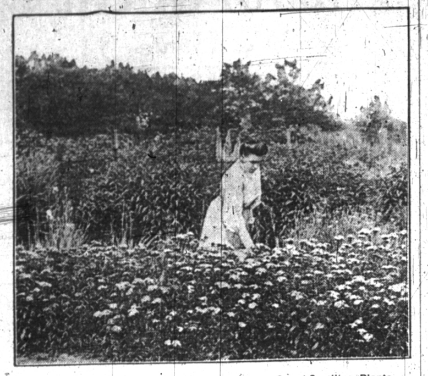
The HOME BEAUTIFUL

Flowers and Shrubbery—Their Care and Cultivation



In an Old-Fashioned Flower Garden Among Sweet-Smelling Plants.

SOME SATISFACTORY BULBS

By JULIE ADAMS POWELL.

In planting a perennial flower garden one must spare a corner, or strip of ground, for the hardy bulbs which come up from year to year with very little care, excepting the general care which flower lovers all give to their gardens such as keeping the weeds down, fertilizing the ground in the fall, and loosening the earth in the springtime.

Scilla Siberica is very satisfactory, it being one of the first bright-blue flowers to greet us, for it comes in crocus time. Then there is the Scilla Campanulata, or Spanish bluebell. These bulbs, grown in masses with snowdrops, grape and feathered hyacinths, are charming in effect.

My crocuses are planted in the lawn and are done blooming before the mowing machine is run over that part of the grass.

I find the Roman hyacinth will increase from year to year if left in the ground.

While Roman hyacinths are catalogued as not hardy, I have them here in my garden in southern Connecticut, and their sweet, graceful blossoms greet one in May time, if I give them a very light covering of rough manure late in the fall.

In my hardy bulb border I have some old-fashioned double white tulips, and these with a few of the Cottage Garden tulips of brilliant colorings make a gay showing all through May.

They may be left in the ground from year to year and need no winter protection.

Children Working in a School Garden in the Bronx.

The utilizing of vacant property to extend nature study facilities for the school children is becoming more of a fact every day. Teachers and parents alike are realizing the added benefits, both mental and physical, to the child student of nature from work in the great out of doors.

The elementary classes in the public schools of New York are allowed 90 minutes a week, divided into two periods of 45 minutes each, for nature study. Vacant lots adjacent to the schools are converted into gardens, where practical instruction is given out of doors.

Prizes are offered the children for the best results in the school garden and added interest is given by a reward for a continuation of the good work in the home garden. By securing the children's aid, permanent improvement in the physical condition of the neighborhood is assured.

Deficient, ungraded children have found great delight in the garden and have proved themselves capable of understanding how to plant and care for the crops. To this end, a brighter future has been secured for children, who, by the beneficent healing of the great Mother Nature, have found a little niche they can adequately fill in the scheme of things, and instead of a burden to the community they will become useful members of society. A commercialized farm has been secured, the earnings of which will be apportioned to the young workers as their reward.

THE KITCHEN PORCH

The nicest porch is enclosed with wire screen, thus shutting out flies and mosquitoes. If the kitchen is also a dining room, the wide porch thus enclosed is doubly available, giving a cool place to eat, secure from rain or unpleasant insect visitors. It is still another great improvement over the lawn for eating because more convenient to the kitchen, saving the trouble of going up and down stairs.

A rocking chair and a high stool enable one to work at the table while seated and are essentials to comfort. It is much better to keep the washing in one corner instead of lugging it up and down cellar every wash day. This can be concealed from sight by a cheaply constructed screen.

Shade will be needed during a portion of the day. The Virginia creeper, readily obtained of a florist if not a neighbor, is the most rapid grower and most beautiful of our native vines.

Morning glory and wild cucumber furnishes a dainty curtain, which must be renewed from year to year, though the latter renews without work on our part through self-sown seed.

The clematis in several varieties, native and exotic are favorites.

With vines for shade the housewife may have a more enjoyable spot in which to do the drudgery.

KEEPING UP THE LAWN

Kill weeds on the lawn by either pulling or cutting off the plant below the crown.

Don't mow the lawn too closely during the heated term, but do not allow weeds to go to seed.

Deep working, thorough pulverization, effective fertilization and a thorough raking and rolling down to a smooth level are all necessary to a fine, smooth sod.

Get your lawn seeds of a reliable seedman, and ask for the best and freshest. Don't use old seed left over from last year, but insist on having it fresh. Insist on a good mixture.

The best time to seed a new lawn is during the latter part of August or the early September. At that season, the heat is over and showers are almost sure to come, and the young grass will have several months of cool, moist weather in which to grow before winter.

PLANTS OF MAILING SIZE

Many fine varieties of fruit, as well as shrubbery, are to be had very cheaply by ordering mailing-size plants from a reliable firm or nurseryman. Many of these nurserymen make up a collection, containing some excellent fruits, which they offer at a cost that most of us can reach, and the plants are so well packed that, with ordinary care and a small knowledge of their needs, almost anyone will succeed in growing every one of them. In case of standard fruits, the plants will be a little longer in reaching the bearing period, but it is better than not to have them at all. Look up the catalogues, be sure you deal with a reliable, responsible firm, and try the mailing-size plants.

SOME SUMMER FLOWERS

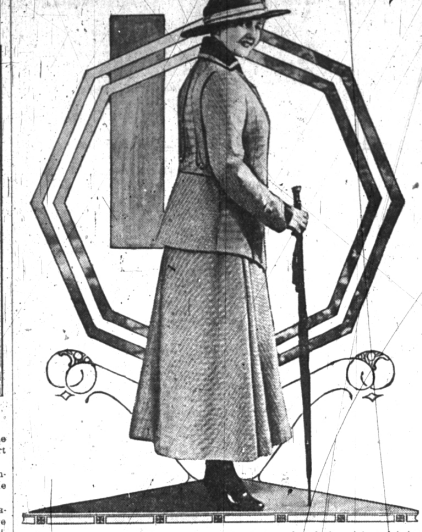
A bed of nasturtiums will supply blossoms until frost comes.

In planting mixed sweet peas you can tell whether they will be dark or light by the color of the seeds.

Mass the different varieties of a single flower and the effect is more pleasing than when made up of a dozen varieties. On the lawn, as in the vase, popular taste has been trained to admire the harmony of unity.

Poppies will perpetuate themselves by self-sown seed.

Gowns of American Design



IF the new spring styles in gowns are strictly of American design, there is every reason to congratulate their creators. After a study of them one might be pardoned for quoting from the song which bids us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation and adding, "from foreign-made modes" thereto.

The street costumes are cleverly shaped, comfortable, and clean cut. Their tailoring is a thing of faultless beauty. Skirts are short and just wide and flaring enough for comfort in walking and for style. Jackets and coats are easy and smart, improving the figure which wears them properly. One may have a choice as to length, as they are shown in both long and short models.

Materials are durable, old favorites being to the fore in the smartest garments. Decorations are few and elegant, buttons and straps and the introduction of outside pockets providing most of them. But it is in amazing cleverness in cutting both skirts and coats that this season has distinguished itself above others.

In party gowns skirts are more ample, but made of the airiest fabrics over satin foundations. Bodices are modestly high, and satin bindings are used to finish the flounces and overdresses of net or crepe or chiffon. With all this fluffiness there is a little touch of the austere in the bodice usually.

In the picture given here a street suit of swell shepherd's plaid is shown. Plaits at the sides of both front and back produce slightly flaring panels, the skirt being made up of four of these.

The jacket opens in a "V" at the front, with revers terminating at the bust line and an inlay of velvet which is carried to the high turnover collar.

A strap at each side of the back is finished with a simulated buttonhole and set, with a lone button, to the narrow, shaped belt which defines the slightly high waist line. The cuffs are odd, with the sleeve turned back from a band of velvet and fastened down with a button. The front of the jacket is almost straight, and cut with a dip.

The Motor Bonnet of Silk

THE motor bonnet of silk continues to stand at the head of the list as the most practical of things designed for the headwear of autoists. From the standpoint of comfort, service, low cost, becomingness, and the ease with which it can be made, the silk motor bonnet has no rival possessing all of its advantages.

There are, however, many bonnets that combine the soft millinery braids, like those of hemp or silk fiber, with silk in their construction, that are just as durable and becoming. By means of the braid the element of novelty in design enters into their composition, but they are less simple to make than the silk bonnets. The latter will not tax the ingenuity of the home milliner at all.

Taffeta silk is the most satisfactory weave to use. Its body gives the bonnet a chance to remain shapely; it sheds the dust easily and it is made in most appropriate and pleasing colors. Patterns by which to cut the body of bonnets are furnished by any of the standard pattern companies. Usually only about a yard of taffeta and a small strip of crinoline are needed, except when plaitings of the silk are used for trimming. An extra allowance must be made for this. Machine stitching, with silk thread, helps out in the finish and decoration of the all-silk bonnets.

The veil of washable chiffon holds its own with the silk bonnet as the best friend of the motorist. Chiffon veils are so essential that they form a part of the design in most bonnets and are always reckoned with, either as a part of the decoration or an accessory.

Several special kinds of hats appear among the spring showings of motor headwear, among them exquisite crocheted hats of silk fiber braid, and patent leather hats. The last are wholly rainproof. But the crocheted hats, and silk bonnets like those pictured here, are not much damaged by rain. When the silk bonnet has served its day it can be replaced for so little money and is altogether so attractive that it is likely to remain a favorite.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

Velvets for Little Girls.

Girls from twelve to sixteen are following the example of their elders for afternoon in the wearing of velvet frocks. These usually have overblouses or long-waisted effects, with the top skirt of velvet and the short underskirt of satin or plaited chiffon. A collar of real lace and a satin belt or sash completes a very smart little costume which can be worn without a coat as warmer weather approaches.

Rice in Pincushion.

Rice makes an excellent filling for a pincushion. Take a yard of five-inch dresden ribbon, double and sew into a bag, stitching a quarter of an inch back from the edge along the sides, to leave for a finish. Fill it snugly with rice grains and you will find it keeps its place; even heavy hatpins do not turn it over.

Soiled White Inexcusable.

Clean white will cover a multitude of faults in style and material, but soiled white on a woman is quite as inexcusable as on a man.

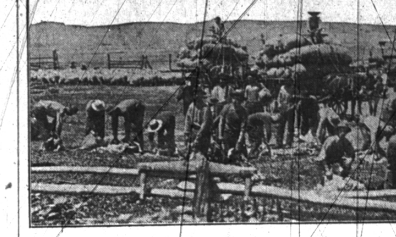
Draperies Soften a Room.

To soften and tone down a room the touch of drapery is essential, especially window drapery, which, if skillfully arranged, can add to the width and height of any window. Fashionably speaking, window draperies tend to run clear to the floor. The delicate, translucent mesh of madras, figured and in stained glass effect, some of the open weave cotton draperies, and the open work machine embroideries are more and more being used in household decoration. Figured stuffs, such as cretonnes and prints from Holland and Japan, range from the demurest effects to all the warmth and color needed to brighten the dark walls of the bungalow.

Daily Thought.

Much of the charm of life is ruined by exacting demands of confidence. . . . Those who wish to destroy all mystery in those they love, to have everything revealed, are unconsciously killing their own happiness.—Stopford Brooks.

PRACTICAL LITTLE NOTES ON SHEEPFOLD



Sheep Shearing.

It is a good plan to clean out the sheep pens about three times during the winter to prevent the manure from heating; this is bad for the flock.

The pen should be kept well littered with clean straw and should be kept level.

Land-plaster should be scattered over the pen before each lot of fresh straw. This keeps the gases from escaping and adds to the value of the manure.

If you value the wool product, an even condition must be kept up.

A poor sheep will eat as much and require as much labor in securing its fleece as a good one.

It is a mistake to ignore the mutton side of flock returns when the outcome of the business is to be estimated.

The shepherd who has a lot of good fat sheep each winter, will find his feeding pays quite as well as the average.

Only the very best sheep, animals which are true to their specific varieties of breed and full of promise, should be selected for breeding purposes.

In a majority of cases size is only a secondary consideration, provided only that the animal is fat, smooth and trim.

While there is an abundance of good pasture is one of the best times to fatten sheep that have passed their prime.

Lambs intended as best year's ewes should not be bred at this season as it is better to give them plenty of time to mature well.

Not only does it cost less to make a pound of young flesh, than it does a pound of mature flesh, but the former is worth more in market.

The man who makes his sheep as good as he can before sending to market need have no fear of his place in market.

The ability of the ewe to properly nourish her lamb is one of the most

The secret of making money from sheep in the corn belt is breeding the best mutton rams to the range-bred ewes, and having the lambs dropped in cold weather.

important considerations in selecting breeding stock.

It is generally conceded that if the ewes are in good condition at mating time, a larger proportion of twin lambs can be secured.

Sheep that are in any way diseased should never be retained for breeding stock, no matter how good a fleece or lamb they may produce.

Sheep is a business in which the hope of profit and the certainty of making the land more fertile add zest to a venture.

We need more small flocks on well-tilled farms. Such a combination rarely disappoints its owner.

The fairs supply a splendid opportunity for beginners to find out for themselves what constitutes mutton form and excellence.

The lamb that cashes in the most money in the fall is not the product of poverty; he is a delicately modeled and finished creature of affluence.

It is a well-known fact that, pound for pound of grain, forage and fodder fed, a mutton lamb, as a rule, will pay better returns than any other domestic animal.

The secret of the English shepherd's success lies in the fact that he considers the sheep an animal to be cared for and coddled, from birth to sale.

Too many farmers have the idea that the sheep is a sort of wanderer on the face of the earth, capable of caring for itself. Far from it.

Overcrowding the ewes that are heavy with lamb is a frequent source of injury. Sheep need plenty of space both in the barn and yards, that they may exercise freely without injury.

Always contrive to have some kind of green crops, such as rape, vetches or whatever may be most convenient to grow for the lambs at weaning time, and plan to have them on plowed land as much as possible, to prevent stomach worms.

At lambtime let the ewes and lambs be in a small pen by themselves until they thoroughly know their mothers, before putting them with the others, and avoid having so many ewes and lambs in one pen.

GROW ROOT CROPS FOR PIGS OR HOGS

Mangels and Sugar Beets Are Considered Excellent—Have High Feeding Value.

It has been demonstrated that seven or eight pounds of mangels have as great feeding value as one pound of grain, when given to pigs or hogs, and that sugar beets have even a greater value, so it is hard to understand why pig raisers are so careless about growing root crops for their animals. Not only have the root crops a high feeding value, but they do more for the good health of the hogs than one can estimate.

In regard to their feeding value, it has been demonstrated time and again that when mangel or sugar beets, or both, are fed in connection with light rations of grain, using middlings instead of bran, pork of high quality can be produced cheaper than in any other way, with the possible exception of the substitution of ensilage for the root crops.

If root crops can be bought at reasonable prices, better have for feeding, and next season grow your own supply.

MOVABLE HOUSE IN PASTURE FOR SOWS

Youngsters Will Thrive on Grass —Second Crop Alfalfa Is Excellent Feed.

Give the sow a movable house in the pasture just before farrowing time, as the youngsters will thrive on the grass. If she farrows in the fall the quiet of the pasture is just what she needs.

Second crop alfalfa is fine for the pigs, but if pastured very closely it will soon run out.

If the pig is stinted in its food at any stage of its life, it can never become a perfect pork producer.

Brood sows require a mixed diet, and one containing plenty of protein and not too much fattening quality.

Did you ever come across a farmer who would admit that he did not know how to feed pigs? Yet, the real pig feeder is rare.

Weeds Make Severe Strain.

More money is expended fighting weeds than in paying taxes, yet some of the men do the most kicking at tax time and the least weeding at weeding time. They do not seem to realize the severe drains the weeds are making on their farm resources.

Flock of One Color.

Nothing looks nicer in the poultry market than a flock all of one color. Almost any merchant will pay more for a coop of birds or a case of eggs if they are all alike.

USE STALLION OF RIGHT QUALITIES

Hereditarily Unsound Horses Are No More Profitable Breeders Than Scrubs.

(By PROF. G. W. BARNES, Arizona Experiment Station.)

A farmer should be careful and not breed to stallions which are spoken of as "hereditarily unsound." Unsound horses are no more profitable to raise than scrubs. Unsoundnesses are usually due to a weakness which may appear in one or all of the following conditions: First, is poor conformation (nothing will put a horse on the shelf quicker than this fault), and is one which you should avoid in choosing a stallion to mate with your mares. Second, is poor quality in the tissues. While these are physical characteristics, the offspring will inherit to a certain degree such weakness.

Of course these may not be in evidence in the offspring until they begin to reach maturity and are put to ordinary work; then there begins to appear the result of this inherited weakness or unsoundness. It is, of course, not the unsoundness itself which is transmitted, but the cause in form of a weakness.

Use, if possible, a stallion of pure breeding, possessing good individuality, quality, conformation, and which shows no unsoundness.

Do not depend upon one of those characteristics alone, but combine them all, and remember that a good sound thoroughbred stallion is worth breeding to.

You cannot afford to breed to a scrub at any price.

Not a Good Method.

Most of the hogs in this country are raised by the "hy guess and by gosh method," that is, the breeding sows are allowed to run with the herd, fed any old thing that comes handy without regard to their condition at farrowing time, or when great quantities of milk are needed to start the youngsters on the road to profit.

Odors From Neglected Cellar.

Now doth the neglected cellar begin to emit its vile odors—and ill ones, too. Clean up, if you would preserve the health of the folks.

Poor Farmer Condemned.

A poor farmer is to be condemned because he wastes good soil in producing poor crops and waste of any kind is sinful.

Much Honey Wasted.

There are millions of pounds of honey going to waste in this country every year for want of bees to gather the nectar from the flowers.

Why Not?

Why should not every farmer own a good fanning mill?

THE COLONEL'S GOLD MINE

One in Gregory County, South Dakota. Colonel Dickinson, the famed Alfalfa King of that great section.

About thirty years ago he left Wisconsin for that Dominion. All he had was willing hands, a clear brain and a bright vision. Today he is the owner of thousands of acres, president of several banks.

He has found a veritable gold mine in his thousand-acre Alfalfa field, and what is of particular interest to you and me is that his first Alfalfa Seed, twenty-five years ago or more, was purchased from the John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis.

The Colonel says: "The best paying crop in hay, or grass, or pasture food is Alfalfa. It outranks everything in money value."

Salzer's Alfalfa is good on your own farm, for three to five tons of rich hay per acre, and with the use of Nitragen (see my catalog) its growth is absolutely certain.

For 10c In Postage

We gladly mail our Catalog and sample package of Ten Famous Farm Seeds, including Spelts, "The Cereal Wonder;" Rejuvenated White Bonanza Oats, "The Prize Winner;" Billion Dollar Grass; Teosinte, the Silo Filler, Alfalfa, etc., etc.

Or Send 12c

And we will mail you our big Catalog and six generous packages of Early Cabbage, Carrot, Cucumber, Lettuce, Radish, Onion—Enough for lots and lots of juicy delicious Vegetables during the early Spring and Summer.

Or send to **John A. Salzer Seed Co., Box 702, La Crosse, Wis.** for Catalog and receive both above collections and their big catalog.

MAGGIE'S EFFORT NOT GREAT

Had Earned Little of the Promised Remuneration for Helping Her Mother.

Now that the washing hung on the line, Mrs. Moran was leaning over the back fence and discussing with sympathetic Mrs. Regan the problem of bringing up a daughter. Privately, Mrs. Regan considered that Maggie Moran was born lazy, but Maggie's mother held that Maggie's case was not so simple.

"It ain't that Maggie's not willin'," said Mrs. Moran. "Willin' she is, and active on her bicycle, and always ready to run an errand for you. But she ain't one that hears work callin' or sees it stickin' at her."

"It's easier to do a thing yerself than to be telling others," said Mrs. Regan, understandingly.

"And that's the truth," agreed Mrs. Moran. "Not Maggie ain't to blame, although may be she's a little too easy discouraged. I've seen her tryin'. Last winter I says to her, 'Maggie,' I says, 'every time you find something to do to help mother round the house, I'll give ye a cent.' That started her hard at it, Mrs. Regan, and 'twas a full two weeks before she got discouraged and give it up."

"And how much did she make?" asked Mrs. Regan.

"Nine cents," said Mrs. Moran, "but I called it a dime."—Youth's Companion.

Settling Old Scores.

Our local rooter team had taken on a scratch eleven of the veterans of the village. The fifteen-year-old goalkeeper of the former was observed pacing excitedly to and fro between the goalposts.

At last, during an interval in the game, he approached his captain, who was playing center forward.

"I say, Jack, you might come into goal for a bit, and let me have your place," he said eagerly.

"Whatever for?" demanded the surprised center forward.

"Why, 'cause," confessed the goalie reluctantly, "I want to get a kick or two in at father!"—Dundee (Scotland) Courier.

Flattered.

Mistress—Bridget, it always seems to me that the worst mistresses get the best cooks."

Cook—Ah, go on wid yer blarney!

CHILDREN SHOWED IT

Effect of Their Warm Drink in the Morning.

"A year ago I was a wreck from coffee drinking and was on the point of giving up any position in the school room because of nervousness.

"I was telling a friend about it and she said, 'We drink nothing at meal time but Postum, and it is such a comfort to have something we can enjoy drinking with the children.

"I was astonished that she would allow the children to drink any kind of coffee, but she said Postum was not coffee, but a most healthful drink for children as well as for older ones, and that the condition of both the children and adults showed that to be a fact.

"I was in despair and determined to give Postum a trial, following the directions carefully. It was a decided success and I was completely won by its rich delicious flavor.

"In a short time I noticed a decided improvement in my condition and kept improving better month after month, until now I am healthy, and do my work in the school room with ease and pleasure. I would not return to nerve-destroying coffee for any money."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

Postum comes in two forms:

Regular Postum—must be well boiled. 15c and 25c packages.

Instant Postum—is a soluble powder. A teaspoonful dissolves quickly in a cup of hot water and, with cream and sugar, makes a delicious beverage instantly. 30c and 50c tins.

Both kinds are equally delicious and cost per cup about the same.

"There's a Reason" for Postum.

—sold by Grocers.