

**DOWN TO EARTH**

**Visits Lighthouse for Handicapped**

Recently visited the Lighthouse For The Handicapped in Chicago, which is a center dedicated to the assistance in all types of training for the blind, especially those who find that this handicap is a new situation to master.

Adjacent to the fine new building of modern design is an enclosed garden which was designed by a landscape architect for the interest of those who use the Lighthouse. The financing of the garden was planned and executed by those who support the Chicago Horticultural Society.

IN THIS GARDEN there were wide gravel paths (the blind prefer to be able to hear the approach of people), many raised planters for specialized plants, and an in-

teresting tear drop shaped area where they can sit at tables in the sunshine during the warm months and study and work, if they prefer.

I liked this blind garden because here you have a captured audience in an enclosure. Have carefully studied the development of blind gardens in various parts of the United States and in England.

By visits I have evaluated their cost in proportion to the actual use given by those who are blind, their benefits are greatly overrated.

A BLIND PERSON wants to assume a normal pattern of behavior in public and with their "driver" to assume this role they can quickly surpass their seeing friends with the help of a companion by knowing the general collection of plants by feeling their identifying characteristics.

More money should be used on developing outstanding gardens for general pleasure with our increased leisure time and the blind will enjoy them right along with Mr. Public.

THE CHICAGO SCHOOL system is interested in program of Horticultural Therapy, serviced by volunteers, for the handicapped so that these young people will mature to appreciate flowers and gardening. Some of those who have this interest awakened will have an opportunity for vocational training later.

When our local gardeners store their fleshy bulbs or tubers they should be placed in a cool storage area where they will not freeze. After the dirt is dry enough to fall away from the bulbs or tubers they can be packed in a brown grocery bag.

If you powder them with fernate it will prevent fungus damage from moisture. Most people store their storage material in vermiculite (exploded mica) because it won't draw the needed moisture out of the fleshy tubers or bulbs like peat moss.

IT IS DIFFICULT to have anybody tell you when to water your house plants. The timing has to be

**WHY?**

On occasions of good fortune this originated from touching wood in gratitude to Christ who died on a wooden cross. But the contrary notion of "knocking" to avert bad luck stems from Norse mythology. Oak was king of the forest, the tree most often struck by lightning as Thor, god of Thunder, made his appearance on earth. To touch this sacred tree meant you were safe from cranky sky and thunder gods who might punish boasters by striking them with lightning. This magic property of oak was transferred to all wood.



**Do We "Knock on Wood?"**

established by you as the timing is controlled by the temperature and moisture in your house. Your finger in the soil will tell you the condition of the house plant soil.

By Mrs. Burlingame

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**Sports Night Set For Men's Club**

Outstanding personalities in the sports world will be the guests of the Men's Club of First Presbyterian church at their dinner meeting tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the social hall. There will be stars from the fields of football, baseball, hockey and track, plus color movies of 1956 Lions highlights.

**Northwest Baptist To Hear Missionary Discuss Japan**

The Rev. Noah Brannen, missionary of the American Baptist convention in Japan, will speak at the evening service of Northwest Baptist church, 19421 W. Ten Mile road, Sunday at 7 p.m. The Rev. Mr. Brannen and his wife make their home on the Island of Mukaijima in the Inland Sea of Japan. He served with the Fukuin Maru (Gospel Ship) preaching to the Islanders. Mr. Brannen's message is part of a series of Sunday evening presentations of missionary interest sponsored by the missions committee of Northwestern Baptist church.

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