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HOME EMPLOYMENT.

YOUNG people are often wishing for something to do at home, something to occupy their leisure hours with, that will have a lasting interest. Of course those who possess some talent which they desire to improve, never find time hanging heavily upon their hands. There is a never-ending pleasure in practicing new music, acquiring greater delicacy of touch, or stronger, deeper, richer tones in the voice. To see a new picture coming out from the canvas under the deft hand is unmixed delight. It absorbs the thoughts, and there is no moment in the day when the artist has not some vision of what she will accomplish in the future. The lover of fancy work, too, never wearies in making beautiful things, for there is always something new to exercise her taste and ingenuity upon.

There are those, however, who have none of these resources, and yet they long for some variety from the monotony of their every day work; something that they can think about, which will give freshness and rest to those hours that would otherwise be filled with the weariness of having nothing to do which had the charm of novelty. For such the following recommendation in *The American*, from the pen of a well-known writer, will suggest an occupation the value of which he has carefully explained.

“Young people who like neat and interesting work, may find it as follows: Take sheets of printing or cheap writing paper, and fold them so as to make leaves, let me say of 6x8 inches. Makes these into books of twelve leaves. Then cut out from newspapers, magazines or other publications, articles or paragraphs of all kinds, and assort them. Thus, the poems may be made into a collection. Paste them very neatly on only one side of the paper leaves, leaving a wide margin. When two or three hundred pages

are thus filled, they may be cheaply bound. If MS. poems, or comments, engravings, etc., are added to illustrate the poems, the value of the collection will be greatly increased. In like manner, humorous stories and anecdotes may be made up. A large collection may be sub-divided; that is to say, anecdotes relating to the law, may be put together to make one work, and the medical to form another. The recipes for cooking would be precious to any housekeeper. Anecdotes narrated of public characters would of themselves form very valuable books. Almost any collection of this kind would bring high prices at certain auctions, when sold in company with a certain kind of books.

“A cheap and practical way to make these collections, is to obtain some neatly bound, but useless book, in which the print does not take more room than can be covered by a clipping. If it is occasionally too large, the extra portion may be pasted over with a strip of white paper.

“It is very seldom that one ever sees a newspaper which cannot be made to yield extracts of value for such collections. And the one who cuts out a single anecdote can make it pay a large profit over the price of the paper. I am confident that I never open any newspaper whatever, in which I do not see something well worthy of cutting out, and which would certainly be worth more in a collection than the price of the publication.

“The making of these collections exerts an influence worth more than all the money they will sell for. It teaches the collector to *think*. It makes him consider the interest and value of thousands of items, to which he would not have otherwise given a thought. It induces him to search every journal thoroughly to find clippings of value. The newspaper, which he would once have thrown

aside as dull, becomes to him a gold-land to be hunted over for nuggets. There are weekly and Sunday papers which occasionally yield in a single number a score or two of pages to the shrewd collector. When a distinguished man dies, when some great event takes place, the public prints abound in incident or anecdote relative to him or to it, and these collected, become, after a few years,

very valuable. The mere reading and uniting them induces the collector to think more, and his memory retains more from the collection of the items than it would otherwise have done. Parents would do well to encourage this work in children, for they will at once observe how much it stimulates in them an interest in reading and culture."

— *Selected.*

TALKS ON FLOWERS.

J. B. KETCHUM.

AT this season of the year, when everything is bleak and dreary, how delightful it is to be the possessor of a window full of healthy growing plants; a pleasure within reach of the poor as well as the wealthy. To those who are fortunate enough to have a south window, the culture of house plants is comparatively easy, but to those who have only a north or northeast exposure, it becomes more a matter of study. To those having such a light, and desiring to cultivate house plants, I would say the petunia grows and blossoms beautifully. I would also recommend the fuchsia, begonias, callas, cannas and geraniums. For vines the most beautiful are ivy and smilax.

In passing through the avenues of our large cities, one admires the mass of bloom seen in almost every house, but it seems to be only the fashion, as there are women whose business it is to go from house to house, keeping these miniature gardens in order.

I was asked recently how to treat a heliotrope when the leaves blackened and fell off. I will give my treatment here, as perhaps it may be of interest: To a quart of water add five or six drops of ammonia, and give about two tablespoonfuls a week. The improvement in the plant will soon be noticed, in fact, a dose of this ammonia water will be beneficial to any plant, but care must be taken not to have it too strong, or to give it too often; two tablespoonfuls a week to each plant is sufficient, but above all wash the leaves of your plants. Give them a dip once a week, and they will repay you. Hold the earth in the pot firmly and immerse the plant in a tub of water. Of course there are some rough leaved plants whose leaves are injured

by the touch of water, such as geranias, gloxinia, and all varieties of begonia rex.

The *Floral Cabinet* says of this variety:

"If water is allowed to stand on the leaves of this plant they will turn brown, and shrivel at the edges, and continue eating towards the center until the whole leaf is destroyed. A well grown specimen of the begonia rex is truly magnificent, and well worthy to be called King, but we must take into consideration their native habits. They grow in the recesses of a tropical forest where the sun never enters, and where heat and humidity are twin sisters. Heat and moisture are indispensable to their native growth. Give them a good light, but no sunshine, and do not let the foliage come in contact with other plants, as the leaves are tender and easily scarred. Remove all dust from them with a soft feather duster, or better still guard against their becoming dusty, by removing to a closet, or another room while sweeping."

Premium Pansies — Seven Choice Varieties Given Away.

THIS collection comprises seven varieties of pansies, in seven separate packets: Snowy White, King of the Blacks, Dark Purple, Emperor William, Pure Yellow, Striped or Rainbow, and Quadricolor. It is a very choice collection, and will be sure to please all who love pansies. The price of these seven packages is 80 cents. We will send them *free* to any one sending \$1.00 for a year's subscription to this Magazine, providing you prefer them to one of the five premiums that we offer in another part of this Magazine. J. F. INGALLS, Lynn, Mass.