

have been touched with the frost, but with the month of May it has always regained the full beauty of its foliage. Once only has it been really injured. The heavy snow of March, 1867, injured its branches, and it had to be cut back to the stock. Although not so large as it was before this disaster, it has attained the respectable size of forty-two feet in circumference. The main stem is divided into two parts, close to the ground; one stem measures eighteen inches round, and the other may be a trifle smaller. Numerous layers have been taken from this plant, which also thrive luxuriantly in all positions and aspects. The Escallonia has been the usual favourite evergreen for winter decorations, mixed with the *Venuta* rhododendron (?), also in the open air. The gardens at Ashbury are on high ground, but well sheltered with trees. The soil is fibrous, and good peat easily procurable. All American plants grow in perfection. The pretty *Kalmia latifolia* attains a great size, one specimen measuring forty-seven and a half feet round. The white Indian azalea has flourished in all aspects without protection of any kind, in the open ground, for full thirty years, blooming profusely in May and June. One plant measures twenty-six feet round, and some may be even larger. They spread rather flat and low. The pink Indian azalea has been as long-lived, but it is capricious in flowering. The old plant has been divided into two, each about nineteen feet round. No other varieties of Indian azaleas have been tried in the open air.

The *Arbutus unedo* has flourished for ten years, and fruits well. Three varieties of *Euonymus* have stood the past winter as well as *Veronicas*, but the latter cannot be depended on. The trailing *Tropaeolum speciosum* is a perfect weed. The round-leaved *Cyclamen* of Italy (*Cyclamen coum*) covers the turf in February with its lovely little flowers, mingled with snowdrops. It is supposed a potful of corms was accidentally thrown away, and that they planted themselves, and have increased from year to year.

I inclose with this a small piece gathered from the old Escallonia, and from the white and pink Indian azaleas, each thirty years old.

I would add, myrtles will rarely live at Ashbury in the open air during the winter, the sea-coast being, at the nearest point, twenty-five miles distant.

J. H. W.

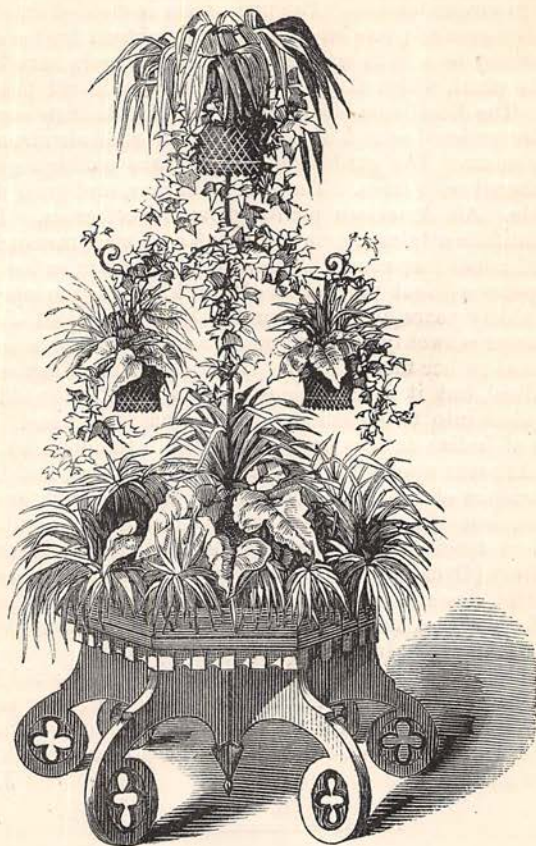
### DESIGN FOR A FLOWER-STAND.



HE subjoined figure represents a useful and effective flower-stand for the conservatory or entrance-hall; and it has the advantage that any carpenter could make it, and it admits of a higher degree of ornamentation than is shown in the figure. The inside of the lower compartment should be coated with pitch, or fitted with movable zinc trays. The stem and branches should be of stout iron rods, and the pots should be movable, and consist of some light, elegant material, such as bitumenized paper or zinc, and they may be

August.

covered with the folding covers unless they are elegantly painted. The plants for these pots must be grown in the ordinary way, and inserted when at their best ; and, of course, removed and replaced by others when past their prime. The base may be filled with pot-



FLOWER-STAND FOR THE CONSERVATORY.

plants, or with a bed of soil, in which the plants will grow without pots. As a rule, all such ornaments should be furnished with pot-plants, because of the high finish required, and the difficulty of insuring this, unless the plants can be changed quickly, as occasion may require.

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