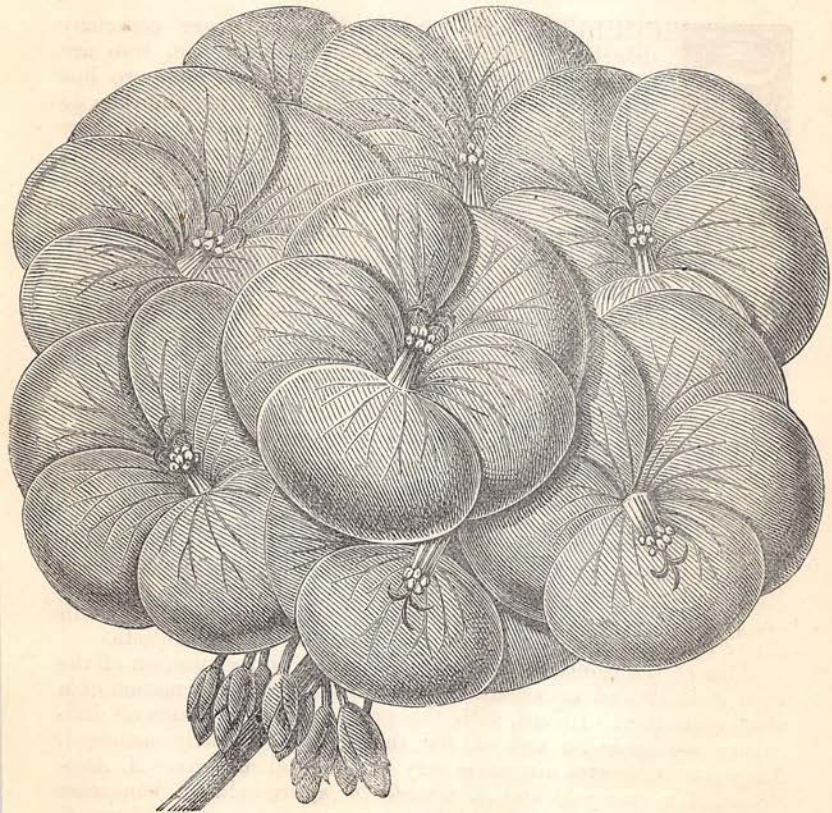


most satisfactorily with an ordinary flue. Too much importance is attached now-a-days to heating by hot water, for we frequently see expensive apparatuses erected, when a simple brick flue would do just as well.

PELARGONIUM HARRY KING.



HIS splendid zonal pelargonium may be considered one of the finest varieties with scarlet flowers yet introduced for pot culture. The flowers are of very large size and the finest form, and produced throughout the season in huge globular trusses. In the latter respect it differs materially from the other varieties with well-formed



PELARGONIUM HARRY KING.

flowers, for usually those with flowers of the finest form produce trusses of a very small size. The colour of the flowers is a very

September.

deep and brilliant scarlet, and therefore most effective. The plant is rather long-jointed, but its other good qualities quite atone for this trifling defect, and it may be recommended as one of the finest of its class, and well worthy of general cultivation. It was one of a series distributed for the first time by Mr. H. Cannell, of Woolwich, in the spring of last year, and the accompanying illustration was taken from a truss produced in his nursery.

THE IDLE MAN'S CONSERVATORY.

BY T. WILLIAMS,

Garden Superintendent, Crystal Palace, Sydenham.



SUCCULENT and hard-leaved plants are especially deserving of the attention of business men, who are usually away from home all day, for they require but little attention to keep them in good trim, and they do not suffer materially in health if forgotten for a few days. They also possess a very interesting and attractive appearance throughout the whole year, and by those who have a collection they are much appreciated during the winter season. It will be thus seen how much better adapted they are for small gardens, where the proprietor is seldom at home, and no regular gardener employed, than the usual stock of soft-wooded plants, which require unremitting attention, and, unless they have it, quickly become infested with green-fly, red-spider, and other plant pests, and ultimately perish. With a stock of succulents, the proprietor of the conservatory will always have something to admire, and be able to leave home without having any occasion for fearing that any individual in the collection will suffer for the want of water, or any other attention, whilst he is necessarily absent. The fact of being able to cultivate a moderate collection in the glass cases attached to suburban villas, which are usually designated conservatories by the builders, is a great point in their favour. In these little structures it is, even with the greatest care and attention, extremely difficult to grow geraniums, fuchsias, and other soft-wooded plants, with any degree of success; but they are just the place for the agaves and other succulents, as they will thrive in a temperature sufficient to roast more tender subjects.

One of the principal matters to consider is the selection of the most distinct and ornamental kinds suitable for the formation of a small collection. Indeed, with the purchase of the plants all difficulties are made an end of, for they are most easily managed. Amongst the Agaves are some very ornamental subjects. *A. Americana*, *A. a. variegata*, and *A. a. medio picta*, are bold and handsome in appearance, and can be highly recommended. *A. Celiciana*, *A. coccinea*, *A. Salmiana*, and *A. Schidigera*, are of medium size; and *A. appplanata*, *A. Besseriana candida*, *A. filifera variegata*, *A. macrodontha*, and *A. Verschaffelti*, are of small growth, and form neat