardy annuals the salpiglossis is quite one of the best, and I only realised this summer, when visiting a friend's garden, what a showy plant it is. In good soil they grow two to three feet high, and almost every colour is represented, the range of tints being very wide. Petunias are useful for bordering, and for tubs, as they bloom until cut down by frost. I have figured two kinds, but the "filled" variety is to be preferred.

The day-flowering tobacco has a different growth from the ordinary *nicotiana*, and as it will grow from five to six feet high, is a good plant for the back of a border. It is not so strongly scented as the night-flowering variety, which, by the way, is perennial in mild winters. Pentstemons come under the head of florists' flowers, but they can be raised from seed like antirrhinums, and I have had them live for four years in a sheltered position under a wall, as they are quite hardy in ordinary winters. There are some very charming colours among them, which fact makes pentstemons choicer in appearance than the well-known snap-dragon, though these I grow extensively, especially the dwarf variety. Pentstemon seedlings are usually kept in a cold frame through the winter, and put out in the spring.

Of the dozens of annuals figured in catalogues, those I have sketched are some best worth growing. They are free-flowering, decorative both in foliage and bloom, and have a long flowering period. The coreopsis is a great favourite with me, as its mahogany red and yellow flowers are very distinctive. There is considerable variety of tint, too, in the blooms. The larger flower is *coreopsis grandiflora*, a showy, bright yellow-blooming perennial, which, if sown now, will flower next summer; but I found that it died out after blooming, which is the case with other perennials, to wit hollyhocks.

Another annual I grow extensively is the cornflower. The larkspur, too, is effective, and when you have once had these two plants in your garden you need not trouble to sow afterwards, though the plants will degenerate in time, so fresh seeds should be sown. As a half-hardy bedding annual, the nemesia is very distinctive. In growth it somewhat resembles a cowslip, but it varies greatly in colour, red and orange predominat-

ing. Planted in masses, it makes a showy border, but as it blooms early in the summer it will require to be replaced later on with other things.

Many plants require "layering"—*i.e.*, partially burying to cause them to make fresh growth. This applies to carnations, pinks, forget-me-nots, heuchera, violas and pansies. Where you have choice carnations and pansies, the former should have shoots pegged down and covered with "sharp" soil or sand. The stems can be cut half-way through to induce them to root. Pansies and violas can be taken up, divided, and planted up to their necks. Forget-me-not and heuchera should also be so treated, and in the late autumn they can be put where they are to bloom.

Liliums or other plants turned out into the borders now should have been grown in pots, and care must be taken to disturb the roots as little as possible.

The summer-flowering chrysanthemum, which is in bloom in August and September, could be put out as late as this if grown in pots. It is an admirable perennial.



SALPIGLOSSIS.

GAILLARDIA.



A GIRL'S FLOWER GARDEN, AND WHAT SHE CAN DO WITH IT.

PART IV. AUTUMN WORK.

IN a garden which is planned with forethought the late summer and autumn ought to be a period of profusion as regards bloom, for the late-flowering perennials, such as *anemone japonica* (the white variety for preference), *pyrethrum uliginosum*, with its heads of large daisy-like flowers, asters or Michaelmas daisies, golden rod and perennial sunflowers, should be either in or just coming into bloom. Dahlias, too, will be in full blow and should lend their gaiety to the garden until the frost cuts them down. I have a preference for the single ones, and there are few showier spots in the garden in September than where a bed of dahlias is in bloom, as their rich and varied colours and tall graceful growth make them conspicuous plants wherever they are seen. Seedlings raised in gentle heat early in the year and put out in the borders towards the end of May will bloom in August and September, but they require to be well watered to do well, as they are thirsty souls. When the foliage has died down, the tubers should be lifted and stored in a box, with ashes to cover them—for damp will cause them to rot—and kept out of the frost. With a little care a collection may be kept for years. The cactus varieties are also very striking, though the tendency to flower low down amongst the foliage makes



PYRETHRUMS.



INCARVILLEA DELAVAYI. HELIANTHUS RIGIDUS. TIARELLA CORDIFOLIA. SPIRÆA ARUNCUS. ERIGERON COULTERI.
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them far less effective than the single varieties.

The plant figured, *Cosmos*, is a beautiful dahlia-like plant, with fine fern-like foliage. I sketched it in the Oxford Botanic Garden, where it grows five feet or so high.

Among tuberous and bulbous plants in bloom now, one must not omit the *Tritomas* or poker plants, several varieties of which are to be had for about 10s. 6d. a dozen. They should be planted at the back of the mixed border. The *Eremurus*, figured with *hyacinthus candicans*, which grows in suitable situations nine to ten feet high, covered for four feet with sweetly-scented peach-coloured blooms. *Tigridias*, or day-lilies, a genus of iris-like plants with large and brilliant flowers.



HYACINTHUS CANDICANS. EREMURUS.
(From 4 to 5 feet.) (From 6 to 10 feet.)

Montbretias with their brilliant lily-like scarlet flowers and grassy foliage. In dry well-drained soils these can be left in the ground year after year, when they will increase.

While a large number of lilies are over, the *Speciosum* section and the *Tigers* are to be seen as late as September, but the earliness or lateness of the blossoming period is largely due to strength or lightness of soil, and consequently the amount of moisture at the roots. In a hot dry summer on the sandy soil Surrey gardeners are familiar with, all plants come into bloom early; consequently their life is shorter than where the conditions are less dry. A garden I knew well years ago in Norfolk, where the sub-soil was a stiff clay, September and October were as good months as any for a display of bloom. With regard to lily bulbs it is not necessary to take up any of the varieties known as "hardy," even such as *auratum*, where the border is well drained, but if a spell of



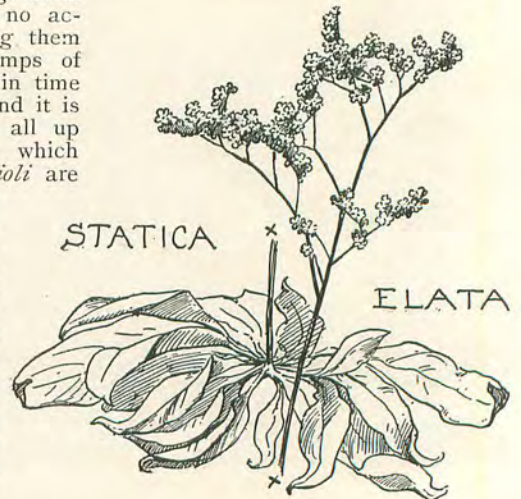
severe weather sets in, then it is advisable to protect them with straw and litter. The severe frost of 1894 killed a great many perfectly hardy plants. Such lilies as *candidum*, *tigrinum* and *umbellatum* should on no account be disturbed, as shifting them checks them. In large clumps of *candidum* the bulbs are apt in time to be forced to the surface, and it is then necessary to fork them all up carefully and replant them, which should be done now. *Gladioli* are among the showiest of autumn flowers, and as the ordinary scarlet one, *Brenchleyensis*, can be had for from 5s. to 6s. a hundred bulbs, it ought to be made a feature in the border, as they can be planted among other plants and will come into bloom when their neighbours, maybe, are over. Though it is said in light soil they can be left in the ground through the winter, it is safer to lift the bulbs and store them in the dry like



dahlias. This applies to *tigridias* as well. The choicer hybrids are much more expensive, varying from 2s. 6d. to 10s. per dozen. Mixed seedlings can be had for 12s. per hundred, and there would be some delightful surprises among them. To flower gladioli from seed takes from three to four years.

Remember that all bulbous plants should be allowed to die quite down, so that the bulbs are well ripened for next year's growth. Many bulbs fail to flower because the foliage has been cut off too soon. This applies particularly to bulbs planted on lawns; the grass must not be cut until the leaves have died down or nearly so.

Hyacinthus candicans is an effective plant if it has a background of dark foliage, such as rhododendron or



of every shade of blue, crimson, purple and white. About 1s. 6d. per dozen.

Sparaxis have a dwarf stiff habit, owers erect instead of drooping, varied and brilliant in colour. About 1s. per dozen or 5s. 6d. per hundred.

Calochortus, or Californian tulips, are a brilliant class of bulbous plants requiring abundance of sun heat. They are about 3s. per dozen.

Milla bifolia, a beautiful Mexican plant producing large waxy-white flowers up to the end of September, sweetscented.

All the above, with the exception



SAXIFRAGIA
CYMBULARIA



HELIANTHUS PUMILUS.

laurel, to throw it into relief. The flower-stems will run from three to four feet high in good soil. It is perfectly hardy and about 1s. 6d. per dozen.

For autumn planting in dry soil and in warm sheltered situations the following bulbous plants should be tried by those who are unfamiliar with them.

Ixias, if planted early, say September or October, will be up by Christmas, and are apt to suffer from frosts; so in cold situations November and December is early enough. They vary in colour from white, yellow, rosy purple to azure blue. About 3s. 6d. per hundred.

Tritomas, somewhat like miniature gladioli, having varied and soft transparent shades of colour. About 1s. per dozen.

Babianas, a very pretty group of Cape bulbs, forming tufts of broad hairy foliage from which issue stout branching stems bearing large flowers



RUDBECKIA PURPUREA

of the last, can be treated as hardy bulbs in warm dry situations, and it would be interesting to have a border set apart for them with montbretia, gladioli, and tigridias at the back. The two latter with the milla must be lifted and stored away through the winter, and the others should be protected during severe frosts with straw and other warm litter.

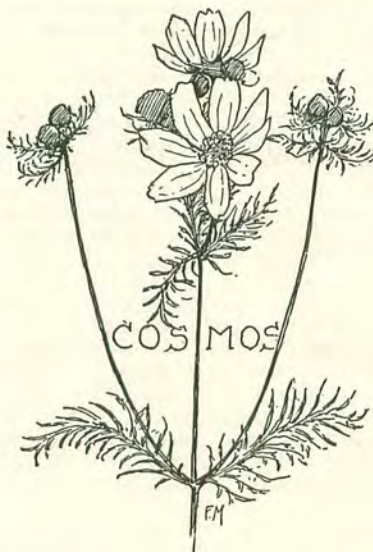
These plants, by the way, all do well in pots, and those who have a conservatory or frame should certainly grow

them in pots, or at all events start them so, even if they plant them out later on.

The autumn is the time for lifting herbaceous plants if it is desirable to divide them. Those who have some good pyrethrums, a plant easily raised from seed, should lift them and cut the crowns in half, and take the opportunity to well fork up the ground and to dig in some good rotten manure, leaf-mould and other fresh soil. This applies to delphiniums, gaillardias, aquilegias and phlox, for if left year after year the soil gets impoverished and the plants deteriorate, if they do not die out. All these can be divided if the crowns are large, as indeed can most perennials. In this way you increase your stock without further outlay.



SALVIA



COSMOS



MONTBRETIA

Those who do not want to take up their plants should carefully fork around them, using a narrow fork, such as can be purchased for the purpose, and then mulch with manure, which will work in during the winter.

All hardy bulbs should be got in during the autumn. Hyacinths, tulips and narcissus can be planted in October, and the failure many meet with in either not obtaining good blooms or none at all is often due to late planting, when the bulb has wasted much of its vigour through being kept out of the ground when it ought to be making growth. I am aware that late in the season bulbs are offered at very reduced prices, and it may be a very good investment to buy them, though the immediate return is likely to be small. I have said elsewhere that I leave my bulbs in the ground year after year and find that they increase and do not deteriorate to a very appreciable extent. Hyacinths and tulips will not give such monster blooms as new bulbs, but in a mixed border they are more in harmony with their surroundings, where they grow as they will, than if new bulbs are planted.

None of the *Narcissi* should be lifted. By planting bulbs in rows in the border and marking the position with sticks, they need not be disturbed when you dig the ground over in the autumn, and the soil can then be just loosened on the surface without damaging the bulbs. Annuals can be put out on either side of the bulbs, which, as they die down, are replaced by the annuals or other plants. By a little forethought and arrangement no border need be bare during the summer and autumn, for if the bulbs are in long narrow rows about midway down a border with tall-growing perennials, say two feet from them at the back and a foot or more in front, then you can have rows of annuals such as coreopsis, sweet sultan, bartonia, dwarf nasturtiums, stocks, asters, and petunias, together with biennials, like scabious, Indian pinks, and Iceland poppies.

Those who have raised a number of hardy perennials from seed should put out the sturdiest plants in the borders, and assuming that the seedlings have already been pricked out, which should have been done as soon as they were large enough to handle, then in shifting them disturb the roots as little as you can, so as not to check their growth more than possible. September is a good month for this operation, as they then get established before the winter. So many small plants die during the winter because of being put out too late in the season, thus failing to establish themselves before the cold weather. Be sure and plant all firmly, making the soil tight around the seedlings.

Delphiniums, pentstemons, pyrethrums, campanulas, scabious Caucasica, aquilegias, hollyhocks, geums, winter cherry, Iceland poppies, carnations, alstroemeria, and many others can be raised from seed, but it must be remembered that it takes two to three years to grow good plants, though many will bloom the second year, while bulbous and tuberous ones cannot be flowered under three, four or five years. Still, growing plants from seed is much more interesting than buying them, as well as far less costly.

It is an excellent plan to keep seedlings in a cold frame through the winter, especially such plants as pentstemons, scabious, and hollyhocks. The protection the frame affords them during frosts gives one larger and more forward plants the following spring, consequently with a longer as well as earlier flowering period. Such seedlings are better in pots, and the pots should be plunged up to their rims in earth or ashes. In the spring the plants can be taken carefully out of the pots without disturbing the roots, and put into the borders. Plant them where they can be seen, as slugs are partial to seedlings. A dusting of ashes and soot puts these wretches off their feed.

Those who wish to strike roses should take cuttings in September, and bury them in some shady spot in the garden within a few inches of their tops. The cuttings should be so cut as to have a "heel" of older wood, i.e., wood of last year's growth, as it is from this heel of old

wood that the rootlets are made. Some varieties strike readily, while others seem indisposed to root. Shoots from bush roses can be pegged down and covered with soil, and when they have rooted can be cut off and planted elsewhere.

Carnations should be layered in the autumn. A good plan is to slit each shoot in a slanting direction on the outside about half-way through, then with pegs or stout hair-pins peg them down outwards, and cover with sifted road-scrappings and soil. These shoots will strike, and in the summer good "grass" and fine blooms will result. The carnation tribe all have a tendency to grow long and straggly, and they must be treated as I have just described or else taken up in the autumn, divided and replanted up to their necks in rows. This treatment causes the plants to "break," and so make fresh root-growth, which keeps them vigorous.

The autumn is the time for doing up one's borders, and getting ready for your spring show. Wallflowers, Brompton and other stocks, dwarf antirrhinums, scabious, forget-me-nots, and other hardy bedding plants should be put out. The borders by the house and round lawns should be well forked over, and some well-decayed manure dug in, for remember that flowers are very exhausting to the soil, and borders near the house suffer much in dry weather from drought, so that they need plenty of nourishment to sustain plant life. Hardy annuals can with advantage be sown in the autumn, and I find sweet peas, cornflowers, and Shirley poppies are much more vigorous, and come into bloom from one to two months earlier than spring-sown seeds.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

I have grouped in the long illustration five very showy and interesting hardy perennials that should find a place in every garden.

The *Incarvillea* has handsome foliage, not unlike acanthus, forming a bush from one and a half to two feet high, and bearing scapes, well above the foliage, of large allamanda-like flowers of a bright rosy or crimson purple.

Helianthus rigidus is one of the best of the sunflowers, growing three feet high and bearing a profusion of bright golden flowers with a black disc. The *Helianthus pumilus* is a dwarf species, about two feet, with pale yellow flowers.

The *Tiarella* or foam flower is a striking object when well established, its profusion of white flowers being very distinct. It is dwarfish in habit.

Spirea Aruncus is the most graceful of its class, growing from one and a half to two feet.

The *Erigeron* forms large compact bushes surmounted by delicate star-like whitish flowers.

Campanula Macrostyla is a very distinct species, with mauvish-blue flowers. It grows about three feet high, and is not common. I made the sketch in the Oxford Botanic Garden.

Rudbeckia purpurea has handsome dark-green leaves, in shape like a sunflower, with large purplish-pink flowers.

Helianthus flower into the autumn, bearing bright yellow flowers. Height about eighteen inches.

H. Bolanderi is another good variety.

Pentstemon gentianoides, sometimes called *Chelone Barbata*, has bright red flowers borne on slender stems with dark foliage, which renders it a graceful and striking plant. There is a variety called *P. Barbatus*.

Cheiranthus Sibiricus resembles a wallflower, but the orange colour of its flowers makes it quite distinct.

Statice elata bears racemes of pale lavender-like flowers well adapted for cutting.

Statice latifolia, the great sea lavender, is another good species.

Salvias must be treated as half-hardy annuals. Their deep gentian-blue flowers make them very distinct in a border; they are free flowering. In growth they resemble *Lobelia Cardinalis*, also an excellent and showy plant.

