EVERY WOMAN'S FLOWER GARDEN

Class SB453

Book H26

EVERY
WOMAN'S
FLOWER
GARDEN

AN INFORMAL MIXED BORDER

EVERY WOMAN'S FLOWER GARDEN

HOW TO MAKE AND KEEP IT
BEAUTIFUL BY MARY HAMPDEN
WITH FIVE COLOUR PLATES
BY MARY S. REEVE AND 83
DESIGNS BY THE AUTHOR

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CHAPTER I

WHY TO GARDEN

“ A light of laughing flowers along the grass is spread.”—SHELLEY

“ AFTER making the first flower,” says an Oriental legend, “ God Himself hesitated, in doubt if He could surpass it.” All great artists desire to rival their own early works. A belief arose that this primary blossom was the violet, which Eve obtained permission to transplant at once to sweeten and adorn the outer barren earth that was the place of banishment. To-day we spread flowers over the land with similar intent : our homes rise out of bowers, our windows open to the morning between roses, and we lean from them at night above fragrant lavender, myrtle, southernwood, jasmine, honeysuckle, nicotianas, stocks, lilac, magnolias, mignonette, and verbenas. Or if we do not we have missed precious opportunities.

Why should we garden ? The answer is in the heart of each woman. While some individuals silence the thought, the majority admit that the manufacture of something of worth is the purpose of our being.

A space separates one dwelling from another, except

in terraces of crowded towns ; that vacancy, be it large or small, is a fact that must be used. Asphalte alone will furnish it, but can one imagine a lovable woman devoting to unrelieved cement the ground that might feed the life of tree, or shrub, or plant ? Then garden forming is a distinct charity. The rooms we inhabit are for self and a favoured few ; the garden is also for strangers, those neighbours who observe it from their homes and breathe air purified and sweetened by its presence, those passers-by whose eyes rest gratefully on waving branches, frolics of light and shade, and satisfying colour combinations.

A vast amount of nonsense—disheartening nonsense too—is talked about small gardens by critics who forget that a solitary rose bush is as fair as an acre of exhibition varieties, fairer, in the sense that so many more of its perfections can be studied at a glance. There was a craze for privacy a few years ago, from the evil effects of which we are only beginning to recover ; the pleasure-grounds that were not hidden away were scorned, ambitious floriculturists sought for cottages with “ secluded gardens,” writers of the Press sneered at tablecloth lawns, pocket-handkerchief flower-beds, and ribbon-wide borders. Something of a democratic spirit has stirred since then, not persuading us that shut-away gardens of loneliness are not delicious luxuries for the few, but making us ashamed to despise our roadside chances, teaching us patience and zeal in the painting of flower and leaf masterpieces on limited canvases of ground. Years ago, too, women—always defined as ladies—plied outdoor tools in semi-shame, afraid of being considered vulgar or unfeminine ; now the spade is recognised as an honourable implement in female hands.

Character is extraordinarily betrayed by the home-made, or home-tended garden. It may be pretentious, blatant, severe, crude, deplorable, or merely ugly ; the inconsistency of weedy patches among costly splendours, the monotonous identity of line after line of bloom, the bizarre blaze of incongruous hues, the melancholy lack of brilliance, will infallibly write personalities of reproach upon the soil. But if it is elegant, gracious, cheerful, tender, peaceful, quaint, or exquisitely neat ? Then, indeed, the gardener will own a living testimonial.

The following pages are offered as a simple encouragement to women who wish to maintain their own gardens; and let it be remembered all through that the choice among hints is as real an originality as the inventing of recipes for floral and foliage features. If paid labourers do some of the actual toil the honour will still belong to the selecting mind in command. All gardening, however, is well within the capacity of a woman of average health and strength, and some of the best home Edens of England are those managed wholly by their Eves.

One of the essentials for contentment in the task is the belief that the poetic is closely interwoven with the practical. Naturally, suns, frosts, and storms prepare the earth, animal lives and vegetable decay slowly nourish it ; the clod is wind-strewn with grass seeds until it becomes a sod, sods receive, from bird, beast, and breeze, the larger seeds from which spring forests, thickets, and wildernesses of flower. Artificially, the ground has first to be pulverised by the fork, enriched, either by animal manure or its chemical constituents ; the seeds are chosen, trees, shrubs, and plants are set

separate that they may flourish faster than by the fights that precede the unaided survival of the fittest ; so, where all was arid and unlovely, grows the harmonious, soul-uplifting glory of a garden. But, whether Nature obeys the Creator, or human hands, acting by inspired science, try to improve on Nature, the processes, from first to last, from base to summit, are honourable and romantic.

The woman who thinks that digging manure into a plot of land is undignified had better—not refrain from the healthy exercise, but—learn to blush for her opinion. To quote an old author, “Buried dung is cause of the pulp of the fruit, the juice of the leaf, the tint of the petal. So in Man hidden goodness is never waste ; it gives sympathy to the tone, honesty to the mien, and noble words to the tongue.”

We owe as much to the unnamed genius who discovered that cattle feed the meadows over which they roam, as to the modern scientist, busy with phial and crucible in his laboratory, extracting and analysing nitrates and phosphates and teaching us their properties.

“To aim at the mountain is not always to hit a hill.” Common sense in intention must draw the plan. Sisyphus, propelling his stone up the steeps, from which it could but roll back with increased speed, was scarcely worse employed than the gardener attempting to make a picturesque wilderness in a back-yard ; yet no piece of ground is too public to be turned into a pretty artificial garden. Adaptability to environment is as needful for plant masses as for persons.

Of course planning a new garden affords fuller scope for intelligence than the remodelling of an old one ; there are such important decisions to be made as to the

direction of the paths, the shapes of lawns, the positions for screens and seats, the utilisation of the kindest aspects, the treatment of ugly corners, for all those arrangements of form, height, and colour that win renown. Yet, by the removal of unsatisfactory features, the curving of walks and rounding off of grass plots, the replacing of oft-repeated shrubs and plants by rarer species, the ill-made garden can be quickly redeemed from insignificance and failure. A single chapter must be devoted to the subject of planning new ground ; the others will suggest gardening achievements that may as easily be introduced in the places formerly occupied by errors.

Who has not sadly watched florists' men laying out gardens to freshly-built houses ? A laburnum, prim hawthorn, and acacia, set in a row by the front railing, plain laurels in a line against the tradesmen's path, a grassy expanse unadorned by beds though of no use for games, the side borders dotted over with Portugal laurel, barberries, a golden privet, and perhaps one rhododendron, leaving shaded, objectless gaps between. Close to the house wall—maybe a south aspect—a priceless length of soil is probably planted with green and variegated euonymuses that would thrive equally in the open, or with a due north exposure. If the season is winter the edges of the spoilt borders are sure to be filled with shrivelled wallflowers ; if it is summer, with the poorest geraniums, calceolarias, and asters. Nine-tenths of the gardens along suburban roads so closely resemble each other that the chance preponderance of one of the flowers, or shrubs, is thought to constitute a marked novelty—gardens that might, just as economically, display the scarce-known glories of

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the veldt, blaze with the vivid blossoms that have been introduced from South and West America, blush with roses, and shimmer with the silver of lilies.

There are countless striking ways of congregating trees, shrubs, and plants that English life will suit. Making a permanent copse of the wondrous blue spikes of the delphinium will be actually cheaper than setting out annually serried ranks of "Henry Jacoby" and squadrons of white stocks over the same space ; a fiery hedge of "red-hot poker," faced by copper, orange, and amber day-lilies, edged by dwarf chrysanthemums of similar hues, will give more pleasure through the months than can be gleaned from tangles of weedy, dull-coloured tobacco plants flopping behind common fuchias.

The explanation of much of the waste seen is that gardening has only become popular of late years. Hobbyists loved it before ; some of our ancestresses paid genuine homage to Flora, but the majority of women were willing to leave flower culture to hired men ; and directly a semi-educated official is set to work in the same rut year in, year out, he is apt to lose any vestige of interest that he may originally have possessed in his trade. Enthusiasm alone creates the remarkable. How can a jobbing gardener, or a regularly employed one, be enthusiastic when he is given the same kinds of seeds to sow in March, the same species of plants to bed out each May and June ?

Woman's province is daily expanding further, but who will deny that it begins with home ? By undertaking charge of the gardens the wife or daughter can reduce expenditure, gain continual scope for the use of many talents, and accomplish the triumph of giving

a lovely frame to domesticity. Spirits are as brightened by beauty of environment as by the sunshine that goes and comes ; colour has as real value spread over borders and beds as in garments that are daily worn ; good cultivation of soil under the windows, by curing damp and preventing vapours, makes for the health of the room occupants.

Arrangement of any floral garden is a matter for the exercise of daintiest fancy rather than of rule, but convenience has to be catered for as well as art : aims may be as diversified as the millions of flowers that have been introduced into cultivation ; still, certain canons of good taste have to be faithfully observed. Nothing great is of rapid achievement, it must be remembered, and “ to make a garden,” wrote a Persian poet, “ is to paint a living picture with the pigments of the Almighty.”

Gardening Proverb.—“ Burnt weeds nourish roses, and virtues spring from repented vices.”

CHAPTER II

HOW TO LAY OUT A GARDEN

"Three-fourths of our work is done within us. The fundamental condition of every effective act is that we get a firm grasp on its ideal aspects, and prepare to perform it with a full faith."—CHARLES WAGNER.

PROBABLY six out of every seven plots of Mother Earth intended to be gardens behind houses are of oblong shape ; this makes the giving of plans for garden designs a really practical service ; and even if a plot runs all to corner eventually, or is cut into by a stable, shelved off by some more lordly pleasaunce next door, or becomes a narrower strip ere it finishes, the main patterns offered here can still be adapted. Supposing the oblong runs the contrary way, stretches out to breadth, instead of length, behind the dwelling ? Then the owner may think herself lucky, and contrive to adapt a little more. An examination of country villa residences, of all sizes, will support the contention that the oblong strip is the rule.

Now builders always love straight lines, though modern tastes oblige them to make rooms and entrance doors at odd angles ; so, when the ground of a new garden has been laid out at all it is almost sure to be ugly. Fig. 1 shows a favourite design that is wholly evil. The most velvet lawn looks stark, instead of gracious, when it runs parallel with a tiled path of red

Fig. 1. The Usual Villa Garden.

and grey squares ; the best cultivated flower border is depressing if it follows the whole length of the side path at the same monotonous narrowness ; two lawn beds set as a pair trouble the eye of the artist, who feels that symmetry must be fully represented if it is to be tolerable, that unless vision can be satiated with formality it cries out for change. The square lawn would have been bearable if a round bed had ornamented each corner, better still if the four had surrounded a larger centre round. There is only one consoling fact about this unattractive specimen of laying-out, and that is the absence of a laurel hedge, or bank, crossing it ; the path is stiff, but at least it does not exclude sight of half the land from the house windows. Some hiding of distances is to be commended, the garden without mystery is as faulty as a landscape without tree or hill, but it is foolish to so plant that the ground appears less than its real size.

For the comfort of those who possess gardens planned as the design on Fig. 1, the method for improving matters, without radically destroying the outlines, is shown by Fig. 2.

The two round beds, the two oblong ones, are on the lawn still, but one of the former has been enlarged, the other given up to a fir tree, a stately young conifer, that spreads fan-like foliage over the edges to the turf. In the latter beds hedges of briar roses tone down the hard shapes, and a vista view is created by the setting up of a rustic arch spanning the grass. A neat, formal roseroy has been made beyond. It is cheaper to level a plot and sow grass seed, then cut out beds, than to gravel a number of new paths, otherwise this second half of our garden could have been turned into a

Fig. 2. The Usual Villa Garden Improved.

species of cultivated wilderness, with walks meandering among curving border-beds of handsome perennials, roses, or the beloved sweet pea. As it is designed now, the very middle should display a sundial, or pillar climber, and the rounds by the corner beds might consist of standard roses.

By planting the long borders boldly most of their monotony may be cured; the mass of gold-leaved shrubs, group of lilies, cluster of delphiniums, or perennial larkspurs, the corner copse of mock orange shrubs, leave sheltered spaces that might be happy homes perpetually for carnations, pansies, and hybrid pyrethrums, be sown with the popular annuals, or used to bed out in. On the opposite side of the garden the principal splendour will proceed from the double line of majestic hollyhocks of all colours, and the next important show will be yielded by the corner collection of herbaceous phloxes—rose, carmine, blue-lavender, cream, blush, and purple—with mixed chrysanthemums near to repeat the hues in October and November. By a simple use of shrubby veronicas at the lawn edge, a tuft of pampas grass, a bed of begonias, to follow hyacinths, all the severe look of the lawn has been remedied.

When the same sized garden can be laid out entirely, what a choice of styles can be considered! Personal predilection must come to the rescue, or the fancy of a relative be given precedence, lest the opportunities oppress the mind and cause the vacillation of purpose so plainly written in some pleasure-grounds—for a pinch of formality, a great deal of wildness, a dash of rockery, a flavouring of the tropical, a wealth of water, a *soupeçon* of the vineyard, with old English clipped

Fig. 3. An Artistic Garden Plan.

shrubs, modern exhibition roses, Dutch bulb bedding, and an arch or two, will never combine in a satisfying garden recipe.

We have seen how the builder's design can be improved ; the three other illustrations demonstrate the design of curved lines, of angles, and of nature, respectively. Yes, the pattern of the design on Fig. 3 shows just how paths get carelessly trodden between bushes and little plains.

The flowers are the cultured ones, the shrubs also, but the massing of them is, it may be said, uncivilised. Persons who like tidy rows of tall flowers, and geometrical arrangements of dwarf growers, must not adopt this design of curves, in which not one bed or border is of any recognised shape. To many blossom and foliage lovers, however, devotees of unspoilt country, yearners after the unsophisticated, abhorrrers of the conventional, the knowledge will be welcome that the villa strip of soil can be so modelled. Even the most shocked critic will have to admit that comparison of four of these plans proves how much larger a garden looks when it is quite irregularly mapped out.

Because the design on Fig. 4 is utterly antagonistic to the whole idea of that of Fig. 3, it is not necessarily inartistic, or in any degree false. Within sight of bricks and mortar it is impossible to delude oneself into the belief that Nature reigns supreme ; the signs of human handiwork in the cutting of beds and borders, or the prim setting of plants, is, therefore, so thoroughly in harmony as to be art itself. To rave against pattern in the small garden's paths, and matching lines in its lawn shapes, is mistaken æstheticism.

Mary S. Reeve.

A PRETTY ARTIFICIAL GARDEN

Fig. 4. A Geometrical Garden,

This plan, well carried out, would make a delightfully quaint garden on a miniature scale : for a large piece of ground the number of paths would have to be increased at the end, to enable it to be easily traversed. Explanation is scarcely needed ; suffice it to suggest that the herbaceous plants are backed by evergreen and flowering shrubs here and there, that the rosery beds are edged by pinks and violas, and that a seat should be placed where the paths ultimately meet. It is bad style for walks to conduct footsteps to a wall or fence : some pretty feature, or restful bench, should reward the visitor who has traversed all the gravel. Any gardener anxious to introduce more originality into this design could make the lawn space of gravel, cut the rose beds in this, and then form all the paths of turf, arching them over where they meet. The space given up to flowering shrubs and annuals might be of gravel too, with beds, to be in sympathy with the distinctive character.

Lawn, rosery, seat, herbaceous borders, and paths combine also to create the garden shown on Fig. 5. This is a most elegant style of laying-out, for not an angle interferes with the soft rounding of edges. There is not much to say about it as it exists, drawn for the small villa pleasaunce, but let us think for a minute of its possibilities as but a portion of some stately garden. The lawn might be a lake, with an island instead of a rose bed ; the broad path by the margin could be covered by a tall pergola of slender white painted iron supports ; stone urns of classic shape, at intervals in the side arches, could contain yuccas, aloes, palms, and myrtles ; steps might lead down to the water's edge, and the plot beyond, planted with glossy

Fig. 5. A Graceful Garden Plan.

evergreens, threaded among by paths, and adorned by a marble statue or two of nymph or faun, would serve to contrast darkly with the brilliance of climbing roses and clematises, and the shimmer of the lake lying beneath sun or moonlight.

Fancy the design again as a huge oval bed of roses, with group of pillar climbers for centre height, and border of lilies, carnations, and pansies, the wide gravel walk spanned by rustic arches at regular intervals, the neighbouring plot given up to a mass of all the rarest beauties among bedding plants—eucalyptuses, wigandias, palms, plumbago, salvias, brugmansias, liliun auratum, tree geraniums, cannas, heliotropes, and gazanias. May it not be claimed that this unelaborate outline might be the ground-plan of unforgettable glories ?

Long, long ago a writer described the intricate “labyrinths of cypress, noble hedges of pomegranates, fountains, fish-ponds, and aviary” of the noted gardens of the Tuileries, “which seemed a paradise.” We may not compete with triumphs of such magnitude, nor do we all sigh after “artificial echoes,” grottos inhabited by tame owls, quaint figures of tritons blowing horns, or sundials which, as at Chatsworth, discharge cannon. We *can* take pains to mingle colours exquisitely in beds of pleasing contours, screen away uglinesses, direct the feet to beauties, offer shade and repose to our garden guests, and make certain that blossoms and berries incessantly show cheering tints before the windows.

It is legitimate art to adapt the continental styles of gardening to the land of a nation where all nationalities meet ; it is not vulgar to use gaudy flowers as well as delicately tinted ones ; there is scope for all

fancies, in fact, provided they are kept within suitable bounds.

The time that a new garden takes to become shady and luxuriant can be lessened by skilled planting, and certain temporary features may be enjoyed while permanent ones are progressing. If planting the whole ground at the outset is too laborious, or costly, stretches of soil, ultimately to become rockeries or roseries, may be merely forked and raked, then sown with some of the adaptable annuals and perennials that need not be manure-fed. Yes, the list of these might be extended, but choice can safely be made among the following species, seeds of which are not expensive.

PERENNIALS TO SOW ON POOR GROUND

Snapdragons.

Anthemis Kelwayi, a golden marguerite. 2 feet.

Cupidone, or Catananche bicolor. White daisy shaped everlasting flower, with blue centre. 2 feet.

Cheiranthus Allioni. A small kind of orange wallflower. 1 foot.

Foxglove. Rosy purple or white, for sun or shade. (Biennial, but resows itself.)

Gold Dust. Alyssum saxatile. 9 inches.

Columbines. Aquilegia hybrida, double and single.

Honesty, purple or white. (Biennial, but re-sows itself.)

The Yellow Welsh Poppy. Meconopsis Cambrica. 1½ feet. (Biennial, but re-sows itself.)

Iceland Poppies.

Wallflowers.

ANNUALS TO SOW ON POOR GROUND

- Rose of Heaven, or *Agrostemma coeli rosea*. Pink.
9 inches.
- Blue Clover. *Asperula azurea*. Beloved by bees. 8
inches.
- Pot Marigolds. *Calendulas*, orange or yellow, double
and single. 18 inches.
- Calliopsis. Tall or dwarf, gold and crimson.
- Candytuft. The common single, in white, carmine,
lilac, or pink. 1 foot.
- Clarkias. The singles are suited to poor ground.
- Collin's Toad Flax. White or mixed. 9 inches.
- Erysimum Perofskianum*. Brilliant orange. 1 foot.
- Eschscholtzias*. All kinds and colours.
- Mist Flower, or chalk plant. *Gypsophila elegans*,
pinky lilac or white. 1½ feet.
- Miniature Sunflowers. These will flourish, but be
smaller than on rich ground.
- Leptosiphons. Miniature plants covered by blossoms
of countless hues. 6 inches.
- Nasturtiums. Climbers for trailing, or else Tom
Thumb varieties.
- Shirley Poppies.
- Mignonette.

Gardening Proverb.—"Wide views are healthy, but
blank views are not views at all."

CHAPTER III

HOW TO GARDEN COMFORTABLY

"Since gardening is a science whose special object is a constant struggle with wild and undisciplined nature, a few slight difficulties in the gardener's way—and they have not unfrequently been more than slight—have served as a stimulus to increase his exertions."
—EUGENE SEBASTIAN DELAMER.

THE gardener must have an outfit, but it need not be a large or costly one; a few first-quality tools are more useful than a store of miscellaneous poor ones. The woman gardener must steel her heart against the pretty sets of tools "for ladies," all blue-shining as to steel, all smoothly polished and gaily painted as to handles; there may be exceptions to this rule, but these are usually toys that should be avoided, when real hard work is in prospect.

First in order of necessity stands the four-pronged fork, the average price of which is three shillings. It is possible to get along well without a spade, but not without a fork to lift the soil and break it into fragments, to raise shrubs and plants by delving deep beneath them. Indeed the spade is of doubtful service on the heaviest, sticky land, which it cuts in slices, like cake, and leaves to harden with sharp edges. It may be more irksome to shovel away earth with a hand-trowel, after the fork has lifted it, but even this method is preferable. Gravel, or sandy soil, can, of

course, be quickly raised and tossed elsewhere by spade-work.

The trowel should be of all bright steel, not "half bright and half blued," as the catalogues phrase it. There are plenty of the other sort sold at sixpence-halfpenny apiece, which part with their handles as soon as a stiff bit of digging-out of a plant is attempted ; eighteenpence is a more suitable price for a professional weapon of the "all-bright" type.

Again, the Dutch hoe is excellent for weeding carefully among plants, and the draw hoe is splendid for clearing walks of moss and weeds, but it is not difficult to do without them if the quite indispensable spud is bought. Yet there seem to be many floriculturists who have but a dim conception of the nature of this precious tool. It will weed, rake, dig up, and pulverise the surface of beds, and, at a pinch, can be used to make holes for bulbs and trim the edges of the lawn. Considering its smallness it is an expensive tool, for one described as "solid steel, gent's walking-stick handle," costs three shillings at the lowest. However, at some country ironmongers', spud heads are sold which are mounted to order, and this is at once cheaper and better, as the spud is twice as convenient on a handle as long as that of the rake, which should be the next investment. This ought to be light, only eight or nine-toothed, or else the amateur gardener will find herself doing damage when she employs it to clear fallen leaves from among flowers.

If there is much grass a lawn-mower cannot be dispensed with ; its size must depend upon the surface to be kept tidy, but the purchaser should bear in mind that it is easier to go swiftly more times across a lawn,

than wearily a few times, and a wide machine, in addition to weight, hampers the wielder when sharp corners have to be turned, or miniature curves followed. A box to collect the grass adds enormously to the cumbersomeness of a mower and is not needed, for the birch broom, or stiff-bristled old house broom, quickly sweeps the unmade hay into heaps that can be caught up between two lengths of board, and collected in a basket. In spring, when the grass is not long, and again in summer's heat, when a mulch protects the sheared turf, the cut stuff should be left lying. A basket having been mentioned the reader would do well to note that emptied egg baskets, of hamper shape, can be bought for about twopence each at grocers', and cannot be rivalled for lightness and capacity. A small hand fork is sure to be required.

The lawn owner may invest in long-handled edging-shears, or grass plot knives, if she pleases; a pair of steel grass shears for use kneeling will, however, maintain the margins in quite as trim a condition and serve as clippers for hedges, or for narrow turf strips that the machine cannot traverse, also for the cutting down of dwarf plants, such as sweet alyssum, that a second flowering may be encouraged.

Then every hired gardener expects a reel and line, but the ingenious economist may make a pointed stick, a ball of stout string, and a large meat skewer answer the same purpose, just as a home-sharpened wooden stake may do duty for a dibbler. Useful little modern tools are short-handled daisy-grubbers, of which there are many patterns. Watering-cans are essential with a coarse and a fine rose. Secateurs, flower-gathering scissors, pruning and rose-budding knives, water

barrows, hose reels and hose coils, leaf-sponges, dandelion extractors, pneumatic spray producers, are all refinements that help, but need not be sighed for. An aphid brush, to clear green fly from the roses, a strong, simple syringe, a ball of tarred string, a twist of raffia tying material, and a wire sieve, with some old fish-netting to protect seeds, and a supply of labels, will not cost more than a few shillings all together. Worn dinner-knives, that have become dwarfed as to the blades, will both prune trees and loosen the surface-soil among closely set bedding plants.

The woman who means to work in all weathers and states of the ground must equip herself sensibly in other ways than the purchase of tools. For the worst muddy days she can use a kneeling, or standing, board. This is simply an oblong piece of deal—a strong box lid will do—that can be laid flat on the lawn or gravel, or else a strip of wood with a four-inch square block nailed on at each end for feet. The latter is more convenient on beds or borders. Those square feet will sink into the wet earth, but the ugly holes they leave can soon be scratched tidy by the knife or trowel. Kneeling mats, of straw, linoleum, or plaited rope, are often used on the grass at the bed-filling seasons. However, the fewer such protectors the gardener has, the better.

Dress is the chief means of safeguarding the outdoor worker from chills, except for a pair of knee-caps, or pads, that can scarcely be called garments. These should be made at home, of American cloth and vegetable down or “flock,” as pincushions are manufactured, but not stuffed as hard, and can be fastened on by bands of broad elastic passing under the knees. It is

far from pleasant to kneel suddenly upon a sharp stone, or gritty gravel path, so on fine dry days, as well as bad damp ones, the knee-caps should be donned.

At some horticultural training colleges the costume consists of very short skirts over very visible knickers, all of blue serge or holland. The home woman seldom wishes to "wear the breeches" in quite this fashion, and will find herself more comfortably, as well as becomingly, clothed, if she has a skirt of ankle length, and knickers beneath, all of waterproof material. There is nothing like black mackintosh for resisting mud, as a sponging down removes every vestige, and the stuff quickly dries if hung up in a warm kitchen, not close by the fire.

If she prefers, the lady gardener may have her skirt of serge with only a really deep hem, both inside and out, of mackintosh, but it is wiser to arrange a front panel lining too, so that the knees are still further guarded when she kneels on soaking lawns or oozy borders.

A thin jersey for summer, a couple of thick jerseys, one worn over the other, for winter, will give a perfect covering for chest, hips, shoulders, and arms, and movements are less tiring when there are no thick cloth seams to impede them. On the head may be a cap to match the jersey, if work is being done in the open, but woe betide the rose-pruner who tries to stoop amid prickly boughs with a crochet, knitted, or tweed hair-covering! Thorns will entangle themselves a dozen times in ten minutes, and ere long the cap will be dragged to the ground, or hung up on some released, lofty branch of "standard" or "pillar." A mackintosh cap will not prove troublesome, and will keep the

head dry, while on sunny days an untrimmed hat of glazed and stiffened straw is the ideal wear.

Gloves are a source of annoyance. Probably the satisfactory garden glove is still to be invented. Leather gauntlets are too clumsy for any but the roughest jobs, kid is useless after it has been wetted, washing doeskin wears out too rapidly, fabric gloves all let the dirt through more or less. Suède finish cashmere will do well for handling the lawn mower, rake, spud, fork, or spade, silk can be donned when delicate seedlings have to be pricked out, but the woman who wears any gloves for seed sowing must be counted the most amateurish of floriculturists. For seeds stick, and are easily lost ; the fingers need to test how nicely the potting compost will drop from between them, in friable condition, and succulent little weeds, scarcely visible to the eye, are discoverable in the soil by touch—wicked small enemies, just beginning their career, certain to choke some of the first germinating sprouts if not banished. On the whole the action of Mother Earth upon the skin is not a quarter as harmful as is usually feared ; a roughness comes in the palms of hands that have taken constant grips of soil all day, but vaseline rubbed in at night removes that trouble.

Another kind of hand-covering, suited to wettest work, is the housemaids' wash-leather glove ; to render these less clumsy the fingers should all be stitched round again, to reduce their size, then the old stitched edges be cut off, and the gloves turned inside out for wear. If armlets of mackintosh are made, sewn to the glove tops, and finished off at their own cuffs by elastic, there will be no inconvenience from water running down the sleeves.

Foot-wear has not yet been considered. It is astonishing how gardening operations are aided by the feet being at ease, and all manner of boots and shoes prove useful at times. Canvas tennis shoes, with their thick corrugated indiarubber soles, are very safe with spats, if a mackintosh lining is tacked in. Any old leather boots can be soled with wood, and these are softer in wear than are the stout boots, already wooden-bottomed, that can be bought. Dry weather tasks find the woman gardener sufficiently shod in elastic-side cashmere, which will enable her to tread daintily and lightly on the flower-beds. Goloshes will be required only for seasons of actually flooded lawns and walks.

The final suggestion may be permitted that, just as the scientific workman respects his implements, so should the gardener do honour to her tools, and as the good official is proud of his livery, so should she take credit to herself for the tidy fitness of her clothes. Slovenly toilers, conscious of torn skirts, down-at-heel, bulging boots, battered hats, mud-encrusted sleeves, and holey gloves, are likely to blush for their occupation if caught at it. Their tools, too, are sure to have been put away dirty, if not left sticking in the ground or prone upon some path; their seedling-boxes will be rotting, flower-pots cracked, compost ingredients in a jumble, bulbs mildewed, seeds mixed, sticks broken.

The secret of being comfortable when gardening resolves itself, at last, into loving the hobby. All lesser aids fall naturally into place then.

Gardening Proverb.—"One smile in a storm is worth three in sunshine."

CHAPTER IV

PREPARING THE GROUND

"It cannot be too frequently repeated, the remedies provided by Nature always surmount the obstacles she has opposed, and her compensations ever exceed her gifts."—BERNARDIN DE SAINT PIERRE.

IN a woodland, primroses, bluebells, and mosses spring to life, because the rich, moist; shaded soil, full of decayed and decaying vegetable matter, is the nourishment they desire; on mountains flourish alpine flowers that must have gritty ground and no stagnant moisture; in cornfields up leap poppies of fragile stems, sure of protection from winds that would level them if they raised themselves in an equally root-feeding, open meadow. But when the ignorant or careless gardener gets to work plants are expected to adapt themselves impossibly to soil and situations for which they were never destined. To their honour be it said that they do mostly struggle bravely to survive, but the genuine flower-lover grieves over their efforts.

It has been scientifically stated that the food of all plants is nearly the same, but differing in the quantities of the ingredients: all must have air, water, and a substance named humus, which is composed of charcoal (or carbon) and hydrogen gas. This may appear terribly technical, but it can be resolved into a simpler

definition. Each plant must be prevented from pining for lack of either air, moisture, or nourishment, and the last is no use until there is also some light—not necessarily sunshine—and sufficient warmth both above and below the earth.

Any soil, of adequate depth, can be made fit to sustain plants: if it is stony gravel it must have loads of old leaf mould and of sticky cow manure dug into it; if it is rank clay it needs grit, with lime, and horse manure; if it is very chalky, an admixture of peat mould, any animal manures, leaf mould, and some soot. Luckily garden ground is seldom of pure clay, or mere chalk; generally it is a loam with either an excess of sand or of clay; in the latter case the soil is known as “marly.”

A pale soil is probably poor, a dark one rich; in towns, however, black-looking beds and borders too often denote a sour state that has resulted slowly through years of neglect, the vegetable matter deposited by shrubs and trees—many evergreen and semi-poisonous—and the smuts dropped from chimneys,—having gone into a damp decay. Land of this sort needs forking up and leaving loose for some weeks, then several more turnings preceded by scatterings of builders’ lime, with ten-day intervals between the operations. Finally some dryish and strawy horse-manure must be dug in, and for the future the hoe, fork, or spud must prick over the top three or four inches, at least once a month to keep it from becoming sodden again.

The inexperienced eye finds difficulty in deciding what soil wants. If, when a border is turned up at some place by fork or spade, to the depth of a foot, the

sides of the cavity are clean-cut and damply solid, then it needs sand and the other lightening substances, leaf mould and horse manure : if, on the contrary, the sides of the hole are crumbly, to such a degree that a spadeful falls down as soon as thrown up, then it requires stiffening, which is usually done with cow-manure. If roses are to be grown to perfection on such a soil it should also have stiff clayish loam introduced.

Now the next problem for the woman gardener is how to obtain the necessary manures. In most towns there are manure merchants, but any cab or livery stable proprietor will sell horse-manure ; most dairymen will provide cow-manure if it is fetched, and there are always jobbing gardeners who will use their own barrows, or out-of-work labourers who can perform the errand with sacks and a truck. Digging is fine exercise, but it must be admitted that dealing with whole loads of manure is an occupation that has its revolting aspects ; the gardener or navvy may, therefore, be well employed to do this part of the task of ground preparation under close supervision.

A few years ago road-sweepings, bought for about a shilling a load from the town's scavengers, were at the command of the amateur gardener ; now, owing to the prevalence of motor vehicles, the road dust is full of poisonous chemicals. If it is possible to have manure collected only from quiet country by-lanes, then the sweepings are excellent for furnishing both the nutriment and the grit that plants must have added to sticky clay soil. For the average garden, neither too sandy nor too clayey, mixed farmyard manure is good, and any farmer of a neighbourhood

is sure to be willing to cart a load as far as the front or back gateway of the garden, from which it can be wheeled in a barrow.

If the ground has been pasture, newly enclosed for a garden, it will be sufficient to add horse manure at a depth of three feet where shrubs, roses, and strong-growing perennials are to be permanently set, and to merely fork up and weed the ground of beds and borders for bulbous and bedding subjects. If a new garden has been allotment land it is likewise tolerably sure to demand but little improvement. But generally a new plot has been "up" for building so long that it has become hard, stony, and weed-infested; this means that only deep digging and scientific manuring will get it into condition. If possible it should be forked and turned (weeds, both roots and tops, being hand-lifted, thrown into heaps, and burnt on the soil which the vegetable ashes will do so much to benefit), then left in the rough—which implies thrown up irregularly and very lightly—for the atmosphere elements, and birds to pay attention to. The length of time land is left to sweeten and get rid of its insects in this fashion must, of course, depend on circumstances; a house that is built during winter should have its garden dug first, except where work-people must tramp, and the use of the fork, or hoe occasionally, will bring the soil into a splendid state by spring. Frosts and snow are wonderful gardeners, so, by-the-bye, are blackbirds, thrushes, robins, and many other birds. To leave ground in the rough for a week only is better than manuring and levelling the borders and beds immediately after digging.

Scientific advisers, verbal or printed, have an off-

hand way of saying, " The ground must be thoroughly trenched." The ignoramus is then left lamenting. Supposing a description is given of the trenching operation, there may not be any real help in the complex phrases. As a rule only new ground, or neglected ground, has to be trenched ; but let us see if the mysterious work cannot be clearly explained.

Firstly a " spit " deep may be understood as a foot deep, so three spits deep is a three-foot depth. A spade, or trowel, removes firstly the top spit, or foot of soil, and places it on one side ; secondly the spade removes the next foot of soil, and lays that away separately ; thirdly the bottom foot of soil is forked well, and turned over, but not removed. So far so good. Now the top spit of soil is put in on the bottom layer, then the second spit of soil is put in to make up the level. That is the process of trenching. Usually manuring has to be done at the same time. Plenty of the food should be mixed with the bottom soil, because robust roots will know it is there and hurry down to it. A thick layer should be added before the top spit is laid on, another thick layer should separate this buried top spit from the second spit, which becomes the surface. Ground prepared like this will only have to be dug over half a yard deep, and more manure incorporated while digging is done, each second, third, or fourth year, according to the " crop " grown on it.

Fresh, or rank, manure must never be used inside the soil unless no crops are to be planted or sown for some months, except in the case of road-sweepings, which are mixed with much grit, and have been already, of course, exposed, in spread-out state, to sun and wind.

Fresh manure from stable or cowsheds must become partly decayed before plants can thrive upon it. Six shillings a cartload is the price for manure in towns, but country dwellers can obtain it often for much less.

Chemically treated hop manures are advertised truly as efficient substitutes for animal dung, for adding nourishment to beds and borders ; they are capitably stimulating and feeding, add a fibrous quality, a friable softness, and help to conserve moisture.

Because vegetable ashes are known to be of immense value in soil some gardeners reserve a plot on which fires can be made at any time. Another plan is to spare space for a deep ditch into which *débris* can be thrown. If a layer of unslacked lime is added occasionally this will burn the refuse in a way, but some earth should always be kept on the surface of the rubbish, to prevent bad odours. A third method is to bury boughs, branches, dead plants, cabbage stumps, fallen leaves, grass cuttings, etc., etc., in some bit of ground that is to lie fallow for six months. The faulty scheme is to dig such waste stuff haphazard into ground that is to be planted soon, or sown, or has trees, shrubs, roses, or giant perennials already present. The decay is bound to be injurious while in progress ; mould and mildew rot roots or bulbs they touch, and turn the soil temporarily sour ; also the unburnt vegetation is sure to contain disease germs and insect pests, which attack all the living plants they can reach. Grass cuttings are especially subject to mildew.

Ground preparation, in a garden of good character, may often be sufficiently done by spreading manure

as a mulch and forking it in a few weeks later, to a depth of half a yard, mixing it with all the turned soil.

On a damp bit of land a heavy protective mulch of manure round roses or plants is a mistake—a mulch, that is to say, designed for an extra winter covering. Fresh dry loam would be a better material. The sandy, gravel, or chalky garden borders, though, may be kept snug from November to April by a mulch of manure, to be lightly forked in during spring.

If the woman gardener realises the lasting comfort of well-prepared soil she will not grudge the labour, time, or cost of getting ready for some years of first-class floral triumphs. It is less trouble to start well than to have to tinker at the land continually afterwards.

On taking over possession of a garden many years old it is prudent to test the soil to ascertain if there is a deficiency of lime, which is a positively essential ingredient. As an authority on horticultural chemistry has written, rich garden soil is nearly always benefited by a dressing. "Why are our gardens infested with grubs and myriads of soil pests?" he asks, then responds to his own questions. "Why do not our peas flourish with bright green leaf and bountiful luxuriance? Why are our applications of manure so ineffectual and without good result? Answer, 'Because the soil lacks lime,' and in nine cases out of ten you have defined the true cause."

By a fascinating experiment the owner of land can discover if limelessness is its state. Let her half fill a tumbler with soil taken a few inches below the surface, fill the glass a third more with water, and add to this, in five minutes, half an ounce of spirits of salts.

If the mixture effervesces there is lime enough ; if it does not, lime must be added to the garden or else not one crop will flourish. Lime ready ground is a very cheap remedy. Simply mark the land out into squares, three feet wide and three feet long, scatter one ounce and a quarter of the lime on each square, and then fork it in during February or March. It will not harm rose trees, shrubs, or big plants, but should not be thrown against foliage or stems. Failing ground lime, ordinary freshly burnt lime from a builder's can be crushed and applied. Insects detest it—in fact, very slight scatterings on the surface of beds and borders, each week of spring, will do much to rid them of slugs.

Gardening Proverb.—" ' Benefits spring from buried ills,' said the auld wife when the barking dog died."

CHAPTER V

THE CHARM OF THE MIXED BORDER

"The flowers were full of song ; upon the rose
I read the crimson annals of true love ;
The violet flung me back an old romance ;
All were associated with some link
Whose fine electric throb was in the mind."

LETITIA LANDON.

VISIT an old garden in the heart of the country, by patriarchal farmhouse or thatched cottage, look for separate roseries, rockeries, annual and herbaceous borders, plots of congregated dahlias, and you will not find them. What *will* be discovered is a kindly association of shrubs, roses, perennials, annuals, bedding plants, the bulbous favourites of spring, fragrant ornamental herbs, all united by a ground covering of lesser flowers and pretty foliage. Now the charm of the mixed border is so winsome that one wonders why new gardens are not planted in the same style. Not that one would have the fashion become a craze, and separate features altogether avoided, but that, in some places, the dear antique skill in blending should again be exhibited. Mostly these past-century borders were edged by trimmed hedges of box, but rock edgings were also popular, and these offer crannies in which tiny mosses, alpine, and ferns soon find permanent lodgings, to the great enhancement of their beauty.

Wherever hardy plants are grown near roses they require keeping in order, otherwise even the strong hybrid perpetuals, briars, and mosses will be weakened. Still, it is easy to dig away portions of sunflowers, phloxes, and Michaelmas daisies when they spread too far, or to thin out carpets of pinks and pansies. Clearances there will have to be in any case, for seedlings will spring up, almost too lavishly, in nice rich soil. The wallflowers, snapdragons, or foxgloves, for example, will soon have hosts of children clustering round their feet, but what delight these self-sown plants will cause if they are given away by the basketful to the girls and boys of the nearest school, or to poor women who cannot afford to buy garden stock !

Annuals, whether put out in April, May, and June, the bedding season, or sown in the spaces each year reserved for them, will leave gaps when cleared off in autumn : here is the chance for the introduction of such bulbs as will themselves have to be lifted before the room is again needed. Roman hyacinths, or the pink, blue, or creamy-yellow Italian hyacinths, do excellently out of doors ; Van Tholl tulips will be patches of vivid vermilion, yellow, or white in early March, and the bunch narcissi, of amber or snowy petals, take no harm from being exiled after their bloom is over. Large hyacinths, jonquils, double daffodils, and the majority of tulips will be too late for the gaps that are to be sown with annuals, but can be used where geraniums, heliotrope, fuchsias, begonias, and marguerites are to be set.

The more informal the design of a mixed border the better imitation will it be of the gardening art of our great-grandparents. They seldom sought after

patterns, except in certain beds, just to show what they could do if they chose, and in the clipping of their evergreens in some portions of the pleasure-grounds. Really people speak now as though all beds were geometrical spaces, all yews twined into shapes of peacocks, vases, globes, and crosses, and all hedges castellated !

The wider the mixed border, in reason, the richer will be its appearance ; a strip less than six feet wide is not much use for the purpose if trees and shrubs are to be included, though it could be filled with a mixture of perennial, annual, and bulbous plants. A border in the open should have the tallest subjects near the middle, except for some isolated bits of height towards the edges, to give variety. A border with wall or fence behind can have most of its giant ornaments against this, with a few standing forward to prevent a monotonously level foreground.

The two plans given of sections of mixed borders will indicate the principles on which the planter should go to work, and will also suggest definitely how certain flowers can be harmoniously combined. Of course other minglings would be as fair, if not fairer ; blossom lovers have their own pets among plants, even, maybe, their own aversions, and personal interest is always greatest when idiosyncrasies of taste are reproduced in gardens.

In addition to the shrubs named there are countless species that look lovely among roses, lilies, sunflowers, asters, stocks, hollyhocks, etc. Scores of the most charming come into bearing in spring and early summer, before the midsummer and autumn wealth of colour ; others carry gay fruits long after the annuals are

removed and the perennials have had to be cut down. Then there are tinted foliage shrubs, both evergreen and deciduous, such as the barberry, golden privet, silver or golden elder, variegated veronica, the green-and-yellow oleaster (*elægnus aurea reticulata*), which contrast by solidity of form with the fragile growth of many flowers, as well as show off flower hues by their prodigal leafage.

Fig. 6. The Mixed Border.

A Pink Hollyhocks. B 5 Briar Roses. C China Pink Rose.
D Bush Rose. E *Pyrethrum Uglinosum*. F Lavender.
G Polyantha Roses.

A trio of hollyhocks creates most effect from a distance in the mixed border by a wall (Fig. 6); then the quintette of briar roses, the large bush of the rampant white rose, *Boule de Neige*, the three polyantha roses, which may be pink, red, and white, the lofty moon daisies (*pyrethrum uglinosum*), the pink China rose, and the lavender will stand out prominently, the last with Madonna lilies nestling against it. There cannot fail to be a grand floral show here from early months to late, especially if bulbs are given the annuals' places, as before suggested, and then are banished to some piece of waste-land; for bulbous plants must finish

their natural development, turn yellow of foliage, and die down above soil : if dragged up, and not replanted elsewhere before they complete their ripening growth stage, they may die—they will infallibly refuse to bloom next year. Put them in anywhere fairly sunny, even quite close together, and there they will prepare stamina for a finer blossoming next spring, after an October or November removal to a better home again.

All the earth under the hollyhocks is covered by the silvery tufts of white Iceland poppies ; these nodding flowers will peep from among the foliage of the pink giants, especially if the latter have their generally superabundant supply of leaves thinned out. Briar roses, of crimson, carnation, blush, or white, will be rough, ruddy-stemmed objects, with only a sparse covering of leaves, and perhaps some coloured seed vessels still left, when that stretch of ground is a glade of bluebells : later their spreading boughs will give bluebell plants the shade they require. The pink China rose bush will very likely have some buds formed before the double daffodil carpet has left off showing gold, for, where sheltered, this old-fashioned member of the vast rose family often contrives to pass scarcely two months of winter bloomless. In any case there will be a delicious blue and pink effect when the alkanet is out ; and some of the ten-week stocks can be of azure. Pink will again be represented when the hardy creeping cranesbill (*geranium endressi*) starts in May, to continue its profuse yield until the frosts. Autumn has been catered for as carefully by the companionship of sunflowers with the seven-foot moon-daisies, of pea-green, velvet centre bosses

(pyrethrum uglinosum), and the bronze chrysanthemums beside golden rod.

Though the consideration of unfamiliar perennials has purposely been reserved for a later chapter, it is not too soon to beg all readers to adopt the custom of giving flowers their English names by preference. Some of the novel introductions have been put on the market by terrible titles only, alas ! but nearly all the

Fig. 7. A Mixed Border.

A York and Lancaster Rose. B Standard Crimson Rose. C Southernwood. D Gold-rayed Lily of Japan. E Scarlet Sweet Peas. F White Broom. G Sweet Peas (Pale Blue, Rose, and Yellow).

plants that have been years with us have managed to pick up simpler names.

The border in the open, Fig. 7, has a centre splendour of sweet peas, madonna lilies, and a bush of the ancient striped red and white York and Lancaster rose, also a trio of the gold-rayed lily of Japan (*lilium auratum*), and a bush of snow-white broom.

Flowering shrubs are always found in the farmhouse and cottage garden mixed borders, and no wonder ! They possess a generous habit, they break winds, and intercept too fierce sunbeams, as well as bestow their

own excellencies of shape, scent, line, and form. Under many a guelder-rose bush may be discovered lurking starry yellow aconites, timid white violets, autumn crocuses, and creeping Jenny ; the soil beneath the snowberry tree is possibly blue with unperfumed wood-violets, or deep purple with those of the more gifted type ; perhaps we may discern sweetbriar and yellow jasmine, honeysuckle running up a pole, everlasting peas tied in a sheaf almost, a myrtle grown from a bridal bouquet's cutting, a noble specimen of purplish-blue, bee-honoured sage.

If there is sufficient sunshine it is sure there will be sufficient shade, because the towering subjects, and the dense foliaged ones, will have shadows, long or profound, for the comfort of dwarfs that need cool nooks.

A new garden made up all of mixed borders, by lawns and boundaries, would be more attractive than are nine out of ten elaborately planned pleasure-grounds. The luxuriance of the notion pleases—that seeing at once the best cherished of trees, climbers, and plants, foreign flowers, woodland and field natives, roses ancient and modern, bulbous displays, late chrysanthemum masses, winter's berried ornaments, mid-summer's lilies. Why, there might be fruit trees too, rising out of carnations and pansies, as they used to do in dear old kitchen gardens of bygone days.

Amateurs are usually anxious to know how near plants may be set to one another. To answer that question completely would perplex any oracle, but common sense, aided by a few hints, ought to suffice. A tree, for bearing fine fruit, must have the ground bare for a yard at least about its trunk ; a shrub, which has no fruiting to do, can have perennials not

more than nine inches high planted to where its lower boughs will spread, or trailing subjects, creeping Jennys, sweet woodruff, periwinkles, and violets, right beneath. A rose that needs mulching occasionally, that is expected to bloom prodigally as to quantity, or magnificently as to quality, must possess clear ground for a foot's space all round, but light-growing Iceland poppies, pinks, dwarf cornflowers, or dwarf alpinas, such as mountain pinks and dianthus, may approach up to that limit. Suppose a group of phloxes or chrysanthemums is to come next to a rose in a border? Well, the "next" in that case should mean quite three feet distant, the lesser plants filling the ground in between.

When a "group of phloxes" is mentioned it is taken for granted that the single plants can stand two feet apart, if for an almost permanent display; if they were put within one foot of each other there would be one, or perhaps two seasons' good blossom show, then the plants would have joined into a net of roots and would have to be divided.

Broadly speaking, eighteen-inch tall perennials in a group should be a foot apart, nine-inch ones six inches, six-inch ones four inches. A grassy-leaved flax, however, rises high, but needs little root food; a majestic but slender gladiolus need not command a half-yard site; so there will invariably be a chance for the gardener's own wits to work.

Pillar roses and clematises are a great improvement to the mixed border; a rare arch or two, spanning the soil above a little plot of lilies or chrysanthemums, asphodels or gladioli, will provide a new pleasure; a length of hedge, a stretch of yellow jasmine or

Japanese quince on a rustic espalier, a mound of rockery, a sunk pool, a rustic urn, are features that will delight if not too often repeated.

Gardening Proverb.—"There's room in creation for all, but not within the same yard."

CHAPTER VI

SUCCESS WITH TURF

“ Here at my feet what wonders pass—
What endless active life is here !
What blowing daisies, fragrant grass—
An air-stirred forest fresh and clear.”

MATTHEW ARNOLD.

A BEAUTIFUL garden can be shamed or honoured by its lawns. Now and then a shabby, almost unkempt flower garden strikes the visitor as being singularly lovely and inspiring, through the velvet softness of its turf, on which lights and shadows sport as daintily as fairies in a glen. Rough grass resists this shadow-play ; poor patchy grass has little effect under sunshine.

Making a lawn is an act of benevolence that should be undertaken zealously, or loses half its merit. If it is perfectly made it will improve with years of kindly tending ; if it is the work of a slovenly person it must lie there as a mute reproach, or be taken up and stacked for potting mould.

The impossible must not be expected. A strong desire for a lawn may lead a garden owner to lay down the best turves, or sow worthy seed, in a closed-in, dank place or under the drip of trees, upon barren, shifting sand or waterlogged clay, and the result will spell failure. Of course grass under trees is a legitimate

arrangement enough. But all grass is not lawn; the kind that can be let to grow rather long at certain seasons, and be starred over by naturalised flowering plants, will turn a shaded nook into a species of woodland, that must delight artistic persons, but will not be suitable for close cropping for a playground. If grass is to be freely walked on, and mown regularly so that it never grows rankly, its roots must have a tight hold upon fit soil. Dark, damp, and airlessness are the lawn's enemies, just as dangerous as the insidious worms that throw up casts, or the vexatious, fortunately rare, moles that tunnel so devastatingly. A back garden of a villa facing south, if but a little plot, should have its grassy portions away from the building, or no sunshine will reach them after the early morning. Trees should only be planted at lawn ends or edges, where the expanse of turf will not be injured; and trees that go to a point, like firs, are so much safer to choose, having a method of absorbing all their own drips, that, but for the charm of a spreading almond, double cherry, or acacia, we might decide to employ no long-armed standards at all.

The difficulties of lawn-making are not extreme, unless the land has to be drained first. Should it require this treatment expert labourers must be called in. The underground slope for the two-inch drain pipes should be from twelve inches to eighteen at the end, where a larger pipe acts as main drain, which must have a flow to some outlet. The pipes have to be covered in by several inches of burnt ballast, which is really clay burnt with coal dust. A layer of this same ballast is desirable all under the bottom soil, and the rest of the soil has to be made up with good loam,

mixed with grit, or coarse gravel, crushed brick rubble, and more burnt ballast. The woman gardener will not undertake pipe-laying herself, but these hints are to enable her to superintend the operations of men employed for the lawn draining, as faulty methods produce faulty grass. For instance, digging should not be done more deeply in one spot than in another, as loosened earth is bound to sink more or less, making it likely that the grass, after use, will show dips and hollows. A measuring-stick should be used constantly while the excavating is in progress, then the hard sub-soil will escape interference.

Since draining involves such hard labour, consequently such expense, it is fortunate that a simple test can be applied for the settling of the problem if draining is needed. A safe answer is gained by digging a few holes, rather more than two feet deep, in the ground, leaving these covered by boards for a few days, and watching if any water lies at the base of the miniature pits. If none is visible then the land does not require draining. Seasons of prolonged drought are not right times for testing thus, while in the heart of a wet autumn, or when winter frosts have broken, a two-foot deep investigation will be sufficient indication.

When the surface is made up ready for laying turf, a well-forked eighteen inches of good soil beneath, mixed with grit if not by nature sandy, it is customary to put a three or four-inch layer of leaf-mould, vegetable ashes, and burnt earth for turves to actually rest on, but this is by no means obligatory. Turves are cheap in some counties, dear in others, and vary dangerously in quality. If taken from an old pasture

meadow they are usually free from the worst weeds, but those from a buttercup and dandelion infested field will but bring trouble into the garden. In open country the finest turves are often found in the grassy stretches flanking lanes, while the grass stretches of commons are sometimes weedless and admirably "springy."

The method of laying turf is to place the strips half an inch apart, not touching, then lightly pat the whole over, which flattens them until they almost meet. A turf-beater is the professional tool for the job, but the flat of a spade will do, or the back of the trowel if the expanse is moderate. Next some leaf-mould, preferably mixed with as much burnt clay, is strewn sparingly over the joining lines, and just pressed in. Some authorities say that if common carbolic powder is added to the cementing-soil between the turves there will be no invasion of the new lawn by either worms or moles.

After rain has fallen a dressing of gritty loam and slaked lime should be given the whole of the lawn. Turf-laying can be done in September, February, or March, indeed almost at any time when fierce sunheat is not dreaded. In April the autumn or spring made lawn needs lightly rolling; as soon as the grass has attained a height of three or four inches it must be cut. Old-fashioned gardeners feared to use any mower, and always plied a scythe for the first cuttings, but a fairly light machine, with the knives set not too low, and no box on it, will not do any damage unless the soil is in too wet a state. April afternoons will be drier than mornings or evenings. A turfed lawn can be used for games the first summer; a sown lawn can

generally be sparingly used, two or three times a week for tennis or croquet, certainly not for cricket, from midsummer onwards if autumn made, or from August if April sown. The turfed lawn, by-the-bye, is sure to need weeding about the end of March, and the holes left have to be sown with grass-seed.

Amateur gardeners cannot be too strongly cautioned against cheap seed for lawn making ; so much care and patience has to go to the " screening " of seed to ensure its being pure that it cannot be sold at the lowest prices. What is required for a tennis or croquet court, bowling-green, or decorative lawn, is a mixture of dwarf evergreen grasses. Side lawns, where no play will be done, and the same stretches will not be as constantly walked over, can be sown with a mixture of evergreen grasses and fine white Dutch clover ; the latter seed, quick to spring up into growth, able to resist drought and impart a refreshing deep green to the lawn's colour, certainly has its merits, but clover is slippery under the tread, and gives a patchy effect at some seasons, just through its verdant hue. When employed, a tenth portion of its seed must be thoroughly mingled with the seeds of grasses. Coarser grass seeds are sold for pastures, cricket grounds, and golf courses, special mixtures too for clothing land under trees, in shady or partially shady places.

Then the amount of seed for a given area has to be ascertained. Let the woman gardener act generously. The seedsman can be trusted to explain to her what is the usual quantity, what is the more lavish, therefore safer, amount to sow. The finest seed is about two and threepence a pound, a coarser kind being priced at one and tenpence, or one and sixpence. White

Dutch clover costs about half a crown a pound, but goes a great deal further. The regulation size for a single-handed tennis-court is seventy-eight feet by twenty-seven feet ; the four-handed court is seventy-eight feet by thirty-six feet, but four yards more are usually allowed at the ends, and two yards more at each side. Croquet can be played on a smaller lawn.

Having bought grass seed the gardener will be eager to sow it ; she may do this any time between February and July, or from the end of August to the middle of October, but there is no better month than September in the south or warm west, where severest winters are not felt, nor than April in other localities. The ground should be dug two feet deep if known to be damp, poor, or weed-infested ; one foot deep will do if it has been under cultivation. Every fragment of weed root must be cast out as discovered. If at all poor a little well-decayed horse manure may be added to the soil, but this should be passed through a wire sieve, so as to rid it of lumps and guarantee that it lies all over the space : if it is present in some spots, not in others, the grasses that are fed will be greener and ranker than their unstimulated brethren. Chemical lawn-manure may be used in preference ; many kinds are sold, by the hundredweight or in tins from a shilling upwards, and instructions are sent out as to the quantity of each sort to use.

The surface soil has next to be raked, freed from stones, then rolled firm and level. A slight scratching up is done by the rake, the seed is scattered as evenly as possible, after being carefully calculated and divided, so much to each yard ; the rake is used again to hide it, or some loam may be thrown over through

a sieve—probably the easier and more satisfactory method. If seed can be seen lying, sparrows and other small birds will not only devour that, but discover the stores just below. When black cotton can be stretched between little bits of stick, across and across, the seed is quite safeguarded, but flapping or tinkling scarecrows have to be resorted to when the lawn is of great extent.

After treatment must not be scamped. If drought follows sowing, some early morning or evening waterings through a fine hose become necessary; if there is no hose the work can be done by a light-footed person, in heelless shoes or boots, with the aid of a fine-rosed watering-can. If the grass is not well up in three weeks' time the sower may begin to despair—not till then; frequently a patchy appearance distresses, but sowing these patches with more seed can always be a later adopted remedy, interference at the early stage being generally a mistake. Cutting should be done as soon as the young grass is three or four inches high, as recommended for the newly-turfed lawn, and mowings will be required every nine days or so, oftener as the grass strengthens. There should be constant rollings after slight rainfalls, or when the surface ground has recovered from the excessive wetness of heavy ones.

Another caution must be given as to the use of the mowing machine, or grass-cutter. If the handles are leant on heavily the wheels will dig into the lawn and make it uneven; if it is used after frosts, or tempests, the surface soil will be slimy and slippery, the wheels will crush grass blades into its mud, and so stick fast themselves that, upon resuming rolling,

they will drag up roots and cause bare spots to appear. The grass must never be permitted to grow rankly tall, yet the mowings are better postponed a few days when the ground conditions are unsuitable. Mid-days are often dry enough, when evenings and mornings are dew-drenched.

Renovating old lawns can be done by scratching them gently with a rake and sowing seed sparingly over the whole surface, by treating the worst patches only in similar style, or by collecting grass "weeds" from beds and borders, and transplanting these, an inch apart, where needed. A lawn can be cleared of moss by giving it a good dressing with wood-ashes, which will not harm any grasses. When old lawns are worm-infested they are sure to be slippery and unpleasant to walk upon, but worm-killing powder can be bought cheaply, and if sprinkled evenly will result in a crop of dead worms ready to be swept up and burnt next morning. A poor lawn can be fed by one of the powder manures sold for the purpose; the correct quantity to employ will be mentioned upon the tins.

No garden is quite perfect without "a smooth carpet of verdant turf, softer and more elastic than a Persian rug"; still a tiled garden can be perfect *of its sort*, and a gravel garden be more meritorious in a place where the grass would be faulty. Mr. Eugene Delamer, a famous writer in 1864, may be quoted on this topic.

"Grass is such a staple article in English gardens, and in truth adds so much to their beauty, that it seems hard to discourage its employment in towns. And yet, what are most of the grass-plots met with there,

even with all the expense that is incurred for returfing, sanding, rolling, mowing, and guano? ” (Or other feeding.) “ Too often do we behold half-naked patches of ground, like threadbare coats or shocking bad hats, that you have no pleasure in looking at, and are afraid to walk on. If the blades of grass *will* spindle up, long, lank, few and far between, if the roots will *not* tiller and thicken, it is better to occupy the space with something else, even with a layer of clean bright gravel. Where a strip of green is wanted to run along the ground, as at the foot of buildings, round the base of a pedestal, or as the framework of a grass plot that is intended never to be trodden on, ivy answers the purpose well, especially if its band of green is broad.”

Admirable counsel! But where grass can be, whether it is over noble spaces, or as a foot-wide belt to border a shrubbery, for whole undulating side lawns, or small divisions between beds, let it be started well and maintained tenderly. The way the tree shadows lie on turf, the thrushes and blackbirds haunt it, the quivering lights dance there, the footsteps are softened when crossing it, the restfulness of the colour, the breathing space it provides, the unchecked range for sight, are all arguments in favour of its creation. Grassy walks show off flowers as gravel or stone cannot, because green is the natural frame to blossoms; and it is certain that turf of genuine excellence is no damper than other paths, on which puddles form more and linger longer. All that is necessary is to roll, sweep, and cut persistently; and it should be as possible for a talented literary woman to compose a sonnet, or a plot, while holding the machine handles,

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as for a Burns to invent lyrics while following a plough. At any rate, time spent in health-giving, serviceable exercise is never wasted.

Gardening Proverb.—"Two blades of grass do not make a lawn."

CHAPTER VII

ROSES AND ROSERIES

“ First of all, the rose ; because its breath
Is rich beyond the rest ; and when it dies
It doth bequeath a charm to sweeten death.”

BARRY CORNWALL.

A DOZEN volumes might be written about roses, and yet the subject remain unexhausted. This chapter shall be devoted to suggestions where to place roses, and which species and varieties to choose for different uses and situations.

“ Shall I have roses ? ” is the question a woman gardener puts to herself directly she has a new garden to stock, or an unsatisfactory part of a made one to improve. Ten to one she decides in favour of “ bedding stuff ” instead, because she understands how to manage that, while suspicious of her powers to control the queen of flowers. Pruning is a mystery only till learnt, planting roses is so plain a task that a child can master its routine in an hour’s lesson. So there is really no need at all for rose culture to be regretfully shunned as beyond the skill of the tyro at gardening. We will smooth away the difficulties presently ; meanwhile let it be taken on trust that no garden is easier, cheaper, or less labour-involving to manufacture and keep up than the garden in which roses predominate.

Another welcome truth is that there are very few localities where the rose will not thrive, and no aspects for which, in suitable varieties, it cannot be sensibly chosen. A woodland can have briar and Japanese species, with ramblers to climb dead trees in the clearings ; a bleak hilltop, on which perennials are gale-prostrated and half-hardy annuals are beaten to death, or torn up by the roots, may be covered by pegged-down creeping roses, sturdy little bushes of spiny Scotch roses, or well-staked polyanthas.

“ Shall I have roses ? ”—Why, yes, buy them at six shillings a dozen, a good average price which will mean the inclusion of quite up-to-date varieties, put them practically everywhere, and with happy confidence await a royal recompense.

To begin with the house wall is a measure for bringing perfume and colour-beauty closest to the home. More errors are made in giving hardy roses too hot sites than in exposing hybrid perpetuals and hybrid teas on cold ones ; a crimson Rambler, for example, nailed to brick on which mid-day sunshine beats, will shrivel up and die. For the north wall—the worst possible, since the north-east one gets a glimpse of morning sunshine—the choice is limited ; still, pleasure can surely be taken in persuading any blossoms to open where the generality of gardeners would only endeavour to provide ivy or Virginian creeper? Deep rich soil is needed, and the border should slope slightly to the edge, in order that surplus wet may find an outlet. If the ground is devoid of nourishment (as is so frequently the case with wall-backed borders, especially if broken slates and bricks have been cast into it a foot or so below the surface) roses

will not survive ; but neither could they do so were the aspect the most kindly. The following lists are suited to all ordinary gardens :

NORTH WALL ROSES

Alberic Barbier. Creamy-white, yellow flushed, in clusters ; deep green glossy foliage.

Catherine Seyton. Hybrid sweet briar, pink, constant blooming. 6 feet tall when trained.

Félicité Perpétué. Creamy white, of good size, strong growing ; glossy leaved.

The Dawson Rose. Pale pink, very full flowers of good size, rampant grower, with a beautiful "weeping" habit of branch.

Rosa Rugosa. Deep rose, bluish shaded. Vigorous ; single ; produces red seed-pods and its foliage becomes tinted in autumn. 9 feet tall on a wall.

Dundee Rambler. White, pink-edged ; extra vigorous.

Longworth Rambler. Crimson, semi-double ; very hardy.

EAST WALL ROSES

Reine Olga de Wurtemberg. Vivid scarlet-crimson, semi-double, tall and strong.

Polyantha Grandiflora. Large trusses of white, single, bramble-like blooms ; very hardy.

Noella Nabonnand. Damask-crimson, very large, velvety, semi-double flowers.

Gracilis. Bright pink, single ; sure to flourish.

Gloire de Dijon. Buff, often at its best where exposed to only morning sunshine.

Boule de Neige. Pure white globular blossoms ; very free blooming.

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Ards Rover. Crimson, shaded with maroon ; rapid grower.

Euphrosyne, the pink Rambler. Wild rose-pink ; will reach the roof of a villa.

WEST WALL ROSES

Aglaia, the yellow Rambler. Lemon ; exceptionally lovely shining foliage ; does not bloom freely until the second year after planting.

Aimée Vibert. Pure white, in clusters, foliage nearly evergreen.

William Allen Richardson. Retains its orange-apricot colour best in this situation.

Climbing Captain Hayward. Crimson, large blooming, extra perfumed.

Climbing Frau Karl Druschki. Snow white, very big.
The Wallflower. Brownish crimson, flowering all along the shoots.

SOUTH WALL ROSES

Souvenir de Léonie Viennot. Amber, flushed with red, tea-scented, large and free.

Rêve d'Or. Yellow, not large but free and continuous, and a rapid grower.

Madame Alfred Carrière. White.

Gruss an Teplitz. Scarlet-crimson, cup-shaped ; very free, ruby-tinted foliage.

Climbing Mrs. W. J. Grant. Bright pink, very large.

Bouquet d'Or. Yellowish buff ; very full and fragrant.

Climbing Devoniensis. Creamy-white ; exquisite for warm places.

Billard et Barré. A beautiful golden rose.

It may be generally reckoned that a south-west wall will suit any rose but those known as terribly delicate, such as *Devoniensis*, *Maréchal Niel*, and *Niphetos*, except those which are extra hardy, since these resent the heat thrown off by sun-baked brick. That is the reason why the rampant ramblers succumb. Arches and trellises, rustic summer-house sides, wood arbours and porches, pergolas, pillars, or verandahs of painted iron will not become as heated as brick, stucco, or stone ; still, the last-mentioned, being near the house, seldom offer fit positions for robust roses unless facing north or east. For safety's sake, fences may be considered as walls. Pergolas are, of course, the usual home for the popular ramblers.

Roses for beds should be grouped together as much for their species—or it would be more correct to say for their classes—as for their colours, as, if a slow-growing tea variety is paired with a go-ahead hybrid perpetual, a lop-sided appearance must result that cannot be remedied by any amount of pruning. All teas are not necessarily low of stature, *Homer* and *Marie Van Houtte*, rosy-edged, flushed with blush-cream, and pink-shaded lemon respectively, will make fine bushes, or can be nailed seven feet high against a wall ; yet it can be taken for granted that a tea rose will always be fit to plant where a low one is required, because it will blossom well when restricted as to height.

The real rosery can be represented by a few beds on a lawn, or a hedge-enclosed, gravelled, or flagged piece of land with beds therein ; it may as suitably be a couple of magnificent rose borders, flanking a grass walk or paved path, arched over at intervals. Indeed,

the term "rosery" is remarkably elastic ; it can be made to reach to extremes, or remain of small significance.

A new style of rosery is shown by Fig. 8, where elegance of outline is at once noticed as chief merit. There are two borders, one at each end, otherwise the whole show will be made by standard roses, save where two pillar climbers rise. The lightsome appearance of these prim but beautiful standards above the grass will give welcome originality to the garden. There is no need for only standards to be planted, however ; on the side lawns bushes would afford variety and also lessen expense, or half-standards might be bought, which would call attention to the superior dignity of the full standards elsewhere. The broad walk would look grand made into a pergola colonnade of considerable height, but, in that case, the sundial would have to be given up, for lack of appropriately unrestricted sunshine.

How different is the plan of the formal rosery (Fig. 9). Yet this too has its legitimate appeal to taste, and could be well made on less ground than the elegant rosery demands.

Separating rose colours, when nearly all are to be patronised, always requires thought, for pink and salmon, scarlet and carmine, gold and apricot are fiercely antagonistic. It will be found, if this plan is adhered to, that the bed of all white, the pale-hued "blush" beds and white and lemon arches, will perfectly separate those hues that would otherwise fight for their whole lives. The beds can have neat edgings of white and laced pinks, white or rosy mossy saxifrages, rock-cresses, creeping crane's-bill, violas, the

Fig. 8. A Beautiful Rosary.

Fig. 9. A Formal Rosery.

smaller violettas, double red or white daisies, thrift, forget-me-nots, and hare-bells.

Some places are so windswept that all plants suffer, roses and shrubs being blown sideways and lashed cruelly. To have a healthy rosery it is necessary to protect it all the way round, except for open exits and entrances, which should be narrow, and not on the sides from which the chief gales come. By the sea it is not always the north or east wind that is most to be dreaded ; sou'-westers can be devastating. Now the strongest barrier to winds, short of a brick wall or close fence, is an evergreen hedge, and the common laurel will make that soonest—sooner even than the all-green euonymus.

A little sheltered rosery is pictured, at least as ground-plan, in Fig. 10. A centre bed, of unusual shape, and four corner beds, afford scope for separating roses of red, deep and pale pink, white, and yellow, or those corner spaces could contain mixed colours, a more commendable idea, perhaps, when it is remembered what numbers of delightful rose varieties there are that cannot be classified precisely as to tint because each contains so many. Blended rose-colours, often copper, scarlet, buff and lemon, or yellow, peach, and carmine, in the same blossom, have a charm all their own ; so too have the variable roses, such as *Monsieur Paul Léde*, that is salmon in some soils, nearly cream in others, yet is to be found catalogue-described also as “brown-yellow suffused with rose” ; or *Beauté Inconstante*, which may yield a coppery-red semi-double flower on one shoot, and a yellow, carmine-streaked flower on another, with possibly some salmony-pink blooms lower down.

It is astonishing how fervent is the praise accorded a round rosery, a suitable plan for which is shown by

Fig. 10. A Square Rosery.

Fig. 11. There is no more talent called for in the creation of this rose garden of curves than for one of acute angles, but gardeners are proverbially conservative, elect to go on, year after year, cultivating by the

same methods, and to the same designs, buying or propagating identical "stuff," setting usual colours in pairs or trios ; consequently any break in routine

Fig. II. A Round Rosery.

soon arouses envy and enthusiasm, or the imitation that best compliments.

If this rosery were made in a tempestuous spot the five outer borders could contain the sheltering hedge, or else a length of tall, fine-meshed trellis each ; but where conditions are favourable they should hold the "mixed" or composite-colour roses, and beyond a

path encircling the whole could come more borders for herbaceous plants, or a scented, myriad-hued frame made of hedges of sweet peas. It is a lovely little design, formal yet soft of effect, with the star of grass making long green points among the easily approached trees. Each opening between the borders could be singly or doubly arched over.

To make a rose pyramid on a small scale a pillar rose, to be ten feet high, should be planted first, surrounded by three trees of some notably prodigious grower of bush type, such as the scarlet-crimson J. B. Clark, which ungrateful folk are fond of calling too strong of branch for any but the largest gardens. Next should come a quintette of a less tall, yet still go-ahead rose, such as white Frau Karl Druschki (the dwarf, not the climber), or the popular favourite Madame Abel Chatenay, salmon-pink, would do well, followed by a ring of a dwarf polyantha, of which the snowy Anna Marie de Montravel is most floriferous and spreading.

Alas, we cannot all devote a certain area to the creation of a rosery ; some of us must be content with growing pet roses in the borders of mixed flowers and shrubs, others may prefer to fill beds with them. This is an always satisfactory action. Roses are with us so many months in succession, if a wise selection of sorts is made ; roses have stems and leaves that never offend the eye as do fading perennials, yellowing bulbous plants, and dying annuals ; and beds occupied by them, if florally edged, and kept nicely as to surface soil, maintain a decorous appearance from Christmas to Christmas.

Excellent bedding roses for sunny open gardens of average climate are :

- Mad. Jules Grolez. Hybrid tea. Silvery deep rose.
- *Mrs. John Laing. Hybrid perpetual. Bright pink.
- Pharisaër. H.T. White, clouded with pale rose.
- *Ulrich Brunner. H.P. Cherry red.
- Mrs. R. C. Sharman Crawford. H.P. Pink.
- Antoine Rivoire. H.T. Deep cream, with a salmon-buff shade.
- Richmond. H.T. Scarlet crimson.
- *Gustave Grünerwald. H.T. Carmine.
- La France. H.T. Silvery rose, with bluish shading.
- Harry Kirk. H.T. Deep yellow.
- *Helen Keller. H.P. Rosy cerise.
- *His Majesty. H.T. Dark crimson, flushed with scarlet.
- Hon. Edith Gifford. T. White, with flesh centre.
- *Hugh Dickson. H.P. Scarlet-crimson. Tall.
- Gladys Harkness. H.T. Salmon rose.
- *General Jacqueminot. H.P. Scarlet-crimson.
- *George Arens. H.P. Called the pink "Druschki," but sweetly perfumed.
- George Laing Paul. H.T. Bright deep crimson.
- *Fisher Holmes. H.P. Scarlet.
- Earl of Warwick. H.T. Salmon-pink, with vermilion centre.
- Dupuy Jamain. H.P. Cerise red.
- Dean Hole. H.T. Silvery carmine, sometimes nearly salmon.
- *Countess of Oxford. H.P. Bright carmine red.
- Baroness Rothschild. H.P. Light pink.
- Augustine Guinoisseau. H.T. White, tinted with blush.
- *A. K. Williams. H.P. Carmine red, very bright.
- Lady Quartus Ewart. H.T. Pure white.

* Those marked with a star are good roses for town gardens.

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*La Tosca. H.T. Pale salmon blush.

La France de '89. H.T. All deep rose.

*Mad. Gabriel Luizet. H.P. Silvery pale pink.

*Mad. Pierre Cochet. H.T. Known as the improved
W. Allen Richardson. Orange gold.

Marquise Litta. H.T. Carmine-rose, with vermilion
centre.

Merveille de Lyon. H.P. White, yellowish centred.

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt. H.T. Creamy blush.

Prince Camille de Rohan. H.P. Deepest velvety
crimson.

*Reynolds Hole. H.P. Maroon, shaded with scarlet.

Souvenir de Pierre Notting. T. Deep yellow.

Triomphe de Pernet Père. H.T. Crimson-rose, very
free blooming.

Viscountess Folkestone. H.T. Creamy, with flesh
centre.

*Caroline Testout. H.T. Pink.

Killarney. H.T. Flesh and pale pink.

Just a few of the most fascinating roses are of doubtful strength ; that is to say, they may flourish, like wildings, in many a spot that seems unkind, while in other places, where they appear to possess the most luxurious circumstances, they sicken and depart. But no enthusiastic rosarian will love them any the less on that account, or refrain from trying to please them by a sunny site and good soil. Many and many a time a rose fails because of the closeness of its position, rather than falls victim to cutting winds ; trees must have fresh air, or else, as human beings, they will become victims to maladies and gradually lose vigour.

* Those marked with a star are good roses for town gardens.

Exquisite semi-delicate roses, fit, however, for most well-made roseries, include :

Anna Olivier. T. Creamy ground flushed with flesh.

Betty. H.T. Ruddy gold and rose.

Duchess of Wellington. H.T. Deep yellow, flushed with copper and crimson.

François Dubreuil. T. A wonderful damask-red tea.

George C. Waud. H.T. Orange-vermilion.

Lady Hillingdon. T. Clear golden orange.

Lyon Rose. H.T. Coral-shrimp.

Mad. Hoste. T. Pale lemon.

Mrs. Fred Straker. H.T. Orange with crimson and rose.

Lady Roberts. T. Rich apricot.

Again, many a glorious rose is so shy-blooming that to recommend it for general culture would be to invite censure, yet amateurs do exist who would far rather have a few enormous or especially exquisite blossoms on a tree than a profusion of inferior roses. W. E. Lippiatt, a maroon-shaded crimson H.T., is never forgotten when once seen ; the coppery crimson of Ben Cant is unlike any other variety we own ; Souvenir de S. A. Prince is a precious pearly white, but seldom begins until autumn ; the flesh-coloured H.T. Queen of Spain, large and globular, is a masterpiece indeed ; the yellow petals of Mad. Constant Soupert are shaded with rare peach pink ; and a splendid yellow is the H.T. Duchess of Portland.

Dwarf polyantha roses are mostly very hardy, and make charming beds, borders to beds of taller trees, or bank sides or summits, while dotted about a large rockery they exhibit the lovely contrast there is between

harsh, solid, grey rocks and the daintiest of leafy boughs and many-tinted blossom trusses. Mignonette is wild rose pink, Ma Paquerette white, Aschenbrodel a blend of peach and salmon, Étoile de Mai all yellow, Mad. N. Levavasseur is called the dwarf crimson Rambler, Orleans-Rose is pink with scarlet and white, and Léonie Lamesch gives tomato-orange, with yellow, blush, or scarlet markings.

Paul Neyron is a good old deep pink rose that everybody should grow, simply because, floppy and perhaps coarse though it may be termed, it is still the largest rose of all, positively Brobdingnagian, and will flourish like an elder-tree. Gustave Regis is another rather floppy beauty, but clear pale yellow ; it can be grown on a wall or fence, or as a big bush ; branches of it are a delight for cutting. Penzance briar roses are all hardy, sweet, tall, and useful for rough places or hedges, though not as over-abundantly vigorous as the Japanese roses (*rosa rugosa*), which will be fully described in a chapter on the shady garden.

Only the greediest rose-lover will want to banish the copper and yellow Austrian briars because they have but one season of early bloom, and then do not show a bud till another June, for their graceful branching growth and peculiar colour-sprays—all spread out with colour, from stem to bough-tips—entitles them to special favour. Florists have provided, in Flower of Fairfield, a crimson Rambler that goes on blossoming, but for the perpetual Austrian briars we are still waiting.

Several favourite early summer roses, of more ordinary appearance than the briars, have not been recommended, as there are others of continual budding that

can take their places. However, grand, tall old blush Margaret Dickson is worthy furnishing for any large bed centre, or border background, and there is no rose quite as pinkly perfect as Captain Christy, whose climbing species is robust enough to cover a west or east house-front, or smother a trellis. It reminds one of the antique adage as to the impossibility of eating cake and having it still ! Because these roses know they must soon cease blossoming they do it royally for the short spell vouchsafed to them. We may have a hundred big, bouncing, full-petalled blooms all at once, and then—remember them.

Pillar roses are becoming more and more esteemed. A satisfying way to plant them is as a double avenue, on either side of a grass walk ; as specimens at lawn edges they produce stately effects, or can singly embellish the middles of little front gardens. Rampant ramblers are troublesome on short pillars, as they make too much growth, but the majority of other climbing roses are suited to nine as well as to twelve-foot supports, while for six or eight-foot ones the following are better :

Alistér Stella Gray. Noisette. Yellow, in clusters, continuous and fragrant.

Ards Pillar. Bright crimson. Large-cupped blooms.

Blairii No. 2. Hybrid China. Blush.

Diabolo Wichuriana. Fiery red, shot with sepia.

Fairy. Single white ; constant, in clusters.

François Crousse. T. Light red, large.

Gruss an Teplitz. H.T. Scarlet-crimson.

L'Idéal. Noisette. Yellow and copper-scarlet.

Madame Bérard. T. Salmon and buff-yellow. A relative of Gloire de Dijon.

Belle Lyonnaise. Canary yellow.

Rudely strong roses of any class will make fine pillar specimens—J. B. Clark, Hugh Dickson, Gustave Regis, and Félicité Perpétué, any of the old damasks, or the common pink china, for example.

Weeping standards are glorious lawn features, Dorothy Perkins, or the fiery red and white Hiawatha being greatly valued in this form.

The catalogues of rose-growers should be carefully studied, then by degrees the amateur will pick up knowledge of the true meanings of descriptive terms, will learn that “good for exhibition” signifies usually a shy bloomer, that “a good decorative variety” hints at loose petals combined with great size, or else a multitude of medium large blossoms. But let the woman gardener strive after catholicity of taste. Singles, semi-doubles, globular giants, all are beautiful, and not even the so-called “Blue Rose” the climber Velichenblau, though a queer red-lilac at first, then steel-indigo-slate, can be denied a charm of colour.

Is there a millionaire anywhere who can boast of having a specimen tree of every known rose? If not, no millionaire has discovered how to make a really sane and enjoyable use of his riches!

Gardening Proverb.—“To expect a life all roses is the thought of a fool; to strive to obtain it the work of a philosopher.”

CHAPTER VIII

ROSE PLANTING, FEEDING, AND PRUNING

“ Though rich the spot
With every flower this earth has got,
What is it to the nightingale
If there his darling rose is not ? ”

MOORE.

THE ideal time to plant roses is the beginning of November, or the last week of October for the extreme north, but December is a very safe month, especially in the south, where rose foliage lingers long after trees are leafless in exposed country or chill counties. Supposing the task has to be deferred, the woman gardener may still keep on smiling. Until the end of March planting may be done ; after that, though rose sales, bargains at extraordinary reductions ; “ special offers,” “ dozens that must be cleared,” are tempting, and the following year can still be catered for, it is senseless to plant with any view to seeing flowers in the approaching summer. Buy by all means, if you are sure that the trees are really fine surplus stock, not articles more or less manufactured, like blouses, for the sale period ; fill spare borders or plots in April, or even May ; cut the shoots severely back, and when new shoots grow nip away every incipient bud. By that means, forbidding any blossom until June twelvemonth, it is actually possible to obtain a nice strong rose collection

very much under cost. If the trees are let to give a few weak blooms, which will be no pleasure, after all, their root and branch development will be retarded, they will become weak, and many may die off either through drought in the hot months, or frost in the cold ones. Beautiful roses are only to be had from stalwart-rooted trees.

When ordering roses it is always wise to send for them from a grower in a less favourable locality than the one they are to live in ; having the supply from the same town, or a village a few miles out, is, of course, no risk, unless climatic conditions are very varied in the area. In a seaside town it is not always prudent to have roses moved from an inland nursery, where they have been sheltered under hills, and plump them down in face of all the blasts that cross the ocean. Roses from the midland and northern counties are probably best for most gardens. Roses from the gravelly, sandy soils of parts of Surrey, Kent, Hertfordshire, etc., seldom take kindly to London's yellow clay, or heavy clayish loam anywhere, although the rose generally is a lover of stiff ground. Similarly, though trees pulled up from the stiffest cold, wet land will thrive all right in well-manured, light soils, they take long in becoming satisfied with their portion. As there are noted rose-tree sellers in all districts the buyer can choose a firm judiciously, by the enviroing circumstances as well as business renown, bearing in mind that, except for the extra hot, dry, sandy garden, the roses had better have been bred in cool nurseries and nourished upon clay.

When the trees arrive during a severe frost they can be left unpacked a few days, if in straw or matting wrappers, in a scullery, or not too drying room, on

the chance that the wintry spell may give way ; if it does not the bundle should be laid down, buried, somewhere in the garden. It needs courage to consign the branches as well as the roots to a tomb, but a foot underground, and with some matting, linoleum, or newspapers laid over the earth above them, weighted down by stones at the corners, they can rest securely for three or four weeks if necessary. We do not have such prolonged frosts as to involve any lengthier delay.

The question of soil preparation having been considered in a former chapter it is only obligatory now to remark that in no case must roots touch manure. If any is discovered when the hole is dug for planting a tree, it should be cast out and some pure loam put in for a bottom layer.

If trenching can be done a month or two previous to planting the amalgamation of manure with soil will be perfect ; this applies also to manured soil that has not had to be trenched. If no ground preparation has been done, and the time for rose-planting is drawing to a close, or personal causes force the gardener to accomplish the job, manure can be put in as a layer two or three inches below the roots ; none should be mixed with the remaining earth, but a mulch may be laid over the surface when the beds or borders are finished off. As a rule the mulch is dangerous (but more so preceding winter than at winter's close), because it chokes the pores of the earth, detains moisture, and provides more stimulant than roots can do well with when they are but just grasping new ground.

Of course " doctors differ " about soil-preparing for

roses, just as on all other subjects, but all agree that autumn or spring-planted roses must not receive any further feeding for a year. It is easy to kill by kindness. Chemicals, soot, and animal manures are as bad for newly established trees as powerful drugs and food fit for adults are for baby children. Even with great care growers lose some trees out of hundreds, through the roots having come in contact with stuff that overstimulates. The amateur who cannot resist "feeding up" her freshly obtained roses will probably see three or four out of each dozen die off—as she will think unaccountably—in early summer. After a while she will be heard to declare that her patronage will not be given again to the firm that supplied those trees—but the fact will be that she is a benevolent poisoner of young roses.

How deep to plant is a question that often troubles. Nearly all roses are sent out budded on some stock, and this portion of stock, where the branches spring from, should be just below the level of the border on a fairly sticky soil, a trifle lower on a gravelly, or shifting-sand, soil. But before this arrangement is carried out the damaged ends of all roots should have been trimmed off, any dead-looking bits removed, all solid long roots just tipped, and all roots must have been spread out so as to extend well around the hole. Firm setting must be managed; fine loam, neither wet nor dry, should be put over the roots and all between them, then the coarser soil goes in. Standard, half-standard, and big, robust bushes should be given a stake each, put in while planting is in progress, and trodden in firmly with the trees. A little soil may be lightly drawn over the crowns of the dwarfs, to

prevent winds and sunshine from drying them. Planting should not be undertaken when the ground is so wet that the treading necessary pounds it into paste. If a droughty time follows spring-planting the roses should be given a pailful of water each occasionally. Watering in winter is perilous.

By the time roses are a year old, that is to say, a year older since they were located, they begin to need feeding specially. There are innumerable ways of supplying the food, scientists going by different prescriptions, but all of them are good, so the woman gardener may take her choice, so long as she avoids monotony. Roses should not be given one chemical alone for months together, nor a monopoly of soot or compound powders, nor liquid animal manure even. A March mulch of horse, cow, or mixed farmyard manure is excellent. Weak liquid manure, made with any of these, or with soot, can be given once a week during June, July, and August. Other excellent foods are Peruvian guano, or Standen's Manure, half an ounce to a square four yards wide, forked in during April. Bone meal is beneficial, but acts very slowly. There are various special powder or liquid rose manures in the market, easy to apply. Clay's Fertilizer can be sprinkled in a ring nine inches from the stems of dwarfs, eighteen inches from those of giant bushes or pillar roses, or half an ounce of it, dissolved in a gallon of water, may be applied once or twice a week. Making one's own chemical manures up, by prescription, costs less. The ingredients are sold either by florists or corn and seed merchants. A noted mixture is an ounce of superphosphate of lime, half an ounce each of sulphate of iron and sulphate of ammonia, to four

gallons of water, given once a month, from April to September. The quantity of water mentioned is for dissolving the chemicals, not as guide to the amount to be applied.

If the soil is light, the garden a hot one, and the trees look fagged out, with dull leaf colour and dryish stalks, a reliable help to them will be half an ounce of nitrate of soda to one gallon of water, once a week, till the flowering season is nearly over.

Twice a week is enough for extra food to be given in liquid form, and a change should be rung on two or three, further varied by soot water. Powder manures, such as mixed fertilisers, or the above-mentioned ingredients of prescriptions, can be scattered, instead of used for liquids, when weeks are dripping ones and the supply of water consequently ample. Otherwise a fact to be written up large in the potting-shed, or firmly graven on memory, is that no strong foods must be given to dry roses ; unless the soil is wet clear water should be applied first.

Pruning is done in March and April, and is safe during the first month for hybrid perpetuals, most hybrid teas, and some teas, in southern or warm valley gardens, but only for hybrid perpetuals and other robust species in gardens of the north or of hill-tops. Wall climbers, not ramblers or Wichurianas, on good aspects, should receive attention first of any, but they do not require cutting much, just the removal of every bit of dead wood, the tipping of long branches, or occasionally the sacrificing of weak boughs that overcrowd.

Roses planted in autumn or winter have to be cut back hard, as if they are allowed to retain their old

growth they will suffer for ever after. The scientific advice is—cut them back to within two or three “eyes.” This means generally to within four to six inches of the union of branch with stock. The literal rule cannot invariably be followed, because an essential injunction is to see that the last “eye,” or “bud,” left on a branch faces outwards, so that when a new shoot springs from it the growth will be towards the garden instead of towards the centre of the tree. There would be no harm in leaving only one “eye,” nor in leaving four or five, rather than risk an overcrowded centre. The woman gardener will soon learn to judge for herself. Let the cuts be made slanting upwards, and very cleanly, just above the “bud.”

Established roses need not be pruned back more than to four or six “eyes.” It is legitimate art to allow some strong trees to grow luxuriantly for garden decoration, and make huge stems, then reduce the side shoots on these stems. Old-world gardens would not have been half as beautiful had all the roses been cultivated by modern scientific methods, instead of being allowed to ramp aloft and spread out over yards of Mother Earth.

Weakly roses, of any species, are better left unpruned until the middle of April, when the delicate teas are done, otherwise nipping winds may destroy all the live branch left on them. It usually strikes the amateur as queer that weak trees are cut down to two or three eyes ; but that is to encourage the roots.

A noted authority wrote, long ago : “ Cut your roses close to an eye, by a clean stroke with a sharp knife, so as not to tear the bark. Above all, do not leave a long snag to die down to the bud ; the hollow left by

its pith will serve as the retreat and resting-place of the detestable grubs which will destroy your buds."

Another point to recollect is that if a dwarf has a superfluity of branches those cannot all bear good roses, nor could the beauty of the flowers be seen if they did, therefore a number of boughs must be sacrificed, after which all the vigour of the growth will flow into the remainder. Standards and half-standards must not be permitted to make too full "heads."

Often dead wood is discoverable a few weeks after the trees have been dealt with, and so a further pruning has to be done.

Roses show to great advantage if they can be trained out, espalier style, while a useful modification of this treatment is the tying out of a few branches to the tops of ordinary flower-sticks, just to prevent crowding at the heart of a tree. Very vigorous growers, such as J. B. Clark, are often pegged down by tying the tips to pegs; this has a graceful appearance, and shoots soon spring luxuriantly from the hooped boughs.

Having now learnt the main rules for pruning there are some exceptions to be studied.

Austrian briars, Ayrshire roses, the Scotch rose (*rosa spinosissima*), sweet briars, the Macartney rose (*rosa bracteata*), *rosa microphylla*, Japanese roses (*rosa rugosa*), may be treated as the climbers, namely, tipped only, and relieved of dead wood. The Damask, French roses (*rosa gallica*), the hybrid Chinese, and China or monthly roses, like the pleasing old-fashioned musk roses, need to be pruned back to from six to twelve "buds" or "eyes," according to the size of the specimen, while the old cabbage rose and the moss

rose, on the contrary, must be pruned as hard almost as if they were newly-planted hybrid perpetuals, hybrid teas, and teas. Noisettes and dwarf polyanthas are usually shortened about one third of their long shoots, and thinned out, as they make too many weak little side branches. Lamentations are continually being heard that the beautiful little gold or white Banksian roses fail to bloom, whereas they ought to cover south walls with splendour early in summer. The reason for this failure is that they refuse to blossom the following season unless they are pruned directly they have done flowering. All the coarse shoots should be cut away, and every other shoot should be tipped. They often suffer too for want of nourishment, and should have cow or pig manure dug lightly into their border twice a year, in March and October, then be let alone, not dosed with chemicals.

Lastly, the climbing ramblers and Wichurianas must be considered. It is good policy to cut them rather hard the first year, to persuade new growth to start from the base. In other years the best results seem to spring from the removal of a lot of the woody branches that have flowered, doing this in autumn, then only slightly shortening the most vigorous shoots in March. The new wood makes better development, so authorities claim and experience goes to prove, if the old wood is not left on all winter to steal nutriment. But, if the gardener prefers, she may leave this cutting away until early spring.

If biting gales, or late frosts, quite destroy the young succulent green shoots that roses, pruned too soon for the season, have put forth, it is sad, but not tragic. Some trees can be cut back to another "eye," others

may have the damaged foliage gently rubbed off, and soon, as genial days arrive, there will be leafy luxuriance, just as though nothing evil had happened.

Gardening Proverb.—"Spare the knife, you spoil the rose tree."

CHAPTER IX

BEDS ON THE LAWN

“ 'Tis like the birthday of the world,
When earth was born in bloom,
The light is made of many dyes,
The air is all perfume.
There's crimson buds, and white and blue,
The very rainbow showers
Have turned to blossoms where they fell,
And sown the earth with flowers.”

HOOD.

THE lawn may be called, to the garden, what the mouth is to the face, the feature of chief expression ; still, there may be gardens without grass at all, and then all the romance is centred elsewhere, as in the eyes of those Eastern belles who veil their lips and yet are most expressive. But where there is a lawn we all look towards it for principal interest.

Round the lawn the best flowers are usually collected, roses or herbaceous beauties, sweet peas or dahlias, in wide borders. On the lawn should be the loveliest beds of blossom. In this, as in all garden-forming operations, individual necessities have first to be met, though, so if the grass is required for games, and the extent of it is but just adequate, it must be left bare, and floral achievements concentrated as close as possible, around seats, arbours, and a summer-house, from which play may be watched. Happy the owner of a

large estate, for she can arrange for the tennis and croquet lawns to be farther away, and for a decorative lawn to occupy ground within sight of the sitting-room windows.

It is easiest, and generally most successful, to begin planning a garden by locating the pleasure-lawn, then make paths lead to and about it ; unless the area is so limited that it must serve as path itself, and the encircling walks would usurp too many golden opportunities. This drawing out of the lawn should be prepared on paper. Really any draughtswoman without training can contrive, by means of a tape-measure, to concoct a rough plan of the proposed grounds, allowing a quarter inch to a foot. Defects in construction show up boldly, even on the most unprofessional map of this species, and so can be avoided ; whereas it takes time, money, and patience to alter a faulty new-made garden.

If the lawn is to lie like a still green lake, then it will be most attractive if made with rounded ends ; sharp corners to a bare grass plot give an unkind expression to a garden. A round lawn, set towards the house, not quite in the middle of the land, is wonderfully simple to work up from ; an oval is almost as pleasing. In one midland garden there is a splendid crescent-shaped lawn which, viewed from neighbouring hills, lies among the blossom-covered grounds as the fabled moon of green cheese. But a freak of this sort, quite poetically lovely, can only be possessed within a great width of ground.

After the lawn's own shape has been decided, or when a flower-cultivator turns to the congenial task of ornamenting an old lawn, one that need not do duty

as a playing field, outlines have to be chosen for beds and borders inside it. Surrounded by temptations to attempt too much, bewildered by countless antagonistic bits of advice, let her follow personal fancy, so long as she beware of over-elaboration, "dottiness," monotony, or ostentation. Who would not rather see a round bed of mixed plants, for instance, in the little grass-plot of a cottage, than some intricately shaped and carpet-bedded star? How ridiculous one tiny round bed alone would look on a great grass expanse! "Dottiness" would be exhibited if the fine lawn were given a superfluity of small beds instead of just a stately one or two, and a series of handsome groups. Monotony can be on a large or a small scale; it occurs when all the beds are alike, or the same width and length, unless this is purposely contrived in the formation of a formal plan, a kind of Dutch gardening. It is possible, of course, to have beds identical, and render them utterly dissimilar by the subjects grown in them; nobody could complain of four square beds looking monotonous that were filled respectively with roses, pansies, shrubs, and delphiniums. Ostentation is witnessed when all the beds are of very cut-out, peaked, curved, or composite shapes, or all filled with but the costliest exotics, or such stupendous devices in flower and foliage that they advertise the skill of the plant-torturer, but not the exquisiteness of leaf or bloom.

Cutting a bed is almost too easy, whether the tool used is a regulation cutter or an old table-knife. Though it is feasible to relay turf from a place it has been mistakenly dragged from, seams and damage remain visible some time after, so prudence should

dictate the site for a lawn bed, as well as the size and contour.

Fig. 12. Five-pointed Star Bed.

Fig. 13. Lawn-corner Bed.

Fig. 14. Six-pointed Star Bed.

Fig. 15. Banner Bed.

Rounded lawns, those with soft curves instead of acute angles or straight sides, should, as a rule, be ornamented by beds of rounded outlines also ; stars

are, maybe, an exception to the law, on account of their invariable grace. Preference might be given to one of an irregular number of points, as less severe in character than the one of equal dimensions. Examples of a five-pointed and a six-pointed star are given in Figs. 12 and 14, and the scantiest scrutiny shows that an uneven number of "rays" make for elegance. The six-rayed star demands to be set in a square or oblong small grass plot, or at the ends, sides, or corners of a large one. Fig. 13 is especially

Fig. 16. The Scroll Bed.

suitable for fitting into a corner ; Fig. 15, the banner bed, may be placed on a strip lawn, or be one of a pair at a lawn end, to be doubly arched between.

When standard roses are set, in the familiar fashion, to surround a lawn at its edges, the little beds containing a tree each should not be all rounds, but of as many shapes as the mind can invent. Diamonds, crosses, crescents, hearts, clubs, fans, bars, half hoops, comets, triangles all are of service, and none, on so diminutive a scale, can be out of keeping with the contour of a grass expanse large enough to be thus embellished. Flower or leaf-shapes, either big or small, are a refinement of fancy, and deserve commendation accordingly.

Fig. 17. A Leaf-shaped Bed.

Fig. 18. The Tudor Rose Bed.

Fig. 19. A Flower-shaped Bed.

Fig. 20. A Fancy Leaf Bed.

Fig. 21 The Ivy-leaf Bed.

Fig 22. The Cornflower Bed

Just as we ought to go to Nature for colourings, for dress, rooms, and gardens, so should we invite her to teach us shapes in ornament, as she has been willing to do for countless ages, long before great architect-sculptors rejoiced in the perfectness of amaranth leaves, pineapple domes, and lily spires. The Figures 17 to 22 represent the outside shapes of different blooms and leaves, most of which will be quickly recognised. The scroll shape, Fig. 16, makes a charming bed for violas or begonia semperflorens, primroses, yellow or many tinted, or the gay-hued purslanes (portulacas) which must not be sown until May, but then spring up rapidly; it also is a delight as a giant bed of medium tall flowers, such as sweet Williams, or can be kept for dwarf polyantha roses. If towering plants fill it the undulating shape is lost. Some of the floral or foliage-shaped beds lend themselves to agreeable conceits that cannot be legitimately condemned as too imitative; if Fig. 19 is carried out in white low-growing flowers, and given a tuft of green or yellow in the middle, it will look just like a big flower itself shed upon the lawn; the Tudor rose, Fig. 18, can be made pink, with a green eye, and a ring of yellow to resemble stamens; Fig. 20, if all gold, just tipped with crimson, will suggest a fallen maple leaf of autumn; Fig. 22 can be royal blue as the cornflower from which its outline was adapted.

The double egg design, Fig. 23, will be found useful in numerous positions; made twelve feet broad, and given a pillar rose in the neighbouring grass, opposite the inward points, it may form the nucleus of a rosery. Fig. 24 is the shape of many a petal; Fig. 25 gives a slender border bed, useful for cutting in a strip of turf.

Fig. 23. The Two Egg Flower Bed.

Fig. 24. The Petal-shaped Bed.

Fig. 25. A useful Narrow Border.

Groups of lawn beds need not be individually, or collectively, of mathematical proportions. Figures 26 and 27 show two groups of beds making flower shapes, while Fig. 28 is an illustration of a "wild," and Fig. 29 of a formal group. The amateur landscape gardener need not trouble in the least with measuring tapes, pegs to mark outlines, and calculations of inches, if she happens to appreciate seemingly unstudied effects.

Fig. 26.

Fig. 27.

Grouped Beds in Flower Shapes.

Let her keep to curves, avoid angles as though they were poisonous, then dig out the beds with due regard to their size with respect to the grass plot, and a multitude of waves in and waves out. Those marked in Fig. 28 would please the eye, whether given up to roses or divided between perennials and annuals, tall and short. One, by-the-bye, might be a bed of mixed lilies and montbretias, a second devoted to a lavender bush carpeted by purple pansies, a third to chrysanthemums, a fourth to rhododendrons edged by heathers.

The motive of the design on Fig. 29 is the turning of a surplus grass plot into a symmetrical flower garden. The round beds, if of considerable diameter, would be valuable for displaying dahlias, the side

Fig. 28. Informal Bed Groups.

Fig. 29. A Formal Parterre.

Fig. 30. A Group of Round Beds.

beds could be backed by hedges of sweet peas and then filled up by chrysanthemums for autumn, and hybrid

Fig. 31. An Elegant Group of Beds.

pyrethrums and columbines for spring ; while the other rounds, of two sizes, could accommodate a delphinium each and a tree fuchsia respectively.

A group of squares or oblongs, Fig. 32, will need clever planting to compensate the spectator for the aggressive corners. With shrubs or giant plants massed in the middle of each bed, lower ones round, the appearance would not be too angular, nor would it if climber-mounted arches spanned the turf from corner

Fig. 32. A useful Group of Plain Beds.

to corner. The six round beds in a group, Fig. 30, have so pleasing a result, no matter their size or the stature of their occupants, that one wonders why they are so rarely met with.

Originality has always one merit. No sour philosopher can contravene that fact. When a lawn is too long—a defect so often noticeable in a garden of strip shape—its ends should be turned into flowery places,

and the view of the improvement from the upper windows of the house ought to be carefully thought over. If the beds are cut of ugly shapes there will be a heaviness of aspect to regret ; if they are common-

Fig. 33. A Group of Three Beds.

place they will not delight from that distance, although the blossoms in them may enrapture the near scrutin-

Fig. 34. A Pair of Flower Beds.

iser. Novelty is nowhere more needed, so the illustrations, Figures 31 to 41, are offered. Some of them are suited to lawn sides, but all tell out strikingly along lawn ends. Fig. 34 cries out for two arches to

Fig. 35. A Bed for a Lawn's End.

Fig. 36. A Bed for finishing a Lawn.

Fig. 37. The Diamond Lawn Bordering.

Fig. 38. The Scroll Lawn Bordering.

span the ends of the diamond patch of turf that would be left between the beds ; Figs. 31 and 33 make admirable rose beds. Fig. 37 is too peaky for its shape to be

Fig. 39. The Continuous Lawn Border.

visible unless it holds low plants only. The scroll, or waved ribbon, Fig. 38, was tried most successfully, only two feet wide, for a centre row of carnations, edged by violas. Fig. 39 is intended to enfold the entire width

Fig. 40. A Semi-Circle for Flowers.

of the lawn it improves, or the detached beds shown at Fig. 41 might just as well be a complete framework to grass, except for gaps needed as paths.

Fig. 41. Beds to repeat for a Border.

All that is novel is not fair? No, but when the materials of the original thing are grass and flowers the chances are that beauty will reign. The zealous gardener, when aiming at astonishing her neighbours, will surely never forget that a certain tenderness of

treatment is demanded as tribute to our myriad-tinted earth-stars? Colour is a subject yet to be

Fig. 42. An Original Lawn Group.

pondered upon : suffice it to suggest now that a bizarre-shaped bed, or group of beds, loses half the due effect

Fig. 43. A Classic Group for a Lawn.

if given all the shades of the paint-box. The semi-crown beds of Fig. 42, could not be criticised as "bad art" if made up of all golden flowers, while in white they would suggest a diamond tiara, or in flaming orange-vermilion seem to be borrowing a tint from the dying sun. Mixed colours used for them would take away their dignity. The group, Fig. 43, is of most classic outline.

What a broad hobby it is, the making of a beautiful garden! Summers come and summers go, leaving us still bent on contriving some year to be able to sit down in peace and cry: "*C'est fini!*"

But we are too fortunate. There is no real fear of the flower-lover ever being satiated with successes. Dandelions are not more perennial than her ambitions, nor is bindweed more spreading.

Gardening Proverb.—"First cut your bed, then fill it."

CHAPTER X

SHRUBS AND SHRUBBERY-BUILDING

"I felt a certain sensation of pleasure, as I always do when successfully battling with a difficulty."—*From a letter of* LUDVIG VON BEETHOVEN.

THE noble phrase of the great composer of music is applicable to the feelings of the woman who has planted well a large shrubbery. It is a work, if not for all time, at least for more years than she need reckon: if properly performed this once it will never displease, unlike a symphony or sonata that must depend upon future interpreters. But if a shrubbery has not been creditably built—what then? It can be grubbed up; but shrubberies seldom are.

Shrubs a garden must contain. Herbaceous plants are not enough as height producers, since they die down for winter, and rose trees become bare, or almost so. In the midst of a private park even there will be tramps and errand boys to screen the lawns from.

Nothing could be more commendable than making an exquisite secluded garden, then admitting all strangers to it on given festivals, or early-closing half-holidays; but the seclusion is as honourable a possession as a Gainsborough or Raphael in the drawing-room. And if the nobly-planned garden must have its sheltering shrubberies from the few, must not the roadside

villa infallibly have its leafy screens from the multitude? Granted it is possible to hide away the private Eden without planting a single shrub: but what cart-loads of earth will be needed for banks, what costly quantities of planks for fences, or bricks for walls!

Shrubs, not fantastically clipped, have a poetic charm all their own. All gardens ought to be poetic, and as there are comic poems, and *vers de société*, fanciful little triolets and lyrics, as well as sonnets and epics, so there may be gay, humorous, coquettish small pleasaunces, as also serious and majestic ones.

It shall be acknowledged at once that women gardeners, non-professional, are terribly unacquainted with shrubs: annuals they have patronised since the days of childhood, when Virginian stock was most valued because it came up best, and with perennials they may have a respectably large bowing appreciation, albeit rather hazy as to names; but of the families, kinships, and racial characteristics of shrubs they are most woefully ignorant. Yet shrubs are not a tithe the trouble or expense of bedding plants and those rapid-rising summer prettinesses which have to be burnt at the fall of the leaf.

The back garden may be as visibly in need of shrubberies as the front garden. So often boundaries are marked out by low walls, or open railings, and if this is not the case there is sure to be some ugly spectacle to hide. Dustbins, coal-cellars and other outbuildings, drying-greens, or the mere clothes-line, manure-pits, stables, the galvanised shed, the stoke-hole, are but instances of the obtrusive inelegancies which here and there call for screening. Undoubtedly a stable, or

garage, may be a beautiful bit of building, but architects who bear this in mind are not general.

A straight line of shrubs against a paling is far from praiseworthy, though not absolutely spoiling to a garden if the shrubs are of different species, heights, shapes, and colours, but it is in such a position that shrubberies become the highest type of art—that which is of service to man as well as intrinsically lovely.

Perhaps the first attempt at shrubbery building had better imitate a wide and shallow cave; the heaviest-hued and most solid evergreens may form the outer shell, the lining may be of gold or silver evergreens, and in the protecting hollow of these can nestle flowering specimens, the daintier veronicas, azaleas, mountain sweets, rock-roses, and bush honeysuckles—can the reader supply the Latin titles for the three last?—ceanothus, cistus, and weigela. Some dwarf shrubs must struggle to the foreground, for the cave-shape should not be of hard outline; the plants of the border, whether bulbous, bedding, annual, or perennial, ought to mingle with them.

A series of cave-like groups down by the paling would not please at all, the eye would weary of them; but the gardener by this time will have understood the principle of the scheme, and will be eager to invent masses for herself, as relief against the background. Any simple device aids—a triangle of mock orange trees can surround bushes of gorse and the crimson-and-gold broom (*genista Andreana*); a trio of lilacs, red-purple, mauve, and white, may jut out in a straight line to the border's edge, from a double row of variegated laurels; a vandyke of firs will afford variety, and a crimson rambler rose, on a very tall pole, would

gloriously fill up the vacancy between them. Many a time it becomes advisable to employ pillars, or towering espaliers, for climbing roses, clematises, hops, bellbinds, honeysuckles, ivies, Virginian creepers, or ornamental fruiting brambles, in new shrubberies. The final effect will be magnificently luxuriant, suggestive of tropical thickets ; the gain, while the shrubs are growing inch by inch, can scarcely be over-estimated.

Another fact to bear in mind is that tender shrubs, which are often the most attractive, can be so hedged around by valiant gale and frost-impeding evergreens that they can safely occupy an otherwise open border. This shrubbery should face south or south-west.

Where space is almost too ample, and keeping the garden in good order is a regretted expense, an exceedingly wide belt of ground may wisely be shrubbed over and flanked by a walk of grass or gravel on each side. In the centre, but not rigidly restricted to the middle, may come groups of some of the tallest shrubs known, with specimen trees, or even lengths of tree-hedges, all to show up the medium and the low shrubs of the borderings. And trees are ludicrously cheap ! Silver weeping birches, seven feet high, are four shillings a dozen, golden poplars tenpence a-piece, sycamores one shilling, the Douglas fir (*abies Douglassi*), the familiar *thuja gigantea*, or Lawson's cypress, about the same price when of five-foot stature. Here, among quantities of variegated *euonymuses* and glossy common laurels, may rise the lovely *laburnums*, hawthorns, acacias, double-flowering cherries, and almond trees that are now ill-treated by being repeated *ad nauseam* in the front plots of suburban villas. An edging of London pride, mossy saxifrage, white or mauve rock-cress

(arabis), or pinks, will be quite sufficient to hold in the soil of the shrubbery border adjoining gravel ; if turf is neighbour there will be no need for even that edging. Tiles or rocks can be dispensed with in either case. Certainly this is the least costly way of making a great garden well furnished, and eye-gratifying at all seasons.

Shrubberies, too, instead of shrub lines or hedges, may exist in the front of the house, and if the border by the railing is too narrow to hold anything else there are dwarf shrubs suitable for nestling at the feet of the others—rosemary, the daisy-tree (*Olearia Haastii*), the golden-petalled, red-stamened rose of Sharon (*hypericum Moserianum*), the Spanish gorse that makes amber cushions, rock roses, and the flesh-coloured heath (*erica herbacea carnea*).

Improving an old overgrown shrubbery means having some of the veterans dug out, new soil as well as manure added to the holes left, and the introduction of fresh beauty of leaf or blossom. If the general mass is too low the white broom (*cytissus albus*) is a fairy-like tree, of most elegant habit, to locate at irregular intervals ; variegated Japanese honeysuckle, supported by stout props, will look bright year in year out, or a Japanese quince (*pyrus japonica*) can be given two ten-foot bamboo poles to mount between.

At the sides of houses, between kitchen doors and the back lawns, shrub masses are often more satisfactory than plants, because they better resist the cold draughts that blow through alleys. Then, too, semi-circular groups by the grass will do much to screen it from the tradesman's entrance. Striking effects are easy to gain by congregating all gold or all silver-variegated shrubs together ; other collections may be

of shrubs and trees that put on autumn tints, as do barberries, maples, and the robust Japanese roses (*rosa rugosa*), or berry-bearers of the hawthorn, fire-thorn, and snowberry type. Flowering shrubs may be associated for matching colours also—not everywhere, but for a change. The yellow tree lupin, golden brooms and gorse, roses of Sharon, Jews' mallow (*kerria japonica*), golden chain (*laburnum*), Jerusalem sage (*phlomis fruticosa*), the pretty little potentillas *Friedrichsenii* and *fruticosa*, the yellow variety of American currant (*ribes aureum*), and rue will combine charmingly.

Pinkish blossoming shrubs comprise the Japanese rose, hawthorns, double and single, the spray bush (*spiræa*), Anthony Waterer, tree pæonies, hydrangeas, escallonias, bush honeysuckle (*weigela rosea*), and several named mountain sweets, notably Ceres and Albert Pettet. Naturally a white shrubbery is simplest of all to build, with mock-oranges, lilac, spray bushes, deutzias, which seem to be without an English title, the New Jersey tea plant (*ceanothus Americanus*), rock roses, *carpenteria*, of delicious scent, lilac, privet, the daisy trees, the tall heather-like *fabiana imbricata*, *prunus pissardii*, that blooms on maroon stems among claret leaves in early spring, *veronica traversii*, and the snowy variety of tree lupin.

Rare shrubs are not always costly ; white blooming lavender is sure to be admired, indeed it has a most fascinating appearance when well covered by its delicate wheat-shaped bloom spikes ; there is a grand carmine-blotched mock orange (*philadelphus lemoinei purpureo maculata*), a sumach that has scarlet-flushed foliage in autumn (*rhus glabra laciniata*),

more like a majestic fern than a shrub, a hardy blue mountain sweet (*ceanothus dentatus*), a blue, instead of an orange, golden ball (*buddleia variabilis*), suited to sheltered nooks, a white American currant, the blossom purple centred, the fruits turning black after vermilion (*ribes glaciale*), a pink deutzia, and a blush, and a deeper rose, Japanese quince.

The matter of shrubbery-building cannot be dismissed without mention being made of the feathery, pink-bloom covered tamarisks *gallica*, *japonica plumosa*, and *odessana*, that flourish so well in coast gardens, where they make ideal hedges, or can be associated for perfect charm in groups with various heathers, white and gold broom, silver foliage shrubs, and the steel-blue, spiny, thistle-like perennial sea-hollies (*eryngiums amethystinum*, *azureum*, and *oliverianum*), and the equally prickly-looking globe thistles of similar grey-blue shades (*echinops giganteus*, *e. bannaticus*), and the white member of that family, the five-foot cone thistle (*echinops sphærocephalus*). These will all succeed in light sandy soil, though they take kindly to heavy ground ; the red stems of the fern-resembling tamarisks can be bowed nearly to the earth, and set lashing one another musically by ocean gales, yet will take no harm ; the heathers may look stunted and dried for months, but directly sunshine warms them all their vitality becomes visible again.

Shrubs can be employed in those tracts that must be economically furnished without the admixture of manure in the under soil ; if given mulches—once or twice a year—the result will be sufficiently decorative. It is, however, by growers on rich, deep ground that the most splendid floral displays and best fruit crops

are obtained. Variegated evergreens do not need much nutriment ; an excess of manure may turn them all green again. The golden privet is proof often of how green shades creep over other coloured leaves in too-nourishing garden borders.

Rhododendrons are less planted than they should be in large gardens. Years ago it was the custom to cover big areas of private parks with them, to which fact we are now indebted for some of our most noted country features, but to-day fashion runs in favour of mingled shrubberies, which can never be expected to yield so attention-riveting a splendour. And where there is no particular amount of lime in the soil rhododendrons luxuriate as freely as does the common laurel anywhere.

Hardy azaleas, heathers, and lilies of important species are grand for filling openings between rhododendrons, as they love the same peaty ground, or the pure turfy loam, in which lime is unrecognisable. Ferns, too, with the common bracken, for its autumnal hues, should be admitted to their company.

Shrub-planting is usually done in October and November, or March and April, the two former months for the hardy kinds, the two latter for those that are delicate ; but most evergreens can be moved safely at any time during winter, if the ground is not frost hardened. The chief error to avoid is loose planting. If there are cavities among or below the roots, or the next tempest can sway the newly-planted shrub so as to loosen it in the ground, then the fibrous roots—which, by-the-bye, may be trimmed, like rose roots, but should never be broken off or bruised—cannot establish a hold, and the specimen will die.

Stakes must be made use of in wind-swept localities ; the treading in round the trunk, or stem masses, must be so heavy that, for several feet of circumference, the earth is well hardened. Hollies should be planted in May.

Sometimes the careless jobbing gardener will throw up a bank of inverted turves and plant shrubs on the summit, all in the same week. As a turf-stack has to heat, like a stack of too-green hay, the roots of the shrubs are sure to be burnt, and a line of shrivelled brown foliage must result. Such a bank should have crushed lime put in, a thick sprinkling, between each layer of turves, and not be planted in for at least six weeks.

A hint or two must not be omitted as to the value of glades among shrubs. We have already seen how stately lilies, the golden-rayed queen of Japan, pure Madonna lilies, Turk's caps of vermilion or gold, pink *lilium speciosum*, spotted "tigers," can accompany heaths and rhododendrons. Whole alleys, in ordinary shrubberies, can be paved with primroses, bluebells, hosts of brilliant or pale anemones, white woodruff, the perpetual May-blooming tulips, native daffodils and orchis, lilies-of-the-valley, starry yellow winter aconites, rich purple or crimson pansies, old-world white, rose, or cerise-red double daisies, bluish periwinkles, with clusters of taller plants, such as white and coloured foxgloves, plantain lilies (*funkias*), the Siberian saxifrage (*saxifraga cordifolia*) that sends up massive pink spikes from great leaves in earliest March, purple honesty, fair in blossom boughs or when the outer husks fall and reveal the seed-vessels' silver "money" lining, sweet rockets, of palest peach mauve,

deep violet-blue monkshood, Canterbury bells of pink, lavender, purple, violet, blue, white, or heliotrope, sword-leaved German irises, snapdragons, columbines, and sweet Williams of every conceivable hue.

Gardening Proverb.—"As you make your shrubbery so must you see it."

CHAPTER XI

ALL ABOUT SWEET PEAS

" Here are bowers
Hung with flowers,
Richly curtain'd halls for you."

GEORGE DARLEY.

AFTER a flower has had a tremendous vogue it is less grown by the amateur. There may be several reasons to explain this, but one is that culture for exhibition is carried on at extraordinary labour and cost, through a system of rivalry. The home gardener, who does not wish to put into the soil cartloads of every known manure, elects to stand aside and let florists have it all their own way, or be competed with by wild and wealthy enthusiasts, or head men on famed estates who can command endless resources. Another deterring factor to the amateur's patronage of a too-popular blossom is that the plant, through over-breeding and much coddling or stimulating, becomes a " tetchy " one to handle. Seeds prove so capricious that disappointments are certain ; seedlings may attain maturity only to die off through inherited diseases that the original hearty stock of the same species never so much as threatened.

The sweet pea of to-day is really very capricious. One hears constantly of crops failing, being devastated by " streak " or other sicknesses and pests ; yet almost

as often simple, unsophisticated gardeners boast of tremendous triumphs for which they scarcely made a bid. Sweet peas we must have ; no garden is complete without them, and no other blossoms can compensate the house vases for a dearth of these, so we must make sure of obtaining the best seed—which means best-grown and stored, not of newest varieties—and content ourselves with giving the plant the sane culture under which it seldom fails.

After all, are the exhibition sprays any lovelier for having stems of a width for which Nature never intended them ? Are not the forms and colours of sweet peas their legitimate beauties, that are actually accompanied by more grace when the blooms are of medium size ? During the last year or two scientists in horticulture have sensibly striven after increasing the number of blooms in a spray, rather than the size of the individual bloom, otherwise the wit was not far wrong who prophesied that ultimately there would be only one pea, as large as a pæony, on the summit of a twenty-foot long and three-inch wide stem !

The old-established and all the reliable seed firms send out seed they can recommend for “ domestic ” culture, as well as the “ chancy ” seeds, one, two, or perhaps three in a costly packet, from which prodigious market successes may arise. It is a good plan to write and order “ the best varieties for cutting, in salmon, orange, scarlet, pink, crimson, white, yellow, maroon, blue, pale and dark, mauve and violet, with half a dozen pretty mixtures of tint.” Then the burden of selection will rest on the shoulders most able to sustain it. Failing this method, the woman gardener can order, without much risk, varieties that are two or more years

old. A third plan is to buy some noted firm's "special mixed" sweet peas, only this prevents any creation of delightful colour harmonies in beds and borders.

All honour to those seedsmen who print clear descriptions of varieties in their catalogues, honestly mentioning those which are chiefly for exhibition—even noting the number of flowers to be expected on a spray! Truly they put their trade knowledge at the service of the amateur, and by so doing deserve her gratitude.

For the benefit, however, of the sweet pea lover who wishes to make a personal choice among varieties that prove healthy in almost all beds and borders, that come fairly exact from seed, that represent the best "selfs" and blends, a list is appended to this chapter.

Adequately dug and enriched land, in sun, semi-shade, or, for certain purposes, total shade, will do for *lathyrus odoratus*, which is the classic title of the scented pea; and for what is meant by "adequately dug and enriched" the reader is referred to previous recipes for ground preparation. Without wishing to gain exhibition monsters she will, of course, want sprays that can honestly be called fine, so a few days before she plants out seedlings, or sows seed, she had better scatter half an ounce of superphosphate of lime, and half an ounce of sulphate of potash, mixed together, to every two yards square of soil, then gently fork this in so that it is no longer all on the top, but amalgamated with the first twelve inches of the ground. So much depends upon the subsoil too, even of deeply-prepared borders, so much on the climate, the amount of dampness in the air, the dryings caused by winds, the force of sun-heat, that it is possible the young peas

may not grow vigorously enough in spite of the kindness already shown them. In that event, when they are two feet high, thinking of budding, they should be given a dose of nitrate of soda, one ounce dissolved for some hours previous to use in two gallons of water, and that should soon make them look luscious.

Authorities have long been owning that simple culture makes for health in sweet peas, and have envied the achievements of cottagers who, on March-forked beds, dressed only with soot, have reared flowers fit for prize-winning, on diseaseless, ten-foot haulms. All agree that the use of the hoe over the land, the giving of bucketsful of water in drought times, work marvels in encouraging the good growth that ensures a magnificent harvest.

What an adaptable plant it is! It can be sown in autumn in the garden, to stand the winter, or raised quickly in a slightly-warmed greenhouse in February or March, if the seedlings can be moved to airy eyries against top glass, or into cold frames. Many growers sow in pots in cold frames in January, putting mats over to keep out frost. From February onwards sowings are advisable out of doors, to furnish a succession of bloom. Now there are also winter-blooming sweet peas, that place within the reach of greenhouse owners the ecstasy of sweet pea sheaves all the year round.

A new controversy has arisen among the trade enthusiasts—it is as to the best means for persuading sweet pea seeds to swell, and sprout, and so cast their shells. The chipping or paring of the shell at one end is now a trick thoroughly believed in, whereas formerly nobody tried any plan but soakings in tepid water

for twelve hours. Next it was claimed that a twenty-four hours' bath was needed, and it was truly remarked that too often the water was allowed to become cold. At the beginning of 1914 these scientific horticulturists are seriously recording the various measures of success that have rewarded the immersion of seed in very hot water—yes, positively of water brought to the boil. There is another experiment they might try, the addition to the merely tepid water of a few grains of carbonate of soda to the saucerful. This has proved the best and safest softener of that hard epidermis of the shell that often seems to present an unbreakable prison to the germ of life. The practice is as efficacious with the seeds that have given the canna the name of Indian shot.

Seeds sown in boxes may be placed an inch and a half or two inches apart, and three-quarters of an inch deep. A five-inch pot may hold five seeds. A single seed to a three-inch pot is a nice method when sowing is done during autumn of stock to be potted on and kept in frames or unheated greenhouses, but there is no need to be so particular over spring sowings. True, potsful of plants cause interlaced roots, but in planting out a seedling it is excellent to spread its rootlets to all sides, just as though it were a rose tree or shrub, and this cannot be done if the baby sweet pea is sedulously transplanted with an unbroken ball of soil.

Outdoor sowings for a hedge or ornamental clump require seeds at only six-inch intervals; sowings in groups or rows, for gaining specially large blossom, may be restricted to nine-inch intervals. When single plants are wanted, one to each bamboo, three seeds

are generally sown, to allow for some not germinating, and any surplus seedlings are removed while young.

The compost for boxes and pots of seed should be only sweet loam with about a fifth part of silver sand. Planting out is usually begun at the end of March, but northern dwellers would do well to "wait a wee" if cold threatens, or a late winter may make it advisable to postpone operations even in the south. Snow-falls many inches deep have characterised past Lady-days. Outdoor sowings should be only half an inch under the surface. If mice abound seeds have to be rolled in red lead while damp or in paraffin, before being sown, but the use of many mouse-traps near is advisable, as the mischievous creatures eat the infant plants. Sunflower seed, stuck on moistened bread, makes a catching bait. Planting-out work can continue until the middle of May.

By providing each seedling with a couple of nice little twig supports at planting time the gardener, if exceptionally busy, can defer placing the taller faggots until the precious spring weeks have advanced further. These twiggy "tops" should be set one on each side of the plant.

The custom of pinching out the top shoots of sweet pea seedlings that do not appear to be "breaking at the base," therefore show no promise of becoming bushy, is another item of culture upon which authorities are not agreed; it undoubtedly delays the flowering season. There is much to be said in favour of letting a plant grow as tall as will suit the situation, and then "stopping" it. Plenty of water, and some liquid manure, will probably set side shoots growing strongly, and from these very late harvests will be gathered.

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When seedlings are to be looked for in the open ground the rows or clumps should have black cotton twisted backwards and forwards above them, on six-inch sticks, or else birds will eat the sweet young vegetation. If slugs abound soot should be scattered, not over the hidden growth, but so round it all that any marauder must trail through a line of it. In the worst slug-infested garden the better method of protection is to make ridges of lime right along outside rows, or encircling clumps, only three or four inches distant.

As to watering, too much care is as disastrous as too little; though light overhead sprinklings help growth it is to be hoped that rainfalls about once a week or so will provide the root moisture at this season. When June sets in hot and dry—or indeed during any May drought—a soaking every third day becomes essential, although artificial deluges are chilling. When possible, rain water should be used; failing that, water fresh from the main. Sometimes peas nearly refuse to climb, lurch forward, or stray backwards; clustering-in-a-tangle peas are just as vexatious. The sole remedy is tying the tendrils and stems where they ought to be. The position of the sun, the drawing influence of a wall or fence, or exposure to a draught may be to blame.

Overhead sprinkling must be stopped as soon as buds show the least colour, or will harm them as showers never do. This is the stage at which extra feeding may be given if it is believed to be necessary. A sprinkling of soot or compound fertiliser is often given to the surface of the ground, or superphosphate of lime may be so employed, a quarter ounce to every

six or seven feet square of soil. Liquids made with animal manures are relied on almost wholly by some cultivators, and are given twice a week, in so weak a mixture that the water is scarcely coloured. This is not the stage for nitrate of soda, except for any individual plants that are backward as to haulm. If haulm is too rampant, fleshy and green, or in all cases where the sweet peas ought to be budding well on the strong plants, but aren't, there is a powerful remedy. This is the salt called phosphate of potash. If half an ounce is dissolved thoroughly in four gallons of water, and applied once, the floral development will be greatly hastened and its quantity and quality increased. But let the woman gardener recollect that no tree, shrub, or plant should ever receive stimulating food or liquid when its roots are dry. A soaking with plain water must precede doses of any sort, unless the skies have done the preparatory work. Lots of growers sneer at users of the water-can before July is well in, and undoubtedly it would be a mercy if the danger of chill wettings could be obviated; however, sweet peas that are let alone in early droughts become wiry and often start blossoming miserably when about half a yard high. Culture for exhibiting at lateshows may require avoidances, as well as methods, that the culture for garden adornment does not entail. It is prettier to keep the hedges and clumps freshly grey-green, than to let them become hot-weather dried in order that they may respond more, in the blossom-line, when feeding and watering is at last indulged in. One practice of prize-seekers can be recommended to the amateur, that is the removal young of all lateral shoots that are likely to cause overcrowding, for it is

better to have spread-out branches blooming finely than a dense body of feeble growth. When a plant is poor it should have all buds picked off it for some weeks, until its stamina has improved.

Disease may attack the simply-nurtured plants. If they turn yellow insect pests may be to blame, those legions of below and above soil foes that are treated of in another chapter ; but if on examination the leaves are found to have pale tawny lines in them, the shoot-tops to be curling, and the stems to be marked with brown, the gardener may feel sure that she is confronted by the infectious malady, streak. There is no cure. All such suffering plants should be dug right up and burnt at a distance, the immediate area of ground receiving a soaking with an ounce of liver of sulphur in three gallons of water. The liver of sulphur must be fresh bought, or have been stored in a damp-proof tin, as it quickly deteriorates ; the average cost is sixpence a pound.

Plants may show signs of exhaustion after much flowering. If there are any embryo shoots jutting out from the lower branches, signs of incipient vigour, the main stem should be cut down to within three, or even two, feet of the ground, then some soot water or liquid manure supplies will hasten on a second crop of bloom. The counsel, " Never let a pod of seed form on sweet peas," ought to be written up in large letters of gold. Home-saved seed is mostly a mistake ; still, for the consolation of those who take special pride in being seed-raisers for the garden, one pod on each clump, and two to each yard of a hedge, might be allowed. Seed-making is really the *raison d'être* of the plants ; once they have thoroughly fulfilled their

destiny they succumb, as die the butterflies and moths that have securely deposited their eggs where infant grubs will find food. In the hot weeks of summer a daily picking-off of dead blossoms will be necessary.

Avenues of sweet pea clumps, by paths, will display separate varieties as exquisitely as possible, and afford scope for tender or forcible colour harmonies, or those bizarre contrasts that delight when not too numerous. A triple row of clumps, in a semi-circle on a lawn, gives a welcome shady nook within to carry chairs to in the sunshine hours that set bees and other winged insects all a-flutter above the honeyed flower-spread. Groups in shade will repay the planter by the extra purity of the blossom colours when July and August have paled the harvest out in the open. Waved hedges are prettier than straight ones. A gap in a ten-foot row of sweet peas can have some of the branches tied across to form an arch.

List of sweet pea varieties for garden beauty and vase supplying :

Dorothy Eckford. White, long-stemmed.

Etta Dyke. White, with waved, or " Spencer," petals.

Burpee's Earliest White. Very free bloomer.

Mrs. Collier. Primrose.

Dobbie's Mid-blue. Approaching cornflower shade.

Sybil Eckford. Creamy apricot.

Lord Nelson. Dark blue.

Marie Corelli. Magenta carmine, waved.

Maud Holmes. Crimson, sunproof, waved.

Miss Willmott. Orange-pink shades.

Mrs. Eckford. Yellow.

Mont Blanc. Very early white.

- Mrs. C. W. Breadmore. Buff, edged with pink.
 Navy Blue. Violet-indigo.
 Nubian. Maroon, waved.
 Othello. Chocolate-claret ; very free.
 Paradise Ivory. Ivory. Exceedingly fragrant.
 Prima Donna. Wild-rose pink.
 Phenomenal. White, edged with lilac, waved.
 Prince Olaf. Marbled blue on white.
 Rose du Barri. A wonderful blend of carmine rose
 and orange, waved.
 St. George. Fiery scarlet.
 Zephyr. Bright blue, waved.
 Asta Ohn. Lavender, waved.
 Agnes Eckford. Immense pink.
 Blackbird. The nearest to black.
 Chrissie Unwin. Cerise, waved.
 Countess of Radnor. Mauve and pale lilac.
 Countess Cadogan. Sky blue.
 Countess Spencer. Pink, waved.
 Emily Eckford. Blue and mauve, large.
 Florence Nightingale. Mauvy-lavender.
 George Stark. Scarlet, waved.
 Gorgeous. Orange-salmon.
 Hon. Mrs. E. Kenyon. Primrose.
 Helen Lewis. Orange, with rosy wings.
 John Ingman. Rich carmine.
 Janet Scott. Deep pink.
 American Spencer. Red streaks on a white ground.
 Earl Spencer. Fiery salmon-orange, waved.

Gardening Proverb.—"Don't ground your trust on manure, but put manure on the ground."

CHAPTER XII

THE WALLS OF THE HOUSE

“ And because the breath of flowers is far sweeter in the air (where it comes and goes, like the warbling of music) than in the hand, therefore nothing is more fit for that delight than to know what be the flowers and plants that do best perfume the air.”—
BACON.

O PEN-AIR life is gaining in favour every day, but our climate obliges the votaries of it to regard roofs as frequently essential ; wide-open windows of countless dwellings now proclaim that fresh-air lovers are doing their utmost to keep their lungs filled and their heads dry at the same time. Why then, are so many home walls bare, or draped only in unscented foliage ?

Of the worth of the ivy for picturesqueness, and of the Virginian creeper for autumn tints, it would be folly to speak ungratefully, yet these climbers should mostly be kept to aspects where few other plants would thrive, or the latter should have flowering creepers grown against it. Amateur gardeners are needlessly afraid to combine climbers ; in a rich, deep border there is ample food for a couple to live on the same yard, and a passing reflection will surely call to mind glorious combinations witnessed in overgrown old country gardens, where roses even peep out of ivies, and the walls, from earth to chimneys, are hung

with jasmines, wistarias, clematises, and roses, all clasping hands, all caressingly encircling doors and windows.

As a rule the drip that falls from ivy kills delicate plants, but it will not injure sturdy rose species, clematis Jackmanni, clematis vitalba, which is the cultivated traveller's joy, yellow jasmine, or innumerable other attractive wall subjects. Instead it will give them rough stems to climb by, and serve as a background to the pictures of their blossom. Ugly houses should be planted around with ivies and the beautiful vines that are known as Virginian creepers, because those are the closest-woven and most lasting tapestries. Of course there will be autumnal leaf-falls from the latter, but the network of boughs remains after, of immense value as a subduer of garish red brick, or a veil over dilapidated stucco or mouldy-looking cement. The self-clinging Virginian creeper (*ampelopsis sem-pervirens*) is fit for south, west, or even east aspects in most localities, and this too-little-known species retains its shining green leaves permanently. They are small leaves, the same size as those of the brilliant self-holding Boston vine (*ampelopsis Veitchii*), which is the popular villa covering, but deciduous.

For north and north-east walls a choice can be made between the old Virginian creeper (*ampelopsis quinquæfolia*), that ramps up a tall building in an amazingly short time, but needs nailing, or the self-clinging Virginian creeper that is not the evergreen one, has all the colour and leaf size of the more ancient type, and will cling even to "rough-cast" walls not of the newest construction. Where these climbers exist the ground below will be smothered in shed leaves

for a few weeks of early winter ; that is an unavertible trouble. However, robust Virginian creeper we must have for those cold, unlucky sites that most call out for adornment, and this species (*ampelopsis Muralis*) is the worthiest.

Turning to the subject of ivies, the first lesson to master is the selecting sorts that will give satisfaction. Within the family are abnormal contradictions of type, so an ignorant gardener might find she had planted one that would never grow higher than a few inches, or so deliberate a climber that years would elapse before more than a yard's progress was made, or, maybe, so delicate a kind that a cold wind would kill it sooner than a geranium would perish.

Common Irish ivy (*hedera helix vegeta*) is the thick-growing plain green climber that birds build their nests in so freely. All varieties should be pruned in April, but this, when old-established, requires to be shorn apparently close to the brick, if the noise of the sparrow tribe is objected to ; by the middle of summer it will be verdant and thick again, but not so dense as to help constitute a nuisance. There is a variegated form of this, charmingly blotched with cream, and almost as hardy. Another most vigorous ivy is *hedera helix Rœgneriana*, possessed of large, dull, deep green, heart-shaped leaves as tough as leather ; in this we have a handsome mantle for portions of a white stone or cemented house. A cheerful hardy sort is the yellowish green rampant *hedera helix algeriensis* ; of this there are two rather less strong varieties, one mottled with yellow, one streaked with silver.

There is a slender-waisted ivy of very pointed extremities ; this is known as *hedera helix dentata*,

and is strong, but not as quick climbing as some. *Hedera helix digitata* is shaped in the graceful slit-up way, has white veinings to its deep green leaves, seldom fails, and will cover brickwork speedily. Then *hedera helix marmorata*, big and rounded of leaf, irregularly blotched with clear cream, is a lovely canopy over a north or east porch. We may have a maroon-purple ivy if we will, in *hedera helix purpurea*, and the wonder is that people do not take more advantage of the opportunity, so grand, if sombre, are the warm-hued masses of fine foliage, so moderating to the glare of red houses, so striking an addition to white stone.

Ivies abound that are fair enough for the genial sunny walls, and safe enough for growing behind floral climbers; the latter must not be too thick in habit, though, or will choke them, so the better plan is to set these gems of the ivy race in between other subjects where their first yards of growth will be both unimpeded and unveiled. Green, cream, yellow, and pink all appear in the loveliest of all, *hedera helix maderensis variegata*, also in *hedera helix alba marginata*, which is rather stronger, while *hedera helix marginata rubra* has rosy-red edges in autumn. None of these can be expected to go ahead fast; it is as dainty adornments that they merit patronage.

Hedera helix Caenwoodiana is considered the best self-clinging ivy: its tendrils are extraordinarily tenacious, and the deeply cut leaves, darkest green veined with white, make a handsome show. The familiar *hedera helix donerailensis*, and the silver-edged *hedera helix marginata grandis*, also attach themselves readily to walls.

The announcement that ivies all require rich soil

may be received with surprise, so accustomed are we to seeing ivy as the generous semi-wild obliterator of defects, the ubiquitous draper of dead trees and ruins. Yet not only should the garden borders be well manured for them, if the best display is wanted, but watering should be attended to, and stimulants of some kind be administered occasionally. The planting months are September to December, February to May. Instead of training an ivy plant at once up a wall or fence, its long shoot, or shoots, must be tipped at the end, laid flat along the soil, and pegged down to it.

Clematises would be more planted if unskilled flower cultivators were not ignorant how to prune them. A notion is abroad that about every individual "Maiden's Bower" (to give the climber its antique name) needs a different knife-treatment. Now the mystery is easily solved. Clematises are divided into several classes. Firstly we have the Jackmanni type, with which the early montana, the starry viticella species, are reckoned, as all to be cut back two-thirds of their branch length each February or March; secondly we associate the exquisite florida type, large bloomers of May and June, with the giant lanuginosa representatives that begin in summer and continue throughout autumn, and these are to be cut back only one-third. Other clematises, such as patens, less met with, can be reckoned as only in need of thinning out and tipping. All wish for rich soil, lightened by road grit, a February mulch of old manure, and a space of two feet in which to grow. When planting a clematis that is to run up a Virginian creeper it should be at least a foot in front, and be bent backwards. Half the clematises visible

on houses are suffering terribly from overcrowded branches, owing to the young tendrils of each spring having been left to entangle themselves instead of having been tenderly taught how to climb.

To be able to lean from a bedroom window in early spring above the multitudinous peaked white buds of *clematis montana* is one of those joys to which the suburban or the country dweller is entitled to look forward all winter ; a week later the room will be full of a perfume that heralds all the scents of approaching summer. Because fragrance is more cheering than we know, more subtly provocative of good influence—medical scientists are finding that out at last—every woman should strive after surrounding all her windows with climbers noted for scent, or at grouping powerfully scented shrubs, perennials, and annuals beyond the climbers gifted only with beauty. There should not be a house-wall border without its *mezereon* (*daphne mezereum*) reaching four-foot boughs towards the skies as though protesting that February may have pink or yellow blossoms and an odour of indescribable excellence. Honeysuckles are mostly so hardy that they cannot fail where morning or afternoon sun can reach them ; jasmines, white or yellow, will live for years and years in shade, though they too love King Sol.

Honeysuckles offer such various effects. The red, white-lined flowers of Thunberg's honeysuckle (*lonicera flexuosa*), continuously produced in summer and autumn, are little like clear yellow trusses of the almost as perpetual Henderson's (*lonicera Hendersoni*). A south wall can have the January and February blooming white *lonicera fragrantissima* especially tucked away in warm nooks between two bays, or a

bay window and a porch, to astonish the passer-by. The all-green Japanese honeysuckle twines wherever it is placed; the variegated form (*lonicera japonica aureo-reticulata*) would be esteemed a valuable pink-flushed, gold-leaved shrub even without its reddy-yellow blossom. Then there is the giant yellow honeysuckle (*lonicera gigantea*), the late red and gold Dutch honeysuckle (*lonicera periclymenum*), which has to be pruned back occasionally, the yellow trumpet honeysuckle (*lonicera flava nova*), which, like its sister, the scarlet trumpet (*lonicera sempervirens*) has evergreen foliage and expects a south aspect. The honeysuckle has another charm: it is as early as the good old American currant in putting forth buds of leafage.

Jasmines to give yellow stars in summer are *jasminum fruticans* and *humile revolutum*, the latter perfumed, and a continuer until the yellow winter species (*jasminum nudiflorum*) starts again. Of late years the giant *jasminum primulinum* has been discovered, which presents branches covered the whole length with yellow flowers big as primroses. Jasmines are suitable town growers.

The blue passion flower is mildly sweet, the white variety, Constance Elliott, really fragrant. These are a prey to earwigs: in some gardens near rivers, lakes, or marshes they cannot be safeguarded, for painting the wall close by them with dabs of creosote, though the pest would avoid the place, is an evil-smelling device unsuited to the neighbourhood of windows. Probably seaside gardens are the best for passion flowers, and in Sussex the egg-shaped yellow fruits may be seen hanging all winter.

The grape-flower vine, or wistaria, flourishes grandly

in many localities, but refuses to live in others. It is not a lover of extreme heat, so removing it from a south to a west wall sometimes saves its life. The white variety looks rare, and should be used for contrast. Both are honey-scented.

Shrubs in plenty are suited to house walls, indeed many require the protection and thrive better for the support. Most scented of all is the magnolia, but florists say that magnolias, like tulip-trees, mulberries, and walnuts, and many other famous subjects, are shunned nowadays because a rapid age demands rapid growers. Southernwood, the yellow flowering silvery-green aromatic "Old Man," is curiously charming when trained out on red brick, and will do to ornament the worst walls; barberries can be similarly pressed into service, being handsome for leaves, blossoms, and berries; the blue mountain sweet (*ceanothus azureus*) has a novel look, because of its periwinkle-hued florescence in April, and later, but needs a south look-out.

"The new is not always beautiful, the beautiful need not be new." No, but in the flower kingdom gifts are marvellously combined. There are novel climbing plants sure to rejoice the heart, with many others so seldom met with in gardens that the woman who introduces them to a locality will be hailed as a discoverer, and set all tongues wagging. Notoriety of this character is undeniably precious. The following list will be a partial guide to good things.

Golden bramble-berry. *Rubus fruticosus aurea*. A charming robust climber with bright yellow variegated leaves, pretty blossom, and edible

fruit. There is also a "cut-leaved" bramble, of great beauty, and fine blackberries.

Bridgesia Spicata. A light-growing self-clinger, with purple blossom in spring.

Climbing Escallonia. A hybrid, with rosy carmine blossom. Fairly hardy.

Red Jasmine. *Jasminum beesianum*, a species from China, yet suited to English gardens.

Variegated Jew's Mallow. *Kerria japonica variegata*. Yellow flowers, foliage edged with silver.

Starry Magnolia. Pink blooming. *Magnolia stellata*. Not a tall grower. Hardy.

Maidenhair vine. *Muehlenbeckia complexa*. A rapid twiner, with small evergreen foliage on black stems, insignificant white blossom, but a most elegant effect. Hardy on warm walls or porch arches.

Potato vine. *Solanum jasminoides*. A glorious full-foliaged climber that is evergreen, and gives masses of white blossom from August to November. Hardy, prefers sand, or peat mixed with the soil.

Abutilon Vitifolium. A wall shrub, in sunshine. Palest mauve

Climbing Knotweed. *Polygonum baldschuanicum*. This will ramp to the top of a house and send down lavish festoons of pinky-white blossom. Fairly hardy.

Crimson Glory vine. *Vitis coignetiae*. A fast grower, with large leathery vine leaves, brown underneath; becomes orange gold, and scarlet crimson in autumn. Hardy.

Pink Bindweed. *Calystegia pubescens flore-pleno*, is

the double variety of pale rose perennial convolvulus. Light-growing. Not quite hardy. Scarlet Pomegranate. *Punica granatum plena*. Double vermilion blossoms among thick pale green foliage. Will cover a house in time, if given a south aspect.

All light growers, whether of perpetual existence or of transient nature, hardy or so delicate that they can only be bedded out at the end of May, can be used to mingle with the stalwart old roses, vines, clematises, Virginian creepers, even ivies, if care is taken to feed all the roots well, and reasonable prudence determines the pairing. A vigorous Gloire de Dijon rose will be none the worse for giving its thick wood to be clung to by the Chilian Glory Flower (*eccremocarpus scabra*), brought from the greenhouse to give its orange splendour out-of-doors in the middle of summer; the spring clematis montana can be hidden later by the yellow florescence of canary creeper; on an east wall the flame flower (*tropæolum speciosum*) may dwell always to climb the green euonymus or common hop.

Window boxes have rather a suburban air in the real country; the practice of growing plants in them suggests that tall climbers cannot be relied upon to frame the casements. Where they are used the colours of the flowers must be kept in harmony with those that the walls support, and the more foliage there is the more artistic will the result seem.

Within towns the patient gardening that has to go to the furnishing of these boxes cannot be too cordially commended, for what a vast change would be wrought if the hobby were a usual one. To quote

Leigh Hunt : “ Look at the windows down a street, and, generally speaking, they are all barren. The inmates might see through roses and geraniums, if they would ; but they do not think of it, or not with loving knowledge enough to take the trouble.”

Gardening Proverb.—“ Beauty may be but skin deep, but fair wall-coverings are made first by fair minds.”

CHAPTER XIII

BEAUTIFUL BORDERS

"If we throw a simple glance on plants, we shall perceive that they have relations to the elements which promote their growth ; that they have relations to each other, from the groups which they contribute to form ; that they have relations to the animals which derive nourishment from them ; and, finally, to Man, who is the centre of all the works of Creation. To these relations I give the name of harmonies."—J. H. BERNARDIN DE SAINT-PIERRE.

THE herbaceous border is to the garden what the National Gallery is to the world of art. In it should be a collection representative of the very best plants, so placed as to exhibit them to perfect advantage. Just as we do not have replicas of the same pictures, so we should not have repetitions of groups of precisely the same flowering beauty. Yet it would be extremely difficult to find an herbaceous border in which all the perennial masses are of separate colours, varieties, or species. A bronze-purple perennial larkspur (*delphinium*) is totally unlike its pale or deep-blue, mauve or white relation, or any of its kinsfolk of blended pink and sky, violet and "royal," or black-veined lavender ; a bellflower may be the tiny spreading white type from Liguria, that is generally grown in hanging baskets but will flourish in a sunny, well-drained border, or the noble chimney, or steeple, bellflower which, unfortunately, has but a biennial existence ; a crowfoot that is but a double edition

of the field buttercup is as much entitled to the generic name as is the intensely vivid, ball-shaped, many-hued, bulbous ranunculus from Persia. There is intellectual interest to be gained by comparing the individuals of a plant family, there is delight to be reaped from a study of what a wide range of colour the identical variety can show, but, except for creating broad masses of telling hues in landscape-gardening, or cherishing extra examples of some pet plant for gathering or propagating from, there is no object in setting similar flower-groups in the same garden. If this is considered too sweeping a statement maybe the reader will concede just this point, that at least the repetitions should not be in the same border. Diversity need not cost any more than monotony. There are thousands of splendid perennials, and each year enterprising florists increase the supply, by skilled breeding, or by ransacking foreign lands for formerly unintroduced beauties.

There is danger that the popularity of the herbaceous border idea will almost do away, in small and medium-sized gardens, with effective borders of special plants—chrysanthemums, phloxes, perennial larkspurs, Michaelmas daisies, etc. At present we find the mixed perennials all together, and the dahlias placed at intervals over some square plot. Even in the environs of London, on cold clay soil, the dahlia has proved willing to live without being grubbed up and tuber-dried each winter, and it is seen at its best when associated with other plants, not set in ranks with foot-hardened mud between. As for a semi-shady border all planted with phloxes, the summer ones (*phlox suffruticosa*) and the later blooming (*phlox decussata*), words fail

to describe the wealth of colour, the prodigality of blossom, the garden picture that is witnessed: Chrysanthemums are as myriad hued ; perennial larkspurs supply the blues, from palest to deepest, toning on to violet, purple, and nearly black, that are invariably

Fig. 44. Colour Arranging in Borders.

appreciated. A simple border of different sunflowers, carpeted or edged by golden pansies, may be far lovelier than a collection of polyglot perennials. Really the representative herbaceous border is more a connoisseur's delight, an exhibition to be reverently approached, catalogue in hand, than a striking feature for the pleasure grounds. Of course there are methods of securing finer displays of colour and form, while still massing the hardy plants.

A glance at Fig. 44 will soon reveal how borders

can be arranged so as to contain antagonistic colours in each without discord, how also to present more or less notably bright stretches. There is a commencement with scarlet, the dangerous hue for mingling, then white gives relief beside orange and gold ;

Fig. 45. Combined Perennials.

white again intervenes between yellow and blues, though the latter colours never quarrel ; blues are nearly hedged round by yellows again before blush and pale pinks lead on to deep rose and crimson. The next length of the border would probably prove how maroon and peach-lilac, with lemon-yellows to soften them, can be accompanied by heliotrope and warm purple.

In the plan of Fig. 45 there is less art, yet the colours will all fit in satisfactorily, none of them offending the eye that views the blend from the neighbouring

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path or from a distance. Before considering shapes for borders it will be well for us to give some attention to the plants named here, lest their English titles prove unilluminative, owing to the fact that people differ as to their correctness. A descriptive list, to act as a key to both plans, should convey knowledge with least difficulty.

*Scarlet perennial Larkspur. *Delphinium nudicaule*.
Vermilion. $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall.

*Scarlet Turtle Head. *Chelone barbata*. Sometimes called a penstemon. 2 feet.

White Mossy Saxifrage. Many sorts, but *saxifraga hypnoides* is perhaps best.

Scarlet and green Columbine. *Aquilegia skinneri*.

*White Harebell. *Campanula rotundifolia alba*.

White Dragon's Head. *Dracocephalum virginicum alba*. Sometimes catalogued as *physostegia*. Slender snowy spikes. A fine plant. 2 feet.

Scarlet Windflower. *Anemone fulgens*. Gives vermilion daisy-stars in early spring.

*Scarlet Sun Rose. *Helianthemum venustum*, or a florist's variety such as Fireball. Blooms all summer. 9 inches.

Ox-eye Daisy. *Chrysanthemum maximum*. All varieties are beautiful. 4 feet.

Autumn Moon Daisy. *Pyrethrum uglinosum*. White marguerite, with pale green centres. 5 feet.

*White Flax. *Linum monogynum*. Grassy stemmed. Hardy. 2 feet.

*Scarlet Catchfly. *Silene laciniata purpusii*. A grand

* Those marked by a star are better planted in spring than in late autumn.

plant for sunny ground, but expensive.
Scarlet lychnis might be used instead. 1 foot.

Scarlet Bergamot. *Monarda didyma*, "Cambridge scarlet." 3 feet.

Scarlet Alum root. *Heuchera sanguinea*. Elegant in growth. 2 feet.

Yellow Leopard's Bane. *Doronicum*. All are excellent.

*Blanket Flowers. *Gaillardias*. Mostly gold and crimson. 2 feet.

Orange Globe Flower. *Trollius asiaticus*. Profuse in blossom. 2 feet.

White Alpine Pink. *Dianthus alpinus albus*. 6 inches.

White Veronica. The best is *veronica spicata alba*. Constant in bloom. 1 foot.

Blue Alkanet. *Anchusa italica*. Dropmore variety is best. Cornflower blue. 3 feet.

Blue Knapweed. *Centaurea montana*. Like a violet-blue giant cornflower. 2 feet.

White Fleabane. *Erigeron Coulteri*. A rayed daisy-like flower, with gold eye. 1 foot.

*Pink Crane's Bill. *Geranium Endressi*. 1 foot.

Crimson Groundsel. *Senecio pulcher*. Very hardy, often blooms on into December. 2½ feet.

Yellow Yarrow. *Achillea tomentosa*. Fern-like foliage tufts and gold florescence. 9 inches.

Yellow Mullein. *Verbascums*. All are good. Average height 5 feet.

White Bachelor's Buttons. *Ranunculus aconitifolius flore-pleno*. Very hardy. 2 feet.

* Those marked by a star are better planted in spring than in late autumn.

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- *Foam Flower. *Tiarella cordifolia*. Creamy white feathery blossom. 1 foot.
- *Plume Poppy. *Bocconia cordata*. Handsome silver leaves, cream sprays, of minute blossom. Very hardy. 3 to 5 feet.
- Helen's Flower. *Helenium*. Many grand sorts. Gold. 3 to 5 feet.
- Orange Ox-eye. *Heliopsis*. Known also as American orange sunflower. 4 feet.
- Hawkweed. *Hieracium villosum*. White leaved, yellow flowering. 1 foot.
- Goat's Beard. *Astilbe japonica*. White feathery sprays. $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet.
- Cluster Bellflower. *Campanula glomerata*. True violet. Very effective, and quite hardy in sun or shade. 3 feet.
- *Yellow Welsh Poppy. *Meconopsis cambrica*. Thrives like a weed. $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet.
- Cone Flower. *Rudbeckia*. Many kinds. All tall and handsome. Hardy.

Both herbaceous mixed borders, and those of herbaceous species separately, or in partnership, can have design in them. Tastes will always differ as to the comparative merits of irregular grouping, or congregating in patterns, yet no controversy is necessary, since both styles have their claims, and both can surely be tried even in the villa strip garden.

Figures 46, 47, 48, and 49, will supply maps for borders for copying in the interests of myriads of perennials, or of a few. The first requires, for effectiveness, that the

* Those marked by a star are better planted in spring than in late autumn.

portions marked B and C should be of similar colour, but difference in height is admissible. If the A's were

Fig. 46. A Border in Squares.

square groups of various coloured two-foot tall chrysanthemums, B might consist of the double white

Fig. 47. An Edged Border.

yarrow (*achillea ptarmica*, the Pearl, or Boule de Nieve), which blossoms continuously if occasionally

Fig. 48. A Pattern Border.

shorn of dead bloom, and the outer portions, C, could then be of white violas. Dahlias, especially the com-

Fig. 49. The Vandyke Border.

pact-growing pompons, or phloxes, look admirable grouped in squares. If this border were made against

a wall, fence, or hedge, the plants in the back row of squares should be double the height of those in the space B (which latter should be continued in the background spaces C), and treble the height of the identically coloured, or paler shade, plants of the foreground A's. Then there is the further possibility of making a composite herbaceous border by this same plan, using different coloured flowers for each square, and different white ones in between and for the centre row.

A border for mixed perennials can be satisfactorily edged by a pretty design for pansies or pinks, as in the design of Fig. 47, with a round group of some giant herbaceous plant or other at wide distances, as shown by B and C. Or a border all of hybrid pyrethrums, edged by violas, might have alternate groups of lilies and perennial larkspurs.

The design of Fig. 48 is only adopted for a border in the open. If on a large scale scarlet perennials could be located in spaces A, the highest in the centre, gold ones in spaces B, the carpet at C could be yellow, the carpet at D white, and the repetition along a whole border would be remarkably showy. This is an admirable way to grow carnations and violas of all hues, devoting the various spaces to different varieties, never repeating a harmony.

If against a wall, the points of the design Fig. 49 must be half tall, half dwarf, but in the open they can be of plants of heights to match, if preferred. This would be a good selection of plants in the former case.

A sunflowers, B white tree lupin, C tall rose Michaelmas daisies, D Madonna lilies, E blue alkanet, F blue pansies, G gold dust (*alyssum saxatile*), H crimson

pansies, I pink crane's bill (*geranium Endressii*), J yellow violas.

So far our attention has all been with straight-edged borders, but nobody should elect to create one, unless for positively driving reasons. It is costly to alter borders adjoining paths already made; supposing those walks are paved, tiled, or of asphalte, the expense and trouble can seldom be incurred. The woman who can build a garden to please herself, or can remodel borders flanking turf, should choose one of the edge-shapes for herbaceous borders portrayed by the following designs.

The curves of Fig. 50 may well be elongated if the garden is of vast length; the castellations of Fig. 51 can be made square or elongated according to fancy; the sharp peaks of Fig. 52 prove annoying on a minute scale upon turf, for all the grass-cutting against them has to be done by hand-shears. Fig. 53 displays a scalloped instead of a curved edge. Fig. 54 is uncommon, and serves to specially draw notice to lovely dwarf plants that may occupy the foremost portion. Bulbous plants, of the movable as well as the permanent order, can be beautifully mingled among the ordinary perennials.

Herbaceous borders made in open grass are bound to be a success, unless abnormally ill furnished, supposing they are given elegant outlines. Figs. 55 and 56 suggest an angular and a rounded style, so, for lawn-mowing convenience again, the latter should be preferred for the little garden, lest the acute points of the former cause vexation and, by unskilful tending, become blunted.

Silver, grey, and variegated foliage plants are of

Fig. 50. The Waved Border.

Fig 51. The Castellated Border

Fig 52 The Peaked Border.

Fig. 53. The Scalloped Border.

Fig. 54. An Effective Border.

Fig. 55. An Elaborate Border in the Open.

Fig. 56. A Border for Open Grass or Gravel.

immense worth to separate violent colours ; there are yellow and bronze, copper and crimson-leaved plants too that can never be located just for their blossom hues. In Japanese paintings crudest tints are often close together, only yellow being between, which evidences well the truth that clear gold, without any suspicion of orange, will blend sufficiently the most antagonistic brilliances on record. Indeed, it can do more than white in this fashion. Cream, by-the-by, is infinitely more softening than white ; as a test a group of magenta phlox may be set within a circular belt of white pansies in one spot, and of cream violas in another. The sight will be rested by the latter harmony, riveted rather unpleasantly by the former.

Herbaceous borders ought to be floral from March to December. This is gained by so spreading out the early and the late bloomers that no long stretch is without either. Summer and autumn flowers are plentiful enough to almost take care of themselves as to the provision of successive shows. Simultaneous blossoming is another subject for the gardener to sit down before, not only out of doors, but in home evenings. It is useful to draw up a chart for every month, marking the flowers that are reported to belong to each, and those which can actually be seen in neighbours' pleasure grounds or local "nurseries." Trees and shrubs should be included. In two or three years' time the chart will have grown into a priceless guide, indicative of personal experience.

Delicate plants can be put into carefully manœuvred sheltering nooks, between thickets of sturdy tall ones, just as non-hardy shrubs may be shielded by bodyguards of robust evergreens.

Labels, of any nature, detract from the charm of a border, give it an artificial air ; the woman who loves her flowers will not want to see them ticketed, as though they were cheap goods in a shop window. Let her keep an accurate list of the plants, and so scrupulously note, on a map, the position of each that, until memory is trained, she can quickly possess herself of both simple and botanical names. Another expedient is to write in indelible ink on green-painted wooden labels, and cunningly hide these beneath foliage, only to be found by the hand that placed them.

Gardening Proverb.—"What is to be done but once should be done well."

CHAPTER XIV

SEED SOWINGS, UNDER GLASS AND IN THE OPEN

“ Then rise the tender germs, upstarting quick,
And spreading wide their spongy lobes ; at first
Pale, wan, and livid ; but assuming soon,
If fann'd by balmy and nutritious air,
Strain'd through the friendly mats, a vivid green.”

COWPER.

THE amateur gardener, keen to begin seed-sowing in January, may actually start, as has been explained, with sweet peas: unless she possesses a greenhouse with the temperature of seventy-five degrees she will do well to be content with *lathyrus odoratus* for another two months. March is quite early enough to raise half-hardy bedding plants under glass. It may be done then in cold frames stood in sunshine, boxes tightly glass-covered and placed in the windows of warm rooms, or in pots, pans, or boxes sunk in larger wooden and glass covered boxes—but those are, virtually, frames. Another plan is to dig some little pits in a border under a south wall, and cover them by “ lights ” from a frame, or make each just the size to be made weather-tight when one of the useful square hand-lights is placed over it. There is still another expedient, the making of nice little drills, about six inches wide, and four deep, in that south wall border, sowing seeds at the base of these, then enclosing them by a lot of pieces of glass, simply

laid flat on the soil, slightly overlapping each other. Waste glass can be bought very cheaply from builders, but of course the appearance of the seed drills will be more creditable if the pieces employed are all the same size and without jagged edges.

Because certain plants need to be considerably developed by May, in order to commence blooming quickly in the beds, those should be bought ready-made by the gardener who cannot give the seed the early heat that alone will ensure germination then. If she wants the flowers late in the autumn, to succeed summer glories, well and good. She may sow in March and await results, but if she persuades herself that a greenhouse temperature of fifty-five to sixty degrees—the most general when lamps or oil-stoves are burnt—will do the work in March that should have been finished off in February she will be laying up disappointments. There are not many of the bedding plants that take so long in reaching free-blossoming maturity ; the gorgeous Indian shot (canna) is one, the verbenas another, the pincushion flower (scabious) a third, the graceful Mexican aster (cosmos, or cosmea) a fourth. Verbenas sown in March will probably begin blooming in August, and will be just getting towards their prime when nipped off by winter. A hot-bed in a frame, to plunge seed pans in, is useful.

If there is a greenhouse with the average temperature mentioned, seeds will germinate rapidly, and seedlings thrive apace for a couple of weeks, after which the transplanted stuff must be put in the coolest and airiest part of the building—against top windows unless the climate is dangerous—for another week.

then be placed in cold frames, or the heating of the greenhouse be discontinued.

There are greenhouses *and* greenhouses. Artificial warming has to be most carefully managed if a sunny one is to be kept from getting too hot at mid-day ; the lamp or stove must be put out just in the nick of time, and lighted again directly the building is cooling. Even an unheated greenhouse must have its temperature assiduously regulated, for if sunshine sends that up extraordinarily for a few hours, then a drop is made to the cold of a frosty night, how can seeds be expected to germinate at all, or seedlings to survive ? No, if the dangers of the night have to be encountered, and not even a little one-burner lamp is used to keep out frost, it is folly for the gardener to rejoice in the genial atmosphere reigning there on sunny mornings or afternoons. She must reduce the day warmth, if she will not conquer the night cold. This can be done by ventilating very freely during the warm hours, and closing the greenhouse entirely before the warmth has departed. It may even be necessary to use tiffany or muslin shadings over seedlings.

Frames can be safeguarded from frosts by having mats, of any kind, laid right over them, and heaps of leaf-mould, loam, straw, or cinders banked against their sides. Of course frames must be partly opened, just an inch or two, during some day hours, after vegetation has appeared inside them. When seedlings are growing nicely, and the weather is favourable, there must be much more air given. All which reflections point to the undoubted truth that only by using her own good wits, and learning by experience, can the gardener triumph over all the difficulties of

plant-raising from seed. She will be well repaid, however, by the fascination of the pursuit as much as by its successes.

Bedding plants to sow, with or without heat, during March, include Iceland poppies, cornflowers, dwarf snapdragons, tall ones for later blooming, *abronia umbellata grandiflora*, a charming pink trailer, *ageratum*, *alonsoas*, "annual" hollyhocks, love-lies-bleeding, *anthemis tinctoria*, a bright yellow perennial, Swan river daisies, pot marigolds, *chrysanthemum coronarium*, striped annual chrysanthemums, *clarkias*, *godetias*, larkspurs (annual, and the varieties of *delphinium grandiflorum*, azure fairy, butterfly, etc., two feet tall), marguerite carnations and Indian pinks, which will be rather late, marigolds, annual blanket-flowers (*gaillardias*), gauze flowers (the annual *gypsophilas*), many kinds of everlastings, Japanese hops, canary creeper, *convolvuluses*, *lobelia*, Drummond's phlox, the burning bush (*kochia tricophylla*), the variegated mallow-wort (*lavatera arborea variegata*), charming as quite baby specimens, lupins, *nemesias*, tobacco plants, wood sorrels (*oxalis*), *petunias*, golden feather, the annual cone flower (*rudbeckia bicolor*), *salpiglossis*, *jacobœa*, and *violas* for coming into bloom in early autumn. If there is a warm greenhouse, or a propagator is used in conjunction with cold frames, the vivid scarlet sage can be raised.

April will be soon enough for stocks, asters, zinnias (slow of development), miniature sunflowers, *silene pendula compacta*, the pretty little soapwort, pink or white (*saponaria*), the dwarf annual yellow or pink evening primroses, Venus' navelwort, white, with silver stems, the ice plant, love-in-a-mist, phlox-worts

(leptosiphons), flowering mallow-worts (*lavatera trimes-tris*), butterfly flowers (*schizanthus*), and nasturtiums.

Hardy annuals, and various perennials, to beautify borders, provide cut flowers in plenty, or spread carpets over beds, can be sown out in the third week of March, weather conditions being right, and the soil not too wet. Half-hardies should be left to late April and May sowings, then crops of many of them can be gained as easily as from earlier efforts in sun-heat through glass, or artificial heat.

In addition to all the popular vase flowers the following can be specially recommended :

Mallow-wort, "Sunset." A grand deep-rose ; buds open and flowers last long in water. Catalogued as *lavatera splendens*, "Sunset." $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

Double Ranunculus Poppies. *Papaver rhœas* fl. pl. Annual. 2 feet.

Rose of Heaven. *Agrostemma cœli-rosa*. Rose, elegant slim stems. Hardy annual. $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

Columbines. *Aquilegia chrysantha*. Yellow, blooms all summer. $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

Blue Clover. *Asperula azurea setosa*. Hardy annual. 1 foot.

Rock-Purslane. *Calandrinia chromantha*. Annual. Pink sprays. 1 foot.

Clarkia. *Clarkia elegans*, Orange King. Orange-vermilion. Hardy annual. 2 feet.

Phlox-wort. *Collomia coccinea*. Coral-red. Hardy annual. $1\frac{1}{4}$ feet.

Cape Marigold. *Calendula pluvialis*. Like a white marguerite, with maroon-mauve reverse to petals. Annual. 1 foot.

- Blue Pea. *Lathyrus sativus azureus*. A sky-blue miniature pea, forming two-foot hedges or clumps. Not scented, but pretty for use with sweet peas. Hardy annual.
- Layia. *Layia elegans*. Yellow daisy flowers, with cut petals margined white. 2 feet tall in rich soil. Hardy annual. Aromatically scented.
- Honey Lupin. *Lupinus luteus*. The colour of clear yellow honey, and sweet-scented. Hardy annual. $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet.
- Annual Orange Poppy. *Meconopsis heterophylla*. Rich orange. Hardy annual. 1 foot.

In order to succeed with seed sowing, whether in the open or under cover, the soil should be maintained in a just moist condition. Nine-tenths of recorded failures are due to the compost, or the ground, being let dry up. A moment's reflection will convince any person that a shoot, whether rootlet or upper growth, that has pierced its seed husk and begun its adventurous career, must sink into a premature grave if its succulent young life shrivels. Seeds mildew, or seedlings damp off when kept in water-logged soil, but they can bear two or three days' ill-treatment of this sort, whereas a few hours' dryness must bring death.

Almost any sweet compost will do for seed pans for most plants, plain turfy loam, plain leaf-mould even, but the best mixture consists of equal parts of leaf-mould and loam, with a quarter part of silver sand, and, except for the hardiest annuals, or a scanty number of families needing special conditions, with a quarter part of old and finely-chopped manure. There are tall plants that prefer the lightest diet, such as poppies,

and dwarf ones—pansies, for example—which respond best to nourishing foods from the first. Cacti must be raised in little more than grit, ferns spring up most surely in peat and silver sand. But there is no need for the tyro at plant propagation to feel discouraged. Seeds are mostly sent out with all the essential instructions printed on their packets, it being, naturally, the desire of firms to achieve reputation as distributors of seeds that “come up”; or if by any chance packets have no cultural hints, the seller can always be sent a stamped and addressed envelope, with a request for guidance.

Every garden needs coloured primroses, polyanthuses, perhaps the graceful coloured cowslips of orange and red, bunch or polyanthus primroses, those large-trussed hybrids so much used in public parks. Canterbury bells are most showy, sweet Williams, sweet rockets, honesty, that gives silver seed sprays after purple or white-lilac bloom, and white foxgloves are lovely biennials. All these plants, and others too numerous to describe, can be raised by the thousand out of doors in late March and April, then will be in splendid condition to bed out in autumn.

The soil for outside sowings will be excellent if the garden ground has received the general attention that has been advised in an earlier chapter. The top three inches should be pulverised, to rid it of lumps, cleared of every weed and of all large stones, and may well have silver sand mixed with it if inclined to be sticky.

The question of destruction of seed germs by insect pests is a sadly serious one. Soil fumigants, that cleanse the beds and borders of vermin, are now in general favour, but are still somewhat too expensive

to use over a large area. Common carbolic powder, bought by the pound, and scattered sparingly in that surface three inches, will do much to safeguard seedlings. It may be slightly mixed in with the compost for seed-boxes and pots, though this can be made safe by being baked some minutes in a quick oven, afterwards moistened thoroughly again.

During May and June hosts of perennials can be raised in outdoor seed-beds under a south wall, others in lines across the vegetable land. The value of seed-beds is their being made up of the best soil, and the cinder paths that usually surround them being checks to slug and snail enemies, whose soft bodies are obliged to shun coal dust, or any sharp particles. If sunheat is strong, sheets of newspaper should be laid over the beds during the middle daytimes. The happiest way to secure these sheets is by tucking the edges between two bricks here and there.

Pansies, mimuluses, and other shade lovers, are best raised from seed in semi-shadowed beds, or lines in borders. July is not at all a bad month for raising hardy and non-particular perennials; there will still be time for spring-bloomers to prepare themselves, though, even for Brompton stocks and wallflowers, spring raising is best, while summer and autumn blossomers are certain to make a magnificent display in about a twelvemonth. Wallflowers, by-the-bye, are simple-livers; sow them in rather hard, poor soil, remove them once, into rows, in similar ground, and they will become wiry dwarf bushes of the most approved type; raise them, and keep them growing, in rich, easily-moved earth, and the plants, even of renowned habit as compact bedders, will straggle and go

more to leaf than stem. Overfed wallflowers are apt to shrivel miserably under winter frosts.

But all hardy perennials are not easy to grow from seed, alas ! Some of the most exquisite alpine, that inhabit high altitudes, smile at the snows, are content buried under glaciers, will refuse to live for the gardener who coddles them. Numbers of the cross-grained herbaceous beauties can be raised in semi-shady seed beds of only leaf-mould and coarse grit ; others may take kindly to pots of similiar compost sunk in cold frames placed in shade ; this is the easiest method for securing alpine auriculas. A cold greenhouse is a convenience for housing the pots or pans. Use can be made too of the shadowed nooks, under stagings, of greenhouses that are but moderately warmed in winter.

Taking the broad view of the matter, it is certain that the more trouble or risk, the more love is felt for the plants that eventually arise and bloom. A mother is said to have a disposition to prefer the naughtiest child, or, at least, the most wayward. The woman gardener should not be frightened off attempting to grow any plant for which she has a longing : seeds are not extravagant luxuries nowadays, and there are usually so many in a packet that the percentage that sprout, and of plants that survive, are likely to more than recompense the worker.

Patience is demanded. Many seeds lie dormant nearly a year. Why, even the familiar clematis, violet, or herbaceous phlox may be as long, or longer. On the other hand there is always the delicious excitement of watching for chance seedlings that may elect to arrive rapidly.

Probably the name of *Marchantia polymorpha* will

strike no terror into the soul, nor even arouse an anxious qualm. It is the title of some plant, no doubt? Yes, of the liverwort, perhaps the best represented of all plants! But this is the minute green vampire, commonly known as moss, that forms on the top soil in pots and boxes, and, if not checked, covers the whole with a dainty green sward that chokes all other growth. When seeds lie in their carefully filled receptacles many months, awaiting the mysterious call that bids them germinate, or when sprouting has begun below the surface, then liverwort invades the spot, and unless removed will ruin all the promise. Tender scraping, by the tip of a penknife, can get rid of the "moss," yet there is always grave peril to the invisible plant development. Prevention is better than cure, as we all admit. If the surface of potsful of soil is given an eighth of an inch deep mulch of charcoal it is nineteen to one that no liverwort will form; a re-dressing of the charcoal once in ten days should make its non-arrival sure. But the material must be exceedingly fine, just like black dust, and the mulch must lie lightly.

It may be asked how it is possible to prevent the charcoal from becoming a washed-in constituent of the soil, instead of a mulch? Well, no gardener of repute ever gives water to potsful of precious seed in just the ordinary way; any fine-rosed can would wreak havoc. Supplies are bestowed not from above, but from below. Here is the recipe. Fill a pail with tepid rain-water, then immerse each pot up to the brim, taking care that no drops enter over it. Hold it steady for enough seconds for the moisture to percolate up from the drainage hole at the base of the pot, and seem about to raise the topmost grains of soil. By then the

compost is all sufficiently wetted. Boxes and pans, having drainage holes also, are equally fit for this means of watering their contents.

Let it be frankly owned that no hard-and-fast rules can be laid down as to which seedlings require to be "pricked out," that is, transplanted further apart into other receptacles, or beds made up close to the glass in frames. There are regulations for most greenhouse plants, but hardy or half-hardy garden plants are too various for individual mention. To take the ten-week stock as an illustration: the seedlings should stand an inch apart when first up, or else be pricked off to that distance as soon as they can be handled, then will need to go two inches apart when their side leaves touch. If they are restricted as to room they spindle up, and straggly stocks never make good bloomers. There are not many plants that *can* thrive when neighbours are pressing upon them.

The object in raising bedding plants is, of course, to get strong, suitable specimens to look well when put into the ornamental garden in May, and to start blooming as soon as possible. So two prickings-off are worth while, if they are called for. Seeds that germinate badly produce seedlings that stand naturally far from each other; those can be left alone for weeks if they have enough depth of soil for the roots to thrive in, and if that soil does not turn sour or "liverworty."

A lot of nonsense is talked about seedlings that "won't transplant." Mignonette seedlings turn reddish foliaged, and drop some leaves, but they survive, and perfect carpets have been made again and again from doubly-moved units. There used to be a theory that poppies could not be pricked off; now it is

generally conceded that "Icelands" are best prepared early for bedding out. "Orientals" are offered for sale in boxes by the dozen, and plenty of amateur gardeners have discovered that, with due care, the giant double opium poppies, as well as "Shirleys," can be located one by one, just where they are wanted to blossom.

It is thrilling work, this calling one's own stock of perennials, biennials, and annuals into being; no bought plants give quite the same ecstatic sense of pride in ownership. And soon the woman gardener will know no peace for ambition till she has raised roses, shrubs, and permanent climbers, trees too, maybe, so that her vegetable children represent the tiniest of spreading stone crops and the loftiest of heaven-pointing pines.

Gardening Proverb.—"Where a nettle grows is room for a lily."

CHAPTER XV

SCREENS AND ARBOURS

“ The roof
Of thickest covert was inwoven shade,
Laurel and myrtle, and what higher grew
Of firm and fragrant leaf ; on either side
Acanthus, and each odorous bushy shrub
Fenced up the verdant wall : each beauteous flower—
Iris all hues, roses, and jessamine,
Reared high their flourished heads between, and wrought
Mosaic ; underfoot the violet,
Crocus, and hyacinth, with rich inlay
Brodered the ground.”

MILTON.

A GARDEN that can be looked over all at once, from end to end, is a garden without mystery. The defect is more spoiling than might be imagined. Whether it is that a plain spread-out floral landscape palls on the civilised sight, or that the savage element, the untamed rebellion, within each human being yearns for hiding-places, who can say ? Beyond all doubt, though, the luxuriant vegetation that forms obstacles to vision is an invariable want. If we gaze our fill at all the flower beauties there are we underestimate their worth ; if there are nooks into which we cannot stare at once we conceive great expectations of the fair things that lurk there ; meanwhile we appreciate better the fair things immediately around us, because aware that those must be hidden from us when we pass the next barrier. A clever gardener

makes use of the weaknesses of human nature, and no way more than when she manufactures a little mystery. A great writer has said it is one of our most blissful deprivations that we cannot get beyond the sunset. Mystery on a small scale exists when an evergreen shrub stands out on a lawn, or a rockieried bank offers only one side to inspection at a time. Mystery on a giant scale hovers round a beechwood on a hill summit. There have to be little and big virtues in men and women, so there should be big and little perfections in a garden.

Our ancestors would no more have finished off a garden all of level charm than they would have thought of flying. Maybe they introduced too much shade, by their plashed alleys, nut-walks, arbours, and the huge bushes of robust roses that they cultivated in preference to the severely pruned exhibition dwarfs of to-day ; yet their pleasure-grounds must have looked well filled in much less time than our neater ones take to grow furnished, and the aiming at a luxuriant effect resulted in the semi-wild groupings that are highest art.

As use and beauty should be pursued simultaneously, it is wise, when remodelling an old garden or planning a new one, to reflect exactly what screens are needed, and mark these on the paper map of the ground, before proceeding to invent screens merely for the making of mystery. It may be found finally that the meeting of palpable needs will provide enough nooks. The back, or one side, of a small or medium-sized house is sure to be partly unpleasing, on account of the kitchen offices and additional outbuildings. A mansion often has a fine old wall shutting off the servants' quarters,

yet almost every dwelling possesses something in the style of eyesore. There must be a tradesman's entrance way to the villa ; generally there is a place where washing is hung out, be it only of dusters and kitchen towels ; and numbers of picturesque cottages, over which a Birket Foster disciple would delight, now show that atrocity, the galvanised dust-bin, stood by the wall or door.

If the woman-gardener finds herself called upon to put up with a dust-bin—and no doubt she will be—let her erect her preliminary “mystery” around it. Not much romance in that? No, but the removal of uglinesses is never quite unpoetic. If the objectionable sanitary object occupies a position on a tiled path the best way to hide it is to envelope it in a square of six-foot high trellis woodwork. Usually there is a near border, not more than a yard away, for example, in which can be planted the Dawson rose and Japanese honeysuckle ; common Irish ivy is commendable too, for the corner that may be in total shade, or the Japanese wine-berry will offer an attractive and fruitful covering each summer. If the dust-bin is in the inner angle of a large trellis screen of the sort, not opposite the archway of entrance, it will at once be almost undiscernible from the garden. A further improvement is the nailing a few painted boards against the trellis, behind the mesh ; then, indeed, the eyesore will have disappeared.

There is a modernity, and rather odious artificiality, about the trellis-work that is bought at the nearest ironmonger's ; still, we must not forget that close to modern, inartistic buildings it is an affectation to despise the carpenter's handiwork. If the dust-bin

is by some dear old country home, then a trellis covering it can have all the same, but one built of natural branches of wood, either stripped or with the bark on. Even chopped-up bean faggots will make a rustic trellis, partly nailed together, partly tied by tarred string, and anybody can manufacture either of these screens, which are the worthier for being without any set pattern, irregular as to top line, sides, and mesh. The real difficulty is in fixing the screen securely when most of it, if not all, has to stand on a tiled path, none of the props or poles being thrust into the earth. Nails and wire fastenings can be given on all the wall sides, though, and even a guy-rope, drawn taut and pegged down in an adjoining bed or border, quickly becomes hidden if a common hop is planted to run up it.

Rustic wood screens are much prettier than the usual shop-made trellis, against the kitchen door, to separate front and back gardens, in the side alley ; wire netting has its merits there too, stretched between stout deal poles, all painted green to match, or white if the house is a red and white villa. But why are there not more rockiered banks used for this position, with screens of hardy shrubs, trained up to espalier supports, along their summits ?

When doing something to hide away kitchen environs the woman gardener has her chance to do something also for the comfort of the kitchen occupants. Servants are unavoidably kept more indoors than they should be, so if they can sit out sewing, within hearing of bells, if they can feel that there are nooks for them as well as for their employers, flowers that they may partly tend, and also gather, they will benefit both in

health and spirits. The erections made to enclose the outbuildings can serve to support climbers of blossom and perfume : sweet peas, that grow nine and ten feet tall when properly fed, honeysuckles and roses, too, that only require planting once.

Occasionally a suburban garden is spoilt by the presence near of a wall, or hoarding, plastered over with bills, or covered by permanent advertisement posters. This means that only a very tall screen will meet the evil. The best of all to set up is a row of pine poles, as high as needed, only a foot apart. On the back of these wire netting, painted brown, will hardly show, but give climbing hops an excellent hold-by. In addition to the common perennial hop there is a golden-leaved variety, and the variegated annual hops, perhaps canary creeper too, can be added each April. If the garden owner wishes to combine use with both profit and beauty she can utilise the screen-support for the culture of the loganberry, or any other of the fruiting brambles. Virginian creepers, of the large-leaved, rapid-growing species, can safely be added ; brambles will jut out from them, hops twine with them. The poles can generally be bought by the dozen or half-hundred from a builder-supplying wood-yard. If the cost of this erection will be too great something can be done with clothes-props and the old fish-netting sold for garden use—a hundred yards, six feet wide, for ten shillings.

Screening off the windows of neighbouring houses has always to be delicately performed. Use is often made of hurdles (called wattles in some parts of the country), but these are very darkening in effect, and have a depressing appearance when old or

rain-sodden, so, where possible, white painted boards should be put up instead. A length of green, rot-proof canvas, stretched between poles six feet above the ground, will often hide an ugliness or make a screen from observation, while leaving space below for the passage of light and air. By the time a white clematis *montana* and a *Félicité Perpétué* rose have climbed the supports and had their branches fastened out to the canvas, the feature will be a genuine improvement to any portion of the pleasure-grounds. Indeed, across side-alleys, or in front gardens alongside tradesmen's walks, to give additional height to fences, to prevent back lawns from being overlooked, fences made of this canvas are extremely satisfactory, so long as they are put up with sufficient poles to prevent their bulging unduly in a wind. The material is manufactured for tents, and is consequently very strong. A fair imitation can be cheaply made of the coarse canvas sold for servants' aprons, painted on both sides with green varnish-paint. This enables the duller and least obtrusive shades of green to be chosen. Climbers can be literally sewn to canvas, by green raffia, or worsted, and seem to take quite kindly to the background.

Within the garden itself may be ugly spots to screen off. The greenhouse stoke-holes, for instance, the manure pit, or the waste ground that paid gardeners often insist upon having to store flower-pots and other items upon. When narrow borders can be dug close, and hedges of the handsome Penzance briar roses planted, the work is permanently done. Common laurel may be fallen back upon as hedge material in shade or poor stony ground that is not to be improved,

for a decent hedge of it can be gained, albeit in a gravel walk. One secret of success is planting the young laurels in a narrow ditch or drill, so that their roots will be some inches below the level ; this ensures their receiving plenty of water, without which they cannot make rapid headway.

The manure pit should always be hedged round by giant annual sunflowers, which are said to purify the soil ; a belt of the tallest perennial sunflowers may well come next, or Japanese roses, so inexpensive and vigorous, could be in front of the sun-loving giants. But those are not the only plants that are fit for screen-making : mulleins are beautiful, especially the white foliaged, six-foot *verbascum pannosum*, the silver-leaved eight-foot *verbascum giganteum*, or the coppery-gold spiked *verbascum densiflorum*. These noble specimens may be bought for sixpence each, less by the dozen. Then there are hollyhocks and perennial larkspurs, a wonderful five-foot branching magenta mallow (*malva Alcea*), ornamental rhubarbs (*gunneras*) of six feet, a relative of the seakales, *crambe cordifolia*, of prodigious foliage and vast panicles of white blossom, the North American bugbane (*cimicifuga cordifolia*), feathery and cream-white, five feet, fairly hardy six-foot bamboos, such as *bambusa Metake*, or the ten-foot *bambusa Simoni*, the two-yard high goat's-beard, *astilbe grandis*, rather like an immense meadowsweet, various monkshoods, for those to plant who are not too much in awe of poisonous roots, the splendid foliaged knotweed of creamy florescence, nine-foot *polygonum cuspidatum*, and all colours in everlasting peas.

Screens on the tops of walls and fences have to be

provided in most suburban gardens, unless the neighbours are to enjoy a complete view of the pleasure ground and its occupants. Bye-laws seldom sanction the building of boundary walls above five feet in altitude, and the added elevation has generally to pretend not to be solid. Finest meshed wire-netting, painted white or pale green, will not darken the appearance of the garden, but is not much of a screen until climbers have grown thoroughly along it, yet the wooden trellis has just as many peepholes, while costing double and looking heavy. The netting is best put up with lengths of old gas-piping painted to match, the props put close against the wall's buttresses, and sunk some distance in the soil because of the force of wind they must help the netting to sustain. Japanese honeysuckle with roses on the sunny aspect, ivy and yellow jasmine on the coldest, the evergreen Virginian creeper with clematises on the east or west, with Japanese roses too, will be found most satisfactory. A full description of this class of rose will be found in a chapter devoted to the subject of the garden of shadow.

Another wall elevator consists of lengths of deal, say three feet long and six inches wide, nailed upright to the bricks, six inches of their wood being below the level. If put six inches apart, then given a continuous horizontal bar of similar width for finish, an inch or two beneath their tops, they afford as near an imitation of close hoarding as most local regulations will allow. By skilfully training climbers on the pyramid principle, fostering the main upright stems by checking side growth until the desired height is reached, and seeing that both these stems and top branches are nailed

straight up against the gaps in the woodwork, a total screen is most quickly created.

Fish-netting may be extended, between poles, along a wall or fence, to fasten summer climbers to, or for tendrils to clutch. A novel expedient is to set up a succession of deep wooden boxes, of the window-box kind, just below the wall's coping, to make an unbroken line, then grow in these dwarf shrubs, snapdragons, red and white valerian, wall-flowers, any sufficiently hardy and bushy subjects, in fact. Watering will have to be done thoroughly every dry day of summer, twice daily in the hottest spells, and liquid manures should be applied once a fortnight.

Screens at the end of lawns should not be unbroken when the turf lies flush with the horizon as seen from house windows, unless the lawn is but a minor portion of the garden width. The strip garden lawn, if so ended, should show a grass path leading under an arch somewhere in the screen, by no means necessarily in the precise middle of the erection. Rustic wood espaliers, as high as the climbers will cover, are always pleasing. Here again the Japanese rose comes in usefully, supposing the position to be shady or draughty, too shut-in by buildings, or the soil too poor or too heavy. Otherwise any of the splendid climbing roses, clematises, jasmines, bindweeds, tropæolums, wistarias, Japanese quinces can be exulted in. There is much to be said in praise of evergreen shrubs nailed to rude espalier supports, for countless places where screens improve the garden scene ; in quite unfortunate spots the variegated euonymus so employed will make a close boundary bit long before a hedge of it

could attain sufficient thickness combined with height. For slightly better positions the handsome, berried, spotted laurels (*aucubas*) make an ever shining, lightsome display, or the golden privet will positively glow like sunshine when the sun remains invisible, and compete with sunrays when they are bestowed.

A screen made of a number of different evergreen flowering shrubs will soon be looked on as a welcome feature: *escallonias*, bush-honeysuckles (*weigelas*) mountain-sprays, (*ceanothus*es), *veronicas*, variegated Japanese honeysuckle, and barberries are loveliest so shown off. There are variegated *veronicas* and bush-honeysuckles that are doubly meritorious, and the all gold-leaved *weigela Looymansii aurea* generally carries its glory all the year, especially when nailed up.

Arbours, after all, are but screens in a rounded, semi-oval, half-oblong, or square shape. They become dense with time; they are roofed in simply by their own luxuriance, or are helped to form ceilings by just some slight bending, interlacing, and tying of the materials used for side and back support. The dear old homely runner bean, on its lofty faggots, will make as fair an arbour as eye can wish to see, and should be so grown wherever the vegetable, or the plant, meets with just appreciation. "Painted lady" is the red and white bloomer, but the orange vermilion flower is the more telling colour.

Just as the beans are cultivated so may annual convolvuluses and nasturtiums be, in full sunshine. A pretty achievement will reward the gardener who takes the trouble to paint bean faggots pale green or white, then bends and inserts them to form an arbour shape, on which to display that grand rampant half-

hardy annual climber *cobæa scandens*, whose name of purple bellflower is too easily confused with the *campanula* family. Annual? No, that is doing the *cobæa* an injustice. It is perennial under glass, lives out against walls in some south-coast gardens, but is not to be expected to survive winters elsewhere, though it will flower to the very last possible minute, weathering moderate frosts, continuing to form its fascinating green buds, that open into greeny-cream blooms, then go through wonderful mauvy transformations before attaining their characteristic purple. There is a white variety, the sole objection to which is that it does not go through these captivating stages.

A trio of firs on a lawn, a yard apart, will not make a real screen; at the back of them plant a hedge of golden privet, however, and the vision will infallibly be pleased by being tricked into the first belief that the barrier is not a solid one. By placing two firs, any of the graceful spiral conifers, close against the sides of a rambler rose arbour a charming effect is secured, the sentinel evergreens serving as strong contrast to the blossom colour. Arbours are mostly as much the many-seasons' toil of loving gardeners as are the Japanese dwarfed trees that, from their minute pots, see generations of their owners age. As a fine picture is not the work of an hour, day, week, or month, so the sweetbriar, ivy, honeysuckle, or jasmine arbour cannot be hurried. Rambler roses, representative of a rapid century, enable the eager gardener to soonest rival the old-world nooks of renown. It is to be hoped that no woman, on entering upon possession of an ancient garden, would dream of destroying any single arbour in it, no matter how earwiggy it may be, or

where it stands, and spreads, and makes shadow. It is so much easier to pull down than to set up, and we are all the better for being of conservative principles in affairs of art.

Gardening Proverb.—"The moon is fairest when not revealing all her face at once. It's only the braying donkey who always turns to be noticed."

CHAPTER XVI

BEAUTIFUL BEDDING OUT

“ Dispose
The ruddy pæony with the lighter rose,
The monk's-hood with the bugloss, and entwine
The white, the blue, the flesh-like columbine.
With pinks, sweet Williams, that far off the eye
Could not the manner of their mixtures spy.”

BROWNE.

“ **T**HERE is nothing new under the sun ” cannot be said of British garden filling. Plants come to us direct from lands of their birth where nobody thinks of bedding them out; to us is given their juxtaposition in patterns, or their congregation without apparent method. Other civilised kingdoms receive the same plants, but, so astoundingly limitless are the designs that can be made out of mere lines, who can believe that we may not display novel arrangements? The old-fashioned striped cream-and-green grass of our borders is called “ Match-me-if-you-can,” because no person has ever yet discovered two of its sword-shaped blades that are identically marked. And does it not seem sure that if we searched the gardens of all lands we should not light upon another flower-bed of the design Fig. 59, for instance? When the slightest deviation of outline alters a whole scheme there is not much likelihood of its being reproduced elsewhere.

As to the chance for finding a colour replica, as well as a form replica, that is remote indeed.

The more beautiful originality we can create in our gardens the larger our claims upon the world's gratitude. Oh, we may not be thanked, but some praises are sure to drift our way ; gossip behind our backs will envy, and, besides the jealous beings who sneer, there will be others, of kindlier dispositions, who will gratefully " borrow notions," and so extend our sphere of benefit. Artists are bound to be zealous for the outside world's improvement, not only keen on getting famous, or showing superior talents.

The more one studies garden-making the more plainly does one recognise how the art is falsely and foolishly gabbled about ! It is perilously easy to become vulgarly æsthetic. Carpet-bedding has been vetoed as a desecration of Nature, for instance, but who wants " Nature undefiled " just under the windows, or by the front door ? May it not be agreed that a thicket of blackberry bushes, a field of poppies and tall grass, by a villa's verandah would be as vulgar as an elaborate carpet-bed at the edge of a forest ? Then is it not as undeniable that the jungle and meadow effects would have been perfectly suitable by the woodland, and the trim mosaic of blossom as legitimately fair against the ornate specimen of modern building ? Then, too, carping critics accuse us of distorting plants when we force them to occupy given spaces in pattern beds. Nothing can be further from the truth. A Japanese dwarfed pine is distorted, so are the plain evergreen hedges that are sheared like sheep, to keep them within bounds ; but setting violas in a line, or miniature sweet alyssum in little rounds and curves, lobelia in

crosses, crimson-leaved iresine in stars, in no way restricts the habitual growth of the plants themselves. Certainly we do cut down golden feather once or twice during summer, to prevent its becoming a foot and a half tall, going to white blossom, and exhibiting stems rather than leaves; we may clip the alyssum's dead bloom away to induce a fresh yield, but if these practices are "philistine," then the lawns must be left unmown.

If the woman gardener is careful never to introduce scientific flower-setting where Nature reigns alone, she will thoroughly acquit herself from the charge of vulgarising a scene. Beside all evidences of human handicraft the symmetrical use of flowers and leaves is justified, and where Man dominates in lieu of Nature, Man—including Woman—is entitled to bend trees, shrubs, and plants to human service.

Individual taste is another matter altogether: if she loves a sown patch of poppies, grasses, and corn-flowers better than a blend of sub-tropical palms, and coleuses, begonias (that nobody cares to call either elephant's ear or beefsteak plant), fuchsias and gazanias, fig marigolds from the Canary Isles and New Zealand, stonecrops from North America, club mosses from Fiji, scabiouses from the Caucasus, soapworts from off Swiss mountains, dragons'-heads from Siberia, larkspurs brought from the Pyrenees, why should she not follow after her unambitious fancy? But the zealot for simple living is never content without raving against a neighbour's indulgences, and a devotee of natural, or wild, gardening is regrettably inclined to call her own point of view the only decent one—which condition of mind is the source of all vulgarity, by-the-bye.

All pattern-bed fillings may be classed as carpet-bedding, yet there is a beautiful simplicity in some designs, while in more complicated ones we weary soon of the obvious straining after effect. In public parks examples are often given of beds in which too much has been attempted. The suggestions offered by the plates of this book do not include any of the designs

Fig. 57. Bedding Out in an Oblong.

that are troublesomely intricate either to manufacture or observe.

The design of Fig. 57 can be carried out in a variety of blends, but was intended for a viola bed chiefly, and looks charming filled thus : A, mauve and yellow carnations, some of the constant-blooming type, perhaps the annual marguerite strain, some the named border carnations dear to connoisseurs in the plant ; B, yellow violas ; C, purple violas ; the four large dot-plants, D, burning-bushes (*kochia tricophylla*) ; the twelve dot-plants, E, crimson beet.

A very showy bed results from planting in accordance with the design Fig. 58, using the following "stuff": A, crimson beet; B, gold calceolarias; C, white dwarf asters, with star tips of crimson iresine; D, a carpet

Fig. 58. A striking Star Design.

of the pink catchfly (*silene compacta rosea*); and the edging, E, golden feather, or a yellow miniature viola. There are several colours in these violettas, as they are called. The very uncommon, probably unduplicated, design, Fig. 59, rather brings to mind bunches of purple grapes within a conventionalised vine-leaf stripped of its peaks, so it would be as well

to keep to almost suitable colourings, thus: A, dark red and gold coleuses; B, red-mauve stocks, or dwarf asters; C, golden-feather, with the dot-plants of purple pigmy asters or else violas; and the edge, D, mossy

Fig. 59. The Bunches of Grapes Design.

saxifrage of any sort, just to provide the summer cushions of green after early bloom. But if the bed were made in grass, not gravel, the verdant line would not show up sufficiently, so one of the silvery-grey ice-plant (*mesembryanthemum crystallinum*), might well be substituted.

Figures 60 and 61 are two examples of flower shapes within beds. Fig. 60 gives pleasure by its perfectly

graceful curves and absence of all elaboration, but if it were wished to construct a more decorative pattern bed nothing would be easier than to dot the carpet over with a contrasting colour, as grounds, or "fields" of one

Fig. 60. A Flower-shaped Filling.

tint are diapered with another in heraldic scutcheons, and to shade the blossom-like centre from a deep hue, through a pale one, to white edges. As it stands it may be charmingly carried out in gold at A, white at B, and scarlet at C, which could be achieved in many ways, but notably with *calceolarias*, white violas, and lilliputian vermillion *nasturtiums*. Fig. 61 can be

done with: A, tree fuchsia, B, white geranium, C, salmon geranium, D, pale mauve viola, E, dark purple viola.

The ribbon bed has probably been with us since bed-

Fig. 61. The Divided Blossom Design.

ding-out was sampled first, and no doubt it always will be, adaptable as the scheme is to any shaped space. Fig. 62 exhibits the belts, or ribbons, stopping to leave room for a centre round. This would please if the colours ranged from black-maroon through crimsons to palest pink, but for a delicate, opalescent

effect it should be made thus : A, *begonia semperflorens* salmon queen ; B, cream violas ; C, pale azure violas ; D, the silvery ice-plant ; E, the little shell-pink catchfly (*silene compacta* bijou) ; F, the Tom Thumb nasturtium, Pearl ; G, pale blue lobelia. Of course

Fig. 62. A Ribbon Bed.

countless other pale-hued flowers would answer the same purpose. Fig. 63 is a long-pointed oval, to suit the garden of curves, not of angles. It can be made with pale pink Drummond's phlox, pegged down, after being nipped at the top shoots to cause it to spread, and the other plants could be brown calceolarias. It shows how in some beds there need be no real pattern drawing, but the whole design can be carried out by the setting of dot-plants, in lines, upon a previously planted carpet, or one sprung up from seed-sowing on

the spot. Figures 64 and 65 illustrate this in two oblongs, the commonest of all shapes to be seen ready cut

Fig. 63. A Design with Dot Plants.

in lawns or gravel. The show will be quite delightful if, in Fig. 64, the larger dot plants are silver-leaved, *cineraria maritima* being a good choice, the smaller

Fig. 64. A Pattern of Dot Plants.

ones deep crimson, *iresine* being the best selection for that, and if gold violas are used for the groundwork A. The design lends itself equally to the use of four carpet

colours, one in each corner, or to a non-level repetition of only two.

Of the same order of bed, but doubly edged, is Fig. 65. Supposing dwarf white asters formed the centre portion, towered over by little gay green palms, the first bordering might be of gold nasturtiums with dark foliage, the second of one of the vermillion varieties of begonia semperflorens, or the lilliput red nasturtium.

Fig. 65. A simple Long Bed Filling.

Noteworthy colour blends are sure to delight visitors. Light blue, of the forget-me-not kind, and peach mauve, violet and royal blue, or red-purple and pale lavender, are singularly genial companions when united in the flower family: the green of foliage acts as an extra colour, softening the blend. Pale rose-pink and scarlet too are delightful in the same flower-bed when the pink flowers have large yellow centres, as have single asters or single dahlias, or if clear yellow companions, lemon Iceland poppies, maybe, are admitted.

Other colour harmonies that are not commonly seen, nor can be blamed as garish innovations, are maroon with salmon and grey-green, orange with

indigo, magenta with cream and black-purple, sky-blue with wild-rose pink, and copper foliage.

A word must be said about the technical work of bedding-out. It should not be done in desperately wet weather, because young roots find a difficulty in catching hold of cool, cloggy soil ; scorching sunshine is bad, but if the labour is performed in the evening-time the plants will have partly recovered from the shift by the following mid-day. Should that prove devastatingly hot, as spring days occasionally are, newspaper coverings, or inverted pots, should be put over the more fragile plants till sundown.

Firm setting is needed by all plants, but that does not mean the surface of the beds should be pummelled hard : two fingers are usually enough to press the soil firm just at the base of a plant's stem, and to make sure thereby that no cavity has been left below the roots—an accident, or carelessness, that spells failure. A watering through a fine-rosed can is always given, for this refreshes the foliage, even when the sub-soil is nicely moist. All plants that are likely to need supporting sticks ought to receive them at once. Never mind if the appearance of the beds is rather bristly. Growth will be upright, instead of bent, also more rapid, owing to the props.

The planning of exquisite harmonies is just as important as the culture of prize specimens to produce them—more essential, in fact, since the grandest blossoms will not look lovely if they are visibly fighting for supremacy of effect, and killing one another.

Greenhouse favourites may be turned out for the summer : the slate-blue leadwort, or plumbago, show and regal pelargoniums, lantanas, that are something

like verbenas, but mostly of orange shades, spotted and tigered mimuluses, with star cinerarias and the constant-blossoming primula obconicas, if the garden is in a warm county. But often the finest triumphs are won with the simplest, most homely, flowers.

Gardening Proverb.—"Colours and children need to be kept in their places."

CHAPTER XVII

GLADES AND PERGOLAS

"In green old gardens, hidden away
From sight of revel and sound of strife,—
Here have I leisure to breathe and move,
And to do my work in a nobler way :
To sing my songs, and to say my say,
To dream my dreams, and to love my love ;
To hold my faith, and to live my life,
Making the most of its shadowy day."

VIOLET FANE.

"**G**REEN old gardens !"—Is not the truth too commonly overlooked that it is for their lavish "greeneth," rather than for their greater amount of blossom, that ancient gardens so unkindly rival new ones ? There may be sheets of gay bedding plants, wide and long borders teeming with all the gorgeous hues under the sun, but these splendours have their drawbacks ; garishness may displease, even fine contrasts, too often repeated, affront, and chastening green, noted for refreshing the eye, is, maybe unconsciously, longed for.

One of the worthiest reasons for making glades is that there is almost sure to be plenty of green, since plants of noble height, or plants that climb, are seldom leaf-hidden by bloom as are so many of our bedding favourites. Flowering shrubs, too, owe quite half their charm to the prodigality with which they have been gifted with foliage. In early spring we can be

thankful for the daphne, prunus varieties, and other trees or shrubs which clothe their otherwise naked branches with bloom, for there is not enough florescence at that early time ; we should probably feel angry with summer ornaments that refused leafage, but Nature never blunders, so the foliage and flowers come then all together, while the spring pioneers of blossom have turned themselves into green or bronze bushes to add to the universal charm. A glade may be important or slight, but it should be long ; though it can be made with stretches of low plants between shrubs or under trees, it can also consist of trees or shrubs itself, or giants of the herbaceous kingdom, or supported climbers. An avenue is nothing but a very broad and tall glade.

The woman who sets herself meditating over the different glades she might create will soon find her desires overlapping the possibilities of her garden, be its size what it may. Yet dreams of loveliness are never time wasted ; the mind is strengthened, the heart cheered, the soul raised by the mere discovery how exquisite earth might become. She will be wise if she keeps a pencil in hand and notes down stray ideals, for those can be passed on to other gardeners.

What of a couple of rows of almond trees, one on either side of a flagged path—just grey flagstones, please—or, failing that, asphalt that will become pale in time—no chessboard tiles of slate and red, or buff and black ! Under the trees can be bushes of the holly-leaved barberry (*barberis aquifolium*), that is always shinily deep emerald, or crimson-stained of leaf, and has lemon-yellow early blossom, and violet-blue fruits to follow.

Between these may rise lines of pink Japanese wind-flowers and hybrid pyrethrums of the same wild-rose shade, to compensate for the falling of almond bloom ; and no carpet could be better than one of variegated arabis in places, and the pink crane's bill (*geranium Endressii*) in others. Will not such a glade be a permanent delight ? After the almond petals are scattered will appear the round fruits, dressed at first in red velvet, becoming green and hard later, when the boughs are all bearing their best foliage masses. Winter will possess barberry colour and the variegation, creamy yellow and grey-green, of the arabis or rock cress, that will commence budding as soon as February, to become a sheet of snow in March and April.

Hollyhocks will make a glade ; so will annual giant Russian sunflowers if a temporary one is desired ; as for mulleins and all shades in blue perennial larkspurs, in company, words fail to praise adequately the fairness of that harmony. Hollyhocks of mixed colours, raised from a good strain of seed, show myriads of hues, all beautiful, and the whole soil around them should be covered with mixed violas. If the gardener has not sufficient leisure to keep such a wealth of the bedding pansies from going to seed she can treat them somewhat ruthlessly, just clip them off short twice in the summer, using shears, and sacrificing buds as well as seed-vessels. After three or four weeks they will be blossoming again, better than ever, strengthened because those wasted buds did not have to be brought out as *débutantes*.

Our great-grandmothers were extremely fond of nut glades, and those formed by clipped hedges. We do not like to wait as many years for our garden triumphs,

and few of us are so fortunate as to inherit green alleys. However, the box-thorns, or lyciums, are extremely rapid climbing shrubs, not showy of blossom, but so graceful in drooping growth, so prettily berried, that they seem endeavouring to atone for the insignificance of white and purple flowers. It is said that lycium *Europæum* will take kindly to any soil and can be trusted to speedily cover high walls, or make prodigious hedges, only a few props being needed, as great healthy suckers sprout by dozens from the roots. Lycium *Chilense* is believed to ramp aloft sooner than any of the varieties, but the European representative is cheaper ; it costs only twelve and sixpence for a hundred, once-transplanted, specimens. Against the grey-green of this shrub scarlet Oriental poppies and vermilion phloxes might be set out in rows, on a groundwork of yellow alyssum for spring, and of creeping Jenny for summer and autumn.

Of course glades may be made of pillar-supported roses and clematises, a lovely scheme this where the path between is of turf and not more than three feet wide. To walk along it, with the horizon seen through branches of yellow, pink, white, carmine, mauve, purple, blue, apricot, scarlet, salmon, lilac, violet, blush, and lemon, and the sky above visible only as a streak of azure, will be a frequent midsummer treat. The pillars look best in a double row, one between the other, but some behind, some forward, upon each side, and the ground might be planted with lots of dwarf hardy subjects, to repeat the overhead hues, Iceland poppies, violas, pinks, crane's-bills, catchflies, potentillas, double daisies, harebells, London pride, soapworts, yarrows, and sweet woodruff.

Really glades can be constructed out of so many materials that to draw attention to any threatens neglect of the rest. Japanese honeysuckles, trim pyramidal conifers, feathery tamarisks, wet-soil loving bamboos and giant knotweeds, lilacs, mock orange trees, red-hot pokers, sweet peas, chimney bellflowers, common laurel or variegated aucubas, red-stemmed willows that are of exquisite beauty as they rise rapidly each year from the cut-back stools, majestic bracken-fern by the edge of a woodland, fruiting brambles, briar roses grown as hedges, gorses, brooms, golden and cut-leaved elders, guelder roses, silver birches, laburnums, hawthorns, and rhododendrons.

Another variety of glade may claim our attention for a minute ; it is created by cutting an opening through a shrubbery and strewing the earth left exposed with the rosy-azure of the bluebell, the cool, sweet lemon-cream of the primrose, or clothing the expanse in garden blossoms, such as double daisies, yarrows, blue bugle, tulip reds, marigold orange, or the yellows, mauves, and violets of the pansy. The suggestion has, however, been offered earlier, when the making of shrubberies was dealt with. Wood anemones are hardy, though they appear so fragile ; the yellow Welsh poppy takes very kindly to a semi-shady spot where it may propagate itself freely ; the evergreen perennial candytuft (*iberis sempervirens*) will supply a white ground mantle glistening like a glacier.

In woods of beech or other trees the grassy or mossy glades are of indescribable value ; under deciduous trees of the garden grass does not thrive well, so creeping ivies are often well employed for a green effect. St. John's^{sw} wort—the old English tutsan and French

all-heal—can be recommended as a floral display, or glade carpets may be made with periwinkles, sweet woodruff, and London pride, that most adaptable of saxifrages. The glade that comes into existence when a kitchen garden path has a line of runner beans down each side is not to be despised as a beautiful feature.

Pergolas may be divided into two ranks, that of the permanent, that of the passing. The one-summer specimen gives shade during the months that want shade, and leaves the site unshadowed during the months that want all the sun there is ; it enables the gardener to specialise in half-hardy climbers, that have been raised early under glass, or purchased at the end of May, as well as in the hardier annuals that succeed from April outdoor sowings, the dear old familiar convolvuluses, nasturtiums, and canary creeper. Some women will hold that the labour of erecting a temporary pergola is not worth while, and are fully entitled to their opinion ; others will seize upon this chance of obtaining a fresh effect, or of giving height where the level of vegetation was too uniform. Clothes-props are cheap, of the rough sort, not the carpenter's square-edged deal contrivances ; they should have the ends tarred for a foot up, then be inserted that depth in the soil, to serve for pillars. Thinner tree boughs, of straight or crooked shapes, must be nailed across for roofing beams, but between the pairs of poles, and across and across for a leafy ceiling to be formed upon, out-stretched wires, or stout string, blind-cord maybe, will suffice. Some stones put into the holes dug to receive the poles, wedged firm against them by mallet or hammer, will help to keep them steady in gales, and the earth must, of course, be beaten hard above.

Half-hardy climbers that will live and bloom during the summer and autumn, in the averagely warm garden, include *cobæa scandens*, purple and white, the Chilean glory-flower (*eccremocarpus scaber*), orange vermillion, or *eccremocarpus scaber roseus*, its salmon-pink variety, all the ornamental gourds, with their remarkable fruits resembling pears, eggs, oranges, bottles, hedgehogs, etc., the queer syphon gourd, from which calabash pipes are made, Japanese variegated hops, *lophospermum scandens*, a deep rose trumpet-shaped flower, among gayest green maple-shaped leaves, the hyacinth beans (*dolichos Lablab*), purple, white, or violet blue, an orange-red twiner, named *cajophora laterita*, and the bright *tropæolum lobbianum* varieties. Sweet peas, and the azure four-foot annual pea (*lathyrus sativus azureus*) can be used for pillar decoration, though not tall enough to make the roofs.

A lasting pergola must be thoroughly well built, or it becomes a trouble instead of a pleasure. Two kinds stand out as superior to others, the rustic pergola, with natural wood, either peeled or with the bark left on, and the slender pergola, of Italian style, that can be made of painted iron. The latter need not be costly; spent gas-piping is quite fit for its material. Strong wires, painted to match the pillars and cross-bars, can support the climbers along the sides. The woman gardener, when superintending the erection, should see that deep sockets are made of bricks to receive the poles in the earth, that these bricks are properly "laid," and that the spaces within the squares they outline are filled in with strong cement to harden around the pillars.

The shape of a pergola is the most important

characteristic. Let all square or smooth-topped round tunnels be avoided like stinging-nettles ; uneven, or even symmetrically jutting out bits of framework, at sides and top, will prevent the atrocious severity of contour too often seen. A pergola ought not to resemble a shooting gallery, nor a series of horse-boxes.

Then height is a crucial question. Though a small garden can look mean because an enormously lofty pergola has been set up in it this is a most rare evil ; as a rule pergolas are mean themselves for lack of height. They may run straight, then the vista view between the pillars will be a delightful study in perspective, or they may undulate, following winding paths, and then they are full of winning mystery. In some pleasure grounds the two styles can be combined, the pergola running in long waves, or twisting and turning for some distance, then suddenly taking to a straight path ; and beyond the tiny arch, dwarfed to vision, that ends its green and floriferous colonnade, should be a comfortable seat within an harbour.

As to colour, tastes must decide, but a white-painted pergola satisfies even the most critical eye when given up to yellow, orange, buff, apricot, and variegated foliage climbers ; a green one is a fine contrast for pink and crimson roses, while the rustic one generally pleases most when canopied by a profusion of hues as well as of blossoms.

A protest is needed against the folly of building pergolas over the main walks from front gates to front doors : so many suburban villas show these now, and no doubt the owners have aimed at giving a " real country " air to the scene, above the builders' tile paths, and close by gas-lamps ! Visitors approaching the

house cannot carry their umbrellas, without serious risk to them, under the dripping branches ; callers at night often blunder into dark thickets of thorny stems, or are in danger of having their eyes put out by obtruding boughs.

The borders under pergola pillars may be wide, or may have to be narrow, but the colours of the flowers in them must be sedulously selected, to correspond with those of the blossoms above. Special combinations generally please ; lilies of different species may be placed against each pole and the more open side lengths be given up to carnations beneath clematises ; a rambler rose-covered pergola will probably be suited by borders of ivy-leaved geraniums, verbenas, stocks, asters, and sweet alyssum. Pansies flourish in the partial shade afforded.

Very pretty is the show to be gained by having only hops, ivies of fine sorts, Japanese honeysuckles, and other climbers more for leaf than flower, with traveller's joy at intervals, and wide borders devoted to briar roses, including the Austrian copper and yellow, as well as the blush, white, pink, and crimson, sweet-scented Penzance briars ; the hardiest of dwarf hybrid perpetual roses being represented one in each chief side opening.

All white climbers, on a slender pergola painted pale green, with white and lemon-yellow flowers beneath, act as seemingly miraculous brighteners for a garden that is dreary, or will do wonders to tone down the crudeness of a new red-brick, red-tiled villa. There are dull white houses, massed about with too luxuriant a supply of dark evergreens, that will respond, almost with smiles, to the coming of a pergola over which

scarlet and orange blossoming plants ramble above a ground-bordering of gold and salmon, cream, and azure blue.

Arches have been described as pergolas in pieces. They partake enough of pergola nature for hints as to the one to be suitable to the other. They are best either of rustic wood or painted metal ; they should neither dwarf a garden nor be meanly and inconveniently low. Colour improvements can be wrought by them as soon as they are climbed. And they, like the structural colonnades, are called out for by the garden of ample sunshine, but should be shunned by the garden that is overwhelmed by shade.

Gardening Proverb.—"Sunshine is no use to the man with a cloud before his eyes."

CHAPTER XVIII

BULBS AND BULB BORDERS

“ See, yon anemones their leaves unfold,
With rubies flaming, and with living gold.”

From an ode by the Turkish poet, MESIHI.

MANY a bulbous, tuberous, or rhizomatous plant becomes a denizen of the herbaceous border, there to lose its identity as a member of one of those botanical classes. Still, there is great interest to be gained from collecting together numbers of the plants that spring from bulbs or corms, either limiting them to those which can be left out of doors from year's end to year's end, or to those which must be lifted each autumn, stored, and replaced later, or (a plan probably more suitable for the villa gardener than the second scheme, because entailing less labour) the mingling of herbaceous bulbs and those which have to be moved. A pretty effect can be obtained then by sinking pot evergreen shrubs, of dwarf stature, in the spaces that will not be refilled with bulbs till spring comes once again.

It would scarcely be an exaggeration to state that two-thirds of the fairest bulbous flowers that can be cultivated in the garden are unfamiliar, if not absolutely unknown, to amateur floriculturists in general. So the subject of making bulb borders is quite a thrilling one.

HEDGE WALL OR FENCE

HEDGE, WALL, OR FENCE

Figs. 66 and 67. Beautiful Bulb Borders.

A simple design for creating in front of a wall or fence, with perennial bulbous plants only, is shown by Fig. 66. Some pattern is a real assistance in preserving proportion, and adds to the summer display a dignity it would not otherwise possess. All the foreground plants, of moderate height or low stature, can be grouped irregularly then and left to spread. Some day they will have crammed the soil with roots, and begun to overcrowd, but then the task of raising the clumps, and disengaging bulblets known as offsets for removal elsewhere, will be without any technical difficulty.

Glancing to see if any unfamiliar plants are mentioned the pale yellow water flag at once arrests attention. The ordinary species of iris pseudo-acorus, a sunflower gold, is coarser and of less pleasing shade, yet a worthy flower enough for rough or wet spots. It grows wild on the margins of some east Sussex woods, where hillside rivulets run down to keep the soil moist. The lemon variety does not ask for as much water, and loves sunshine, and a fine group of it has a most distinctive charm.

The semi-circular groups in this border can be made with quite a few of the plants recommended, or in vast congregations; large bulbs, such as those of tall lilies, must be put in nine inches apart at least, but the flags may be rather closer. Hyacinth, narcissus, and tulip bulbs can be planted at six-inch intervals, and so we come down to the tiny crocus bulbs that may go in only an inch and a half apart, to make a close colour mass speedily.

The pink gladiolus, or corn flag, had better be gladiolus segetum, a hardy species of a peculiar rosy

shade, that can safely be left out, as, of course, Darwin tulips are treated. The pyramidal star of Bethlehem (*ornithogalum pyramidale*) is a two-foot grower that gives spikes of glistening flowers. *Tulipa Greigii*, a small orange-vermilion species, will look exquisite by the sky-blue apennine anemone or windflower (*anemone appennina*), while the meadow saffrons, which may be rosy lilac, crimson, or purple, if not white, will arrive in autumn, but may not be too late to accompany the montbretias. Fragrant, white, shaded with China blue, the spring star flower (*milla*, or *triteleia uniflora*) will delight every person hitherto unacquainted with its delicate charm. The plume and tassel hyacinths are quite old-world favourites and should not be left out of any bulb border. Golden garlic (*allium moly*) is a brilliant hue, and much taller than the better-known white garlic (*allium Neapolitanum*), that is so largely cultivated for early spring selling. The broad belt of mixed narcissi should include single and double daffodils.

The second bulb-border, Fig. 67, contains but a tithe of the fair bulbous subjects that might be used. It is not usually recognised that the handsome agapanthus, seen in huge pots in greenhouses, or by entrance doors, can be planted out as a summer bedder, to be lifted and housed again during winter, nor is it guessed that there is a white variety. *Hyacinthus candicans* is so robust that it should be permanently placed six inches deep and seven to nine inches apart; this is sometimes called the spire lily, a name that suits its magnificent steeple-shaped trusses of white bells. Perhaps the name *calla* may not carry with it the mental picture of the grand South African "pig lily."

This is erroneously known in England as the arum lily, while, to add to the perplexity of the inexperienced flower-lover, it is often catalogued as richardia. It should be planted fifteen inches apart in May, and re-potted in September.

Blue garlic (*allium azureum*), two feet, quite hardy and cheap, the dainty yellow, white, or pink Italian hyacinths, the montbretia-like *crocus aurea*, the striped violet blue and white Lebanon squill, the scarlet wind-flower (*anemone fulgens*), of which there is a double, large-blooming, extra brilliant type, are all vigorous and unafraid of frost. Butterfly tulips (*calochortus mariposa*) are of wondrous beauty and endless bright or pale colour combinations, varying in height from six to twenty-four inches ; their blossoms open wide, are long-lasting and rare for table decoration, and blest with elegant stems. In adequately drained, well-prepared borders, against sheltering walls or fences, they seldom fail if planted three inches deep and four inches apart in October. The bulbs have to be lifted when the foliage has died down.

The Mexican tiger flowers (*tigridia pavonia*), mostly red with yellow, spotted carmine, also ruby-flecked white or rose, or pure white, are no more delicate, but should not be planted until March, three inches deep and six inches distant each from each, and require lifting in October, the bulbs usually being tied in small bundles and hung up in airy rooms, guarded from frost, ready for the next season's planting.

The Jacobean lily (*amaryllis formosissima*), if planted four or five inches deep, in April each year, will give large, quaintly-shaped, dark crimson flowers on fourteen-inch stems. The belladonna lily (*amaryllis*

belladonna), the pale blushing pink delight of many conservatory owners, can be permanently established out of doors, on a south aspect. A strip of velvet-soft and close piled turf is the most fitting edge to a bulb-border, because a few crocuses, snowdrops, and other tiny spring-blooming bulbs, can be inserted in the grass here and there. A rockery edging has a hard, cruel, jagged look, out of keeping with the soft succulence of most bulbous flowers; also the foliage of the majority of those is upright and sparse, not of the generous spreading kind that will veil sharp edges of big stones.

Soil for a bulb-border demands some extra preparation. The well-manured garden ground ought to have a further supply of dry decayed cow-manure, and a barrow-load of gritty sand should be dug in to every three yards. In planting it is advisable to place as much dry sand as the hand will hold under each large bulb, less for small ones. There must be efficient drainage; that is to say, it should not be easy for puddles to form, or for the soil to become marshy. If the soil is naturally light there will not be much danger of these ills, but if it is sticky and retentive after all that has been done, the border had better be made on a slant, sloping from wall to turf edge.

Immediately imagination runs riot among bulbous plants the gardener will find herself excited by her glorious opportunities. What of special borders, or big beds, for only lilies? What about some for gladioli alone, just carpeted by violas or begonias? But, wherever circumstances encourage the effort, there should infallibly be planted a south-wall, front garden border of tender subjects.

Some people only think of the "auratum" and the "Madonna" when they speak of lilies for outdoor employment. Tell them that spotted "tigers," the rose-pink spotted *lilium lancifolium*, or *speciosum*, of the greenhouse, the Easter lily (*lilium Harrisii*) too, will be happy constantly in the fairly sheltered border, and they will find difficulty in believing the true statement. And there are lilies of which they have no knowledge, the Japanese lily (*lilium speciosum Melpomene*), for example, of darkest crimson, spotted with purple, and edged with white, the snowy *lilium speciosum punctatum*, on which spots of pink show out, the giant Easter benefactress (*lilium longiflorum Wilsoni*), that bears as many as a dozen white trumpets on a stem, and a "tiger" that has a vermilion ground to its petals, and is dotted over symmetrically with sepia-maroon spots.

In how many gardens is the majestic Himalayan lily (*lilium giganteum*) visible, though if the soil is deep and rich, preferably semi-shady, it will eventually tower twelve feet tall, out of immense heart-shaped leaves? Bulbs ought to be potted up in autumn, just for the start, kept in a cold frame or unheated greenhouse, and consigned carefully to the border in May. After that they will defy winters.

Besides making borders or whole beds of bulbs, we can insert them, as has been suggested, among the herbaceous plants, pop them into lawn beds to come quickly to maturity and then be removed to leave space for half-hardy annuals or perennials, use certain species for improving beds or rockeries in autumn, fill the ground under trees with others, and rely on a select few to adorn the garden of winter.

Grateful indeed should the non-wealthy woman feel that bulbs are, on the whole, so extraordinarily cheap. The Himalayan lily is a rich person's joy, but the other delightful lilies seldom cost more than sixpence or eightpence a bulb, some less than that, and once obtained there they are, not asking to be renewed, propagating themselves in a leisurely, some even a hasty, way.

Glades of bulbous flowers between rose trees seldom injure rose roots, if a discreet distance is observed and the chosen species are those with small or moderate sized bulbs, not great hungry tubers or corms. Fields of bulbous flowers—mixed species, of about average heights—make original large beds. The rock garden is improved by the introduction of great quantities of rare charmers, as well as of nodding daffydownillies, wide-eyed poets' narcissi, and vivid crocuses and anemones.

Before ending this chapter some more sentences must be devoted to introducing little-known bulbous flowers to the ever-increasing number of lady gardeners. Bulb-planting is one of the simplest operations; given the rich, light soil, the sunny sheltered site, the handful, or half-handful, of coarse silver sand under each bulb, to prevent its rotting before roots start, provided that rats or mice do not infest the garden, and that the earth is made just firm about the corms, no failures should have to be recorded. Needless to say, the bulbs must be good ones. That is one of the essentials about which no two opinions can exist. It is not true economy to buy "flowering bulbs" at prices of the lowest; "alarming sacrifices" in sales have to be avoided; the honourable firms, however,

BULBOUS FLOWERS UNDER TREES

mostly offer young, partly-developed bulbs early at low rates, and if these are planted freely they will finish their growth under excellent conditions and yield finely in two or three years' time. Abnormally cheap bulbs, of age to begin blooming, are too often decayed, mildewed, or dried up, through having been too long out of the ground. Buying at after-season sales must mean that the garden is stocked too late for the roots to become vigorous ere "greenh" arises, and only the weakest of blossom is to be anticipated.

Sternbergia lutea is the Latin title of the biblically named "lily of the field." This is one of the quick-rewarding bulbs, for from August-plantings are gained, within a few weeks, sheets of golden flowers resembling large crocuses. Though the bulbs are not big they must be covered by five inches of soil. *Sternbergia macrantha* is shorter, pale canary yellow, and slightly later. This is a useful bulb for naturalising in woodland openings, so too is *ornithogalum nutans*, a silver-grey, pea-green flushed star of Bethlehem.

Why is the gorgeous *lilium umbellatum* so unpatronised, and undistinguished by any simple name? *Lilium umbellatum erectum*, cerise-scarlet, shading to yellow, two and a half feet, *lilium umbellatum* incomparable, rich crimson, two feet, cost fourpence each, and are June bloomers in the open beds of almost any locality. Whole shrubberies could be bordered by close ranks of them.

Ixiolirion tartaricum is as easily placed; this carries umbels of deep blue tube-shaped flowers in May and June, on eighteen-inch stems. Perfect for sunny rock gardens, or nooks near the stones of rock edgings, is the Cape beauty known to us as *geissorhiza rochensis*.

Seldom exceeding a height of nine inches it has remarkable brilliance, so engages notice half across a large tennis lawn ; the petals are gentian blue, blotched in the centre with carmine. The blue day-flower matches it, but is double the height ; an old-fashioned treasure this, often reckoned as an herbaceous plant, but, being hardy only in the south, or sunny valley gardens elsewhere, is best planted as a bulb in April, and lifted and stored as the dahlias are. The Latin name is *commelina tuberosa*.

Lavender and purple-shaded blues are offered by the tall, hardy quamashes, *Camassias esculenta*, *Cusickii*, and *Fraseri*, or *C. Leichtlini* varieties. The starry flowers are set in spikes, and are marvellously beautiful, making it regrettable that so few gardens can exhibit them.

Gardening Proverb.—"It is often good taste to be greedy."

CHAPTER XIX

WHERE SUNSHINE IS ECLIPSED

“ . . . In the stillness is a place to dream—in summer, looking upward into the vast expanse of green boughs, is an intricate architecture, an inimitable roof, whose lattice windows are set with transparent *lapis lazuli*, for the deep blue of the sky seems to come down and rest upon it.”—RICHARD JEFFERIES.

THE angry regrets that fill the breast of the garden-owner who has to contend with much shade are an expression of a mistake. Instead of pitying self, the spirit should rise pluckily to grapple with as fascinating a problem as gardener can solve. Granted that the usual flowers cannot be well-grown where sunshine is totally absent, and but a small percentage of them where sunshine is veiled, that obliges the procuring of flowers of which nobody is tired. The result should be a shady pleasure as beautiful as unique.

The woman who sets forth to achieve this had better focus her plans upon three aims—the creation of trim order always, of grots and haunts of cool shade for summer evenings, and of shelter and dry seclusion for winter days. She must realise, as a preliminary, what different sorts of shade there are, then she will begin to think how each can be utilised, and its drawbacks avoided or minimised. Counsel as to what to plant in the garden of shadow would be badly

misleading unless supplemented by separate suggestions for the quite dissimilar areas that are bound to exist.

A lovely floral display can be arranged in open beds and borders from which walls, hedges, fences, or buildings shut away sunshine. Splendid foliage arrangements, enlivened by a good deal of blossom, can be made under tall deciduous trees, those limes and elms that are often within or upon the outskirts of gardens. Dark, draughty alleys and courtyards may be perpetually neat, symmetrical or graceful, admirable hot day resorts, furnished with a variety of interests.

Suppose there is a belt of tall trees and a wide expanse of ground, all along one side, or end, of the garden. No doubt there exists plenty of rank grass, maybe a sour-soiled, dingy-looking rockery, and much blackish, trampled soil. The whole should be lifted ; any turves likely to be of service elsewhere can be clipped short and then laid out in sunshine, that the grass-roots, duly supplied with such water as they may need, can become strengthened after their shortening by the spade. After two or three months' change of scene and air, and occasional clippings, the turf will be fit for manufacturing grass edgings somewhere, or little decorative plots between beds, not lawns of any size.

Grass under trees scarcely ever gives pleasure, except when a woodland effect is aimed at and daffodils, bluebells, and primroses are naturalised in it ; at present we are bent on securing a pretty garden under branches, not upon making a forest carpet. No matter how constantly lawns beneath high trees are cut, swept, and rolled, or how scientifically they

have been drained, there will be slimy, slippery places for the feet to shun, bare patches where nothing green can grow. So let grass be usually eschewed, in favour of other ground coverings.

Prominent in value is "beach" gravel. Though in constant use in most sea-coast town and village gardens, this is not seen as much as it deserves in country ones, nor in London. The cost of obtaining it, at a distance from any shingle, may be considerable, yet probably, at its most expensive, it proves cheaper in the end than red gravel from the neighbourhood. Wear and tear of gravel means a renewal of the surface at least every second year, if appearances are to be well maintained, while a half-yearly application of weed-killer is essential to comfort. Generally the inexperienced gardener spends plentifully, and most vainly, to "weeding boys," before this fact is learnt, that nothing but poisons will prevent vegetation in the miniature order from creeping over gravel. Though chief weeds can be removed every two or three months, by the hand wielding a knife, moss and tiny grass-blades will continue to give a green surface. Just because weed-killers are poisons the amateur horticulturist dreads them; they are *not* safe to dabble the fingers in—fingers that may be scratched too—nor to leave about in tins, nor lying in liquid state on walks for long, nor scattered heedlessly, if in powder condition. The proper way to apply any of the advertised compounds, subject to instructions upon their tins, is to water the gravel very slightly first if there has been a drought, as the surface may otherwise be too solid to be penetrated by the first lot of moisture, then to mix the poison, by stoutly

gloved hands, and keep the supply covered while the watering-can spreads the diluted stuff. To apply weed-killer to deluged gravel is to waste it. Three days later, if the weather has been fairly dry, the paths should be swept and the *débris* burned.

Yes, "beach" is the right material for paths under trees, or where shade leads to damp, "pea beach" is the correct sort, for the pebbles of which it consists are then all tiny; "bean beach," the coarser kind, is only suitable for rough spots, around pits and frames, for playgrounds, area yards that are not flagged, or for wet walks through copses, shrubberies, and orchards.

All the soil under the trees ought to be forked to a depth of two feet; some dry old horse manure and some barrow-loads of clean road grit can be dug in to improve it. The rockery stones should be washed in strong carbolic water, and relaid. The ground under the tree grove may have a plain design or a most elaborate one; plans offered for roseries can be carried out, substituting beach gravel for grass. By this means one prettiness—that of a formal, or artistically informal, pattern—will be at once provided. After a wet week, when the rest of the garden has a dreary, sodden aspect, this heretofore dismal stretch will be shinningly recleansed, ready to sparkle to every stray glint that reaches it through the limes or elms, and to it will the steps of the wanderer turn by instinct when the house is next left.

For shrubberies under trees, variegated laurels (aucubas) variegated euonymus, gold or silver, and golden privet are the best, because the brightest hardy subjects, to rely on, but the snowberry tree

(*symporicarpus radicans*) is cheerful from earliest spring when its pea-green leaf buds appear, to the last of its winter load of round white fruits, and, as a complete thicket, surrounded by barberries for contrast of dark with light, it will flourish in the worst of the tree-canopied yards. Spray-bushes (*cotoneasters*), trained out to wooden stakes and outstretched wire espaliers, will make a charming hedge-line where a division is requisite. Lilacs should not be planted, as they commonly are, in such a position, for shade causes them to go all to leaf, and it is most difficult to coax them to yield blossom in any quantity. *Rugosa*, or Japanese roses, prove willing to grow and flower almost anywhere. Here is a list of them :

- Rugosa*. Deep magenta rose.
- Rugosa Alba*. Single white.
- Rugosa Repens Alba*. A weeping white.
- Delicata*. Pale pink, semi-double ; fragrant.
- Conrad F. Meyer*. Silvery rose ; very fragrant.
- Fimbriata*. White, with pink picotee edge ; semi-double
- Madame Georges Bruant*. Double white.
- Madame Charles Worth*. Rosy carmine ; semi-double.
- Calocarpa*. Single pink ; very perfumed.
- Belle Poitevine*. Double rose ; fragrant.
- Atropurpurea*. Carmine-maroon ; double.
- Blanc Double de Coubert*. Double white ; fragrant.
- Nova Zembla*. Described as a white *Conrad F. Meyer*.

The beds, whether large or little, must be filled with a loving regard for the success with which pretty leaves can emulate the gaiety of flowers. The foliage of pinks, after a shower, is as real a pale blue as are the

blossoms of the flax ; the fern-like fronds of a knapweed, *centaurea plumosa*, silver-grey, should be equally esteemed. Either of these herbaceous plants will describe portions of the designs in beds or borders, and if associated with coloured foxgloves to give height, and yellow *mimulus*, can be relied on for the whole of the floral season.

Monk's-hoods, the autumn moon-daisy (*pyrethrum ugliosum*), the asphodel (*asphodelus ramosus*), the most vigorous of the hundreds of Michaelmas daisies, goat's-beard (*astilbe rivularis*), the plume poppy (*bocconia cordata*), or its yellow-cream relative *bocconia microcarpa*, nine feet, the six-foot yellow *cephalaria tartarica*, rosy crimson or white willow-herbs (*epilobium angustifolium*), day lilies, of lemon, amber, or bronzy orange, the elecampane (*inula helenium*), the yellow water flag (*iris pseudacorus*), magenta-rose loosestrife (*lythrum salicaria*), wild bergamot (*monarda fistulosa superba*), purple-violet, four feet, Jerusalem sage (*phlomis viscosa*), buff, in quaint branches, five feet, all the old tall phloxes, as distinct from the modern dwarfs, knotweeds (*polygonums molle*, *polystachyum*, and the twelve-foot *sachalinense*), ornamental rhubarbs (*rheums*), groundsel (*senecio Clivorum*), yellow, in long spikes, with fine foliage, five feet, the rosin plant (*silphium erythrocaulon*), yellow, four feet, golden rods, mulleins, and the globe flower (*trollius giganteus*), will succeed in the centres of beds under deciduous trees. Is there any excuse therefore for the pessimists who look disconsolately at shaded plots and murmur, "Of course nothing can grow" ?

By ringing the change on these lofty perennials the

woman gardener will be able to invent excellent harmonies, with the assistance of lesser flowers that will similarly succeed. Here is a list of some :

- Yellow Globe Flower. *Trollius hybridus*. 2 feet.
- Periwinkles. Plain green and variegated, also double blooming, and the white flowering.
- Spiderworts. *Tradescantia virginica*, blue, white, or violet. $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet.
- Feathered Meadow Rue. *Thalictrum aquilegifolium* ; fern-like foliage, cream floescence. $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet.
- Rabbit's Ear. *Stachys lanata*. White woolly leaves, hugging the soil even under evergreens ; red-purple bloom. 1 foot.
- Solomon's Seal. *Polygonatum*s. A representative collection should be ordered.
- London Pride. Flourishes anywhere.
- Water Forget-me-not. *Myosotis palustris*.
- St. John's Worts. *Hypericum*s ; of several species.
- Christmas Roses. Lenten roses also. Must have shade.
- Leopard's Banes. *Doronicum austriacum* ; *plantaginum excelsum* and *magnificum*. Bright yellow.
- Bleeding Heart Flower. *Dicentra spectabilis* ; also the smaller native, deeper rose, *dicentra eximia*.
- Cyclamen. *Cyclamen Coum*, deep red ; *hederæfolium album*, white, variegated green and cream ; and *neapolitanum*, bright rose, handsomely marbled leaves.
- Double Daisies. *Bellis perennis*, red, rose, or white.
- Sweet Woodruff. *Asperula odorata* ; white, leaves hay-scented. 1 foot.

Columbines. All the old-fashioned double and single columbines.

There remain various bulbous plants to be mentioned, real shade-lovers; all the snowflakes (*leucojums*), single and double daffodils, the mountain star of Bethlehem (*ornithogalum montanum*), the blood-root (*sanguinaria canadensis*), of white spring bloom and big leaves, the gorgeous scarlet caffre flag (*schizostylis coccinea*), that sends up spikes late in the year, blue-bells of many colours (*scilla nutans*), Darwin tulips, long-stemmed and of countless colour blends, the starry yellow winter aconites, many dainty nodding fritillarias, humble dog's-tooth violets, trying to dip their meek little faces between their variegated leaves that are such a fair carpet, white or yellow garlic, all the lovely meadow-saffrons (*colchicums*), that are mistakenly known as autumn crocuses, and the luxuriant-leaved, drooping red-purple or white wood-lilies, or Trinity flowers (*trilliums*).

Beautiful petals often suffer from drip, of course, but that is so too in natural woodlands.

One or two beds or borders might be given up entirely to meadow sweets (*spiræas*), which are white, cream, pale pink, or deep rosy crimson. Ground spaces could be massed with coloured or cream primroses, and white, rose, or pale lilac-blue wood anemones, or wind-flowers, gems that are no longer costly even in the rare colours.

Handsome ornaments under the trees, that will afford variety of effects, are ivies trained up pillars, stone urns filled with miniature golden shrubs and variegated periwinkle, mounds, of hillock shape,

partly turfed, partly covered by bluebells and prim-roses, rockeries for all the hardy native ferns and just daffodils for spring, raised beds, the sides held up by painted wire netting, to contain golden and bronze calceolarias, or foliage fuchsias.

All the plants and shrubs advised for the tree-shaded land will succeed in those open stretches over which walls cast shadows. If any of these have dryish, poor soil, geraniums will make a gorgeous summer show in them, so too will nasturtiums of all kinds.

Walls, fences, or trellises here can have traveller's joy, yellow jasmine, and Japanese roses nailed against them; also the exquisite flame flower (*tropæolum speciosum*) will be suited by some aspects, or will delight in mounting a solid pillar made of interlaced faggots. Particulars of the climbers for drear, sunless spots will be found in a former chapter.

Manifold are the uses of bedded-out plants, in dark, confined, or windswept shady parts of the garden. In addition to calceolarias and fuchsias are there not pansies, and the deliciously scented tobacco plants, white or coloured, medium tall, or towering? White Paris daisies, or marguerites, generally blossom well, as does the ox-eye daisy, the perennial chrysanthemum maximum of which florists have given us such magnificent named sorts. Beets, *cineraria maritima*, and most other foliage bedding stuff will help in the decoration of shadowed beds and borders that are not dripped upon.

Annuals that will succeed from sowings on the spot are not numerous, but the mallow-worts (*lavatera trimestris*, *rosea* and *alba*), common white candytuft,

cornflowers, and the white or rosy centranthus macrosiphon, are fairly sure to spring into existence.

The list of flowers for our shadowed land might be yet further drawn out, but enough has surely been said to set the gardener to work planning and preparing to turn formerly desolate tracts into verdant groves and flower-laden glades. If there are expanses thought to be of soured soil, and so overhung by evergreen trees that scarcely any flowers can be ventured upon, let them be clothed decently in pegged down ivy, or have massed garments of hart's-tongue ferns, creeping Jenny, St. John's wort, the large green periwinkle, Solomon's seal, and London pride. Upright loose strifes (lysimachias) are beautiful golden shrubs, and bracken fern will form grand ranks; old-fashioned sweet Williams can be naturalised under all but fir foliage, and day lilies peep out of copses of honesty when the purple bloom has ended in silver seed sprays.

Just a little ingenuity, and a copious stock of patience, will bring about triumphs of form and colour too, if combinations are chosen, and strong plants set out, by the tender mind and hands of the true garden lover.

Gardening Proverb.—"It's no use crying over a clouded sun."

CHAPTER XX

EVIL AND EXCELLENT EDGINGS

“ And I must work thro’ months of toil
And years of cultivation,
Upon my proper patch of soil,
To grow my own plantation.
I’ll take the showers as they fall,
I will not vex my bosom ;
Enough if at the end of all
A little garden blossom.”

TENNYSON.

DOES some captious personage say : “ What an uninteresting subject for a chapter ” ? If so a converted state of mind may be the result of an honest reading of the following pages, if the perusal is aided by that genuine desire to appreciate, upon which writers for the would-be worker, and writers for the would-be entertained, must equally depend. Without a doubt, unless edgings are beautiful they are nothing but necessary nuisances : yet when they are fair—kept so, not allowed to degenerate—they contribute bountifully to the charm and reputation of the garden. There should, of course, be caution in adopting the novel, but unless we are keenly eager to receive we must miss myriads of offered gains. Novel edgings include those of uncommon material, as well as those of unfamiliar plants, but a great deal can be achieved with old, or commonest, wood or metal, or popular shrubs and plants, used in original

manners. The necessary has a claim, in any place, that cannot be sanely combated; it is the artist's business to meet that claim so as to add to the world's beauty.

On coming into possession, or tenancy, of a garden it would not be amiss if edgings were thought of immediately after the laying out, or the alterations, were decided upon. A freshly made garden is better prepared if its bed and border boundaries are thoroughly arranged, than if scores of delightful shrubs and plants are thrust into the plots. Outlines quickly become lost, and paths dirtied, by the washing down of soil.

Generally expense is scamped. Sometimes cost is not counted, but consideration is grudged. Then there are perpetual mistakes made.

Is the garden that of a typically no-style villa residence? The modern-Georgian architecture runs to stucco walls, abrupt angles and recesses called "quaint," violent window protuberances, roofs of vermilion tiles, and ornamentations of stained wooden beams, either across squarish surfaces, or framing peaks. Ten to twenty years ago red brick, with a white cemented gable, higher pitched roof, and a great amount of white paint, characterised almost all small houses. The good old years are gone by that saw plain-faced white dwellings, without any pretence at the ornate, dear solid, grey-roofed homes, being put up in double the time that builders now give to semi-detached residences of similar rental or price.

Gardeners who can pursue their beloved work beside simple and unostentatious houses should take extra pains to keep the border and bed-edgings, as, indeed other garden items, in quietly good taste. Those

who know that the "composite," or falsely imitative, style of a house is a blot on the landscape ought to endeavour to cover it up with natural, living grace and beauty, by planting a wealth of climbers against the walls ; and the next improvement should be the planting of living edgings in the garden.

Hideous shiny, embossed, harsh-outlined, red, yellow, brown, or slate-grey edging tiles may be there already. Never mind ; vegetation and floescence can hide them, just as ivies, roses, vines, clematises, and innumerable aspiring plants will cloak the walls. If the soil is not held up as yet, the very best plan will be to give it a temporary supporting line of wood, then set rows of all the exquisite dwarf hardy evergreen perennials closely behind this. Wood rots in a year or two, sooner in some damp localities, and can be pulled out and burnt to ashes, for the living edging will then be sufficiently strong to separate earth from gravel, asphalte, or flag-stones. All the suitable dwarf plants are not, strictly speaking, evergreen, but have, perhaps, such prominent stems, or mass-forming roots, that they adequately check the downwash of soil and do not become invisible. The wood used should be in strips, four inches wide, to be buried an inch in the ground, six inches, to be buried two inches, against beds of higher surface, and so on, according to the individual requirements of each case. Plain deal will serve its time, but has a most unpleasantly makeshift appearance until it becomes weather-stained ; a coat of green, grey, or brown paint, put on before the edging is constructed, will prevent an extensive eyesore. Old grey wood, the laths of broken-up palings, are best of all to obtain ; indeed so harmonious is this

with all Nature's own effects that it is almost a pity to employ the rather scarce material temporarily, and wisdom suggests its being reserved for some long borders where it can remain until it crumbles—kitchen garden edges, gay with old-fashioned flowers, or pretty reserve plots, perchance.

One word as to paint : the tints chosen should be subdued ones. Green can be the tone of turf in shadow—there is a wondrous lot of ochre in that—or the grey-green of sweet pea foliage, or light emerald, or perhaps an olive, autumn-leaf colour ; but, oh, never the “ peacock ” that screams at the observer ! Grey, to be a fit associate for Time's pastel paintings, must have little blue in it, but plenty of pink, resemble the soft shade of a rabbit's fur, or the trunks of veteran elms. Brown should be mellow russet, not burnt sienna, or perhaps, if wanted very dark, a sepia to which olive has been added.

Wood is not the only material of which a temporary edging can be made ; wire-netting is cheap and easily obtainable, and if strips are sunk two inches or so in the soil, joined together, length to length, by a wire tie or two, and bits of pea-stick wood, the right height, are thrust through the wire, and so into the soil at intervals of a yard, the labour is slight, and the manufacture good. The wire need not be painted, unless it is to stay permanently.

Short pieces of faggot-wood, the breadth of a woman's thumb, cut blunt at one end, sharp at the other, will make an edging alone by themselves, if inserted at inch intervals. The drawback will be twofold ; quite a light kick in passing will knock a stick flat, and frost will render them all very brittle, liable to destruction

by trowel, fork, hoe, rake, or spade. But the small model of a rustic fence is undeniably attractive. Old grey stones, of ornamental size, make delightful edgings, but are becoming increasingly difficult to get. They can be laid singly, their edges just touching, and a little clay or stiff soil wedged in between them will keep the earth in place. No attempt should be made to secure a level top or sides to the row. Rockery edgings are built of similar stones, some set partly behind the others, some jutting forward, some towering higher, and, if possible, they must be firmly placed without cementing having to be done, because if they can be lifted, looked under, cleared of insects now and then, the border plants will be better safeguarded. Aggressively new flint stones, and coloured "burrs" bought from gas-works, are as much to be shunned as the fragments of coloured pottery that can be found in some humble gardens. The upturned bottle-bottoms, the linked flower-pots, the lids of bright tins, that have occasionally been seen, are no more inartistic than "burrs"—indeed the first-mentioned edging material is not unpleasing. As for the primitive scallop-shell edgings that are still popular in Cornish villages, and elsewhere, they have a beauty all their own. A novel material is the cocoanut shell, halved across, not split down, and placed point uppermost; this suits admirably with rustic arches and poles, the brown wood beams on house walls, or the tree-trunks of a woodland. Salt jar lids, half sunk, are every bit as good as tiles.

Miniature hedges can be made of the top twigs of pea-faggots, or the coarser branches will make a tiny espalier fencing, nailed together by tin-tacks: a horizontal bar or two should lie along the lowest

portion to make that efficient as soil restrainer. Artistic edgings can be manufactured of slender birch poles slit down the middle so that two lengths of equal width are obtained ; each length will have a rounded side, with the bark on, which is to front the path, and a flat side that joins the soil. As it would be waste to hide much of the bark by partly burying the half-log the most clever fixing is managed by bringing up the level of the bed, or border, flush with the top of wood, cementing soil and wood together by stiff clay, or, lacking that, Portland cement mixed with water and a little glue. The last constituent is to prevent the cement from being absorbed by the still moist centre of the split birch, the outer part of which merely lies on the path. To preserve the bark two or three coats of thick varnish should be given to it after it is placed. A more æsthetic edging for the neighbourhood of blossoms cannot be imagined. It may be deep, made from split trunks, or narrow, as topmost branches. Pine wood can be chosen in preference, is probably more effective, being dark, and excellently in keeping with wild gardens, but there are numbers of edging and carpet annuals and perennials which shrink from contact with its rough, resinous surface.

Then we come—by a sharp drop, surely ?—to edgings of brick, yet we must recollect a previously registered truth, that to hate builders' materials near earthly dwellings is false delicacy, mock refinement. There are plenty of places in which red or cream bricks look cheerful and suited to the environing features ; paths of them are homely and clean, not without real beauty, and if these walks are laid two or three inches higher than the soil, no other material edging will be required,

and the one of dwarf plants will be able to rejoice in a fine amount of moisture, the consequence of drainage. When another kind of path is brick edged it is a mistake to cement the bricks lightly together unless the soil is by nature over-dry ; otherwise stagnant water is apt to lodge behind, sour the earth, rot bulbs and roots, and so cause trouble. Fissures between the bricks allow surplus rainfalls to trickle through to the path, especially if the bed, or border, slopes slightly, as it ought. Kitchen garden flower borders may well be of a single row of bricks that have been lime-washed ; this is such a deterrent to insect pests ; the white line will gleam even on quite dark nights in this unilluminated place, so guide footsteps from straying off the path, while the brilliancy under summer's sun and blue sky will help the blossoms, leaves, fruits, butterflies, birds, and bees—aye, even the vegetables, with some exceptions—to make a splendid picture.

A red-brick edging against a gravel walk, borders filled with only white, blue, and pale yellow flowers, will please the most fastidious critic, but vulgarity of colour scheme results from permitting any deep rose or carmine blossoms to show themselves. In one old garden the red brick line was found against pink and crimson roses, so the evil was cured by paint of a green-pea shade. Broken slates should never be used for edgings ; their crude grey is out of sympathy with most greens, and a discord with several other hues, besides which their sharpness makes them dangerous to children who may play in the garden.

The woman who has spared time, zeal, and some money to the proper enclosing of her plots from her paths is entitled to high praise, since the temptation

to shirk essentials and pursue luxuries is as real in the gardening art as in any bid for success. She will reap her reward daily, for years afterwards, since hailstones that will devastate other gardens by washing plants out of their places, and flinging mud broadcast, will not injure her property ; when winter has tried to banish comfort her pleasure grounds will still be decorously trim and clean, dry, too, sooner than could be hoped, if those paths have been built several inches higher at the middle than by the edgings.

Another warning must be given here : the cheapness of trellis woodwork strips should not persuade any person to invest in them for bordering purposes ; they are abominably formal, without the dignity that formality often confers, they are sharp-edged, have to be continually repaired or repainted, and look meaner still when partly broken, as they are certain speedily to become. There are a variety of pretty galvanised wire edgings sold by the length, some with hoops at the top ; these, when painted light green, suit modern gardens well, and are durable, easy, too, to set up or remove.

Turf edgings have been recommended for bulb borders, with small bulbous plants naturalised in the grass, that does not have to be cut till the very early spring florescence is finished : the method is appropriate for shrubberies, roseries, and herbaceous borders, anywhere so far as appearance is concerned. But turf invariably harbours noxious insects, so the special carnation and pansy beds, the home of the violets and lilies-of-the-valley, the soil stretches where seed sowing is intended, should not be surrounded by it.

After so close a study of " dead " edgings, and the

verdant turf one, we may come to make acquaintance with all the dainty plants that are willing to form compact lines, either to replace those of material in time, or to adorn them. The ugliest tiles that must not be moved can be smothered in greenery. Yet, no—an idle boast has been written! To glance at all serviceable plants is manifestly out of the question; only a selection can be suggested, in the briefest manner.

EDGING PLANTS

- Tufted Burr. *Acæna microphylla*. Evergreen foliage, minute floescence. Dry soil. 6 inches.
- Silver Yarrow. *Achillea umbellata argentea*. Silver leaves, white bloom. 6 inches.
- Bugle. *Ajuga osmafera*. Royal blue; evergreen. 7 inches. A taller species is *ajuga reptans*, of which there is a valuable variegated kind.
- Gold Dust. *Alyssum saxatile compactum*. 9 inches.
- Cat's Ear. *Antennaria tomentosa*. White leaves. 3 inches.
- White Rock Cress. *Arabis alpina*. The double form is not too tall for wide borders; the variegated lesser kind is admirable anywhere.
- Thrift. Rose or white. *Armeria lauchæana*, deep carmine; has blossom only 9 inches high.
- Purple Rock Cress. All aubrietias are beautiful. There are now a gold and a silver variegated sort.
- Double Daisies. *Bellis perennis*. Modern giant bloomers are best for beds, the old-fashioned kind for edgings, a remark to be applied also to pinks.

Bell-flowers. *Campanulas carpatica*, *fragilis*, *grandiflora* *Mariesi*, *nitida alba*, *portenschlagiana*, *pusilla*, *Stansfieldi*, all blue, violet, or white.

Snow-in-Summer. *Cerastiums Biebersteinii* and *mentosum*. 6 inches.

Leadwort. *Plumbago Larpentæ*. Should be in every garden. Bright blue, autumn bloomer. 6 inches.

Dianthus. *Dianthus alpinus*. Crimson, 2 inches.

Cheddar Pinks. *Dianthus cæsius*, pink. Early summer. 9 inches.

Crane's Bill. *Geranium Endressii*, 1 foot. *Geranium sanguineum lancastriense*, flesh and carmine. 6 inches. Constant bloomers.

Manna Grass. *Glyceria spectabilis*. Variegated grass. 6 inches.

Sun Roses. *Helianthemums*. Brilliant colours. Dry soil. 6 inches.

Perennial Candytuft. *Iberises*. Many kinds with white bloom, one with mauve. Evergreen. 9 inches to 1 foot.

Dead Nettle. *Lamium maculatum*. Purple florescence, but valued for dark leaves with white markings. Good for poorest soil. 6 inches.

Gromwells. *Lithospermum prostratum*. Royal blue. Dry, or well drained soil. Evergreen. 6 inches.

Forget-me-nots. The best is *myosotis alpestris*.

Blue-eyed Mary. *Omphalodes verna*. Beautiful blue, very hardy; will thrive in shade. There is a white variety. 9 inches.

Alpine Poppies. Pink or white; pretty foliage tufts of grey. 7 inches.

Moss Pinks. *Phlox subulata*. Mossy foliage ; pink, crimson, lilac, white, or lavender blue. Evergreen. 4 inches.

Cherry Knotweed. *Polygonium affine*. Cerise. For use against other edgings. Will thrive in damp or shade. 9 inches.

Saxifrages. The best mossy white is *saxifraga hypnoides*, known as Eve's cushion ; the best rose is *saxifraga moschata Rhoëi*, but a list of species should be obtained. Blossom 1 foot tall, from low, dense, evergreen foliage.

London Pride. *Saxifraga umbrosa*. Admirable anywhere.

Stonecrop. These useful dry border plants are also too numerous to describe in detail.

Thyme. Silver and gold-leaved thymes are charming plants. Not hardy everywhere. 6 inches.

Veronica prostrata. Deep blue. 1 foot.

Clover. *Trifolium repens pentaphyllum*. Bronze foliage, white blooming. 6 inches.

Mountain Speedwell. *Veronica gentianoides*. Pale blue, with blossom in spikes. Evergreen.

Silver Speedwell. *Veronica incana*. Nearly white foliage, deep blue flowers. 9 inches.

Winter Green. *Pyrola*. Evergreen, white blooming, shade lover. 6 inches.

Lungwort. *Pulmonarias*. Bright blue flowers, shaded with rose ; beautiful spotted foliage. About 1 foot tall. *Pulmonaria rubra* has reddish blooms. Spring.

Cinquefoils. *Potentilla alba*, white, 6 inches ; *Potentilla nitida*, silver and pink, 4 inches ; *Potentilla villosa*, yellow flowers, constant bloomers.

Heath-leaved St. John's Wort. *Hypericum empetrifolium*. Gold. Evergreen. 9 inches.

Barrenwort. *Epimedium alpinum*. Crimson and yellow blossom, tinted spring and autumn foliage 6 inches. Also *Epimedium rubrum*.

Primroses. Yellow or variously coloured. Foliage permanent out of hot sun.

Cowslips. Hybrid or coloured cowslips are very lovely as edgings in semi-shade.

Auriculas. The Alpine auricula will make a good silver foliage line on hot, dry soil.

Gardening Proverb.—"Keep within bounds, and escape many a painful beating."

CHAPTER XXI

ROCKERIES AND THEIR DENIZENS

"I look across the bright grass—*il verde smalto*—to a great red rose bush in lavish disarray against the dark cypress. Near by, amid a tangle of many-hued cornflowers, I see the promise of coming lilies, the sudden crimson of a solitary pæony ; and in lowlier state against the poor parched earth glow the golden cups of the eschscholtzias."—MICHAEL FAIRLESS.

COUNSELS as to the right stones to employ for rock edgings can be repeated, yet more insistently, about stones for larger rockeries.

Let the very name of burr be anathema, round yellowish gravel-pit stones, or big pebbles carved in round lumps by the waves of the sea be likewise banned, with the species of flint that is stacked in heaps by roads about to be mended. Only grey rocks are tolerable, and they, despite their hard nature, are positively lovable. In some counties builders dig up stores of them when excavating for house-foundations, in others they lie in river beds and ditches ; on Sussex downs they can be picked up from off the short herbage, under the blackberry copses, or by the monster bushes of gorse. To collect personally enough to make a rockery mound even entails persistence and many aches, for they are heavy treasure-trove, and distances have a way of seeming great when two or three knobbly lumps are tucked under the arm in brown paper, and a fourth, perhaps, reposes in the retirement of a bag.

The woman who gives an order for rockery stones ought to have seen samples ; it is no fun when a cart-load of unsatisfactory quality is dumped down before the front gate. Really it is the difficulty of gaining suitable old material that makes rockery-building hazardous. There are country and seaside places where the right material is plentiful and can be bought, if not for a song, certainly for a few shillings ; when that is so the rock garden may well be extensive. The foundation for all rockeries must be good drainage ; not the laying of drain-pipes, but the formation of a bank of coarse stones and tussocky, fibrous material, through which harmful wet can trickle away. The mound, or bank shape, of a rock-garden is for the hastening of this drainage, while, at the same time, the deep soil, in part made into " pockets," is for the provision of sufficient root-moisture for plants that do not stay healthy on sun-baked levels. But that conservation of moisture results from the shading of soil by slanted blocks, or roofing slabs, does not proceed from undrained depths below.

Flat rock-gardens should never be constructed except in a porous soil : in gravelly land there is a natural drainage system, which absolves the gardener from the labour of preparing foundations, all the needful base being a venerable manure and loam mixture a foot to two feet under the surface, into which roots can strike. On these sun-scorched gritty stretches, rock groups, some giant, some dwarf, will cast valuable shadows and be protective agents, and scattered slabs, of unequal sizes and a multitude of shapes, will break the force of the heat to a remarkable degree. Rocked-over borders or beds, with plants of various altitudes,

irregularly arranged between carpets of vivid colours, can be backed, or centrally dominated, by curious cacti and other succulents, some that can live out, others that must retire each autumn ; be homes too, at seasons, for gorgeous tropical flowers, tuberoses, thorn apples (*daturas*), pomegranates, camellias, oleanders, eucalyptuses for silver foliage sheen, caladiums, with leaves bright as blossoms, Indian shot, palms, and myrtles. The rarity of such displays is all in their favour ; public opinion is too much inclined to expect alpine flowers alone as denizens in rock-gardens. As long as the classes are kept distinct, glacier and snow-field gems not grouped with the poppies of the Sierras, nor gentian and edelweiss with Japanese azaleas and Peruvian tiger-flowers, for example, there is no incongruity between tender plant-mixture demanding sun, and the aspect of rockery boulders. It is the gardener's task to care for the wants of individuals of the vegetable kingdom, and if she guesses, or proves, that tropic ferns and flowers live more happily for being shielded by rockery masses during our brief summers, by all means let her arrange them so.

We have been considering, remember, merely the rock-strewn level borders upon sandy or gravelly soils. Cactaceous and succulent plants, such as *echeverias* and *crassulas*, will not flourish, even for hot months, on the ordinary stiff-soil rockery. This must be kept for much hardier subjects. Woman's acknowledged gift of intuition is sure to help greatly in all gardening pursuits, yet she may wisely bring logical conclusions to bear upon her rockery construction. One such fact is the importance of slanting the stones so that they conduct rain into the pockets of

soil where the roots live, not away, so that the thirsty plants suffer one of the torments of Tantalus. Another truth to note is that close congregations of stones make unhealthy conditions, yet nine rockeries out of ten are wedged tight, below and above the surface, so that to plunge a handfork into them anywhere is to find the prongs stopped in their descent. Thirdly, a precipitous slope must have plateaux in which to form pockets, or else rain will rush down, as from a high-pitched roof, without benefiting a single plant. The fewer the stones in a group the better the look and the character; large blocks can rest on one another by their edges, without being banked up underneath by pebbles.

Again, it is not advisable to show every inch of a "nice block of stone." Nature does not construct her rockieried dells and mounts so; boulders should peep out from soil or turf, peaks project in unstudied tiers, slabs create terraces below which may nestle bulbs and tubers that would otherwise rot during winter.

An authority on rockery building recommends that the actual soil should contain half its bulk of rough "riddlings" from a stone quarry, crushed granite or marble, or broken brick rubble. River sand is suggested as fit to take the place of these, but it does not prove so, for it not only damps so much sooner, but retains the wet, and is altogether a dank, heavy constituent in comparison with the others. Brick rubble any builder can supply, and its great amount of lime makes it valuable for more than soil lightening. No manure must be used that is not thoroughly decayed and dry; leaf mould is beneficial as a portion of

compost for a rock-garden, needed by all but those robust herbaceous plants, or hardy annuals, that can live contentedly in ordinary borders. Soil brought from a heather common is capital to mix in largely, while the common garden loam can be improved by a fourth portion of peat moss litter, which is cheap to purchase.

It will always be found that the soil of a rock garden sinks—most, of course, when there are slopes—but top-dressings are used to remedy this. Heath mould, leaf mould with venerable cow-manure, chopped small, or equal parts of peat moss litter and fresh turf loam, will be excellent, while one portion of hop manure to three of loam is a fine food. The gardener will learn to enjoy the occupation of applying these mulches; as she moves among the flowers, digging trowelsful of the compost from the basket on her arm, pouring the nourishment carefully in between the tufts of foliage, settling it by finger touches, brushing any *débris* from silken-haired or fleshy leaves, she may quite legitimately believe that her pets smile back their gratitude.

Town gardens, and any of which the soil is heavy, the drainage insufficient, the atmosphere damp, can be cultivated to far better advantage when well rock-eried. Banks and mounds, down which moisture mostly passes, naturally dry soon after wet spells or thunderstorm torrents, and it is also an immense help to have created a variety of aspects. A bank that runs from east to west will have a south side on which thousands of flowers can shine which could not be cultivated on the level of such land as we are considering. The north side will do for a fernery and yellow primroses. Summits of banks, if not decked with

variegated evergreen shrubs, may be sites for vivid-hued snapdragons, that start early and continue very late. The snapdragons can be preceded by daffodils and crocuses.

Rockerries in hot, dry gardens that need them, because the stones will shade roots and direct rain-water where it can refresh them, may have plenty of hyacinths and tulips dotted over them for spring, hosts of lovely half-hardy perennials dwelling permanently, be sown annually with half-hardy annuals, or be used for the different types of begonias and other delicate bedding subjects. Whether they are large slopes, or little mounds upon the lawn, Drummond's phlox will be one of the fairest imaginable carpets ; there are so many tints offered by this half-hardy annual that no monotony need be dreaded. A lovely perennial ground-covering would be the hardy miniature *viola cornuta*, a cross between a pansy and a violet, that shows many of the pansy's colour blends. This can be quickly raised from seed, in boxes under glass in March, in outdoor seed-beds in April, May, or June. An English name for it is horned pansy. While the mixed varieties are perfectly harmonious in tints, seed can be bought separately of white or yellow ; *Papilio*, lavender-violet-and-white ; *Purple Queen*, mauve ; and *Rose Queen*, a soft peach-lilac.

Striking, yet artistic, is a grey rockery mound on which none but scarlet flowers blossom ; the early *anemone fulgens* and *Van Tholl* tulips, later tulips of appropriate species, poppy anemones, nasturtiums, catchflies (*lychnis chalcidonica*, *lychnis Haageana*), *avens* (*geum*), geraniums, *Tom Thumb* dahlias, only a foot tall, verbenas, dwarf zinnias, *Turban* and

Persian ranunculuses, Flora's paint-brush (*cacalia coccinea*), carnations, etc., etc. Against the green of the lawn or the ochre of gravel this gay hillock will please ; or a shelving border rockery, so planted, tells out magnificently by a whitewashed or cream stucco house wall.

Blue, yellow, pink, or crimson, mauve, violet, or orange rockeries are recommendable for many sites ; an all-white one, on a large scale, makes a creditable bank between terraces of different levels.

Then rock gardens vary in effect by the forms of the flowers comprised in them, no less than by the colours. One may be given up to grassy-leaved or slender-stemmed plants, the poppies, viscarias, St. Bruno's lily, flaxes, perennial and annual, rose of heaven (*agrostemma Cœli rosea*), little nodding harebells of blue or white, fritillarias, jonquils, salpiglossis, chalk-plants (*gypsophilas*), and grasses. Another may be covered by dwarf, solidly-set-together plants, the blooms of which do not rise much above the leaves—hybrid primroses, auriculas, moss pinks, stonecrops, house-leeks, sun roses, forget-me-nots, *begonia semperflorens*, and saxifrages.

One-plant rockery mounds, by summer-house entrances, or at lawn corners, can be devoted to either pinks, dwarf snapdragons, double primroses, lobelias, tuberous begonias, carnations, violas, the new strain of dwarf sweet Williams, pigmy godetias, *nemophilas*, Drummond's phlox, or violas.

Novel ideas for two of these rock heaps are the reserving one for fairy roses and one for *primula obconica*. *Rosa polyantha nana* seeds, sown in a moderately warmed greenhouse, or on a hot bed in a sunny frame

in February or March, should make bushy little shrubs for putting out in May, or seed sown in glass-covered boxes or pans during summer will quickly germinate, and, if seedlings are frame-housed during winter, will bloom prodigiously in the rocky nooks by June. It is possible that the single flowering specimens of one summer may prove double varieties the next. The show of tiny red fruits each autumn will be another cause for congratulation, and these fairy roses are most hardy.

Primula obconica has long been a cherished greenhouse and window plant, but in all gardens but the coldest it can safely be bedded out on a sheltered rockery, and will yield forests of its lilac, rose, or crimson-purple blossom. The fairy primrose (*primula Malacoides*) is yet more bewitching, and both plants can be sown without artificial heat during summer, in glass-covered pots inside a south window or frame, or in the moderately warm greenhouse in spring.

Rock-gardens, if elaborate, may include rockery arches and caves, from the inner and outer crevices of which may come the green fringes of rare ferns, the coloured trusses of trailers, notably the sand verbena (*abronia umbellata*), *linarias*, of which family the Kenilworth ivy is a member, and the yellow flax (*linum flavum*), that is so unlike its relatives.

Stones and flowers are almost invariable companions where God has been the only gardener ; we find the rocks, of many sizes, by the beds of streams that feed the roots of water iris, forget-me-nots, and pink arrowhead ; the plough turns them up after the corn has been cut, with the poppies and scabious ; they peer from the cowslip banks, and lie, half-

concealed, in woods, among mosses, primroses, and anemones. They are as poetic as the blooms themselves ; the seasons have dealt with them as surely as with the mighty trees or the diminutive strawberry root ; time has gone to their fashioning, the mosses and lichens that cling about them would show as forests beneath the microscope.

A chrysanthemum rock-garden will suggest Japan or China, especially if a few single roses are cultivated there too, with some irises of the former land's own title. Near should rise an almond tree or two, never more beautiful then when spreading their pink laden boughs above grey stones.

Sea-beach stones have been declared unfit for rockery building as a rule, but if the gardener cares to attempt a remarkable feat, and is not far from a coast, let her give up a sunny stretch of ground to a carpet of sand, on which colossal pebbles, lumps of chalk, broken boulders of cliff may be picturesquely grouped or strewn in places. She need not prepare the subsoil except by digging in a moderate quantity of dry-decayed cow-manure. In that unpromising sandy waste may be planted sea-hollies (eryngiums), sea-lavenders (statices), a little heather, ornamental sea-kales, the hardy annual prickly poppies (argemones grandiflora and mexicana), one cream, one primrose-yellow, both with spined and white-marked foliage, beside bushes of feathery tamarisk. If she is tremendously ambitious she may hollow out a basin pool, with uneven edges, coat it inside first with cement then with pale sky blue bath enamel, and group the tamarisk and sea hollies to one side. That azure gleam, under water (which must be added in dry seasons,

baled out if it becomes clouded and green), will do much to bring coast-scenery to mind.

Should there be children in the family a delightful series of unadorned sand-heaps might adjoin the sea-side rockery, thus obtaining at once a congruous environment and bestowing a playground.

The care of a rock-garden is no more onerous than the maintenance of a border. Slugs and snails have a trying custom of coming to dwell under the stones, but can be trapped or discouraged; weeds must be removed in infancy among delicate-rooting plants; mulches have to be renewed, especially for protective purposes at the coming of frosts; drought must not shrivel flower sheets over the stones and the sandy soil, that become burning hot themselves during our infrequent tropic heat spells. Still, there will be no use for the large fork or spade, no demand for liquid manure. And a rockery is so generous, it always gives the first bloom of the year, and should be pluckily floral in December.

Gardening Proverb.—"A desert's no an ill place for everybody."

CHAPTER XXII

BEDS OF PERENNIALS AND PRETTY POOLS

"Asters and golden-rods were the livery which Nature wore. . . . The latter alone expressed all the ripeness of the season, and shed their mellow lustre over the fields, as if the now declining summer's sun had bequeathed its hues to them. It is the floral solstice, a little after midsummer, when the particles of golden light, the sun-dust, have, as it were, fallen like seeds on the earth and produced these blossoms. On every hillside, and in every valley, stood countless asters, coreopsises, tansies, golden-rods, and the whole race of yellow flowers, like Brahminical devotees, turning steadily with their luminary from morning till night."—THOREAU.

THERE is congruity in the union of these two subjects within one chapter, because perennials always stand in groups around water margins. A water garden could be furnished by annuals only, but the expedient would be at once hard to carry out and insignificant in appearance.

The motives for filling some beds entirely with plants that do not have to be grubbed up in a few months' time, that may dwell three or four years where placed, and then, after the process of lifting and dividing, be restored to their homes, are surely sufficiently obvious? The gardener's pocket is spared, and so is her time: she has extra hours for trying experiments—a very enthralling business—for tending the rosery, for gathering and arranging her blossoms, maybe for carrying them to friends, or photographing plants, or painting pictures of pet blooms.

Is there not virtue in a perennial that annuals all lack? The courage that causes the early spring shoots to pierce the cold soil, and thereby prophesy summer, is as great as the often-hymned hopefulness of the snowdrop. The garden becomes one huge message of cheer each February when herbaceous plants largely compose it. The sprouting of montbretia shoots and the "finger-tips" of Solomon's seal, the exquisite dove-greys and mauve-blues of columbine foliage, the hairy silver-green, fern-shaped leaves of the Oriental poppies, the creeping "greenh" of phlox stools, the darker mat spread by Michaelmas daisies, all these, and other evidences too numerous to quote, endear herbaceous plants to the watchful horticulturist. November will ring the dirge for all tender subjects and witness the dying gasps of hardy annuals; true, the herbaceous giants have to be cut down, but many, like chrysanthemums, reveal then a wealth of young undergrowth that gives quite a happily healthy look to the borders.

Mixed perennials in beds are to be congregated irregularly all over the space, as shown by Fig. 68, or barred off from the edge by a border of some special plant, as indicated by Fig. 69. There is praise due to each style. The latter is more decorous, and suits a lawn bed, or one in a front garden, where trimness is desired; the former has the merit of offering surprises at each step the visitor takes around the bed.

In every group of perennials there may be other plants than those named, others with them. Bulbs can be dibbled into the ground among the closely clustering primroses, saxifrages, violas, rock-creesses, woodruff, etc., etc., for daffodil lances and tulip

swords, as well as innumerable further vigorous subjects, can be trusted to pierce a way through foliage. The larger and stronger growing the perennial, the sturdier or taller should be its bulbous companion.

Fig. 68. A Round Bed of Perennials.

Under the hollyhocks herbaceous gladioli will do no harm, sunflowers and montbretias will thrive together for years, St. Bruno's lily can front the cone flowers, Spanish iris make blue and yellow or bronze and purple harmonies with perennial larkspurs, monkshood, and pyrethrums. The combinations are endless. A

gardener might spend some useful evening hours indoors in compiling a list of the most admirable unions.

There are diverse purposes to be observed in planting perennial beds ; all need not be followed at once,

Fig. 69. A Bordered Bed of Permanent Plants.

fortunately, or the gardener's hair might speedily silver ; indeed, the best displays result when too much is not attempted. A mixed bed may be planned for the simultaneous blossoming of the plants, which must then be selected all of colours certain to be kind to one another, or for a lengthy succession of bloom, which means that scarlet Oriental poppies and magenta phloxes can appear side by side, because under no circumstances will they be out together. These two plants are but an example of a principle, of course ; even salmon-pink and rose-pink flowers might be neighbours, if one was a spring, the other an autumn beauty.

A percentage only of the perennials named in Figures 68 and 69 require describing ; all the rest will be, by now, known to the reader. Yellow toad-flax is one of the tall linarias, of which *linaria dalmatica* is best, an elegant blue-grey leaved plant, covered over with sprays of lemon-gold. The orange Welsh poppy (*meconopsis Cambrica plena*) is rather a recent introduction, an almost perfect vase flower. White fleabane (*erigeron Coulteri*) is blessed with daisy-like gold centres. Scarlet cinquefoils are several, but the *potentilla* known as Gibson's scarlet should be the choice if the price of a shilling a plant is not considered too extravagant ; it is a glorious hue. Fair Maids of France, popular in our great-grandmother's parterres, is to be found catalogued as *ranunculus aconitifolius*. The scarlet Palestine *ranunculus*, or crowfoot, should inhabit every garden under the sun that it loves so fondly ; some people call it the scarlet buttercup. It proves hardy in most places. White spiderwort (*tradescantia virginica alba*), the foam flower (*tiarella cordifolia*), white scabious (*scabiosa caucasica alba*), the yellow scabious (*scabiosa lutea*), the yellow monkshood (*aconitum lycoctonum*), the purple turban *campanula*, or bellflower (*campanula turbinata*), are all hardy and valuable. Purple sandwort (*arenaria purpurescens*) has blossom on its trailing stems from the beginning of June until September.

But perennials can be grouped, or dotted singly, to form pattern beds instead of conglomerate ones. All tastes should be suited, if the garden is large enough. Some designs of requisite simplicity are supplied here. As herbaceous plants spread rapidly, with few exceptions, they cannot wisely be used to carry out

elaborate devices, unless the gardener wants to be obliged to thin them out each year. Fig. 70 illustrates the setting of two sizes in dot-plants, white dragon's-head (*dracocephalum virginicum*), a beautiful stately grower, and a white giant-blooming double daisy (*bellis*

Fig. 70. A Pattern Bed of Perennials.

perennis, Snowflake), on a groundwork, B, of mossy saxifrage (*saxifraga hypnoides*), which will give snowy masses early, but be only a parsley-like carpet later, round a centre group, A, of the blue knapweed (*centaurea montana*). If these cornflower-like blooms

are cut off when faded, therefore seed pods are checked, they will be yielded from May's end until October's. The line C might be of the deep blue bugle, with handsomely silver marked foliage (*ajuga reptans variegata*), an inexpensive, dense grower; the

Fig. 71. A Bed for Flaxes.

space D will want the brilliance of gold, and nothing could be better than a viola, for the sake of the pansy tribe's well-known constancy, while the edge should match the inner line. An all-summer bed this, of purplish-blue, yellow, and white.

Fig. 71 was designed to show off flaxes, which are

not sufficiently appreciated. Owners of dry, sandy gardens would do well to specialise in these grass-stemmed beauties, which are willing, however, to thrive elsewhere. A, blue flax (*linum perenne*), two feet ; B, evergreen flax, dwarf, yellow (*linum arboreum*) ; C, white flax (*linum monogynum*), one and a half feet ; D, deeper blue flax (*linum Narbonense*) fifteen inches ;

Fig. 72. A Pointed Oval.

E, golden flax (*linum flavum*), blooms in trusses on almost trailing stems.

Most of the charm of the bed Fig. 72 is due, undoubtedly, to its own outline, but this whole form can be used as an inner ornament for an oblong bed, if desired. The chief portion, A, might consist of the orange avens (*geum Heldreichii*) a compacter plant than the familiar scarlet avens, but just as hardy and floriferous. At B a lovely rich colour blend would be the result of using the dwarf violet *Michaelmas* daisy known as *aster amellus elegans*, but violet pansies, or violas, would also supply the identical shade. The end-pieces, C, would complete the colour scheme best

if of heliotrope violas, and cream violas might edge this bed, at D.

Three colours, no more, should be seen in the bed

Fig. 73. The Three-colour Bed.

made like Fig. 73, or the cross shape will be spoilt. It is admirable for fitting, endwise, into the corner of a grass plot. If A were of the magenta-carmine

Fig. 74. A very Formal Design.

campion, of white woolly foliage, that has cheered gardens for more years than can be reckoned, the portions B of red double daisies, and the lines C of old-fashioned white pinks, there would be effect even if the campion ceased to blossom. A decided improvement, however, would be the outlining of A with a

single tuft row of London pride, to give a barrier between grey and white leaves.

Fig. 74 is so ruthlessly formal that some gardeners will be disgusted by its rather aggressive patterns.

Fig. 75. A Design for Large Beds.

However, of its originality there can be no question, and the appearance becomes softened by the choice of orange Iceland poppies for the lines B, on a carpet of variegated white rock-cress, with dwarf blue Michaelmas daisies, or a compact maroon snapdragon, at C.

The carpet of the design Fig. 75 is vastly important, constituting as it does the major portion of the bed.

For this reason a plant sure to be always attractive is needed here, and the red alum root is suitable. Never mind its height, that is solely measured by the nodding, delicately drooping sprays of little florets ; the foliage makes a close and quite low mass, composed of leaves of an exquisite contour that will become autumn-tinted. *Heuchera sanguinea* is by no means the only tall perennial that can be recommended for covering soil right up to the margin of grass or gravel. Certainly a tall flower must occupy spaces B, but preferably a solid kind of one : white double sweet Williams, so valuable for cutting, might be there, white snapdragons, phloxes, or early chrysanthemums ; and the sharp corner points, C, cutting into the expanse of alum-root, would surely please if of deep red bedding pansies, since the heuchera has the shade that combines either with scarlet or ruby crimson.

When perennials are grouped by the waterside it should be in all sorts of odd shapes, no two alike, and on a variety of levels. Some of the margin ground ought to slope sharply, other parts undulate, like a range of hills, for monotony displeases painfully where a pool shows, though it is sometimes best by grand lakes.

Making a sunk basin is not too difficult or laborious for the woman gardener ; once the shape is scooped out, the introduction of some rank clay, and half an hour's hard ramming down, will give a solid base on which water will rest. Failing the clay, Portland cement must be mixed with water and a little sand until it is a stiff paste, a layer of this spread over and left twelve hours to harden, two other layers applied after similar delays, and the task is completed.

But this will be a pool that will occasionally

overflow and flood the neighbourhood. To conduct rain-water into a pool, from the roof of a summer-house or shed at no great distance, is fairly easy. There must be a guttering round the roof, then a hole is cut in this, and a length of pipe is fitted with its end under that hole. The pipe must run straight down the wall, and be either curved or fitted into another that will conduct the water underground to the miniature pond.

Supposing that the roof and guttering already fill a rain-water butt, the pipe newly introduced should have a filtering cap over its hole, the kind of lid, perforated in a few places, that is over a tin of carbolic powder. That will mean that only a little water will take its exit from the guttering down that pipe, the principal supply flowing, as desirable, into the butt.

We see how water can be got into the pool. How can it be prevented from overflowing? Why, by inserting an open-mouthed pipe, of course, in the concave side of the basin, just at the level the water must not exceed. And this overflow pipe must take the surplus water away underground, to some ditch or deep catch-pit, or to form another pool in the wettest weather, or to keep a lower level of soil damp enough for a bog garden to be planted there. These are alternatives to the overflows being admitted to some already existing drain, the most workmanlike finish conceivable; but this must only be a water drain, not a sewer pipe, or trapping will be necessary for sanitation.

Ingenuity, impelled by fervour, can perform marvels. A charming little sunk basin pool has been fed and drained before now by lengths of disused india-rubber hose!

Mary S. Reeve.

A POOL WITH SHELVEING BANKS

When the pool is of uneven shape, has tongues of soil running into it and gently shelving banks, some large stones should lie about picturesquely, and the bottom may, or may not, be lined with pebbles. A log seat, an old wood stump or two, a roughly constructed bit of espalier fencing, natural trunk pillars for climbers, such as single roses or traveller's joy, a plank bridge thrown across the water, stepping-stones, are all suitable adjuncts.

An illustration of the unsymmetrical pool is offered by Fig. 76. The ground can be part gravel, part soil, planted with little perennials, or else turf dotted about with daffodils, crocuses, wood-sorrels (oxalises), cowslips, native orchis, etc. No rare plants are mentioned, the giant knotweed being the *polygonum sacchalinese* advised for shady spots; the forget-me-not should be the tall bright blue, *myosotis palustris*. Owing to the boldness of the shrub groups, and the presence of the three trees, the "lady birch," "golden chain," and pink almond, the nearly constant gold of gorse, for which clump a dwarf sort should be used against the familiar "whin," the roses matching the white and pink phloxes and yielding also a deeper red tone, the rich and pale blues and violet purples of the Japanese irises offering a dark note, this scene will be charming nearly the whole year.

Contrary to general imagination water-lilies do not demand much depth, two feet of water being sufficient for most varieties, and three feet only being essential to the immense species. The easiest way to plant is to insert a root, or number of roots, in a wicker basket, or wisp of straw matting, filled with a compost

Fig. 76. An Informal Water Garden.

of two parts stiff loam and one part old manure, adding a stone weighty enough for ballast. The white water-weed (aponogeton) which, by-the-bye, is delightfully fragrant, should be planted in a small pot, suspended just below water from a stake previously driven upright in the bottom of the basin.

One of the lesser water-lilies (nymphæ) may be placed on the round basin which is shown in Fig. 77 reposing in the midst of a mere garden border filled with moisture-loving plants. Even if a pool does not flood its surrounding soil at times there is always dampness of atmosphere about it, vaporous exhalations that are more beneficial to some herbaceous subjects and shrubs than to others. The meadowsweet may be any of the taller spiræas, the hops should be given an odd-shaped rustic pole, with cross-bar, on which to climb, or else a dead fir tree, branches and all, some defunct pyramidal conifer moved from the shrubbery or lawn. Pink willow-herb is the native ditch-side epilobium, but there are improved, florists' varieties, in bright rose or white; spray-bushes are the cotoneasters, of prostrate habit, such as cotoneaster microphylla, an evergreen shrub with red berries, or the higher cotoneaster Simonsii, crimson-fruited. Hooded violets (*viola cucullata*), which come to us from America, are swamp lovers. Ghent azaleas, or some other hardy species, will flourish, and give a glorious blossom outburst in May if relieved of their seed-pods after each flowering season; without this attention the plants become exhausted. Wild strawberries (*fragaria*) are prettiest of trailers and would be worth cultivating if only to delight the birds when they come to drink and bathe in the water. Cuckoopint, the classic "lady's smock"

A HEDGE OF HAWTHORN & GORSE

Fig. 77. A Pool in a Border.

(cardamine), may appear in its double blooming variety of May (cardamine pratensis, flore plena), or the pink-lilac single, and earlier, cardamine latifolia.

Other fascinating flowers to grow in the water garden are American cowslips (dodecatheons), lilac or red-purple, about a foot tall, the one-foot early pale yellow leopard's bane (doronicum caucasicum), blue lyme grass, three feet (elymus racemosus), for its steely blades, day lilies, tobacco plants, the giant blue lettuces (lactuca gigantea and Plumieri), alpine mimuluses, gorgeous double pæonies, the plume poppy (bosconia cordata), rosin plants (silphiums), six to eight feet, yellow, columbines, ox-eye daisies, the myrtle-leaved rhododendron, rose, globe flowers, Japanese primroses (primula japonica), crimson, rose, or purplish whorls of blossom, rising one to three feet from the luxuriant foliage tufts, golden rods, and the hardy pitcher plant (sarracenia purpurea).

A temporary *entourage* for a pool may be made by sinking pot myrtles, palms, and royal ferns (osmunda regalis), aspidistras too, yellow musk, the blue leadwort (plumbago capensis), and fuchsias from the conservatory, and sowing stretches of ground, in March and April, with bartonia aurea, centranthus macrosiphon, red or white, chrysanthemum coronarium, Collin's flower (collinsias), Virginian stock, sweet alyssum, convolvulus minor, gilia tricolour, miniature sunflowers, giant annual sunflowers, American groundsel (Jacobæa), mallow-worts, and the four-inch violet cress (ionopsidium acaule).

All pools have to be cleaned out and furnished with a fresh supply of water at times. This can only be done by baling out, unless there is an emptying pipe,

stopped by a tap, at the base. If the woman gardener is having a basin manufactured by any professional she should request the addition of this convenient tap.

Gold and silver-fish will live in artificial pools, if there is some leaf-shelter from fierce sunheat, supplies of correct foods are regularly provided, and cats do not abound.

Gardening Proverb.—"One man's ditch may be river to another."

CHAPTER XXIII

DAHLIAS AND CHRYSANTHEMUMS

" . . . The high red walls, which are growing grey
With their lichen and moss embroideries,
Seem sadly and sternly to shut out Life,
Because it is often as sad as they :
Where even the bee has time to glide
(Gathering gaily his honeyed store)
Right to the heart of the old-world flowers,—
China-asters and purple stocks,
Dahlias and tall red hollyhocks,
Laburnums raining their golden showers,
Columbines prim of the folded core,
And lupins, and larkspur, and London pride."

VIOLET FANE.

WHAT an injured plant is the dahlia ! To begin with, people have so adopted its wrong pronounciation (using the "a" as though it were only the first letter of the alphabet, not as though, by tacking it on to the h, it signifies the Swedish name, Dahl, of the discoverer), that to speak of it correctly, as if it were spelt "darhlia," now sounds too pedantically ridiculous. Secondly, affected men and women like to sneer at lovers of the "gaudiest flower," ignoring the delicate charm of the lemon, white, blush, and pale lilac varieties. Thirdly, it stands, in the language of flowers, as symbolising "pomp." Fourthly, persons speak of it as resembling blossoms cut out of turnips. Poets have scarcely ever given it the slightest praise, and floriculturists,

who ought to be ashamed of themselves, try to produce dahlias of freak dimensions for exhibition tables, and grow the plant in allotment-resembling plots, among stakes bearing inverted flower-pots ! If one is invited to inspect the collection of a noted dahlia grower, even an amateur who, presumably, pursues a hobby, not a trade, one knows what one will see. Those odious rows and blocks of clumsily tied up specimens, the manure heaps against the stems, the intervening earth tramped hard, or made into mud and foot-prints, no attempt at colour harmonising, and those awful pots on sticks, the earwig traps which, by-the-bye, are quite as much needed by hollyhocks or sunflowers, yet would not be tolerated beside them.

There may be two opinions as to the merits of show dahlias, those that certainly look as though carved, though not out of turnips, those solid balls of closely-laid petals, all hard to the touch ; but the single dahlia is pre-eminently an artist's blossom, of fair, simple, wide-opened shape ; and could any bloom be more elegant than the single cactus, or thread dahlia, with those wondrous twists and curls of the filament petals, and the droop of the gold-eyed face ?

The double cactus dahlia stands unrivalled for range of colour, and even the rose cannot compete with the dark red, maroon, mulberry, black-claret varieties for velvet gloss or silvery surface sheen. Granted there is a heavy look about the flowers of dark shades, is it not folly to expect all merits at once ? There is an oriental, luscious, prodigal beauty in these dusky introductions from Mexico and Peru. Contemplate cactus dahlias of medium tints, and light ones, note how the greens of different varieties, even the golds

of the centres, vary to suit the petal colours, selfs or blends, and by degrees there will be felt just indignation that the best æsthetic sense and a love of this flower have even been thought incompatible.

The gardener who likes to take up a defence of the dahlia can best do so by cultivating it as a garden ornament, never as a personal trophy.

In 1840 appeared a new edition of a splendid book on gardening, by Mr. M'Intosh (gardener to His Majesty the King of the Belgians, at Claremont), and so instructive are his words on the dahlia that no apology is needed for reviving some of them. He begins by noting the incorrect pronunciation, and goes on to teach us :

“ As this name had previously been given to a very different plant, botanists changed it to Georgina, in honour of Lady Holland, who reintroduced the plants in 1804, after they had been lost for fifteen years. The first name, however, had become too generally used to be displaced. There are two distinct species, *Dahlia variabilis*, with fertile rays, and *Dahlia coccinea*, with barren rays, both natives of the high, sandy plains of Mexico, where they were found by Baron Humboldt in 1798, the parents of the innumerable varieties yearly increasing in our gardens.”

The author answers, in precious detail, the question how to gain a stock.

“ As the native soil of the dahlia is said to be sandy, the artificial must be rather light and free than heavy, and a good compost for seedlings may be made with sandy loam and peat, or thoroughly rotted dung, to enrich it. The most approved method is to forward the germination of dahlia seed by heat, but it will rise

if sown in a warm, well-sheltered border in April, or early in May, taking care to protect the young plants from accidental frosts. . . . It may be sown in pans even a month earlier than this, if these are kept within doors at night and in very cold weather, and only set out of doors on mild days to inure the plants to open exposure. Much cold, or the slightest frost, will kill them.

“Treated in this way the young plants, if planted in tolerably large pots and plunged into the open ground in the beginning of June, may, if the season be favourable, be brought to flower late in the autumn.

“It is a more certain method, however, when artificial heat can be had, to sow the seed in pots or pans about the middle of February, or beginning of March, placing them in a hotbed frame, or in any artificial heat from fifty to sixty degrees Fahrenheit. Soon after the seed-leaves appear they may either be set out in a moderate heat, or potted and placed in a cold frame, which, however, must be covered at night with mats. Care must be taken to place them near the glass of the frame, otherwise they will grow weak and lanky.”

So far so good. Afterwards, though? Our author adds :

“The seedlings should be transplanted into rows three feet apart, and two distant from each other.” But we may use the science and reject the design : in rows, bordering a walk, dahlias will look noble, but we do not want them in squadrons. A valuable piece of advice follows. “They will blow perhaps in July, or later, and when good varieties are obtained they may be taken up with balls of earth, potted in

sizes adapted to their magnitude, and removed into the greenhouse early in October to continue their bloom."

If the plants were cultivated in enormous pots, sunk in the garden, they could be lifted better ; and a greenhouse is not essential—they would bloom in sunny room windows.

Seed is sold of all classes of dahlias, show, cactus, single, pæony-flowered, single cactus, pompon, and Tom Thumb, and the semi-doubles that result largely from seed of "cactus" dahlias are exceptionally beautiful. There is also an eighteen-inch race of single dahlias, called "Early dwarf, 'Harbinger,'" of many colours, that from March-raised seedlings will give blossom in June.

"Till a seedling plant shows its flowers," says Mr. M'Intosh, "there are no means of ascertaining its qualities, though the colours may be guessed at from the stems, white sorts having perfectly green stems, dark sorts brown or purple stems, and pale sorts lighter coloured stems. These distinctions, however," he somewhat disappointingly declares, "are by no means constant. The time to judge of a flower is early in the morning, both the colour and the form being changed by bright sunshine. The first, or earlier flowers, are also better than those produced late in autumn."

Truly our forerunners in floriculture took their work seriously, as these last reflections prove. The woman gardener might care to specialise in raising her own dahlias, hoping to get eventually one of rare colour, or of such uncommon shape that it might give rise to a fresh race.

Another writer, about fifteen years later, called the poor dahlia "a floral upstart," and averred that "the original single-flowered plant, from Mexico, first claimed the attention of horticulturists as an edible root, whose repulsive, nauseous, peppery taste inspires equal disgust in man and beast." After abusing it further, as "a made flower," and lamenting its want of perfume, Mr. Eugene Sebastian Delamer went on to surmise :

"Perhaps, though not probably, a blue, perfumed dahlia will start from the earth, in which case, those which now figure in the parterre will have to hide their diminished heads."

Still, we may forgive him, because he has given us also plain instructions on some crucial points.

"In forming a collection of dahlias, the general mode is to order the number required of a nurseryman, in good time during the winter. . . . They will arrive some time in spring, in the shape of rooted cuttings two or three inches high, in small pots, and must be kept in a greenhouse or a frame till the end of May, or such times as all danger of frost is over in that locality."

Finest varieties cost now from two to six shillings a dozen, so the outlay need not be ruinous. The collarette dahlia, which has a crown of short petals inside the single outer ones, is exceedingly popular now. The pæony dahlia is a giant indeed, and magnificent for huge borders or shrubberies.

Home-stored dahlia tubers should be brought out at the end of March, and laid on a gentle hotbed in a frame, failing this on damp sand, in trays, inside a greenhouse or sunny window. Large tubers, when they

sprout, are divided, leaving one "eye" on each portion. If the weather is safe by then they can be planted out at once, otherwise must be potted up and housed where there is plenty of fresh air but no frost, to be planted in June. Tubers can, of course, be bought in March, if preferred to young plants.

Others of Mr. Delamer's worthy hints concern the preservation of the plants from enemies :

"The stem is fragile, and apt to be blown down, or snapped short, by high winds ; it is therefore best supported by a stake inserted into the ground at the time of planting the root or cutting. The young shoots are apt to be eaten off by slugs and snails, which must be driven off, or destroyed, by circles of lime and ashes, or by waterings with lime water. The blossoms are apt to be bitten and spoiled by hungry earwigs, to obviate whose onslaughts *traps of hollow bean-stalks*, to be inspected once or twice a day, are hung at enticing intervals amidst the foliage."

Dahlia tubers should be left in the ground some weeks after autumn's light frosts have blackened the foliage, for they are still ripening, and drawing nourishment in on which they are to survive the winter. The beginning weeks of November are usually best for lifting them. After lying a few hours in sunshine and wind they should be housed, covered by perfectly dry cocoanut-fibre refuse, in a dry cupboard or cellar ; or tubers can be left out for two or three years, until they throw poor blooms through being overcrowded. A six-inch deep layer of ashes will keep frost from them.

Outdoor chrysanthemum seed, sown in January and February, in a temperature of sixty-five degrees, should give plants to flower from the middle of August

onwards ; seed sown in March will yield plants for blooming in September and October, " singles " being the quickest. There are no special difficulties of culture, as seedlings do not have to be pinched back, or deprived of top or side buds. Magnificent varieties are so cheap, though, and it is such an advantage to know the heights and colours, that purchase of plants is best for garden decoration.

The first week of May is the professional grower's pet time for planting out chrysanthemums ; once placed they may stop, to increase for two or three years, but overcrowded stools cannot give fine bloom, so it is only common prudence to lift, at least outer portions of clumps, in March, when every detached bit will be a rooted specimen for use elsewhere.

Liquid manures should be given each week after buds appear, and a mulch of fresh loam and leaf mould should protect the plants each winter.

There are early chrysanthemum varieties for July, August, September, and October blossom ; heights vary from one foot to five feet and a half ; colours cannot be mentioned, so myriad are they.

The dahlia and the chrysanthemum may be well grown together, the latter of varieties half the stature of the former. Extraordinary floral masses are thus gained for beds, borders, or bank-sides and summits, shrubbery foregrounds, or thickets enclosing seats and summer-houses.

The single and the Japanese chrysanthemums are best for gathering, and most graceful in beds, accompanied by the dwarf pompons. " Lady Fitzwigram " is described as perhaps the finest early white ever raised ; the blooms, which have long and twisted petals,

measure five inches from tip to tip. Cactus is a rather small but novel-shaped variety, of fiery terra-cotta ; Flambeau is an exquisite red-salmon. But to praise individuals, out of so vast a crowd of beauties, is an ungrateful attempt.

Gardening Proverb.—"Leave choice alone when you can't tell the difference."

CHAPTER XXIV

THE WINTER GARDEN

" . . . While the echoing tempests beat around
Within the impervious covert of the wood
Of ancient hollies, whose umbrageous heads
The gusts of autumn have in vain assail'd,
Range we secure, and view the distant scene."

GISBORNE.

WHO will deny that the garden is frequently delightful as a pleasure resort during winter? August days are often chilly out of doors, November ones genial; January afternoons are sometimes balmy, February may exult in a spell of high temperatures and south-west winds. But the best-made garden should have at least one area in which horticultural art has fashioned such bowers, screens, and foliage and floral effects, that nipping winds will be kept at bay, and the eye be almost cheated, even during a sharp winter, into the belief that spring has dawned.

Quite apart from the pleasure of rambling the walks where concentrated sunshine dwells, the gardener ought to find plenty of glad pride in having brought together numbers of plants and shrubs that carry fair fruits or blossoms at the quarter when most gardens are devoid of colour. She will have to introduce many unfamiliar subjects, if the thing is to be fully done.

There are southern, south-coast, and valley gardens

in which the climate will render the task easy ; in all others discretion should be observed in planting. Now discretion does not mean avoidance of experiment—heaven forbid ! Sites must be provided, draughts and sweeping gales intercepted by solid barriers, or perhaps a deep dell be dug out in an open expanse. In a pit twelve feet deep and twenty-four wide there will exist several varying bank-wall aspects, various temperatures at different levels up them, and, by setting a coronet hedge along the top, yet greater shelter is gained. A gravelled slope, edged by an espalier line of trained Japanese roses on one side, and a fencing supporting the firethorn and daphne mezereum on the other, may be the path of entrance and exit. If the bank sides have big boulders and slabs of rock, and logs of wood, driven into them here and there, to hold up the earth and make some useful plateaux for planting, there will be no danger of subsidence. A closer kind of rockery might be constructed on the side that is shady. Damp flooring will be troublesome unless the gravel base is some inches higher in the middle than at the sides, while catch-pit drains should carry off the surplus water that is bound to drain down the slopes.

In a dell garden of this class, among evergreen dwarf bushes of laurustinus, spotted laurels, yews, privets, euonymuses, firs, and veronicas, dwarf plants ought never to leave off blossoming. Pansies, double daisies, violas, the horned violet (*viola cornuta*), the violettas too, primroses and polyanthuses, aubrietias, are examples of the plucky perennials that will be reluctant to leave off budding. The veronica shrubs, in purple or deep blue, the whitish blossoming laurustinus will similarly continue flowering.

A winter garden on the ordinary level has more to contend with. The extensive use of evergreens, for hedges and protective belts, of odd lengths of old grey wood close fences, or walls built of old brick, will do most to create a false temperature for the neighbouring beds and borders. By sheltering a given area all round first—not necessarily in a straight line on each side—then by forming additional screens within the space, by bringing evergreen clumps so close together that winds cannot possibly play havoc among such barriers, the welcome false temperature will be felt by the visitor as also by the vegetation.

A common design for a rosery was the square, marked off by giant hedges, a broad walk all round, another, rather lower, hedge-frame border against this, then four big square beds, arches spanning the narrow paths between them, and some centre ornament for the gravel cross-road junction. This makes an admirable plan for laying out a winter garden. The double hedge should not have entrance and exit arches to face each other, as that would mean draughts; those necessary gaps should be separated by some yards. A glance at Fig. 78 will explain the design.

As arches obstruct sunshine they are better dispensed with, except in the hedge gaps, but even there any of the pretty winter climbers, to be mentioned later in a review of plants, might be grown against the evergreen background. Because the presence of any water must cool atmosphere the centre ornament should not be a fountain; a sundial is manifestly incongruous, but a stone vase, filled with a barberry (*berberis aquifolium*, or mahonia, as it is sometimes called), hepaticas, crocuses, or snowdrops, with overhanging yellow

stonecrop, would be satisfactory. A vase always looks best upon a pedestal to match: one, thus mounted complete, in buff or grey hard-fired earthenware, able to stand frost, costs about two pounds

Fig. 78. The Hedge-sheltered Garden.

ten shillings. Second-hand vases of somewhat similar character can occasionally be picked up cheaply at sales at country houses.

The second design, Fig. 79, consists of borders and paths, the outward conducting walks being alternately at the ends and the sides. It can be extended to cover any sized plot of land. A semi-maze is this,

without any endeavour to bewilder the visitor. If the long, narrow border beds held evergreen shrubs in the middle, and dwarf or medium tall perennials for foregrounds, it naturally follows that both those plants and the paths would receive an abnormal amount of shelter, so that when the sun was high in the heavens there would be great ground warmth.

Fig. 79. A Maze Garden.

Another idea would be to place the evergreens, as hedges, right against the inner edges of the borders round the centre plot, and concentrate the perennials on the outer edges in each case. This would afford more variety of treatment, and require less space.

Either of the winter gardens shown is limited in nature, and could be employed as part of more elaborate schemes. Whenever there is a wide border running beside a lofty wall facing south, use should be made of it for the culture of winter flowers, leaves, and fruits ;

no heat is superior for the purpose to that which is radiated from sun-baked brick, both as encouragement to trained shrubs and climbers, and for taking chill off the soil beyond those. On the other side of the path abutting upon the border might be turf, or another border for pansies, primroses, and polyanthus, or wholly for bulbous subjects; the heights of the last-named would not be detrimental; all the majestic lilies, irises, and gladioli of summer could rear their proud heads there, but no shrubs or tall evergreen plants should be set in that border, or else the winter garden would be robbed of some of the priceless sunshine.

Fear of failures should not deter the planter of that dull-season border; she will be so enraptured by the successes that a small measure of loss will be soon forgotten. Some of the wall-ornaments she ought to set up are not quite hardy, but, if the soil is deep and good as well as adequately drained, and copious dry mulches, of cinders, short-cut old horse-manure, cocoanut-fibre refuse, even, perhaps, chopped gorse boughs, or heather, are given over the roots, the brick shelter will probably do enough to safeguard the branches. It is an excellent plan to mix fertilised hop manure with any of the mulching materials. Of course some pet climbers could have a little bracken fir, a bunch of gorse boughs, or "feathery" faggots tied against them at winter's beginning, which will break the force of gales, and check frosts, but not an inch of canvas or sacking should disfigure the scene. It is surely ridiculous to set out to make a garden attractive during the cold weather, and then swathe shrubs up in hideous wrappings? And climbers can

be almost as well grown against a fence or a close hedge as with a wall at their backs.

One word on a most important aid to triumph. The border and path will have two ends, no matter how far separated : one will be east, the other west, and both should be thoroughly blocked across or screened off, the walk being made to turn aside so that a dense evergreen belt, a fence or wall, can stand jutting right out for at least twelve feet. Gales from the west, stinging blasts from the east, will thus be warned off the premises. Many a shrub that would go out of bloom as a bush will continue floriferous when nailed to a south wall. Try the laurustinus so, several veronicas, and even barberries. It is a wholly admirable attempt too to train up November and December blossoming chrysanthemums, and stimulate them by liquid manure. Unless the weather is very severe, which it seldom is before Christmas, there will be a glorious colour show from these plants, which had better be tall varieties.

Another " wrinkle " is to treat the pink China rose, known as the monthly rose, in the same manner ; it may be a mass of buds, and open flowers too, until January, and will quickly make up its mind to start again for spring. Obviously to secure a notable display there must be many trees thus trained, but every south wall owner can experiment with a single specimen. There are white and red China roses ; none are so brave as the ancient favourite, though.

Now what else shall the wall show off ? Room should be spared for the evergreen, self-clinging Virginian creeper, if only as a background for yellow jasmines ; a traveller's joy may keep enough of its silver feathery

seed carpels to be worth a place ; variegated Japanese honeysuckle always gives gaiety to a spot, and may be employed partly to support the rather delicate kinsman known as *lonicera fragrantissima*, which yields white perfumed blossom in January and February. The allspice, or winter sweet (*chimonanthus fragran*) beats this in pluck, if not in appearance, and has a delicious "sniff" about it too, for it offers its queer brownish-gold, purple-marked flowers in December and January, one of which is sufficient to scent a drawing-room.

Spray-bushes (*cotoneasters*) are as advisable as barberries and Japanese roses, both for nailing to the wall and for furnishing the border, on account of the berries they contrive to carry until spring if the birds will but spare them. The fire-thorn (*cratægus pyracantha*) looks splendid nailed up so that its vermilion-laden branches are seen between the snow-white ones of two foreground bushes of the snowberry tree (*symphoricarpus radicans*).

A wonderful treasure for the winter garden is the Glastonbury thorn (*cratægus præcox*). Let it be there by the dozen, if the ground can be spared. This is said to be the "staff brought to England by St. Joseph of Arimathea," and the stock of the shrub has sprung from the famous tree at Glastonbury Abbey. Generally it bursts into bloom at Yuletide. Hawthorns are *cratæguses* too, and their lavish fruiting adds a warm look to a border.

The golden ball (*Forsythia*) deserves wall space, because it makes March rich in colour ; a green catkin bearing climber is called *garrya elliptica* ; ordinary gorse on a south expanse of brick will be yellow sooner, and later, than its brethren in the open.

Now about ivy. The varieties have been mentioned in the chapter on climbers for house walls, to which the reader can turn. The handsome foliage sorts may be patronised moderately, and the more delicate coloured-leaf varieties lavishly, while we can also reckon beautiful berry trusses among the merits of *hedera helix*.

The Japan quince (*pyrus japonica*) begins in January ; if the deep crimson, the white, and the rose varieties are obtained as well as the scarlet, the month and its successor should be indeed splendidly embellished.

A tree or two standing out in the border may be allowed ; too many would cause dangerous shade and drip. *Prunus pissardii* is the maroon-leaved, white-blossomed, early spring ornament of suburban roadways, and an almond will not be long behind it in budding.

Under these, by-the-bye, will be a suitable site for a bed of Christmas roses, *helleborus niger*, and its varieties. To give the plant the cool conditions that it demands during summer it would surely be possible to sink some pots of shrubs between it and south sunshine, say each April ? Will any person be surprised to learn that there are green, purple, and rose-coloured Christmas roses, as well as the pure white and the spotted ?

Again, will anybody smile incredulously at being told there are real winter crocuses, quite distinct from the popular kinds of our earliest spring beds ?—crocus species, all of them, not to be confounded with the mistakenly called “autumn crocuses,” that are not crocuses at all, but meadow saffrons. Here is a list :

WINTER BLOOMING CROCUSES

Crocus Biflorus. White, marked with lilac.

Crocus Imperati. Violet, fawn, and black-purple in combination.

Crocus Ancyrensis. Orange-gold.

Crocus Sieberi. Lilac-purple on yellow.

The true autumn crocuses should also be added, as some continue late ; there are too many to particularise them all, good sorts being :

AUTUMN BLOOMING CROCUSES

Crocus Sativus. Violet-purple.

Crocus Speciosus. Bright blue.

Crocus Pulchellus. Lavender and white.

Crocus Longiflorus. Peach mauve, scented.

Whether in beds or borders beautiful associates are snowdrops, the scarlet windflower (*anemone fulgens*), and the Japan quince, which makes a bush, or a standard, as readily as a wall or arch covering. The giant snowdrop (*galanthus Elwesi*), the common snowdrop (*galanthus nivalis*), the extra tall single (*galanthus grandior*), and the earliest species (*galanthus plicatus*), should all be present.

Megasea cordifolia, perhaps the handsomest of early February flowers, giving massive spikes of pink bells above tropic-suggesting, giant, crimson-tinted leaves, is seen at its best when surrounded by variegated rock-cress (*arabis*) and set near masses of the tall winter heliotrope (*tussilago fragrans*), whose quaint, square trusses of lavender-lilac intensely-perfumed blossom will be also at their harvest season. Silver ivy, up a pole, or, better still, a rustic log stood on end, may

rise out of yellow winter aconite, between whose stars can live the green tufts of blue or pink primroses. By-the-bye, the blue hybrid primrose is generally earlier by many weeks than the yellow type in gardens, and as it is rather delicate it relishes a south aspect, against wall, hedge, fence, or shrub belt, even during summer. *Crocus Susianus*, yellow, veined black, gives a pretty bit of colour round hart's-tongue ferns, which will keep green and glossy.

Then there are white, blue, and red hepaticas to pair off with the spring crocuses, under bushes of rose, white, and yellow mezereons (*daphne mezereum*), and a stretch of rockery should be built, in one or more places, expressly for the cultivation of the exquisite winter irises—*iris reticulata*, violet and gold, and scented like violets, which may be known as the netted iris, *iris histrio*, purple-blue and rose shaded, on a yellow ground, *iris alata*, gold and blue, *iris persica*, blue, purple, and amber, the Bethlehem iris (*iris vartani*), an azure blue dwarf that comes to us from the Holy Land.

A grand perennial, of coarse habit, not to be planted too close to daintier growers, is the groundsel (*senecio pulcher*), that will bless late November with its big, rose-carmine florescence. Late Michaelmas daisies will be out too, the tall crimson sort being most showy, and probably the knotweed (*polygonum polystachyon*), will be towered over by plumes of white. Far away from rosy groundsel or crimson Michaelmas daisies, since its hue would quarrel desperately with them, should be groves of the caffre flag (*schizostylis coccinea*), of deep scarlet. *Aster vimineus*, of minute white blossom, *aster polyphyllus*, white, gold-centred, and

aster *Novæ-Angliæ pulchellus*, a late violet-blue, may be the *caffre* flag's companions.

Whole beds of white, pink, blue, and purple violets can lie under specimen shrubs of golden privet, which may keep their leaves, or may lose most and be putting out hopeful fresh foliage buds. Plenty of use should be made of yellow jasmines, beneath which the star phlox, silvery-grey, and with lovely foliage, or spring forget-me-nots and mossy saxifrages, or just pinks (for their leaf-tufts) will be harmonious. Van Tholl tulips, scillas, white and yellow garlics (*alliums*), stately crown imperials, daffodils, to start with the small single native species, and end with the heavy-headed golden doubles, the mauve relative of the white rock-cress, and myriads of aubrietias should be in the winter garden.

Azalea pontica is a very early golden species; *rhododendron cilliatum*, white in March, *rhododendron præcox*, another dwarf to bloom in the blustering month, but lilac-coloured, and *rhododendron Jacksonii*, a low-growing early scarlet, should on no account be omitted. Wallflowers, of the ordinary kinds, and the pale yellow *cheiranthus alpinus*, *cheiranthus Marshalli* too, orange, only six inches tall, may be relied on to do wonders. Then there are two heaths (*erica carnea*, and *erica codonoides*), the lovely little toothed primrose (*primula denticulata*), violet, also its white and mauve varieties, the bigger white, hardy, scented *primula involucrata*, the brilliant rosy carmine *primula rosea grandiflora*, for a damp spot, possibly a deep rockery nook, that will flower from March onwards, and the April gem, snow-white *primula nivalis*.

Year by year the gardener should make notes of the flowers that she finds braving winter in her neighbours' and distant friends' pleasure-grounds, in public parks, and nurserymen's land ; then she can add them by degrees to her own beds and borders. She will learn too that wild plants of the locality are often a guide ; the blue speedwell on the hills will suggest that the cultivated speedwell (*veronica prostrata*) will break also into winter bloom, and a glance into a florist's list will remind her of the Spanish speedwell (*veronica Allioni*) and many more. Plenty of the autumn perennials refuse to end their season then, just as surely as plenty of spring perennials decline to wait for spring. As her mind becomes more and more imbued with the importance of discovering methods of beautifying the cold-weather garden she will perceive a thousand chances that had been formerly overlooked : the evergreen foliage plants of her herbaceous border will acquire new value, since portions can be employed where permanent ever-green, ever-gold, ever-silver, ever-bronze leaves are desirable mantles for Mother Earth ; all berried plants will appeal to her, too, with increasing force, all plants also that carry feathery seed heads long after flowers are over.

And what can the final result be but the creation of a little winter Eden ?

Gardening Proverb.—"It never snows for the man who won't see it."

CHAPTER XXV

VIOLETS, CARNATIONS, AND LILIES-OF-THE-VALLEY

" Dear violets, you liken to
The kindest eyes that look on you
Without a thought disloyal."

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

THERE are some flowers that stand forward before others, appealing for our affection—or maybe commanding it, for blossoms have the quality of pride, the merit of dignity. They seem to say, " You cannot dispense with us. We have been treasured in many lands, for long ages ; poets have sung about us, philosophers drawn us into their arguments, preachers chosen us as illustrations of modesty, loyalty, and simple delights. A garden in which we do not grow cannot be perfect. A gardener who is not able to gather us will miss the chance of offering purest gifts." And if the blossoms do address us in this sense there really is not any contradiction possible !

The violet was the national flower of Greece, when Greece was yet unspoiled ; Shakespeare declared :

" The fairest flowers o' the season
Are our carnations and streaked gillyflowers."

In country hamlets, in antique times, the lily-of-the-valley was always mentioned as the " ladder to heaven," and still symbolises " a return of happiness." Keats dared to sing :

“ No flower amid the garden fairer grows
Than the sweet lily of the lowly vale,
The queen of flowers.”

Must we not have these three delights, in plenty? The best of it is, too, that anybody may grow them to perfection. Violets alone may be well cultivated in a number of different ways, but we must limit our care to having them out of doors, either in the ground or in cold frames. While sweet violets can be pressed into the service of both the winter garden and the garden of shadow, to have them for gathering, their tastes should be humoured, they should not be regarded so much as outdoor ornaments. Decorative they will always be, and the ingenious gardener is free to invent for herself how to make the plant combine the two qualities of ornamental and productive.

The best site for violet beds, or lines of violets, in the averagely warm garden, is between tall fruit-trees, either vegetable ground not planted with vegetables, or the earth of an unturfed orchard. In the scorching garden they should be made on the north, or north-east side of a hedge. Why not of a wall? Well, there is some disagreement generally between violets and brick; the chances are that a devastating plague of red spider, or a disease known as red rust, would result. Certainly *viola odorata* has its whims. It often flourishes exceptionally against stone steps or flint walls. If there is no convenient hedge border, one of cold aspect, against a fence, may be used.

The well-prepared ground may have some more sharp sand, leaf mould, and old chopped horse-manure; the too light soil will need an admixture of decayed cow-manure and stiff loam. Small violet roots are

termed "crowns" in the trade, and these crowns should be planted a foot apart for a long-lasting bed, nine inches apart if space is very scanty, April being the correct month for the work. A watering must be given at first planting, and newspaper sheets should be fixed down to shade the plantation for three or four days, if the afternoon sunshine is considerable and the fruit trees do not cast much shade.

Here is a list of double and single violets ; the former are less satisfactory in the open ground, but are splendid in frames, or if they can be sometimes covered by handlights.

DOUBLE VIOLETS

Comte de Brazza. Pure white.
De Parme. Lavender-blue. Very prolific.
Lady Hume Campbell. Blue. A late variety.
Mdlle. Bertha Barron. Indigo blue.
Marie Louise. Lavender-and-white.
Mrs. J. J. Astor. Called the deepest blue double violet.
Mrs. Arthur. Pale china blue.
The Tree Violet. *Viola arborea*. Deep violet.
Belle de Chatenay. White, flushed with lilac.

SINGLE VIOLETS

Mr. Gladstone. Blue, long-stemmed.
Odoratissima. Blue, extra sweet.
Perlè Rose. Two shades of rose.
Primavera. A very large blue.
Princess Beatrice. Deep violet, enormous size.
Princess of Wales. Violet. Quite as large, and sweeter.
Sulfurea. Creamy yellow.

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The Czar. Blue, very free bloomer. There is also a variety with variegated foliage.

Victoria Regina. A fine blue.

Wellsiana. Blue. Constant bloomer.

White Czar. Snow white. Very free.

Luxonne. Mauve, long-stemmed.

La France. Violet. Round-petalled.

Italia. Rare shade of blue.

Comtesse Edmunde du Tertre. Rich violet.

Dr. Jameson. Ruby.

Explorateur Dybowski. Copper-purple.

California. Deep violet.

Baron James de Rothschild. Bright blue. Early.

Askania. Deep blue.

Alba. The old-fashioned white.

Admiral Avellan. Grand size, ruby-rose.

It is a peculiar fact that the red and the yellow violets refuse to thrive in some gardens where the others grow well, yet where they do flourish they try to overrun the ground like weeds.

The after care of violets consists of watering them during dry spells, hoeing and weeding among them, the removal of every "runner" that forms, before it has grown enough to rob much nourishment from its parent, and the application of liquid manures, varying these about every twentieth day between May and September.

If the gardener specially wishes to enlarge her stock of plants she can allow one runner to form on each, pegging the end down into the soil when it has made a little tuft of foliage shoots. By September the connecting stems can be cut, and the new violet root left to grow on until new beds are made in April.

Suitable liquid manures can be made with soot, cow, or sheep manure, but must be so weak that they are only pale-coloured ; also from the following chemical recipes. Firstly, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of superphosphate of lime, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of sulphate of iron, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of sulphate of ammonia, to 4 gallons of water. Secondly, 4 ounces of guano to 4 gallons of water.

A well-made violet bed can remain undisturbed for three years, except for the removal of runners before they root, or of any youngsters that have been allowed to attain independent existence.

Violets for frame culture, which means winter blooming, are treated similarly, but the plants are lifted in September, and replanted about seven inches apart, in a bed made up purposely in a sunny frame. The compost used should be simply equal portions of loam, fresh turf loam, if possible, and clean leaf mould. The gardener cannot be too particular about this cleanliness, for if there is mouldy decay at work, fungus spores developing, or quantities of wireworm and other noxious wrigglers, the violet roots will be sure to die off in numbers. The frame, if a deep one, may be mostly filled with really decayed manure, and a six-inch layer of compost on this is all that is needed ; or the space may be made up below by coarse tussocky loam mixed with a quarter portion of hop-manure. Whatever material is used, under the loam and leaf mould mixture, the frame must be filled up to within six or seven inches of its glass. Unless the violets, when planted, are directly influenced by the sun warmth through the glass, which draws them on, bids them aspire, awakens all their latent energies, there will be a very poor crop of blossom.

The "light" or glass lid, must remain on tightly for a week after planting, then air must be gradually given until free ventilation is in progress, but there has to be adequate protection from frost.

Authorities all say that if the soil throughout the deep frame is thoroughly moist at starting no watering will be needed during the winter. As with every theory based on an "if" there is peril in observing the rule too closely. Drying up of the complete surface six inches will, almost infallibly, bring about serious trouble. The gardener can thrust a small stick down into the soil and ascertain if there is moisture below, just as she would test, by a knife blade, a cake in process of baking. The old plants can form an outdoor bed again next April, will throw runners that can be rooted for a fresh stock, or they may be first divided themselves into "crowns." Frame violets should always be strong young specimens.

The next scented favourite is the carnation. Science has wrought a kind of revolution in its culture, for though connoisseurs still yearn after the grand old border "selfs," picotees, and bizarres, modern taste is all for the new "perpetual blooming" race. Undoubtedly there is comfort in seeing buds forming, blossoms opening, for months in succession, and the later offered varieties compete favourably in shape, and occasionally in perfume, with our old friends of the family. Still, who would wish to give up a perfect flower on account of its yielding bloom only for a few weeks? The value of the harvest is all the greater in proportion to its shortness of duration. Perpetual carnations used to be all "Americans," with loose petals and fringed edges. Florists have introduced

varieties of improved shape, at prices ranging between one shilling and five shillings each, barring the very newest prodigies !

The method of culture is easy enough. Pot plants are put out in April, and potted up again, to be housed, when they have done flowering, or just before the first frosts are to be expected. Many firms who supply herbaceous perennials are loyal to the old love, and do not sell these beautiful adventuresses who are monopolising so much attention.

The border carnation (*dianthus carophyllus*) needs a rich but sandy soil. It will grow in most garden ground, but to please it the open, sunny border should be made up with three parts of old turf loam and half a part each of decayed cow-manure and river or clean road sand. "Old turf loam" means from a stack of upturned turves that have rotted together for six months or so. A foot apart is the right distance for them to be planted, in either October or March ; failing that, November or April. At the end of April, or in May, a mulch of manure is generally laid over the ground, but some growers now use fertilised hop-manure, mixed with baked leaf mould, or with vegetable ashes, and they state that wire worm will feed on the decayed hop material and spare the carnations. Certainly it acts anywhere as a fine trap for them. Flower stems have to be accorded a neat stick each as they arise. No woman will require telling that, to gain the prettiest border show, she should use sticks painted the grey-green of the foliage ; otherwise the ground will seem to bristle with deal spikes. Flower buds are thinned to three on one shoot when giant blooms are wanted.

If it is feared that the carnations are of kinds that split their calyces, these should each be tied round when petals peep through first, a thread of green worsted being the best stuff for the purpose ; unless, indeed, the gardener buys the miniature indiarubber rings sold by horticultural providers.

Liquid manures may be given once a week during the budding and blossoming months. Hoeing should be very frequent, to loosen the top soil.

The old clove carnation, in crimson or white, is so hardy that it often flourishes in heavy soil, without attention. Carnations are seldom propagated from cuttings—outdoor carnations, that is to say ; if they are, the tips, or “ pipings,” three or four inches long, are inserted in very sandy compost in pots placed in cold frames, or under handlights, in June or July. The general way to propagate is by layering in July or August. This is the pegging down of a nice semi-woody stemmed shoot, from four to seven inches long, after making a longitudinal quarter-inch slit in the underneath of its stem, into a little hillock of sand and compost. The task is somewhat similar to rooting the violet's runners, but slightly more involved and risky. The pegged down shoots often need shielding from fiercest sunheat, and overhead sprinklings morning and evening, until their fresh colour and growth prove that they have begun to root. The connecting stems should be cut in September or October. The new plants may remain where they are until the following March, unless it is believed that bitter winter may destroy them. In the coldest localities they can be planted in frames in October.

The lily-of-the-valley, which botanists do not

know as a lily, but as *convallaria majalis*, costs about five shillings for fifty "crowns" of fair flowering size, or clumps can be bought at about a shilling each.

The site should be open ground under trees, or in the shade cast by walls, hedges, or fences, though a plantation in the corner nook between south and east walls will ensure an earliest crop. Ordinary well-prepared ground will suffice. Let the crowns go in three inches apart, and be matched as to size, keeping little 'uns and big 'uns together in groups or rows. The points must only be planted just below the surface. September and October are the most suitable months. Each February a nice mulch of old manure, made fine, and freely sprinkled with slaked lime, should be given to the beds. This will suffice as nourishment for the first year: in the second season liquid manures become advisable. Having once made a satisfactory lily-of-the-valley border the gardener can feel serene, for it need not be lifted and remade until the fourth year.

Convallaria majalis can be grown from seeds sown, shallowly, out of doors in March, but surely nobody can wish to wait for the slow development of plants thus raised, when propagation by division of clumps into crowns is so rapid?

Violets can be seed-raised too, by the very patient. Pans of sandy compost must be used, in July or August, as soon as seeds are ripe, and these pans may have to occupy cold frames for two years before more than a stray seedling appears.

Raising carnations is a delightful pursuit when there is plenty of land to devote to trial plots; so many seedlings will be single, or very inferior bloomers, that to tend them for months in the ornamental beds and

borders is a mistake, because a source of annoying disappointment. Yet some charming varieties may be gained ; seedling plants are infinitely stronger and more lavish bloomers than those that spring from cuttings of named varieties, and there is always the chance that some new sort may be worth putting on the market. Florists are naturally chary of taking a fancy to a new carnation, however, because it is such a remarkably rare thing for a flower to prove at once perfect in form and of a novel colour.

Seed should be placed only one-sixteenth of an inch deep, in equal parts of loam, leaf mould, and sand, in pans in a cold frame, in April, May, or June. Seedlings can be potted, or pricked off, to spend the first winter under glass, or be planted out in September or October, in warm gardens, and mulched around with sharp cinders.

Gardening Proverb.—"Don't dig a deep hole if you've nought but a weed to put in it."

CHAPTER XXVI

THE WILDERNESS GARDEN

"The flower that opens in peace, the bird that sings its song, the star that follows its course, the man who follows his conscience, are in accord with the source of being and repose in it. Peace envelops them, and, by them, is communicated to him who knows how to understand their significance."—CHARLES WAGNER.

THE quotation at the head of this chapter advocates peace, and it was chosen because no garden is more restful than the one that is moderately wild.

A dictionary blunders sadly when, after giving the usual description of a "wilderness," it adds the definition, "a part of a garden left to grow waste." Nothing could be more untrue: the ordinary garden, abandoned to Nature, would become a ruined specimen of man's artificial craft; a real wilderness garden is one in which artifice has been from the outset avoided, and even art—the essential tool—has been hidden away with the utmost discretion. Lawns, beds, borders, pergolas, and rockeries of the usual kind run to seed and thistles, choked by weeds, would not please any eye, nor achieve the slightest resemblance to a beautiful "wild garden."

The difficulty in discussing what may be done is the overwhelming multitude of possibilities.

Let us suppose that new ground is to be laid out,

or an extra half-acre, acre, or more, tacked on to an existing garden ; that this ground is rugged, portion of an up-and-down meadow, or a common, or perhaps just some of the scooped-out-here, and piled-up-there " building land " that is found even by the roads of country and seaside towns, the happy hunting-grounds of children and dogs, all unkempt, flattened by feet, excavated by folk in search of " mould," littered by old tins, smashed crockery, and stones.

The first necessity is to enclose the place, and it is a great pity to do this too uniformly. A portion of the boundary line might be a hedge of gorse, another of hawthorn, a third of mingled sweetbriar and blackthorn, a fifth of common laurel varied by clumps of willow, and fronted here and there by bracken-fern, which is quite willing to find its way up, even through evergreens, to give a waving splendour of autumn gold, russet, and red far above them. Then a length of solid paling, made with staves of old grey wood, set so as to be uneven at the top, would serve as a support for the ivies without whose inimitable grace no wilderness is complete ; this fence could pass, abruptly, into a rude espalier, fashioned of rather large pine logs, and used to hold up honeysuckles. A stretch of wall, built with flints and rubble mostly, and some cheap, crumbly white bricks, if uneven of summit too, and left with hollow spaces, would be fit to plant with wall-flowers, snapdragons, houseleeks, stonecrops, London pride and other saxifrages, Kenilworth ivy, thrift, sandworts, ferns, and red and white valerian. If a pretty field came up to the garden pleasure would be gained by having part of the boundary of simple, wide-meshed wire netting, so as not to obstruct the

view ; a honeysuckle, bryony, or wild rose at one end, or both ends, could be encouraged to run along the top wire strengthening the netting, so making a species of frame to the tall grasses and wildflowers outside, and the foxglove, cornflower, red poppy, or ox-eye daisy groups that should be irregularly set just inside.

Trees should break boundary lines in two or three places, not giant trees that will overshadow the whole too much in course of time, but elders, crabs, mountain ashes, acacias, perhaps, wild cherry, silver birch, larch, holly, or sweet bay. Another idea is to enclose the garden in places by giant walls of old brick, that give place to gaps and lower stretches of wall, as when a ruinous state has overtaken brickwork.

It is an error to plant blackberries, or fruiting brambles of any kind, near the boundary ; boys will find out the harvest, and not be deterred by any obstacle from levying toll on it. Usually barbed wire has to be wound in and out of hedges, or trespassers are likely to break down the young growth. Sometimes it is necessary to enclose a garden entirely in a high wire-netting fence, a foot, or more, away from hedges, trees, etc. ; if cattle graze on the envioning land this is essential. Luckily netting does not seriously spoil the scene. The only other alternative is to grow nothing that is not prickly for the boundary lines, but that sadly restricts choice, and hollies and gorse are very slow-growing.

The more rugged the earth is the better ; fields of different beautiful thistles, hawkweeds, poppies, and scabiouses can be made on the crests of gravel pits, or chalky gorges ; brambles and single roses may overhang them. A lovely effect is to put up a tall larch

pole on one "beetling crag," grow hops to climb it, and let some hang down as a green drapery over the edge. The bottom of a sandy excavation will not want covering with vegetation, for a log seat or two there will be valuable, but a few bracken roots, a patch or so of heather, and a stately mullein in some corner may be introduced.

A copse is a semi-circle, or nearly complete circle of bushes and trees, enclosing greensward, maybe towered over by a beech, elm, or lime; anyhow, it is an excellent plan to make a copse about any existing tall, deciduous tree, dot the grass with primroses, bluebells, and wood-anemones, use privet, hawthorn, blackthorn, broom, gorse, elder, hazel, hornbeam, scarlet dogwood, Portugal laurel, all or any, for the shrubs, let them be run over by climbing white bindweed, traveller's joy, dog-roses, honeysuckle, or bryony.

As for paths, there are sure to be trodden ones already on the ground; others may be marked off, cleared of turf, and beaten hard. It looks better to strew them with coarse sand, roadside grit, than red gravel; or smashed brick rubble will do. Cinders are out of place in the wilderness. Other walks may be of the rough turf, cropped by tethered goats, or occasionally gone over by scythe, machine, or shears; grassy slopes will look especially well, whether leading up or down, and many plants can be introduced to fringe the sides, wood sorrels (oxalises), harebells (*campanula rotundifolia*), cinquefoils (single potentillas), turfing daisies, white and red clover, ground ivy, celandines, primroses, wild strawberries, speedwells, lady's slipper, cuckoopints, blue and white cupidone (*catanache*), the lesser St. John's worts,

periwinkles, cowslips, orchis, dwarf scabiouses (*scabiosa graminifolia*, *scabiosa parnassiæfolia*), self-heal (*prunella incisa rubra*), poppies, pimpernels (*anagallis*), and sweet woodruff.

Specimen trees, suitable for planting, either in turf or areas of cleared ground, are those advised earlier for breaking the hedge levels, also sycamores, the service tree, wild plum, quince, and walnut, weeping birches, chestnuts, maples, golden or black poplars, Scotch firs, a ten-foot specimen of which costs but half a crown, spruce firs, and planes.

This may be called the absolute wilderness. It is within every gardener's power to make a grand wilderness with garden trees, shrubs, and plants, as well as with those that are to be met with wild in Great Britain. Ruggedness of land will still afford the best opportunities for securing irregular effects, the wild, luxurious, untamed look that is so eminently soothing to the spirits of all lovers of freedom.

Thickets can be built of the Japanese roses, of giant sea-hollies, immense ferns, cultivated rhubarb, sea-kale, and lettuces, white broom, rhododendrons, American currants, guelder roses, mock oranges, and lilacs. Hedges, of composite attractions, may contain barberries, spray-bushes, veronicas, kalmias, hardy fuchsias where these thrive, escallonias, double and single red, rose, and white hawthorns, golden, silver, and red dogwoods, and the pink tamarisks.

Ah, how tenderly all the ups and downs of ground should be studied and made use of—maybe exaggerated! There should be cavernous nooks almost under earth, and rustic seats on hill-tops, nearly hidden retreats beneath trees, visible arbours, vine, ivy, and

traveller's joy embowered huts. Among the woodland scenery we ought to come upon nut glades, avenues of the bracken fern again, nestled around by heather and bluebells; banks may bound them, all snowy with perennial candytuft (*iberis sempervirens*), all silver and carmine through a covering of Jove's campion (*lychnis flos-Jovis*), or azure with forget-me-nots that seem to flow down to meet water in a little ditch beside mosses, rushes, daffodils, and blue bugle.

Fields of great beauty can be sown, as well as planted. A slight forking, refining, perhaps watering of the site in March or April, a scattering of mixed seeds, the use of a fine rake to draw a meagre covering over, and, hey presto, the deed is done! Showers and sunshine will call forth the crops.

What shall we choose for the wilderness of florists' varieties of hardy flowers? A selection may be made among the following, seed of which is in no case costly:

Pheasant's Eye. *Adonis autumnalis*, carmine-scarlet.
2 feet.

Red or white Hawkweed. *Boerhausia rubra* and
alba. 1 foot.

Pot Marigolds. *Calendulas officinalis* and *superba*,
orange. 1 foot.

Calliopsis. *C. tinctoria* yellow and crimson. *C. tinctoria*
nigra speciosa, terra-cotta crimson. 2 feet.

Cornflowers. *Cyanus minor*, in deep or pale blue, white,
rose, or maroon purple. $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

Corn Marigolds. *Chrysanthemum segetum grandiflorum*, yellow. 1 foot.

Clarkia. *Clarkia elegans rosea*, pink, *alba*, white; or
Clarkia pulchella, carmine. 2 feet.

- Collins Toadflax. *Collinsia tinctoria purpurea*, magenta. $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet.
- Erysimum. *Erysimum Peroffskianum*, orange. $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet.
- Eucharidium. *Eucharidium grandiflorum*, magenta. $1\frac{1}{4}$ feet.
- Phlox-wort. *Gilia achillæfolia major*, cobalt blue. 2 feet.
- Chalk Plant. *Gypsophila elegans*, white or rosy. $1\frac{1}{4}$ feet.
- Sunflowers. Miniature sunflowers make a lovely field among oats and other grasses.
- Red Flax. *Linum rubrum*, or the rose variety. $1\frac{1}{4}$ feet.
- Common Flax. *Linum usitatissimum*, pale blue. 2 feet.
- Love-in-a-Mist. *Nigella damascena*, deep blue, 1 foot ; *Nigella hispanica*, pale blue. $1\frac{1}{4}$ feet.
- Larkspurs. Blue, white, rose, violet, or cerise. 3 feet.

As for poppies, they are all suitable, but the method for reaping most delight from them is to send to some florist of renown for a packet of seed mixed specially for broadcast sowing. This may either be sown alone, or mingled with seed of mixed annual ornamental grasses. Language falters before the attempt to describe the undulating, richly-hued, pale-tinted, mysterious, bewitching, nodding field that will adorn the summer landscape. Little poppies will nestle at the feet of monster poppies ; Shirleys and the double ranunculus flowered poppies, of incredible hues, will toss their heads together in company with the grassy tassels ; solid phalanxes of giant opium poppies

will demonstrate what luscious large leaves some members of the family can produce; apricot-hued poppies will give a hint of gold, as of ripe corn, and there will be actually blue, if a packet of seed of the new Shirley named "Celeste" is added to the supply of less rare sorts.

Fields are not the sole wonders that the gardener may sow. She will find that an expanse of foliage plants has a meritorious manner of imitating that leaf painting which Mother Nature brings into all her *chefs d'œuvres*, the greens to be grateful to the sight always as moderating brilliances, the russets, ochres, and crimsons to bring autumn glories ere their time. Probably the finest hardy annual for giving ruby foliage, that finally reaches purple, is *atriplex hortensis atosanguinea*, which grows to a height of four feet, yet scarcely an amateur gardener seems to know the plant. To have it at its most robust the seed should be sown under glass in early March, the seedlings be potted off singly, kept in a cold greenhouse or frames, until they can be safely hardened off by being stood outside a few days previous to putting out. Two shifts, the second being into larger pots when the first small ones are root-filled, are quite worth giving to this noble *atriplex*. Still, it will arise if merely sown out of doors.

Another grand hardy annual to sow in the same way is the common hemp, a member of the nettle tribe, but without a sting (*cannabis gigantea*), enormous leaved, and eight feet tall. For shady ground the black balsam should be prepared, by March or February sowing under glass; this is a four-foot grower, not tender like the familiar balsams, and, though excellent

for its habit and leafage alone, is worth cultivating well, so that its darkest-purple flowers may be had early. It is called *impatiens glanduligera* in catalogues, and a packet of seed costs threepence.

A feathery, grass-green, tall foliage annual, of pyramid shape, is *artemesia annua*, so hardy and quick-growing that it should be sown in March or April where required ; later in the season it turns into a golden sugar-loaf shrub ; for every branch, to its tip, is clothed in yellow fluffy floescence. The handsome beets that are employed for bedding are so easy to raise under glass that they may well be planted out in May to form coverts beneath flowering shrubs such as mock-oranges, guelder-roses, white broom, and meadow-sweets.

Among grasses lurk some most attractive monsters. We all admire the Japanese maize (*zea japonica variegata*), and ought to patronise the taller *zea japonica gigantea quadricolor*, whose leaves are striped with cream, rose, and yellow, but among perennials there are equally fine subjects, notably the pink as well as the white pampas, *eulalia japonica* too, that sends its flowery panicles to a prodigious height above its striped blades, the silvery five-foot *andropogon argenteus*, and the extra graceful *melica altissima*. Any of these, among broad-leaved plants, and around red-hot pokers, or *eremuri*, hollyhocks, Russian sunflowers, or tall coneflowers, suggest the rich ground-covering of some tropic jungle.

A feature should be made of climbing convolvuluses in the wilderness garden ; they may mount fences, envelop hedges or trees, or be given poles roughly latticed between by string. The variegated Japanese hops and canary creeper are other rampant climbers.

Stake or trunk-supported bushes of everlasting peas can be recommended. *Lathyrus latifolius* can be had now in white, pale pink, magenta-rose, and crimson; other climbing species of real beauty are *lathyrus pubescens*, pale blue, *lathyrus pisiformis*, bright purple, and the peculiar showy hardy annual Tangier pea (*lathyrus tingitanus*), which can be cultivated as easily as the sweet pea.

A wilderness style of planting can be adopted in parts of any garden that is too large for the owner to deal with in other fashions, for the cost of sowing big plots is really suited to all purses. Poppies, nasturtiums, and mignonette can get on famously without any manure in the soil, so can sunflowers, gross feeders though they are when better nourished. Then plants for covering immense spaces rapidly, because able to be put out as far apart as a yard, and yet to be confidently looked to for a magnificent show, include annual chrysanthemums coronarium and carinatum, annual lupins (*lupinus Hartwegii*, blue and white, *lupinus hybridus albococcineus*, cerise and white, *roseus*, pink, *luteus*, yellow, all two and a half feet), the pink and the white mallow worts (*lavatera trimestris grandiflora*), tall satin flowers (*godetias*), African marigolds, rocket larkspurs, the new annual hollyhocks that bloom freely the first year from seed, imperial sweet sultans, and the medium tall sunflowers, golden nigger, deep gold, diadem, lemon, and orion, of twisted, or "cactus," petals. Then there are cheap plants of regal aspect—coloured and white tobaccos, or nicotianas, the perennial sunflower, Miss Mellish, lavender Michaelmas daisies, mixed tall snapdragons, and Canterbury bells. These, at a yard or more

apart, will be an efficient furnishing. Single dahlias too are sold each May for twenty-five a shilling, and can stand five feet each from each. Canterbury bells, sweet rockets, honesty, foxgloves, and the majestic chimney campanula are all biennials; they can be raised in outdoor seed-beds, or boxes under glass, in May, June, or July, and all but the last are certain to survive winter if put out in their blossoming quarters in October. The bell-flower, except in southern gardens, should be frame-sheltered until March.

To place an iron and wood seat or a painted pagoda summer-house in the real wilderness garden would be an impropriety of which no woman of taste could be guilty. Log seats are the happiest thought, and can be made comfortable by having the upper layer of bark removed and the under wood flattened, or partly hollowed out. If desired, the bark can be nailed on again to the levelled or scooped-out surface.

Every attempt should be made to gain luxuriant growth, whether from trees, shrubs, plants, or climbers; a certain degree of neglect can be practised, so that branches entwine, self-sown subjects usurp positions to which they have no title, paths be invaded by mosses, ferns, and trailing sprays, brambles weave unplanned thickets, wild roses and hops, traveller's joy and convolvuluses insist on making arches; but the care of the zealous gardener will be in requisition to restrain and feed, support and deprive of seed-vessels. No, a wilderness is emphatically not "a garden allowed to run to waste," although a dictionary has dared to say so!

Gardening Proverb.—"You can't have too much of a variety of good things."

CHAPTER XXVII

PANSIES AND PRIMULAS

"A great point in villa-gardening is to carry out well one sole idea. Great variety there cannot be, nor contrast, in the moderate area of ground which most villas possess; but there may be high finish, perfect good taste, choice selection, and manifestation of science and skill. To attain this happy end there must be unity of design; without it, except by the merest accident, there will be merely a jumbling hotch-potch, or chance-medley salmagundi of gardening, whatever amount of cash and labour may be bestowed on horticultural incongruities. But with unity of design, and a leading idea consistently carried out in all its details, failure is scarcely possible."—EUGENE SEBASTIAN DELAMER.

THE title for this chapter would have been more correctly written as "Violas and Primulas," or "Pansies and Primroses," yet the polyglot union of English and Latin expresses the meaning better. Try though we may to have simple names for flowers, circumstances become too strong for us, and we have to sink back on scientific words, just for distinction's sake. Our great-grandfathers were content to speak of "heartsease," then "pansy" was generally adopted, from the French "*pensées*." Of course Spencer called the flower "pawnee," and Shakespeare made Ophelia say:

"There's pansies, that's for thoughts,"

but the common name was anciently "heartsease." To the Greeks, far back in the centuries, the flower was known as phlox, signifying a flame; the early Christians

made it "Trinity flower," in allusion to its triple lower petals; the Italians christened it the winged or the butterfly violet. Old Saxon pet names for it were "love-in-idleness," "jump-up-and-kiss-me," "call-me-to-you," and "three-faces-under-one-hood."

Nowadays we have a terribly muddled way of speaking of "pansies and violas," viola being just the title of a whole genus, by which violets are equally meant, as well as several other plant species. The consequence is that persons are constantly asking what is the difference between a viola and a pansy, and as constantly receiving answers that leave them puzzled. It is folly to insist upon the pansy's having three blotches, because those are small in very many of the classic show varieties, and degenerate into mere hair-lines in others. Also "violas," by which is meant bedding pansies, sometimes have blotches too.

An ancient writer, before the days of the foolish distinction between pansies and "bedding pansies," wrote thus:

"CHARACTERS OF A FINE HEARTSEASE.

"The chief object to be desired is symmetry of the flower. The petals should be large, broad, and flat, lying upon each other so as to form a circle, and prevent anything like angles or intersections of this circular outline: a character which excludes the old purple and the old white. . . . The petals should be as nearly of a size as possible, the two top ones being longest, but so covered with the two side ones as not to appear disproportioned. The top petals should not wave, nor turn back. The bottom petal should be broad and two-lobed, flat, and not curving inwards

Above an inch in breadth is a good size. The colours should be clear, brilliant, and not changing. . . . The eye should not be too large, and it is accounted finest when the pencilling is so arranged as to form a dark, angular spot."

Giant pansies to-day are much wider of lowest petal than "one inch," but they have deteriorated as to shape; the petals are seldom anything like of one size, they twist and curl, flap or turn backwards, if not inwards.

The woman gardener who wishes to see perfect specimens, or to start with some excellent stock to propagate from, would do well to buy six English show and six named fancy pansies; more, of course, if she cares to. They are priced at from three shillings a dozen to twelve shillings for newer varieties, and really the old are the more reliable. Show pansies have been ousted in popularity by the larger "fancies," yet are of classic outline and exceeding charm. There are white, yellow, blue, and purple "selfs," as well as edged varieties, and the blotches are never very covering to the petals. A magnificent dozen of fancy pansies would be :

Col. M. R. G. Buchanan. Violet blotches, narrowly edged white; upper petals violet and purple, laced with white.

Mrs. Macfadyen. Chocolate blotches, belted with yellow and rose; upper petals yellow and rose.

Lord Roberts. Prune blotches, top petals straw, banded broadly with carmine, and cream-edged.

Mrs. M. M'Callum. Violet blotches, edged straw ; top petals straw.

Mrs. William Sinclair. Blue violet blotches, edged with yellow ; top petals sulphur yellow, also blotched with blue.

James McNab. Black blotches, edged yellow ; upper petals yellow.

Jenny Morris. Blue blotches, margins and top petals light red-crimson.

Effie R. Wilson. Immense violet blotches, edged white ; upper petals violet.

Mrs. Campbell. A bright yellow self, with claret blotches.

Mrs. Yorke. Red-violet blotches, margins and top petals white, spotted and flushed with magenta.

Madge Montgomery. Claret blotches, cream edged ; top petals similar.

Marquis of Graham. Large white self, with black blotches.

Most of the above have been granted many certificates of merit.

Really the best name for the viola is tufted pansy, as this bedding strain spreads in tufts, instead of sending out long, thick stems like the giant pansy.

Next the gardener should invest in a dozen named varieties of this most useful class. Where thousands are admirable it is risky to select only twelve, but the following are of noted merit.

Mrs. H. Pearce. White self, with yellow eye, but no blotch or hair-lines at all, so described as "rayless."

Mrs. C. B. Douglas. Orange, slightly rayed.

Ithuriel. Azure-mauve.

Kingcup. Rayless yellow.

Florizel. Blue-lilac.

Blue Duchess. Pale blue.

William Niel. Pale rose.

Royal Scott. Deep blue.

Sylvia. Rayless cream.

White Empress. Rayless white.

Duchess of Fife. Cream-yellow, with narrow blue edge.

Mauve Queen. Mauve self.

These are all of good bedding habit, and will not straggle.

Then miniature violas, or violettas, are delightful little strangers to welcome to any garden ; if propagated from freely a supply sufficient for an edging, or a carpet for a lawn bed, can be obtained within a year or two. There are not many varieties in the market. Violetta, the type plant, is white, so is Blanche ; Picotee has a narrow blue-mauve edging to snowy petals, and Gold Crest interprets its own name.

All these four types, show and fancy pansies, tufted pansies, and violettas, can be raised from seed. If from a collection of named varieties there will be many fine formed flowers, others of less good shape but attractive colour ; unluckily the qualities have a way of being separated, seldom united. Tufted pansies are seldom satisfactory for bedding out with when seed-grown, because the majority will prove tall growers instead of dwarf ; yet among the items of that majority are nearly sure to be discovered the biggest

blooms and the fairest shades. It stands to reason that when skilled florists have bred a plant in and out for year after year, striving to obtain a blend of merits, and, having achieved this, have laboured more years to work up the stock, the flowers are better entitled to approval than are chance seedlings. Now and then a prize variety appears unsolicited, but it is one out of thousands of good, fairly good, mediocre, and worthless seedlings. For filling large beds among tall perennials, making broad borders, pretty edging lines, giving warm colour to the semi-shady rockeries, clothing banksides, furnishing shrubbery foregrounds and glades, seedlings will be charming, very robust, extra floriferous.

Our old author has some good advice to give on seed sowing :

“ I have frequently had occasion to find that heartsease seed will not germinate if it be kept for more than twelve months, at least when it is sown without bottom heat. It will therefore be advisable to sow it as soon as may be convenient after it is ripe, if this is not too late in the season, or if there is no command of artificial heat.

“ The seed may be sown from April till September in beds of rich, light soil, in a shady border not under the drip of trees, or, what is preferable, in pans or boxes filled with similar soil.

“ The seeds should be sown as evenly as possible, to prevent the plants from being overcrowded, in which case they are liable to damp off. . . . When sown in pans or boxes it will be useful to place these, if convenient, in a gentle heat till the seeds germinate, as in this way valuable sorts may be procured, which would not come up at all without heat.”

Seed-beds made up under a west wall or fence are capital for raising any sort of pansy ; drills across open, sunny ground answer well, the bottoms being left three inches lower than the ground level, and bits of glass being laid along the lines to cover the small trench. The use of some carbolic powder will keep away slugs. Seedlings should be transplanted when about an inch high ; they stand a poor chance if set in broiling sunshine, unless they were very early raised—in February or March under glass—so the practice is often adopted of putting them four inches apart along the back of a north border.

Pansies are quickly increased by root division, which may be done at any time of year, in winter in cold frames, in spring and autumn anywhere out of doors, in hot summer in a cool, shady, damp spot. Without lifting plants it is often easy, the ground having been watered, to pull up young shoots, with rootlets attached, from the core of the overgrown roots. Tufted pansies can have side portions detached thus, as they root all round.

When a fine pansy is to be propagated from, and there are no young shoots, a mulch of old cow-manure, and attention to watering, will probably cause some to form ; meanwhile the long, coarse, straggling, flowered or flowering shoots may be pegged down into a scooped hollow beneath them, after lining it well with leaf mould and sand. Sometimes the tip of the shoot, divested of flower-buds, will root ; at other times, if young growth promises along the stem, it is wiser to nip off the enfeebled end shoot, and wait for the baby ones to grow, which they will speedily do in the cavity and sandy compost. As many as three layered shoots

may be turned into healthy young pansies on the same stem, from which they have, of course, to be cut free as soon as well rooted.

Young shoots from the plants or stems, detached without any roots, about three or four joints long, cut off close to a joint, can usually be safely rooted, or "struck," in very sandy compost, in a bed or pans, pots, or boxes, in a quite shady frame. The woman gardener should realise once more that, if she has no frame at her command, all she requires is a deep deal case from the grocer's, and some sheets of rough glass to cover the top.

Tufted pansies are at home in sun or shade ; large pansies prefer semi-shade. The named varieties often fail in full sun-heat, while seed-raised plants flourish grandly even in southern county south aspect borders. Again we may note a difference—tufted pansies do not need a lot of feeding, about one-third the amount that the big race requires, and for the giants some extra feeding once a week, from March to September, is not excessive. The manures may be those advised in a former chapter for violets. Watering must be done in times of drought. Planting of bought pansies is best performed in October, that they may have time to develop grand strength before the spring season ; March and April planting is just a tolerable makeshift. The stiffer and richer the soil for the large species, the more will they thrive. But it need not be reckoned that they are only spring, and occasionally autumn, bloomers ; beds ought to be gay all the floral months, and the secrets for having them so are two—firstly, never allow a seed-pod to form, secondly, restrict the roots to five flowering shoots, and keep them so

restricted. Only three flowering shoots are allowed when pansies are cultivated for exhibition.

Most noted seedsmen have their own strains of seed of fancy pansies ; a few have also of the show pansies that have lapsed in popularity because not as immense. In addition there are noted kinds, such as :

Bugnot's Giant. Large and beautifully blotched.

Giant Five-spotted. Large blotch on each of the five petals.

Masterpiece. With frilled edges.

Trimardeau. Immense, many coloured, but floppy of petal.

Victoria Giant. Rich red, black blotched.

Bath's Giant. Enormous and robust, but flower stems short.

Bath's Empress. Not as large, but of wonderful colours, and with long stems. Admirable for garden decoration.

New Giant Eros. Velvet-brown, edged yellow.

New Giant Raphael. Blue-violet and white.

Giant Parisian. Said to be largest of all.

Peacock. Not large, but original, having a blend of rich metallic hues.

Rainbow. All pale tints.

Fairy Queen. The nearest to sky-blue.

Cardinal. Carmine shades, usually marked with white.

Queen of Sheba. The finest purple-black.

Emperor William. Varies from seed, but mostly royal, or China, blue.

Black King. Actually the black of soot.

Canary-bird. Yellow, sepia blotched.

Giant Fire-Dragon. Scarlet-crimson and amber.

Madame Perret. All shades of old rose, red, crimson, and maroon.

Mauve Queen. Mauve, crimson blotched.

Rose Queen. Rose-lilac.

Solfaterre. Primrose, with small blue blotches.

Snow Queen. Pure white.

Tufted pansies, if not in mixture, may be sown in separate colours; seed is not generally offered from named varieties by title, as seedlings are almost sure not to be true.

“A great point in villa gardening is to carry out well one sole idea,” wrote Mr. Delamer, more than forty years ago. The owner of any small or medium-sized garden would make a name for herself if she specialised in pansies, or in “primulas.”

Now primula is the name of the whole race—of families that come to us from utterly antagonistic habitats and many foreign lands, that differ as much in needs as in appearance. Yellow and hybrid-coloured primroses, polyanthus, oxlips, cowslips, may be sown any time from February to August, in moist, sandy, light soil, in shaded cold frames, or in March and April, or September, in similar soil, in shady seed-beds or borders.

Alpine auriculas need the frame treatment, or may be raised, as was the old custom, on a gentle hot-bed in February, with a valuable hastening of results.

The exquisite double primroses are aristocrats indeed, and there are red and other coloured named singles that cost a shilling or two a plant. Semi-shady rockery mounds for these are lovely at lawn edges. Then there are uncommon primula species that

may be grown out of doors in semi-shade, wherever the other primroses are known to thrive. These are mostly difficult to raise from seed, and the shady frame, failing a cool greenhouse, is the only possible place for the pans. The amateur gardener who is brave, and loves experimenting, will no doubt like to try her luck, but time and trouble are saved by purchasing a plant of each species and propagating these. There will remain a certainty of local fame, because very few flower-cultivators realise how splendid are some of the unfamiliar primulas, how bewitchingly dainty the others, that will live in beds and borders, if those are well drained, or in rockery nooks.

HARDY PRIMULAS

Bird's Eye Primrose. *Primula farinosa*. Rosy lilac.
Likes shade. 7 inches.

Fern-leaved Bird's-eye Primrose. *Primula farinosa frondosa*. Silver, and red purple. 6 inches.

Helvetian Primrose. *Primula helvetica alba*. White.
Resembles an auricula, but is small. Sandy soil needed.

Munroi's Primrose. *Primula involucrati*. White ;
sweet-scented, hardy. A tall species.

Japanese Primrose. *Primula japonica*. Crimson flowers in whorls. Requires moist ground. 1 to 3 feet.

Primula lutea. Also needs damp soil. Yellow. 1½ feet tall.

Himalayan Primrose. *Primula rosea grandiflora*.
Damp soil. Rosy carmine trusses in spring and summer. 9 inches.

Himalayan Cowslip. *Primula sikkimensis*. Yellow

pendant blossoms in clusters. Moist soil.
Hardy. $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

Primula Spectabilis. Rosettes of foliage, sprays of rosy-purple. 4 inches.

Primula Viscosa. Bright rose-and-white. 4 inches.

Primula Calycina. Dark rosettes of foliage, heads of magenta-purple. 5 inches.

Bear's-ear Primrose. Rose. Beautiful fern-like leaves. 9 inches.

Toothed Primrose. *Primula denticulata*. Needs moist soil ; a deep cleft in a rockery base is best. Lilac. 1 foot.

Siebold's Primrose. Very showy, with broad foliage and fine flowers, crimson, lilac, white, pink, etc. Hardy ; grows best in semi-shade and soil rich and light, not too damp. 9 inches.

Primula Bulleyana. A gorgeous buff, flushed with orange-scarlet. Will flourish in conditions the same as for Siebold's primrose. 1 foot to $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

To make a garden famous for its primulas will be to render it a perennial delight, so if the cost is more than would be needed for stocking it with bedding plants for a year or two, the expenditure will not spell extravagance. Most of the display can be made with coloured primroses and polyanthus from seed, not forgetting the blue strains, hardy auriculas too, and the priceless wilding of our woods. There should be whole banks covered by that, some of plain soil held up by the primrose leaves alone, others turfed and dotted over, a few fronted by a rustic fencing with mosses, ferns, and the dear yellow flowers peeping through the wide spaces.

Many of the primula species are at their best in June. Later than that, before the autumn flowers yielded by polyanthuses, hybrid primroses, and cowslips that have been divided after the spring show, the gardener may put out greenhouse primulas, for summer till early winter blossom, anywhere not too sunny, since primula obconica, primula Kewensis, yellow, primula Forbesi, rose, and the fairy primrose (primula malacoides), will thrive in almost all counties.

Gardening Proverb.—"Take care of the soil, and the roots will take care of themselves."

CHAPTER XXVIII

PRUNINGS, CLIPPINGS, AND PROPAGATION

"The truly efficient labourer will not crowd his day with work, but will saunter to his task surrounded by a wide halo of ease and leisure, and then do but what he loves best. He is anxious only about the fruitful kernels of time. . . . Let a man take time enough for the most trivial deed, though it be but the paring of his nails. The buds swell imperceptibly, without hurry or confusion, as if the short spring days were an eternity. . . . Some hours seem not to be occasion for any deed, but for resolves to draw breath in. We do not directly go about the execution of the purpose that thrills us, but shut our doors behind us and ramble with prepared mind, as if the half were already done. Our resolution is taking root or hold on the earth then, as seeds first send a shoot downwards which is fed by their own albumen, ere they send one upward to the light." —THOREAU.

A GARDEN is slow of making, although much effect may be wrought in its initial season. Only by degrees will plants, trees, and shrubs become finest in individual specimens or sufficient in quantity. The woman who regards her work with the emotionalism of a poet will rejoice that she is, in some ways, toiling for the happiness of those who will come after her; for every loyal artist is member of a Christian brotherhood, and cannot grudge toil by which the future must benefit. Fair lawns, groves, woodlands, shrubberies, and hedges are not destined for the sole pleasure of any one human being, family, or century.

Many gardening processes have enormous results; planting an acorn or a fir-cone, for example—which

reflection brings us at once to the consideration of how long-lasting vegetable giants are propagated. Sticking a branch of a laurel, or willow, into the ground may create a striking feature in a garden landscape for countless years to follow. Cutting down a noble line of yew means the destruction of something that decades will be needed to restore, which is an argument for profound meditation before the use of the knife, axe, or saw.

It would be impossible to give, in this volume, an exhaustive list of the methods of pruning and propagating garden ornaments, but some hints have been gathered together to serve as guide for the culture of those most likely to be within the care of the lady horticulturist for home—little beauties, as well as large.

Instructions

- Heather. Prune straggling shoots in March or April. Cuttings of young shoots can be inserted, half their depth, in sand and peat, under hand-lights, in semi-shade, in September.
- Sea Holly. Eryngiums. Seed, in frames, in April. Root division in October.
- Escallonias. Prune straggling shoots only in April. Cuttings of half-ripe wood in sandy compost, in frames in August or September.
- Blue Gum. Eucalyptus. No pruning needed. Sow seeds in spring, in temperature of 65 degrees.
- Euonymus. Prune or clip in October or April. Insert cuttings of former year's growth, 3 to 6 inches long, in cold frame, in September, or try boughs a foot long, stripped to the tip,

inserted two-thirds of their length in sandy borders in semi-shade, in October.

Golden Ball. Forsythia. Prune into shape after blossom is over. Layer side shoots into ground, in sand-lined hollows, in October. Cuttings, 4 inches, in sand and cocoa-nut-fibre refuse, kept damp, in pots under glass, in October.

Outdoor Tree Fuchsias. Prune hard in early November. Cuttings in shady border in April. For bedding fuchsias, treat as geraniums.

Broom. Prune into shape after blossoming. Sow in cold frame, or outdoors, in sandy soil in April. Layer in October.

Deutzia. Prune after flowering. Cuttings, 3 to 4 inches long, of young shoots, in frames in July. Cuttings 1 foot long inserted 6 inches deep, in semi-shady border in November.

Sweet Williams. Seed in boxes under glass in March, or outdoor sunny beds in April or May. Cuttings in sand and leaf mould, in greenhouse of 60 degrees in April, or in frames in September.

Bush Honeysuckle. Weigela. Prune after flowering. Cuttings of firm wood, 6 inches long, inserted half their depth, in cool border in October.

Outdoor Hydrangeas. *Hydrangea hortensis*. Prune straggling shoots in early March, and cut out dead wood. *Hydrangea paniculata*: prune the former year's shoots back to one inch of the base, on boughs, in early March. Cuttings of 3-inch shoots, in thumb pots in cold frame in August. Division of old roots in March,

Holly. Prune or clip in April or September. Sow berries in October that were gathered the previous winter and have been stored in dry sand; sow in semi-shade, or drills in sunshine. Do not remove seedlings until two years' growth has been made.

Jasmine. Cut away shoots directly flowers on them have faded. Cuttings, 6 inches long, in west borders in September. Layer basal shoots in August.

Laburnum. Prune after flowering. Sow seeds out of doors in April.

Everlasting Peas. Cut down in October. Divide roots in March. Sow seeds in temperature of about 60 degrees in March, or out of doors in April.

Laurels. Prune in April, to preserve shape, or clip. Cuttings, new wood, in lengths of 1 to 2 feet, taken with a heel of the old wood, stripped half, or more, their length, and inserted that depth in sandy borders of shade or semi-shade, in August, September, or October, make the quickest rooting cuttings. Suckers can often be detached from the roots.

Privet. Prune evergreens in April, deciduous sorts (among which golden privet ranks, though it retains much foliage always in warm gardens) in October. Clip hedges in July. Cuttings, 7 inches to 1 foot, in shady border in September.

Honeysuckle. Deciduous, prune previous year's shoots to within 3 inches of their base in February. Evergreens, prune only into shape, after

flowering. Layer shoots in August. Cuttings, 8 inches long, in sand and leaf mould, or cocoanut-fibre refuse and grit, in cold frame bed in October.

Box Thorn, or Tea Tree. *Lycium*. Tip vigorous shoots in February; cut out dead or feeble branches in October. Prune close hedges into neat shape in July. Cuttings, 8 inches, inserted two-thirds, in shade in September. Suckers can usually be detached ready rooted.

Outdoor Myrtles. Prune into shape in March. Cuttings, 8 inches long, inserted singly in 6-inch pots of leaf mould and coarse silver sand, nearly to the base of pots; pots to stand in water-filled saucers, from June onwards, under glass.

Pæonies. Propagate herbaceous sorts by division of roots in March.

Oriental Poppies. Old roots can be divided in March.

Passion Flower. Prune in February, cutting weak shoots freely, strong ones slightly. Layer in summer.

Bedding Geraniums. Lift plants before frost reaches them, pot off singly in small pots, or closely together in large pots or boxes, removing half foliage, and store anywhere under cover in temperature of 45 degrees, unless required for greenhouse decoration. Insert cuttings in cold frame bed in August; keep from all frost, and pot off in March, or pot cuttings in August for housing in moderately warm

- greenhouse. Sow in sandy loam, in temperature about 60 degrees, in February or March.
- Pentstemon. Prune old plants back in April. Sow as geraniums. Old roots can be divided in April.
- Mock Orange. Shorten shoots that have bloomed. Layers or 9-inch cuttings in cold frame sandy beds in May.
- Poplar Hedges. Prune in November or February.
- Ornamental Prunus. Shorten straggling boughs after blossoming. Thin out branches that overcrowd.
- Myrobald Plum. Hedges should be trimmed in July.
- Rhododendron. Hardy species. Prune in April. Remove seed pods while quite small. Thin out flower buds. Layer in March or September.
- American Currant. Prune into shape after flowering. 8-inch cuttings out of doors anywhere, in October. Detach suckers, ready rooted, in February.
- Elders. Prune into shape in November. Pinch out tips of shoots of gold and silver elders in July, to check too wild growth and preserve the colours. Cuttings, 6 to 8 inches, anywhere, kept damp.
- Solanum Jasminoides. Climber. Prune only straggling shoots, in February.
- Shrubby Meadowsweets. Spiræas of tall sorts. Prune back a few inches after flowering.
- Lilac. Prune directly after flowering, only the shoots that have blossomed, to within 4 inches of their base. Easily propagated by root suckers.

Yew. Prune or clip shrubs and hedges in April or September.

Thuya, or Arbor-vitæ. Prune or clip in April or September.

Guelder Rose. Prune lightly after flowering. Layer shoots in September.

Laurustinus. Prune into shape in April. Cuttings of half-ripened wood, in sandy compost, in pots, in cold frame, in September.

Wistaria. Keep main branches uncut, but shorten shoots springing from branches to 1 inch in January. Layer young shoots into the ground, or into sandy loam in pots tied up among the boughs.

Yucca. Propagate by division in March, or suckers in April.

Horse Chestnut. Prune unshapely boughs in November. Sow 3 inches deep, outdoors in March.

Lemon-scented Verbena. Prune shoots to within an inch of base in February. Cuttings, pulled off stem, not cut, 4 inches long, in pots of sand and leaf mould, in warm greenhouse in March.

Lavender. Prune into shape in March. Pull off 6 to 8-inch young branches from woody stems; insert half their depth in shade of parent bush in September or April.

Almond. Make straggly growth tidy; no pruning required. Sow stones in border in October, 6 inches deep.

Southernwood. No pruning needed. Insert cuttings as for lavender, but any time from July to October.

Auricula. Propagate by seed (*see* chapter on pansies

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and primulas), or by offsets removed in February.

Hardy Azaleas. Prune straggling shoots after flowering.

Orange Ball Tree. Buddleia. Remove dead wood and shorten wild shoots only, in April.

Box Shrubs. Clip in April.

Box Edging. Plant dwarf box (*buxus sufruticosa*), as sold for the purpose, each rooted portion nearly touching its neighbour, buried so that the tips are but just 2 inches above soil, in March or October. Clip in April or August. One nursery yard of box divides to make 3 yards of box edging.

Flowering Cherries. Slightly shorten vigorous branches; cut out dead or feeble ones in January or February.

Allspice. *Chimonanthus fragrans*. Climber. Shorten all flowered shoots in February to one inch of their base, except when any are required to extend width or height of the plant. Layer in September.

Hawthorn (May). Prune into shape, if necessary, in November.

Firethorn. *Cratægus pyracantha*. Prune in February, removing shoots that have carried berries. Sow berries as for the holly.

Mezereum. *Daphne mezereum*. One seed in each berry. Sow in autumn, as soon as ripe, out of doors.

Pampas Grass. Cut away dead foliage at any time that spoils the appearance of the clump. Sow seeds in glass-covered pan of sandy compost,

in greenhouse or propagator, temperature about 60 degrees, in March or April.

Witch Hazel. Hamamelis. Prune into shape in February. Layer in October.

Ivy. See chapter on climbers. Cuttings of firm nature, 8 inches long, round edges of pots of loam and road-grit, in cold frame in October for delicate sorts, in made drill of similar compost, where plants are wanted, for hardy kinds, in September or October.

Oak. Prune deciduous kinds in December, when necessary, evergreens in April. Sow acorns in March that were gathered in autumn and stored through winter in dry sand. Sow 2 inches deep, anywhere.

Herbaceous phlox. Can be propagated by cuttings, 4 inches, of shoots from the base, in cold frames in August, or greenhouse in March or April. Seeds in temperature of 55 degrees in spring, or when ripe in autumn. May take years to germinate. Division of plants is best.

Pinks. Seed sown in pans of sandy soil, barely covered, in cold frame in April or May. Cuttings or pipings (tips of shoots) inserted deeply in sand and leaf mould, kept moist, under handlight on semi-shady border, or in cold frame in June.

Pine. The pine, or any of the ordinary coned firs, may be sown half an inch deep, in moist sandy borders, in April.

Gardening Proverb.—"An acorn's a small fact, till it grows."

CHAPTER XXIX

DISEASES, INSECT PESTS, AND PERILS

“ Insects of mysterious birth
Sudden struck my wondering sight,
Doubtless brought by moisture forth,
Hid in knots of spittle white :
Backs of leaves the burden bear
Where the sunbeam cannot stray ;
' Wood Seers ' called, that wet declare,
So the knowing shepherds say.”

CLARE.

A GARDEN may be laid out by a genius, financed by a millionaire, and yet be a failure. When this happens no doubt insects are to blame. They are often the culprits who wreak ruin in more modest pleasure-grounds, though the real onus of responsibility rests on the persons who might exterminate pests, and do not do so.

The sickness of the century is the complaining fever ; no doubt it was prevalent earlier, but the franker conversation becomes, the louder and more constant are the personal grumbles, and the less does anybody try to preserve dignity. Now, in country places, it is scarcely possible to sit through a tea or a dinner without hearing amateur gardeners nearly quarrelling as to who has had the worst misfortune through slugs, snails, wireworm, and leather-jacket grubs. All the while, though seeking a species of reputation, the talkers are giving themselves shocking

characters as horticulturists. Insects do not descend upon us in the powerful style of the plagues of Egypt ; if we permit them to swarm in our beds and borders, burrow in our lawns, cover our trees, we are guilty of idleness. In the course of the competitive complaints some voice is sure to put in mournfully, " And remedies are so expensive ! " The new insecticides are, when they have to be used over a lot of ground, but long before they were invented zealous gardeners contrived to grapple with and defeat the hosts of enemies who are always lurking to come down upon land that is ill-protected. The defenders who slumber and sleep have mostly their own lethargy to thank for the evils.

Take the question of how to rid a garden of slugs and snails. The driving them away from one border into another is not of much service ; snails can sit happily among the shoots at the base of plants while the costly soil insecticides are applied lavishly all around, and slugs, nestling together among the stones of the rockery edging, can keep smiling all the while. No, the real use of soil fumigants is to free the earth that is to be sown or planted—the emptied bed or border—in which case a rock edging should be raised and the ground beneath similarly treated : they are not of much benefit to beds or borders where plants afford shelter to the vermin.

All empty ground that can lie fallow six months should be dressed with fresh gas-lime, at the rate of one and a quarter ounces to a space a yard square, during winter or earliest spring ; if more is used no crop will flourish there for about a year ; all plants or shrubs put into the poisoned earth sooner will succumb. Old gas-lime will not destroy vegetation, except of the

most tender sorts, but neither will it destroy insects. Not only will slugs be killed by the fresh gas-lime, the harder-natured, or, rather, better protected snails be driven away where they can be easily seen and caught, but all the wireworms, grubs, etc., click-beetles too, will be got rid of. The gas-lime should be spread on, then lightly forked in, to a depth of one or two feet. When slugs are doing damage among plants of any sort there are various methods for exterminating them. Experience, year after year, goes to prove that killing by hand is at once easiest, quickest, most sure, and least expensive. A woman will not like a slug-murdering expedition, but she must rejoice in ridding Mother Earth of her enemies, and can take pride in acting promptly and mercifully. How should the deeds of slaughter be performed? Many advisers say that to lift a slug on a trowel's tip and drop him into a bowl of strong salt and water gives him a painless death. But the brine must be very strong. Other non-professional gardeners have been known to make use of an entomologist's "killing-bottle." Scientists know that to guillotine a slug is kinder still. A smart downward cut, with a really sharp table-knife, severing the head just below the hooded portion known as the "shield," is, no doubt, too swift to be felt at all—or if it could be felt the preliminary blow would stun before the cut followed—and it leaves no risk of the creature's lingering in agony.

Slugs and snails must come out to feed during spring, summer, and autumn; they begin soon after sundown, or rather before on wet, dull days. An early eventide, after a thunderstorm, will bring extraordinary processions of them across the rain-darkened soil. It

almost seems that they retire after one meal, and return later for another; certainly there are hours, when gloaming has ended, in which it is difficult to discover hordes even by artificial light, whereas a lantern search over the same ground, between nine and ten o'clock, will usually reveal hundreds. By dint of visiting the plots and borders every evening for a week or two the gardener will actually rid them of the foe. Each night there will be fewer on average, allowing for the climatic influences; at last the sight of a specimen of any size will be a rarity. All the tiny slugs should be dealt with, those that are dotted on the surfaces of leaves and upon the reverses, that cling to stout or slender stalks, nestle within pansies, cover pink shoots, lie in the folds of daffodils; unless they are removed in spring they will have spoilt a vast amount of petals before autumn. There is another point to be careful about, the searching for slugs upon the lawn that bounds the beds and borders, for incredible numbers will be detected making their way to the tasty morsels of leaf and bloom that they know are near.

Carbolic powder scattered freely on soil will probably kill, eventually, such slugs as live in the ground just there, unless they recover after having trailed slowly through it and been washed by rains or dew. It is an admirable preventive, however, rather than a sure cure. Watering soil with carbolic solution is a remedy against various worms; it will not keep wandering slug and snail marauders away for long. Slacked lime, put around special plants or patches of seedlings, will preserve them, until it becomes *too* slacked—which may be the effect of the next thunder-shower. Soot is a deterrent to slugs from any distance, but those in the

border can survive it at first, though they disappear eventually from ground dressed with it once a week, or with the slacked lime.

Traps for slugs, and slug-killers in powder form, are sold and can be recommended. Home-made traps consist of cabbage leaves smeared with fat, lettuce leaves, or heaps of bran, put on the soil : these should be examined several times during evening and early night, and in the grey of the morning, if possible. Snails can be best trapped by inverted flower-pots, smeared inside with strong-smelling fat, and raised an inch from the ground, on bits of wood or flat stones, or by crumpled-up sheets of brown paper, similarly made enticing and laid on the earth among leaves of large plants, or else covered by a thrown-down tree branch.

Wireworms, straw-gold in colour, are the grubs of the "click-beetle," a very active little shiny black person who should be caught and demolished whenever seen hurrying away from upturned soil. The wireworm continues to grow for years before becoming a beetle itself, so the depredations that it can effect during its career are terrible. As has been said, the modern fumigants and insecticides will clear land of this pest, but are costly for big gardens. Pieces of rape-cake, buried an inch below the surface soil, are the most efficient traps, and it is believed that wireworms so overeat themselves with this luxury that they die of gormandising. Many gardeners use slices of raw turnips, carrots, and potatoes, as traps. Carbolic powder, frequently pricked into the ground for a depth of two inches, can be advised.

Snake millipedes, slow moving insects, and one of the rapid centmillipedes, a creature only the thickness

of a steel hat-pin, feed voraciously on roots and bulbs. They may be trapped by cabbage leaves, or will congregate under slates laid down. The leather-jacket grubs, that become crane-flies, popularly known as daddy long-legs, can be trapped like the wireworms, and soil that is much treated with liquid manures made with guano, or nitrate of soda, becomes distasteful to them. Every crane-fly to be seen on a lawn by evening should be killed, and war should also be waged on the cockchafer, whose grub burrows deep at the roots of plants and can only be found by excavating.

Ants occasionally do damage in the sandy soil of carnation beds, by tunnelling below plants and "layers"; in seed-beds and all sown ground they are most injurious, because they disturb the root-hold of baby seedlings, and their mounds look untidy upon gravel walks or turf. Carbolic powder will send them to other quarters.

The aphides, or green-fly, are seldom dreaded as they should be. They are usually difficult to see, in any quantity, until June, but they are somewhere, and begin to breed in April. As soon as they attack the rose shoots and buds they quickly deprive these of sap, consequently of all vigour. Many years ago a scientist reckoned that one greenfly will give origin, in one season, to 25,065,093,750,000,000,000 ! To syringe off the insects with only water is labour in vain ; a strong solution of one of the many nicotine liquid insecticides should be used, or else strong "tobacco tea." The aphid-brush is the handiest tool for cleaning them off rose sprays ; this little double brush, between whose bristles the aphides are caught up, should be dipped into the liquid every few minutes.

Flowers and shoots that are thought too tender to brush or syringe may be dipped quickly, or else be fumigated by burning a strip of tobacco-paper under them (holding a small box above meanwhile), or be dusted over by tobacco powder. The rose grub, which pierces buds, must be searched for almost daily, and crushed, but the more prudent gardener has, ere then, looked for the patches of eggs on the backs of leaves, and burnt those by the dozen. Some of the egg groups may be those of the saw-fly, the grub of which scallops the foliage.

Leaf-mining caterpillars make those often observable zig-zag, map-like lines upon leaves that ruin their health as well as appearance. These leaves, also those that are affected by the diseases of blight and red rust, must be plucked off, and invariably burnt. The boughs of "blighted" rose trees should be dusted with flowers of sulphur.

Spraying with a solution of quassia chips, or of soft soap, is excellent for keeping grubs, thrips, red spider, and other foes, the earwig even, off plants; it also discourages the frog-hopper, or cuckoo-spit—the wood seer of the shepherd's warning—which must be pinched dead in its white frothy covering whenever detected. Earwigs should be trapped in hollow stalks, reeds, and lengths of piping. An admirable way to clear a dahlia or hollyhock is to hang a sheet of crumpled, beer, sugar, and rum-spread brown paper up in it after dark, visit this later and drop it into a basin of soft soap and water. The earwigs become stupefied first, so cannot fly, helter-skelter, directly the paper is handled.

Toads in a garden are of good service, but there is always the unpleasant risk of driving fork or spade

through the scarcely visible creatures, or of stepping upon them as they crawl over the walks and lawn at night. Sparrows tweek off a few crocus or primrose blooms, but birds may generally be called excellent under-gardeners.

Naturally it is wiser to prevent insect pests than to remedy them. Not a scrap of dead vegetable stuff, other than a supply of leaves for leaf mould, should be allowed to lie about anywhere; dead and scattered blossoms should be swept or picked up, pruned-off branches be instantly borne away. The vegetable rubbish fire will consume all insects, eggs, and disease germs that would otherwise do harm.

Many persons are convinced that they benefit the soil by digging all rotting material, grass-clippings, even cabbage stumps, into it. The principle is sound, the practice is not. Let there be a trench, far from flowers, toss the *débris* into this, adding sprinklings of unslacked lime now and then, always throwing earth on the top, then, in course of months, the bottom soil of this, the decomposed matter mingled with the earth foundation, will undoubtedly be full of plant nutriment. But the decaying process must not go on, causing mould and mildew, near tree, shrub, or plant in the ornamental or the nursery parts of the garden. There is, even then, the danger that microbes and "eggs" will be eventually carried back to the neighbourhood of the flowers. It is safer to burn all rubbish, and use the precious ashes.

Woodlice are best trapped in inverted pots filled partly with hay. Eel-worms are minute wretches, the great foes of the carnation grower, since they pierce through roots or stems, either above or below the soil,

and cause those plants or shoots to yellow and shrivel. They can be potato-trapped, however.

The truth is that enemies are not dreadfully numerous in any but neglected and weedy soil ; the constant pricking over of the surface by the spud, hoe, hand-fork, or knife, is too much for the crawlers and runners that like to inhabit untended earth. Sometimes a travelling pest will arrive, such as the earwig, or the caterpillars left behind by moths and butterflies ; but, on the whole, the devoted flower-tender, after a year's struggle with a newly-entered garden, should find herself fairly at peace.

Gardening Proverb.—" Ill breeds fast."

CHAPTER XXX

OUR FRONT GARDENS

"By the side of the garden path grows a perfect little hedge of lavender. . . . Among the flowers here are beautiful dark-petalled wallflowers, sweet Williams, sweetbriar, and pansies. In spring the yellow crocus lifts its head from among the grass of the green in front of the house (as the snowdrops did also), and here and there a daffodil. These I think never look so lovely as when rising from the greensward."—RICHARD JEFFERIES.

A FINE book should have a preface, an opera an overture, and a home a front garden. Immediately the mind grasps the sense of the first, the ear is struck by the invitation of the second, the eye is ravished by the charm of the third, all morbid gloom is banished ; the interested person sets self aside (which is the secret of happiness), and prepares to admire something impersonal. Yes, a front plot to a house can achieve marvels. Though its supreme *raison d'être* is the offering of a welcome it also softens the maybe savage spirit of the approaching guest or returning member of the household ; it gives strangers many a sly hint as to the dispositions of the occupants, of those permanent dispositions, at least, that express character ; it divides the little private kingdom from the world. An untended front garden is a cross-grained, unkind enemy of all men and women.

Why is there less originality in the approach to homes than in the grounds, frequently less favourable,

that hide behind them? Maybe because we all shrink from not following fashion. There are exceptions to this rule, but those are mostly only in the degrees with which we run the same way as our neighbours. Yet original gardening ought to be so beautiful that we could not reap anything but renown from it!

How were front gardens contrived many years ago? Well, we have recollections of stately outer hedges of clipped evergreens, lawns ornamented by more such models of a most laborious form of art, beds in which weeping roses, or great aloes and yuccas, stood as centre pieces. Statuary sometimes peeped from closely-trimmed arbours of laurel, box, and yew, with quite ghostly effect on moonlit nights; the steps were often guarded by couchant lions or greyhounds. That was undoubtedly a most artificial style, yet it gave evidence of loving care. Old farmhouse gardens usually showed a large grassy forecourt, probably semi-circular, with pyramid firs upon its margins, a raised bed in the centre, for the best bulbous and bedding plants, to match those in stone urns by the steps; hardy perennials and simple annuals were not considered sufficiently distinguished for this spot.

Ancient cottage gardens were the scenes for a glorious and heterogeneous mass of flowers, no kind of plant being rejected. The best roses, then quite costly, were kept company by humble marigolds and hen-and-chicken daisies, prize dahlias, splendidly marked or "feathered" tulips, among carpets of periwinkle and stonecrop. Everlasting peas stood, in their rather clumsy tangles, by elegant white and orange lilies; bushes of lavender, southernwood, and marjoram half

hid violets, and flaunting rows of zinnias were sure to be visible, against a background of sunflowers.

It may indeed be asked why we do not plant any of our front gardens now upon this catholic principle. The advantages are manifold, since there is certain to be as nearly constant a floral display as may be out of doors ; the season that proves disastrous to one class of plant will be stimulating to another, the fading of one sort of beauty will but leave more room for the revealing of different attractions. The passer-by must stand long, craning his neck over the hedge, before he can appreciate even a tenth part of the colour, the forms, or the perfume.

Shirley Hibberd, the famous writer, has offered some suggestions. " Most town residences have front plots, and these, if well kept, add very much to the neatness, cheerfulness, and indeed respectability of a house. Just as we judge of a man by his dress and general bearing, so may we judge of him by the appearance of his home. A scrubby pair of neglected chrysanthemums trailing over a sour and ragged grass-plot, or a sooty shrubbery of untrimmed, worm-eaten, and flowerless lilac trees, do as much to disgrace a house and its occupant as a string of pewter pots dangling from the garden railings, and half a dozen broken windows. A front plot, being smaller, requires, of course, less labour than a garden, but, if possible, more taste. Lay out your plot in the simplest manner possible, and do not suffer your neighbour to laugh at an endless variety of parterres of all shapes and sizes, edged with oyster shells, and filled up with plants that would disgrace a common. One central bed, and a continuous border, are usually all you have room for,

or, at least, three (always prefer odd numbers) beds of equal sizes, and in these you may keep up a show of annuals and herbaceous perennials. The centre of each bed should have a handsome flowering shrub ; and near the house one or two laurels and a holly will serve as a screen against dust, and ensure privacy for your windows. A very small plot is best laid down with grass and clean gravel, without flowers at all ; in the centre a variegated holly, box tree, or laurel may be planted, and all the labour required is to keep the grass closely shaven, or the gravel neatly swept. Here the object must be to produce a neat appearance, and to avoid all attempts at bewildering outlines, massive shrubbery, or thin sprinklings of innumerable colours."

We may not be disposed to follow these recommendations precisely, or we may, for there is always liberty for individual taste within certain limits, such rules of refinement as this famous author-horticulturist always taught : at any rate his words set us thinking, and out of thoughts spring perfected notions. He errs, probably, by the narrowness of his view. Front gardens, though of most modest dimensions, may be as various in character as the blossoms known to botanists.

Some attempts have been made, by Figures 81, 82, and 83, to show how a typical semi-detached villa front plot can be treated. Yet the designs given are but some out of millions that might just as well have been drawn.

Fig. 80 describes the plot as it is generally laid out, though in many cases the valuable narrow border on the left of the gate, against the stone dividing wall, is

missing, and the opposite bit of border is little more than a streak. The design Fig. 81 makes a bold

Fig. 80. The usual Front Garden.

plunge, for it tries to break most established records !

A grassy garden is no more trouble to maintain properly than is the garden in which some grass is

varied by gravel ; indeed there are fewer edges to clip, the look of the turf is soothing, the green of it the

Fig. 81. The Front Garden of Grass.

loveliest foil to flower colours, and the width to which it spreads makes space seem larger than it actually is. A line of pillar roses between the house and "next

door " will do wonders to screen the home, without having any of the drawbacks that arches across a path of approach must possess. The group of black dots, opposite the line of pillars, might mark sites for perennial larkspurs, the golden-rayed lily of Japan, tiny conifers, tree fuchsias, or merely tobacco plants, with the turf coming close up to their stems. If the deep blue perennial larkspur were chosen the clematis on a pillar near should be white. This support ought to be one of triple poles, either bamboos, which can be bought twelve-feet high, or birch or larch trunks, just latticed between by string, to help the tendrils to get a quick hold, and the plant to grow straight, not droop in a tangle. Beds are of irregular shapes, comfortably easy to cut, therefore. The rhododendrons and heather should be grouped to hide all soil, the latter joining on to the turf. Quite a novel feature is the clothing the house walls only in many different varieties of ivy, the exquisite variegated species being most numerous, the more robust sorts only at the ends, to afford a rapid covering. Instead of the customary border by the house a row of robust bush roses is set in tiny round beds cut out of the turf and carpeted, if at all, with the horned violet (*viola cornuta*) that does no harm to rose roots. The almond trees should rise from an undergrowth of the holly barberry (*barberis* or *mahonia aquifolium*), that will be yellow-blossoming even before they are pink. White lilies, and the pink, crimson-spotted *lilium speciosum*, might fill the side border, with pinks in front, overlapping on to the turf ; pansies could similarly edge the evergreen border and the bed of gold and silver shrubs, violas or variegated rock-cress be round the bed of mixed dwarf roses, the

object being to have no soil left visible in this garden.

Fig. 82. The Turt-edged Front Garden

The design Fig. 82 owes its uncommon effect to the bold curves marked out by the turf strip edgings. There are countless ways in which this garden could be

charmingly planted : one scheme would be to mass blue, yellow, and white perennials and annuals. Here are names of some that should recall many others to memory : alkanet, forget-me-not, perennial and annual larkspurs, hyacinths, knapweed (*centaurea montana*), spiderwort, *commelina cœlestis*, *phacelia campanularia*, love-in-a-mist, lobelia, *nemophila*, *chionodoxa*, scillas, Jacob's ladder, *lathyrus sativus*, sweet peas, pansies, *kaulfussia*, gentian, sage, borage. Sunflowers, *nasturtiums*, *coreopsis*, marigolds, Iceland poppies, *calceolarias*, wallflowers, tulips, *polyanthuses*, Spanish irises, violas, golden rod, creeping Jenny, day-lilies, dahlias, *chrysanthemums*. Ox-eye daisies, marguerites, begonias, narcissi, crocuses, columbines, snapdragons, sweet Williams, geraniums, pinks, rock-cress, Michaelmas daisies, double daisies, phloxes, hybrid pyrethrums, asters, stocks, verbenas.

A beautiful style for this, or for any front garden, is the devoting such attention to the seasons that the best flowers of each are represented by two species. First might come hyacinths and crocuses, then columbines and late narcissi, followed closely by pansies and hybrid pyrethrums, begonias and violas, *chrysanthemums*, tall and dwarf, for the late autumn. Again, this garden would do well for all roses. If the dwarf *polyanthas* are used in front of dwarf teas and hybrid teas, that in their turn stand before vigorous hybrid perpetuals, there is no reason for any earth being uncovered by branches ; the roses will come right up to the turf in beds and borders. That grass, by-the-by, should be planted itself with the lesser bulbs that bloom in earliest spring, before the narrow mowing-machine or shears will be at work.

In the design Fig. 83 a suggestion is made how to have an exceedingly simple arrangement that shall yet attract notice. The grass plots, divided by a gravel diamond, could, of course, be edged by standard roses, if the extent of the ground permitted. The arch, when well covered by a rampant rambler rose and a perpetual bloomer, in unison, would give shade sufficient for a rustic seat to be set on the house side of it. In the wide border, of three points, next the fence, a representative selection of evergreen flowering shrubs, then of herbaceous plants, edged by dwarf bedding plants, after hyacinths and tulips, would best result in nearly constant blossom. In the narrow border on the left side of the gate could be ranked tall ornaments, such as pillar climbers, stately growers of the lily height, or low flowers of rich dark colour, of which pansies and red-crimson begonias are examples.

In some localities, where there is great need of rustic charm, or else where the character of the landscape is to be repeated, a woodland front garden has merits. Some houses are built actually in woodland clearings, and then it often seems like the decision of a Goth to decree that primroses, turf, young saplings, bluebells, ferns, ground ivy, heather, or other native delights are to be grubbed up for the sake of trim glass plots and symmetrical arrangements of gayer flowers brought from abroad.

The front garden in which all the trees, shrubs, and plants own evergreen foliage is a consoling spectacle all winter, and gives least labour at any time. Gravel is better than turf to separate the beds and borders, because more of a contrast with the leafage, which should be used to cover all the earth. Mossy saxi-

frages ought to be specialised in ; amateur gardeners at

Fig. 83. An Uncommon Front Garden.

present know very few of these robust, rapidly increasing, rosy or white blooming wonders.

By the use of only bulbous plants, with mossy saxifrages or violas, a splendid floral display can be presented during ten out of the twelve months, and this is a novelty in which any plant connoisseur can feel legitimate pride. Bulbs that must be taken up and stored, must, of course, be there, in addition to the bulbs of herbaceous plants, that need no lifting.

When window-boxes are against a house-front the gardener should have command over them also, lest they be filled with flowers of colours that clash with those outside. When the hues are all matched the window ornaments add considerably to the front garden success. Flowers on verandahs, balconies, and roof-tops also can insist on the popular colour note, or assist in fair harmonies. A lofty mount of rockery, a pedestal of turf supporting a terra-cotta urn full of white flowers and silver foliage, a round bed spanned by two wire hoops, crossed, and climbed on by nasturtiums, clematises, yellow jasmine, canary creeper, or honeysuckle, are suitable centre-pieces for a grass or gravel expanse. A terrace walk along a house front, edged by roses trained to an espalier fencing of rustic wood, can rarely be arranged for, but when it can, and steps lead from it to a lower level where another walk may cross the width, bordered by crowded phloxes, pæonies, and chrysanthemums of dazzling tints, the garden will rank high indeed. By-the-bye, those three plants, of such innumerable shades, and such prodigal yielders, are the finest trio to combine anywhere for painting the home landscape richly in spring, summer, and autumn.

Gardening Proverb.—"Only genius can throw its brush at a canvas."

CHAPTER XXXI

A SHEAF OF HINTS

“Through primrose tufts, in that sweet bower,
The periwinkle trail'd its wreaths ;
And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.”

WORDSWORTH.

NO enthusiastic gardener ever thinks that her garden is finished, even so far as new ornamenting is concerned, and practical culture means a task for each day, week, and month, in perpetuity. One season's reputation must be eclipsed by that of the next season—such is the law of ambition. Certain flowers, other than those to which chapters have been dedicated here, are fit subjects for hobby cultivation. Hybrid pyrethrums, blanket-flowers (gaillardias), Michaelmas daisies, pinks, pæonies, are suitable species for making different gardens renowned, because the casual grower who patronises them slightly will never understand the perfection, and the amazing variety, to which talented florists have brought them. There have been gardens, too, famed for their asters, verbenas, stocks, or gazanias. Ivy-leaved geraniums require better knowing, the maroons and purples especially ; in southern counties they can be grown to a great height up walls and trellises, and be left out against these all winter, covered by deep cinder mulches.

The moraine garden is the latest fancy, for the safe

rearing and preserving of all the exquisite alpine plants that cannot live where soil is damp during the cold months. To make a moraine a border may be chosen adjoining a south-aspect rockery or old wall. Stones should be laid one on another, and cemented, till they form a front wall to hold up the soil ; about two feet is the right depth. Inside this barrier good drainage is essential, so seven inches or so of broken crocks and brick rubble has to be put in, then a layer of medium-sized pebbles to partly fill the gaps between them and prevent water from flowing through too quickly. Lastly the growing compost goes in, nearly up to the top, and that provides the surprise for the uninitiated. It should consist of one part of loam, passed through a sieve, half parts each of leaf mould and coarse sand, to six parts of stone chippings.

At first it does seem incredible that any plants can desire such stuff, or be able to thrive in it, but the correct species do, and will, those mountain denizens that like being baked in summer, and subsist under deep snows all winter, waiting for the days of melting and release. The stone chips may be limestone, sandstone, or marble ; masons can usually provide them. In size they should vary, but pieces larger than a pigeon's egg are too heavy, likely to bruise and break tender stems and foliage, and none should be smaller than sweet pea seeds. The prettiest appearance is gained by using most of the bigger chips beneath, the finer for the surface, all but a scattering of good-sized morsels.

Alpines for the moraine garden are mostly sold in small pots, and should be turned out fairly dry, then planted lightly in a hole scooped out of the chip-

compost. Hard pressing in must be avoided, the roots should be disposed with the greatest care, not inserted in a lump, but spread out, then a delicate watering must be repeated every five or six hours, to keep the plants fresh until they have gripped their new compost. Any noted market supplier of herbaceous plants will recommend species for the moraine, but the gardener should not be content to buy only those likely to succeed in any ordinary rock-garden, or she will miss her rare opportunity. Let her consult plant catalogues for herself, and order those dainties that most appeal to her interest and are notified as delicate, or requiring extra sandy, gravelly, or well-drained soil. The encrusted saxifrages, with rosettes of wonderful foliage, downy or speckled cushions, giving wee pendant bell-flowers, or upright blossoms, in such profusion that the silver, blue-grey, or miniature moss tufts are hidden, may be rejoiced in without fear of failure; blue, bronze, variegated, and purple stonecrops are winsome; there is one that sends up fluffy pink "claws" each autumn (*sedum pulchellum*), another described as like a string of brown pebbles (*sedum Stahii*), a dove-grey mossy species (*sedum pruinaum monstrosum*), the fern-leaved *sedum asiaticum*, and the cotton-wool resembling *sedum dasyphyllum glanduliferum*. The spider's-web houseleek (*sempervivum arachnoideum*), should be bought, with many of its quaint relatives; mountain catchflies (*silenes*) will form sheets of crimson, yellow, pink, or white; soldanellas are gems, blessed with round evergreen leaves and blue-fringed blossoms; ramondias, nierembergias, lewisias, and androsaces become joys to those who make their acquaintance.

A kind of imitation moraine is a useful expedient

for furnishing a considerable area of land that is not to be thoroughly dug and manured; but it must be ordinarily drained, therefore dry land, nothing in the nature of a bog or sticky clay. This is carried out by strewing the whole with several inches of beach gravel, then planting groups of such robust rockery plants as will be glad of the dry mulch that will yet conserve moisture about their stems and roots. Of course the ground under each group should be hand-forked and pulverised, and some soot scatterings, and a few spoonfuls of Clay's fertiliser, will then supply enough nutriment. Perennial candytufts (*iberises*), the type wallflowers (*alpine cheiranthuses*), pinks, the larger saxifrages, German irises, snapdragons, valerians, all the rock-cresses, are examples of herbaceous beauties that will accommodate themselves to this environment.

Slopes cannot be so treated, unless most gentle ones, on account of the frequency with which the "beach" will be washed down to the base and require throwing up again, but a wide-gravelled hillside, or series of undulations, planted with bold masses of rhododendrons, azaleas, heaths, gorses, brooms, brambles, lavender and rosemary bushes, pampas and other mighty grasses, the coarser cone-flowers, groundsels, Helen flowers, orange ox-eye, single dahlias, chrysanthemums, cistuses, hibiscuses, hydrangeas, Michaelmas daisies, mulleins, asphodels, tall snapdragons, and tree lupins will not fail to win approval. Between the big plants can come carpets—or rugs would be the more descriptive word—of thrifts, potentillas, thymes, soapworts, St. John's worts, Iceland and Welsh poppies, sun roses (*helianthemums*), barrenworts (*epimediums*),

PERFUMED FLOWERS ROUND A SUMMER SHELTER

and the cerastiums, which include the familiar snow-in-summer.

A bog garden may not contain any visible water ; one is often the most convenient finish to a terraced garden, that has a very damp last level. Most of the plants recommended for surrounding sunk basins can be grown, and the Japanese iris alone, backed by willow-herbs and pink arrowhead, would ensure great beauty in June and July.

A new idea is the making of moats, not wide as those which girdled castles in days of old, but perhaps a foot deep, and two feet across, or double that, should space permit. The motive for a moat might be the isolating of a summer-house or bower, and a plank bridge, to draw up and down, would not be beyond the skill of any carpenter to contrive. The banks of the moat should be fringed from above by trailing plants, and ferns ought to partly line them ; the base, if not ever flooded, could contain a wealth of pansies.

A profound study may be given to perfumed flowers and foliage ; their employment close to house windows has been already advised, but they will be welcome too near seats, pavilions, tennis and croquet lawns, bowling greens, smoking-rooms, arbours, and summer shelters.

Outdoor ferneries prove a continual source of interest. They should be two-fold, the familiar shady, cool, rockery display, and one quite warm and sheltered, yet damp, for the satisfying of the needs of countless less robust, open-air-loving species.

Gardens all of one or two colours instruct those who build them up, and all who visit them, because, to do justice to the hues, the gardener sets to work to trace

and obtain every known and suitable blossom. A scarlet garden is a grand blaze, yet not by any means painfully glaring; a white garden has a fairy-like scenic effect, but a gold and orange one is the most heart-raising: summer seems to have settled there for ever, yet, when she is forced to leave, the mind immediately becomes more eager for the daffodil, crocus, tulip, and wallflower golds of spring.

It is only the woman with stoves as well as cool greenhouses at her command who can revel in tropical bedding-out as a hobby; it is an exacting yet a glorious one, and the fame of any success in this line is sure to travel over at least three counties.

There is one way in which many artistic garden-makers err—they forget that there must be either ready-arranged or discoverable best views in each garden, and, for want of thought, omit to frame these adequately. Walls may be cut through, gaps a yard or two left, and filled up with only wire netting, if a common, cornfield, orchard, or bit of parkland stretches beyond; a woodland may often be redeemed from dusky dreariness by the cutting of a glade; a fence that obstructs the vision that would otherwise encounter a sunset behind a pine belt is a terrible enemy; a shrubbery so dense that moonlight cannot make silver ladders anywhere between its thickets is itself a disaster, no matter how valuable or flower-laden the items of which it is composed.

The woman floriculturist has been repeatedly urged on; it is now time, at the close of this book, to counsel her to spend many peaceful hours free from all tasks but the coming in touch with the soul of her garden, for only so will she receive its benediction and learn its

wishes. So, too, will she become conscious of how proud a custodian of a beautiful garden ought to be. Discontent, within limits, is a tribute to the Divine, not a sadness ; we may not do all we would, but the wise among us grow thankful that we cannot. It is then we bow in assent to the dictum of an Eastern sage, " Only God Himself and man's aspirations are immortal." Heaven is the name of the state in which our wisdom will forbid our desiring to be ever satisfied. For to have received, or performed, or enjoyed, implies loss, while yearning is unfettered hope.

A flower is a little thing, a multitude of flowers may be possessed by the rich or the poor ; but the woman who loves flowers, and spreads them abroad, is a worker on the side of the angels.

Gardening Proverb.—" Better a daisy patch with peace than a kingdom without love's blossom."

THE END

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