

very fond of gardening, and it is probable that other tender plants may be put out in the open borders before long.

In my garden Myrtles and other similar plants grow freely out of doors, but they are common everywhere in these parts. If I can afford further information I should be happy to do so, or should you like to see the garden at Abbotsbury, I should be glad to take you there, if you would come to my place in the course of the summer season for a few days.

The list of plants referred to is as follows :—

Agave Americana, *A. dasylirioides*.

Aralia Sieboldi, *A. longifolia*, *A. spinulosa*.

Azaleas comprise a collection of varieties.

Benthamia fragifera.

Camellias comprise a collection of varieties.

Cantua dependens.

Ceratopetalum apilatum.

Olianthus Dampieri, *Chamærops humilis*, and *C. Fortunei*.

Drimys Winteri.

Edwardsia chrysophylla, *E. microphylla*, *E. myriophylla*.

Eriobotrya japonica.

Eucalyptus cordata, *E. globulus*.

Eurybia furfuracea.

Garrya elliptica, *G. macrophylla*.

Kerria japonica.

Myrsine Africana.

Myrtus bullata.

Pistacia lentiscus.

Pittosporum bracteolatum, *P. Mayi*, *P. scaberum*.

Psoralea glandulosa.

Punica granatum, *P. granatum albescens*.

Rhyncospermum jasminoides.

Tasmania aromatica.

Thea bohea, *T. viridis*.

Viburnum japonicum.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.

BY THOMAS TRUSSLER, EDMONTON.



IN decorating indoor apartments and the dinner-table with plants and cut flowers upon festive occasions, at Christmas, and during the winter season, it is of the first importance to employ bright and decided colours. The intermediate shades and half tints, which are so beautiful during the daytime, are of but small value when seen under the influence of artificial light. They are usually so changed by its influence as to present a very dull and ineffective appearance. The same remark holds good with reference to green-leaved plants, for the brighter the shades of green the more effective are the plants

in appearance. In the case of coloured leaved plants, of which the Crotons and Dracaenas are good examples, the only safe course is to select those having leaves distinctly marked, or very highly coloured. Happily there are a considerable number of really good things which may be had in perfection during the winter season, and a considerable number of these are within the reach of all who have a greenhouse or conservatory.

In winter decorations the results are not always so satisfactory as could be desired, because sufficient attention is not usually paid by private persons to the appearance presented by the plants when seen under the influence of artificial light. Hence it not unfrequently happens that it is a most difficult matter to dress up an *épergne* and sideboard satisfactorily during the winter, even when the conservatory is quite gay with flowers.

It would take up too much space to do more than deal with generalities, but even in doing so it is quite possible to convey a few lessons which cannot prove otherwise than useful to those having an imperfect knowledge of the subject.

First of all it must be distinctly understood that purple and its various shades have a very dull and ineffective appearance under the influence of gaslight. Yellow flowers especially, if of a light shade, such as sulphur yellow, are most ineffective, and usually have a dull white appearance. On the other hand, plants having leaves marked with yellow are most ornamental, provided the colouring is rich and well developed. The yellow leaved Crotons, for example, are remarkably rich when well coloured. Scarlet, red, crimson, and bright magenta are the most effective colours. White flowers are of course of great value for associating with the high coloured flowers, and should be freely employed.

In the case of berry-bearing plants, those with orange or vermilion are the most showy when under the influence of artificial light, and those of a deep crimson the least effective. The most useful of the berry-bearing subjects are unquestionably the dwarf-growing Solanums, which are now met with in quantities in all good gardens.

In all cases it is desirable to provide a rich green ground for the proper display of the flowers or plants, and for this purpose there is nothing better than the well-known *Selaginella denticulata*, which may be grown in large quantities without difficulty. Bright green moss, obtained from woods, is also exceedingly good, and in some instances, preferable to the *Selaginella*. The dried moss, which may be procured in packets from the seed shops, can also be used when nothing better is obtainable, but it is not desirable. The *Selaginella* may be grown for furnishing in shallow boxes, but it will be found more readily available when in five-inch pots, as the clumps can then be turned out of the pots and the soil removed without its being disturbed. It is also a very good plan to grow it in shallow tin saucers or pans made to fit the *épergne*, or a large glass dish suitable for placing upon the dinner-table or sideboard. It can then be placed in the *épergne* or dish when required, and a few bright flowers inserted at equal distances apart are a most effective decoration, pro-

vided with but little trouble, and without having to make a havoc amongst the flowers in the conservatory. The pans may of course be used an indefinite number of times, and dressed up differently each time. Small tin tubes, for holding water, should be inserted at regular distances apart in the pans, as the flowers can then be more satisfactorily arranged, and they remain in a fresh condition a much longer period than when they are inserted into the soil. Large shallow pans of earthenware, provided they are well furnished, will be useful for the sideboard or for side tables when dressed with flowers; but they are too heavy-looking for the dinner-table. The *épergnes* may also be filled with wet sand, and covered with moss or *Selaginella* in a careful manner.

Amongst the plants producing flowers suitable for gaslight entertainments, the following may be mentioned as worthy of special notice for the Christmas season:—*Scarlet Geraniums*, *Chinese Primulas*, *Camellias*, *Salvias*, *Euphorbia jacquiniæflora*, *Poinsettia pulcherrima*, *Gesnera zebrina*, and *G. exonienses*, *Azalea amœna*, and *Erica hymæmalis*. The most useful of the ornamental-leaved plants are *Dracena Cooperi*, *D. terminalis*, *Croton angustifolium*, *C. undulatum*, *C. Weismanni*, and one or two others. A number of Palms are also of great value, especially those with light pinnate fronds, such as *Areca lutescens*, *Chamædora graminifolia*, *Euterpe edulis*, and *Kentia Canterburyana*.

ON MIXED PLANTATIONS.

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For this Essay the Author was awarded the Medium Gold Medal of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland.

IN TWO PARTS.—PART II.



F such a plantation as that described in the preceding number were formed, the valley beneath should be bordered off, in a circuitous winding line, with birch, hawthorn in variety, willow, purple beech, purple sycamore, *Acer negundo variegata*, and scarlet oak. These might be massed according to circumstances, while at suitable intervals single specimens might be inserted, which would preserve a view here and there of the braes and cliffs; while along the same line a fine undergrowth could be given of ivy (*Hedera helix*), the honeysuckle or woodbine (*Lonicera* of sorts), sweet clematis or virgin's bower (*Clematis flammula*), *Mahonia aquifolia*, etc. The opposite side, to the west and south, on same level, ought to be made the counterpart of the margin now described along the drive; while the knoll tapering towards St. Leonards should be massed with birch and larch, which might be extended to the plantation ending at the pinetum. In finishing in this manner we have the most beautiful