

WINDOW GARDENING.

Real by Annie Howard before the Northwest Fruit Growers' Convention.

[CONCLUDED.]

In selecting plants for window gardens, three things ought to be considered—space, opportunity for light, and temperature of room. If one is fortunate enough to have in a sitting room, a double or low window with a southern or western exposure, there will surely be inspiration for endless experiments and wildest vagaries; but if the plants must needs be kept in a dining room or bed room where the temperature is likely to be 10 or 15 degrees lower, discretion must be used in choosing them. For a room whose temperature ranges neither higher than 75 degrees nor lower than 40 degrees, having only single windows, boxes of bulbs, crocuses, hyacinths and a few tulips, interspersed with liberal clusters of sweet violets, and also a few vines to relieve the plainness of the box, will give rich reward in color and fragrance from November until March and even so late as April. Such a box was arranged in the latter part of October, and from Thanksgiving day until now the sweet breath of the violets has filled the room, and the tulips are now almost ready to take the place of the handsome spikes of hyacinths.

The bulbs may be planted within three or four inches of each other, but must be liberally watered. Supported by small brackets on either side may be placed a pot of cyclamen and one of oxalis. Both of these are destined to gain a sure footing in popular favor as soon as they become well known, and their easy culture is understood. Rand says of the cyclamen: "This bulb is particularly adapted for window culture, and will give more flowers with less trouble and occupying less space than any flower we are acquainted with." The delicate beauty and luxuriant growth of the oxalis, as well as its hardy nature needs no commendation. Only the more sunshine it has, the more prolific it is in blossoms.

Possibly the most common plant to be found in our homes is that branch of pelargonium most generally called by the less aristocratic name, geranium. The easy propagation, rapid growth and great variety of these have doubtless earned this recognition fairly, and should warrant far more effective displays than are usually seen both in our flower beds and window gardens. Why should the delicate pink of "Master Christine" be made to appear pale and faded by the rosy scarlet of "Marie Stuart," or why the brilliancy of "General Grant" affect the eye as harshness simply on account of a too near proximity to the soft crimson maroon of Gettysburg?

A neat symmetrical geranium is only made by unsparing nipping and pruning, and its usefulness as a bloomer is also enhanced in this way. A gentleman was boasting not long since of a geranium that had reached the unusual height of nine feet; but its clumsy shape and ungainly branches excited no emotion of pleasure or delight, only a passing surprise, and it could not

have been made ornamental to any room or conservatory.

The fairest flower of all the seasons are our carnations, sang Shakespeare of a flower whose sweetnees and whose simple culture has endeared it to the hearts of many Englishmen since the day of the poet's song, and we are beginning to know it and love it as well. Possibly the easiest way to begin cultivating their acquaintance will be to buy a few potted plants in October and give to them moderate temperature, an abundance of light and all the sunshine possible. Cared for in this way, their culture is far easier and the results much more satisfactory than one can ever hope to gain from the heliotrope or fuchsia, both of which so often fail to fulfil the fond hopes of their sanguine and patient possessors. The former under favorable circumstances grows too rank and coarse, and requires too much space for an average window; and if allowed to become unhappy relaxes his ungainly limbs in a most awkward and unbecoming manner, drops his leaves and gives only an occasional suggestion of a blossom. I fancied that Dryden must have had a heliotrope in his window garden when he bewailed "The flower which lacked for a little space, a short-lived, good and uncertain grace." And yet he is a noble scion of royal stock, unspoiled by court favor and still a reveler in fresh air and glorious sunshine; and like the true courtier that he is, appears only at his best in the presence of royalty, where his chivalrous deference, and unobtrusive presence lends added grace and charm to the "queen of flowers."

Quite different from this, is the other plant, the fuchsia. There seems no better way to describe this flower than to say it is soulless, or wholly unsympathetic. There is richness of color and a peculiar grace in the blossom; and by the hand of a skilled florist, the plant itself may be directed and trained with geometric precision, but did any one ever succeed in harmonizing a fuchsia with other flowers, or getting a pleasing effect by massing them?

Encouraged by the easy management of such plants as have been mentioned, one will grow bolder and more ambitious for larger gardens; extra shelving and brackets will be added to the windows, and pelargoniums, nasturtiums, Chinese primroses, sultanna, jasmynes, cinerarias, deutzias, amaryllises, pretty ivies and variegated honeysuckles will be introduced, and any or all of them will be found easy of culture and capable of artistic grouping.

Does some ask why begonias are omitted? Very few kinds of the so called "store plants" are adapted to the dry atmosphere of a living room, so I have purposely planned these gardens without them. In larger and more spacious rooms, such as offices, and public dining rooms, these more gorgeous ones may be enjoyed in all the perfection of their luxuriant beauty. The graceful abutilon, the flaming hibiscus, the stately calla, many varieties of ornamental ferns and palms will give rich and varied effects.

In the dining room of the Langham Hotel, London, not fewer than a hundred well grown specimens of plants are kept in the window during the entire season. These are cared for in the most painstaking way, regardless of expense, and at the earliest signs of lack of vigor or of scarcity of blossoms are replaced by new ones. In this atmosphere redolent with the fragrance of violets, roses and mignonette, for no English garden either indoors or out, is complete without its clump of mignonette, all the coldness and stiffness of a public room is forgotten, and to Americans especially has this hotel commended itself.

Sweeping Instructions.

A lady writer in the Pioneer Press tells her readers how properly to handle the broom. The real meat of the advice lies in what is said about caring for the broom:

"The first thing to learn in sweeping is how to handle a broom. Grasp the handle firmly with both hands; take short strokes, and, beginning at the baseboards, sweep all the dust in a little pile in the middle of the room; then brush it into the dust pan with a whisk broom. In sweeping do not use one side of the broom all the time; change it about often; this will keep it straight, and as long as it lasts it will sweep well. When you get through with a broom hang it up or stand it away on the handle end. Never stand a broom on the brush end; it spoils it. Have a place for everything, and keep everything in its own particular place."

Not the Charm Desired.

The Japanese minister to England and his wife gave a party on the birthday of the empress of Japan. They were cordial, gracious, merry and amusing enough to justify all of Sir Elwin Arnold's claims. And as the crowning touch to the entertainment they gave each lady as she departed a little silk bag containing a very malodorous substance. It proved to be a piece of dried dogfish, which is the most precious of charms against losing looks and lovers, but not even for such an end could any of the English women stand it. It is gratifying to learn that there is some limit to what the English beauties will endure in the cause of complexions and cavaliers.

ABOUT CLOTHES.—It seems a little early to be talking about dress materials for the summer of 1894, but the fashion people are doing it. A writer in an eastern paper says the challies are to be very stylish, and being cheap, of course they will have a great run. They have the same soft, delicately-tinted backgrounds as of old, and are showered with blossoms, many of which are the sweet, old-fashioned flowers of long ago. Tiny clusters of sweetwilliams are sprayed over creamy-white backgrounds. Pale green challies blossom with mignonette, and those of the purest white are almost hidden by dainty clusters of bachelor buttons. Sometimes the flowers are arranged in stripes, and then again they are carelessly scattered over the background.