

## VERONICAS OUT OF DOORS.



IN the interesting paper styled "Beautiful Trees for Kind Climates," in the March number of the FLORAL WORLD, amongst other plants mentioned as living out of doors all the year round in mild climates are Veronicas. Having grown a good number I hope I may be excused taking up space in the FLORAL WORLD on this subject.

Every season I have bedded out a good number of these plants, both the common blue and the variegated, as they make a nice background to a ribbon border. They were put out with the bedding plants, and when autumn came they were lifted, cut back, and put in pits or under the stages till spring, when they were trimmed and potted off in a mixture of leaf-mould, loam, and sand to start into growth and be fit to turn out with the rest of the plants when the bedding time came round.

While away from home last summer I happened to see in a number of gardens large plants of Veronicas which must have been out of doors many years, so I determined to try some and see how they would stand out here; so when it came to the time for lifting such plants as would not remain out of doors I left some of my Veronicas still in the ground; they continued to bloom freely up till the first week in February (on New Year's day I cut a large bunch of their flowers), and, I believe, would till now only the last frost has nipped the very young growth, but only so as to check the blooms, not in any way interfering with the health of the plants; so I shall leave the most of mine out altogether. Some people, I believe, do leave them out during the winter covered with mats, or cut down and coal ashes put over them, but mine were in no way protected.

A. H.

*Upper Norwood.*

## HOW TO UTILIZE OLD BULBS.

BY WILLIAM JOHNSON.



IT is very generally supposed by amateur and other cultivators that old hyacinths, and other Dutch bulbs, are of little service after they have done flowering; but, from personal experience, I can state that this supposition is altogether wrong, and that they can be made to serve a very useful purpose. Acting upon the advice you gave to the readers of the FLORAL WORLD some few years since, I have each season taken great care of the bulbs, and planted them out in the flower-garden, and the results are most satisfactory.

In my garden are two rather large borders filled with old-fashioned flowers of various kinds, mostly selected from your lists, and they certainly present a most attractive appearance throughout

the season. But what I wish to direct attention to at this moment is the manner in which the bulbs of hyacinths, narcissus, and tulips are utilized after they have done flowering. Those which bloom early are kept in a cold frame until April, as it is not desirable to expose them to severe frosts, and those which bloom late are simply placed in a sheltered corner for a week or ten days. As they are removed from the conservatory, the several colours are placed together, and some time during the month of April, or early in May, they are planted along the front of the border in clumps of six or eight bulbs. We are not particular as to keeping each variety by itself, but we aim at planting the colours separately, and we have clumps of light blue, dark blue, pink, red, white, and so on, and the effect during the spring is exceedingly good.

In planting them out, we simply turn them out of the pots, and remove the crocks from the bottom of the ball of soil, and then plant deep enough to cover the bulb with about two inches of soil, and place a short stake in the centre to indicate their whereabouts when the foliage has perished. After this, they require no further attention, and year after year they continue to push up neat little spikes of flowers, which are of great use for cutting or for producing a rich effect in the border. The spikes are poor in comparison with those produced by newly-imported bulbs, but they are none the less useful for cuttings for vases, etc. The narcissus and tulips are placed behind the hyacinths, and in their season produce a very pleasing effect. In a few years I shall have filled my borders with as many bulbous flowers as they will conveniently hold with but little trouble, and without a farthing expense. In advising my brother amateurs to follow my example, I would thank you for the hints which you gave upon the subject, which have been the means of enabling me to beautify my garden with what was previously considered waste material.

---

## BEAUTIFUL TREES FOR THE CLIMATE OF LONDON.

BY W. BELL, ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW.



ON reading the March number of the *FLORAL WORLD* my attention was drawn to the selection of trees and shrubs to be noted growing and flourishing in any of the southern localities. It is quite possible to have most of the subjects mentioned under cultivation in the climate of London if they were properly managed, but we do not find this very often to be the case. A host of handsome greenhouse plants might be grown outside if a proper situation was afforded them, and a little care taken in the planting. The general rule for planting such trees or shrubs (or, as they are termed, "greenhouse plants") is after they have attained a large size or got out of form, and anything but pleasing subjects in either the greenhouse or conservatories, they are turned outside in the early part of