

extend this paper to an undue length; but the subject itself is extremely interesting, and the particular topic discussed is a most important matter. Attention is beginning to be directed throughout the country to the desirability and necessity of providing public parks for the recreation of the people, and in some of the cities and towns of Scotland these have already been laid out and planted, and are highly ornamental and much appreciated. I need not say how much the inhabitants of Edinburgh esteem their public parks and gardens, or how much these conduce to the embellishment and beauty of their otherwise magnificent city. But the grounds around Holyrood Palace, including Salisbury Crags and Arthur's Seat, present views of romantic interest and loveliness unsurpassed by any royal demesne in Europe; and their picturesque effect would be immensely increased by some such planting as I have now sketched. With her numerous and efficient educational and literary institutions, why should the "Modern Athens" not also have her "groves of the Academy," to which the sons of learning and science might conveniently retire and find soothing relaxation in the intervals of their severe studies?—

Where rears the ash his airy crest,
And shines the birch in silver vest,
And the beech in glistening leaves is drest,
While dark between shows the oak's proud breast,
Like a chieftain's frowning tower.

And surely for the tourist no greater attraction could be added to the many already abounding in the city and its suburbs than the grateful shelter which might be afforded by the sweet sylvan retreats around the famous Palace of Holyrood. Coming to inspect the stately structure and its historical curiosities, he might also mark

What time in many-coloured bowers,
Pale autumn wreaths the latest, loveliest flowers;
The rich luxuriance mark of every view,
The mild and modest tint, the splendid hue,
The tempered harmony of various shades!

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM AS A CONSERVATORY FLOWER.



THE cultivation of the Chrysanthemum has, within the last few years, been widely extended, and in November it is by no means unusual to meet with splendid displays of this noble autumnal flower in gardens, in which, a few years since, a few plants of the most inferior of the pompone varieties were alone to be found; notwithstanding this fact, it cannot be said that the Chrysanthemum as a conservatory flower is appreciated to the extent it should be. Its grandeur is unquestioned, and in its season it has no competitor, for there is scarcely anything to be seen in the way of floral beauty at the same time of year, for such things as we find in bloom are either past

their best or not yet arrived at it. Take the Poinsettia for example, and it may safely be said that we do not need it for another month at least, though it may be supposed to be in perfection from the 1st of November onwards. One good reason, perhaps the sole reason, why the Chrysanthemum is regarded with less favour than it deserves, is that it flowers at a season when the wealthy are least in need of flowers. Certainly in great cities, where it is better cared for than in country places, it finds less favour from the great, and is especially the flower of the humbler classes,—for in one case it is the gardener's especial pet, and in another the only flower the mechanic can hope to grow creditably,—yet at many country seats, where hunting and shooting keep a good company together until late in the year, this splendid subject ought to have much more attention than it obtains; for it is not only capable of affording a substitute for other flowers during six or eight weeks of the gloomiest period of the year, but it offers more variety than any other subject that can be obtained in flower at the same season. Let us just consider what flowers are available for November and December. Out of doors we may say there are none at all except these, and they last as long as weather allows them. Within doors the Poinsettia, the Camellia, the Thyracanthus, and a few heaths make up the November garland; and if the Chinese Primula, and the Persian Cyclamen be added, the catalogue is complete of subjects that contribute in any eminent degree to the production of a display. The Chrysanthemum literally supersedes all these things while it lasts, and we may consider it good for six weeks. As to variety, it is true we want brighter shades of red and crimson; but we have superb shades of white, blush, yellow, and rose colour, and the grand outlines of the best specimen blooms afford a pleasure to appreciative eyes altogether distinct from that resulting from a rich display of colours. No one who has seen Chrysanthemums well done can remain indifferent to their beauties and their uses. In a few private gardens we have seen collections of these flowers so well grown and so tastefully grouped, that we are compelled to marvel that in so many places where a display at this season would be appropriate the Chrysanthemum meets with but small attention. There is, indeed, in many minds a prejudice against it—perhaps because it has always been a middle-class subject, not costing thousands of pounds to obtain a few plants, or requiring elaborate treatment in its cultivation. That there are defects in the flower itself cannot be denied; perhaps we may find defects in the customary modes of displaying them; perhaps also there may be something wanting to render exhibitions of Chrysanthemums largely attractive and satisfactory; and if these several defects are removed, we may hope to see the Chrysanthemum rise rapidly in the estimation of persons possessed of means and taste.

Let us look to the flower itself. We find in its varieties pure white, delicate shades of blush and pink, and the purest tones of yellow. There is no pure red, no pure crimson, no true purple. Nevertheless many of the intermediate shades of colour are agreeable, and when skilfully harmonized effective; for example, if we see a

good specimen plant of Pink Perfection contrasted by association with one of the good dark kinds, we forget the defect of colour in our admiration of a beautiful object. There is no pink chrysanthemum of so bright a tint as Amaranth geranium; no red chrysanthemum so brilliant as Charles Backhouse dahlia; no crimson chrysanthemum equal in colour to Duke of Edinburgh rose. But we may search far and wide and not find a yellow flower to surpass in purity and depth of colour a fine Golden John Salter, and if we are to make comparisons in a large manner, we shall have to take into account the time at which our favourite arrives at perfection, when there are no other flowers with which to compare it. Nevertheless, as critics we are bound to lament the absence of certain shades of colour commonly met with amongst flowers in this useful subject; and as we have seen immense improvement effected in the varieties, we will hope that cross-breeding and careful selecting may result at last in the production of the pure tints of red, crimson, and purple, which are as yet so conspicuous by their absence.

In the grouping of the large flowered and Japanese varieties for display, the greatest difficulty is to hide their legs. When grown as round-headed dwarf bushes, we should prefer not to hide any portion of the plant; even the pot ceases to be inelegant, the symmetry of the whole from head to foot is so complete. This is the form best adapted certainly for the embellishment of the conservatory, and the one that gentlemen's gardeners should mostly give their minds to. But the tall plants, grown for the supply of a few of the very finest flowers, are scarcely so elegant that they may be obtruded upon the view in their entirety without inspiring unkind criticism. We have enjoyed the magnificent flowers more when the gaunt plants were intermixed with masses of foliage, out of which the flowers spread majestically on stems varying from six to eight feet high. Messrs. J. Veitch and Sons, King Road, Chelsea, overcome the difficulty created by their legginess, by grouping them with specimen camellias, the dark foliage of which brings out the colours of the flowers to the best advantage; there can be no doubt that the beauty of a display is very much enhanced by the free association with the Chrysanthemums of plants that attract attention by the distinctive character of their foliage. We are the more anxious to impress upon our friends the necessity of tasteful display after they have given the flower all their skill, because there is a notion prevalent amongst Chrysanthemum growers, that good examples of their favourite need no assistance from other subjects when grouped for the purposes of decoration, which is a mistake.

In very many cases, good displays of Chrysanthemums may be produced by plants lifted from the open border and potted. The plants will lose a considerable proportion of their leaves; but, if intermixed with the ordinary occupants of the conservatory in such a manner that the flowers only can be seen, the absence of the foliage upon the lower branches will not be a matter of great importance. The pomponé varieties suffer least from lifting, but they are not capable of producing such a grand display as the large-flowered Japanese and other varieties.

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