

The cultivation of the Chrysanthemum for conservatory decoration is remarkable for its simplicity. If the cuttings are struck in February or March, potted off when nicely rooted, and the plants shifted on, as occasion requires, until they are put in the pots in which they are to bloom, the result will be a grand display of colour during November and a part of December.

The plants will require shifting twice—the first shift being into six-inch pots, and the second into pots nine inches in diameter. To form bushy specimens, stop them twice; the first stopping being performed when they are nicely established in the three-inch pots in which they were put when potted off separately, and the second when in the six-inch pots. They must have an open position during the summer season, and be well supplied with water. Sometimes the foliage will be attacked with green-fly, but this pest can be kept in subjection by dusting the leaves with tobacco-powder. To ensure fine flowers, the buds must be thinned to one to each shoot, the terminal bud being usually the best to preserve. S. H.

GARDEN BOWERS.

BY A KENTISH GARDENER.



PROPERLY constructed, a summer-house or bower, when nicely covered with climbing plants, is so much appreciated during the summer months, that I trust you will afford me space in the pages of the FLORAL WORLD to make a few remarks upon the subject; I feel assured they will be useful to amateurs, and before commencing to deal with the details, I would observe that now is the best time for planting climbing and other hardy plants, as they will obtain sufficient root-hold before the winter to enable them to make a vigorous growth in spring.

To have suitable, well-made bowers in a garden, and to cover trellises well, are matters of importance. Frequently the plants are badly selected, subjects are used that are disagreeable from some causes or other, and therefore we rather take an interest in gathering together those really suitable, and a considerable amount of practical knowledge of the work is essential to a proper performance. It should be remarked that many of the plants suited for bowers, are equally well adapted for trailing over stumpy places, rough banks, and rough rockeries; notably, the vines with which we begin our selection. The following kinds of vines are simply useful for their trailing power, so to speak:—*Vitis æstivalis*, *V. cordifolia*, *V. heterophylla variegata*, *V. riparia*, *V. Sieboldii*, *V. vinifera apiifolia*, *V. vulpina*; useful for falling over rocks, for low trellises, and even for bedding out.

We ought, perhaps, to commence with the Ivies; for this purpose certainly nothing can equal them as evergreen coverings for bowers. One of the prettiest bowers (for winter) that we have seen

was covered with the Irish ivy. It was simply like a great isolated niche, not deep, and with no sides, so that the light could play on the inside nearly as well as on the outside; the glistening verdure of the ivy was as pretty inside as outside, as the thing was placed in a position where it caught every ray of sun. It formed a most agreeable bower at a season when such things are rarely resorted to.

Of course, many of the beautifully marked kinds may be trained in like manner. Indeed, the various variegated ivies will soon become indispensable to the good garden of hardy plants; they are so nice for walls, trellises, or even for edgings in not a few cases. But however pretty the marked kinds may be, they can in no degree compete with the common Irish ivy as a rich green covering. Our true plan of dealing with them will be found to be in employing the best forms sparsely among the green kinds, or among other green plants. To meet with a good variegated form now and then amidst glistening green is charming; to plant a great number of them together for the mere sake of the collection is a mistake. To allow the ivy to trail over rough mounds, etc., is a favourite plan of ours, and we have even found it desirable to make mounds for this purpose in a picturesque pleasure-ground—planting specimens of yucca over the ground-work of ivy, and allowing a nice tuft of a variegated sort to fall here and there over a stone, or near the edge, so that it might be well seen amongst the mass.

The next plants to which we have to call attention are the hardy *Aristolochia siphon* and *A. tomentosa*. Here are two capital plants for bowers, or for covering any surface with fine and distinct leaves. What is so fine for covering a bower, and running up a stake so as to form a pyramid of distinct foliage? One of the prettiest things we have ever seen was a tent or wigwam formed of *Aristolochia siphon*. In the first case, a number of long but useless branches were placed so as to form a frame-work, meeting at the top of course. Then *Aristolochia siphon* was planted all round, and soon it ran up to the top and formed a capital roof—a pleasanter wigwam you could scarcely see. *A. tomentosa* is quite a distinct species, and equally desirable with our old friend. Its leaves are of a yellowish tone, and slightly tomentose. It will prove capital as a deciduous covering for a bower of any kind, for forming pyramids in a varied garden, and for many other uses which will readily suggest themselves to the amateur who has once secured possession of this distinct plant.

There are some kinds of Clematis capital for bowers; notably the beautiful white *C. montana*, and the fragrant *C. flammula*. The last is a splendid thing to grow wild over old stumps, or on wild banks, etc., as it diffuses a most delicious odour over the garden in the late autumn; in fact, it is as valuable for this purpose at the end of the flowering season as the hawthorn is in May, or more so, for it flowers a long time. The common Clematis, *C. vitalba*, often forms picturesque sheets of vegetation, drooping from trees, etc.; but it should, as a rule, be confined to the rougher parts of the garden. We have seen one or two very charming natural arbours formed from this, where it grew up oak or other trees, and then fell down in a mass. All that had to be done was to make an opening,

and perhaps cut away a bit here and there. The new varieties of Clematis recently raised by Jackman, Noble, and Cripps, are of course capital for the trellis; but they must not be associated with such things as montana or flammula, which would run over them; but, on the other hand, be reserved for the smaller and more select kind of trellis. On such they will prove very beautiful. The following is a list of kinds to be obtained in British nurseries, most of them worthy of a trial. Wirings of some kind are so often desirable in gardens nowadays, that they will be found most acceptable to many. If instead of employing hedges, which require clipping often, we employed a covered trellis, how much more tasteful it would look, at least for the minor divisions of a garden!

Clematis azurea grandiflora, *C. Standishii*, *C. Fortunii*, *C. Hendersonii*, *C. Jackmanii*, *C. lanuginosa*, *C. montana*, *C. nivea*, *C. patens* *Amelia*, *C. p. Helena*, *C. rubro-violacea*, *C. Sieboldii*, *C. tubulosa*, *C. viticella*, *C. v. fl. alba*, *C. v. venosa*.

In covering bowers, it should be considered whether we wish them to be deciduous or not. Possibly, if they be near the house, it may be disagreeable to have them covered in winter. By using herbaceous plants which grow strongly in summer, and entirely sink under ground in winter, we may have pleasant shade and flowers in the summer, and not a vestige of naked or ragged vegetation in the winter; in fact, none at all. One of the best plants in existence for bowers of this class is *Convolvulus dahuricus*, a pink species, something like the common convolvulus—so much so, that many say it is the same—but it is larger and finer. There is also a white form of the same plant. They run up houses when trellised or trained, up railings, etc., beautifully. It is much better to put this plant in a position where it cannot ramble about, and become a weed. *Calystegia pubescens fl. pl.* may also be used in the same way. We know of nothing prettier on a railing than *Convolvulus dahuricus*. *Wistaria Sinensis* is not so often seen as a bower as a wall plant; but it may be used in almost any way. We have seen it trained to run from the ground up to trees on strong wires, but perhaps a more graceful use could not be made of it than to train it over a slender arch over a garden wall. It may in many cases be desirable to have a trellis-work covered way in a garden, this trellis-work to be covered with plants, and shady in summer, and quite bare and clear in winter. The Common Hop or the Virginian Creeper are most valuable for this purpose, as also is the annual *Convolvulus major*.

Again we may have *Jasminum revolutum*, *Lonicera confusa*, *L. flava*, *L. aureo-reticulata*, and *L. periclymenum*; warm wall for most of these. The Common Honeysuckle, one of the best plants in existence, *Roses* of many kinds, *Lycium Europæum*.

Several annual plants are valuable for trellis-work, and the best are *Abronia umbellata*, *Cobea scandens*, *Sweet Peas*, *Tropæolum* of kinds, *Maurandias* in varieties, *Loasa* in varieties, *Lophospermum*, *Scyphanthus elegans*, *Thunbergias* in warm parts only, *Gourds* and *Scarlet Runners*, and lastly, much the best of all, the beautiful varieties of *Convolvulus major*.