

SMALL SALADING, such as mustard and cress, can only be raised in the depth of the winter with the assistance of more warmth than that afforded by the greenhouse. With such assistance it is so easily raised that it is not necessary to enter into details. After February it may be raised in cool structures. The American cress sown on a warm sheltered border, about the middle of the month, and after the second week in October protected with one of the portable frames alluded to, will be most useful far into the winter.

QUICK METHOD OF PREPARING SKELETON LEAVES.

PROCURE *perfect* leaves. Let there be no flaw or sign of decay. Then get six ounces of washing-soda, and pour it into two quarts of boiling water. Slack three ounces of quick-lime, and then pour this also into the boiling water. Let all boil together for fifteen minutes. Then remove it from the fire. Let it settle, and pour off the clear fluid. Pour this into a second clean vessel, and set it on the fire again. When it boils, put in the leaves; let them boil for one hour; then take up one and throw it into a basin of cold water—rain water is best. If the epidermis comes off freely by rubbing the leaf between the finger and thumb, *under the water*, then all the leaves may be removed from the solution. When they have all been carefully freed from the epidermis, put them in a mixture of chloride of lime and water; about a wineglass of chloride to a quart of water. Some leaves will take only ten minutes to bleach, others an hour, or more. Let them be watched, therefore, for they may burn into shreds if steeped too long. When pure white, throw them (carefully) into a basin of cold water, and from that float them out on slips of paper. When almost dry, put them in a book, to become *quite* dry and stiff. Then they are complete. The best for a beginner to try on at this season is the smooth holly, or the golden-edged holly, or large-leaved ivy, or common poplar, if they can be had *perfect*, especially the aspen variety. KATE SEYMOUR.

PROTECTION OF THE POLLEN OF PLANTS. — Dr. A. Kerner reprints from the "Proceedings of the Scientific Society of Innsbrück," an interesting Paper "On the means of the Protection of the Pollen of Plants against premature Displacement or Damp." As the vitality of pollen is immediately destroyed by exposure to the action of either rain or dew, he finds in nature a variety of contrivances to protect it against these injurious influences during the interval between its escape from the anther and its being carried away by insects, these contrivances being generally absent in those plants where fertilization is affected by the pollen being conveyed at once to the stigma by the wind. In plants with coherent pollen, fertilized by English agency, where some of the anthers are so placed as to be necessarily exposed to the weather, these are generally found to be barren, or destitute of pollen, and where they would interfere with the entrance of insects into the flower, they are altogether abortive or rudimentary. Plants with coherent pollen, which require insect agency for their fertilization, Dr. Kerner believes to be of more recent geological occurrence than those with powdery pollen, which require only the wind to convey it to the stigma.