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DOWN TO EARTH

Dwarf Trees Good on Terraces

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for the Birmingham Eccentric

One does not have to go to Europe to explore into the field of Horticulture. In our own area we have many renowned specialists in Ornamental Horticulture who possess that common denominator known to all true gardeners, the wish to share their knowledge with other sincere gardeners.

My latest trip has been to visit Michael George, 7555 Pierson, near West Warren and Telegraph road. He has spent his mature lifetime in the study of Bonsai or the development of dwarf trees, an art which has come to us from Japan.

THESE TREES may be the variety which lose their leaves in the winter or evergreens. In the report from the G. M. Technical Center I reported seeing one of their two dwarf trees over two hundred and fifty years old.

These trees are root trimmed, no chemical fertilizer is used, the watering is curtailed and they exist in a state between "life and death," according to my garden host.

It is a problem to keep their growth to diminutive proportions. It will be five years before a seedling is established and then only a minimum amount of soil is used.

The fancier must select an evergreen with a small needle or a deciduous tree with small leaves like Japanese maples. I saw a miniature magnolia kept within a small pot and made part of a Japanese scene.

Cranbrook

(Continued from Page 8, Sec. 4)
arrangement of the new skull, feet and beak collection.

STAPP WROTE an illustrated article on "Food Habits of Long-Eared Owl," published in the Sept.-Oct. Audubon Magazine, which contains some interesting sidelights on the author's method of teaching and its results with young boys.

"This project (analyzing the pellets regurgitated by long-eared owls) was extremely stimulating and educational to our science class. It is a type of project that could be carried out by any school science class, nature club, Audubon Junior club, boy scout group or other youth organization.

"The study emphasized to our entire school the value of owls. Also, it stimulated a great deal of interest in natural history and presented an opportunity for field research.

"FURTHER pleasure and stimulation were added to our effort by being able to sit in the classroom and smile at each other when we heard the crows and the blue jays squawking in the evergreen area. We weren't daunted, but our acquired knowledge of birds and their behaviour told us exactly what was happening in the grove. We winked at each other because we knew that the crows and jays had discovered the owls—the object of our study." —M.H.B.



Mrs. Burlingame

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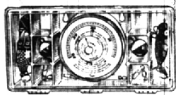
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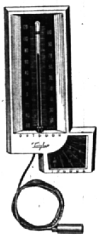
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It had lost its leaves, "because it is wintering."

Your next question may be ... is the growing of miniature trees an art which might interest me? Well, here is the story. With our winter heating it is only practical to bring them inside for short periods of time due to the heat. They are practical on the west coast due to their temperatures which are not artificial. You have to keep them in a cold frame outside.

THESE TREES would be of interest especially in the summer months on terraces and in rock gardens. You could decorate with various textures of evergreens. Yes, I would like to have the training to add to one more adventure available in this thrilling field of horticulture.

This time of year calls for some for a gift book suggestion. This year there is a terrific book out, teaming with practical knowledge. WHAT'S NEW IN GARDENING, Dr. P. P. Pirone, Hanover House, Garden, City, New York.

In this book written by the plant pathologist of the New York Botanical Gardens, you get the latest technique in all phases of plant culture for your home grounds. The use of growth regulators is described for you to try.

House plants are given a good portion of the book but plenty of space is given to the new introductions and their stories in all phases of plant growth. This is a practical book for the garden sheff.

david k. falvey

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