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WITH AN INTRODUCTION  
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## INTRODUCTION.

IT may be said at the present time that in making many books of gardening there is no end, and yet there is always room for another, as one often hears people complain that no book gives them exactly what they want. Some are written by gardeners of so much knowledge and experience that they cannot put themselves in the place of a beginner, and some by those to whom gardening is a new art, and who are ready to teach what they do not thoroughly know.

Miss Randolph has lived and worked in a garden all her life, under her father, who has made one of the most charming gardens in Kent. She teaches, from her own experience, how to make a garden from the beginning, and how to keep it always beautiful, with the least possible expense,

but with the loving care and labour which are their own reward.

The pleasure of a garden is one which increases as one grows older, but few people in these rushing days believe that in the society of one's own flowers one need never be "dull".

This book shows the way to this "path of peace," and that, in the words of an old gardener who has worked forty years in one garden and is never happy out of it, "everything will grow if it is properly *putt* in".

FLORENCE COMPTON.

ST. MARTIN'S, CANTERBURY

## AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

**T**HERE are few things in life which give us more pleasure than the care of a garden ; from our nursery days, when we took an absorbing interest in growing mustard and cress upon a piece of flannel, in a saucer of water, or presented our nurse with radishes as large as walnuts, announcing with pride that they were the produce of "our own garden," until our latest years, when the peace and privacy of a garden are so highly valued.

To those who have a real fondness for flowers, what can compare with the constant pleasure of a garden—always something beautiful to look at, some fresh interest to watch, some little difficulty to overcome, something that wants doing, in the doing of which we forget many little worries, and

learn many lessons of patience and perseverance, often having failures and disappointments, but also rejoicing in numberless delightful successes.

Now there are many people who *wish* to make their garden pretty, but who are very much at a loss how to begin laying out a new bit of ground, or improving an old garden which has become rather a wilderness of weeds.

One often meets people who are ready enough to admire a beautiful garden, but who remark at the same time that "they can do nothing" with their own garden, "the soil is so poor," or "the situation is so bad". Do not believe them; you can, with care and patience, make a pleasing garden in almost any soil or situation.

Look around you at the cottage gardens of your own village; some have no attempt at flower gardens, some have a stiff bed of Geraniums and annuals, with a few standard Roses perhaps, while others are full of carefully tended plants of every description, Roses or Vines covering the walls of the house, tall Hollyhocks grouped in a corner by

the door, massive clumps of beautiful white Lilies (which never seem to grow anywhere else *quite* so well as they do in a cottage garden), early Chrysanthemums, making a bright show of colour for many weeks in the autumn, and other flowers too numerous to name.

It depends on the *person*, not on the place. As it is with the cottagers, so it may be with you, "where there's a will there's a way". If you *will* to make a pretty garden, you *can* do so, whether your space be measured only by yards, and you intend to do all the work yourself, or whether it be a fairly large piece of ground, where you employ at least one man to do the manual labour, while the planning and arranging are in your own hands.

Having had many years' experience of gardening, I hope to be able to help you to some extent in starting a garden which may be admired by your friends, and, still better, will be a pleasure to yourself.



# THE GARDENER'S COMPANION.

## GENERAL PLAN OF THE GARDEN.

YOUR garden should be a little world of your own, representing your own mind, and your own taste; made, according as your space and means will permit, to suit your own special requirements, and to be a delightful haven of rest at all times and seasons.

You will want walks of gravel for wet and rainy days, others of grass for fine weather, and for the sake of the pretty effects which may be had from the flowers that border them.

There must be warm corners with seats, sheltering you from the cold and cutting winds in early spring; sunny nooks where you can sit and enjoy the autumn days; and other delightful spots of cool shade to protect you from the burning summer heat.

## 2 THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Now to make these charming corners, you must plan with care, taking advantage of any rise or fall in your ground, or of any natural shade or shelter from surrounding objects. But if you have no natural features or advantages on your ground, if it seems to be the most flat and uncompromising bit of land possible, you can yet do much to improve matters.

Possibly it is a new house you are building, and, if so, you can have the earth that is dug out for the foundations, placed where you wish to form your banks of evergreens, or other dividing lines in your garden ; this will give an immense help to the appearance for the first few years, when the newly planted shrubs look so sadly small and inadequate.

Then in planning out the arrangement of your garden, and the paths which are to lead from one part of it to another, you must use all the ingenuity possible ; if your garden is square, you must disguise its squareness by constructing blinds and screens of bushes and small trees, to divide it in various directions.

If your garden is very long and narrow, you must construct the lines of your paths and beds so

as to give the appearance of breadth, by making curving lines across the narrow strip.

If your garden is on a very steep slope, I strongly advise you to make it into terraces, for there is nothing more disagreeable than to be always climbing up or down very steep paths, and it makes your garden useless for elderly or invalid people. The terraces need by no means be stiff, but may be made any shape that is convenient, one little garden leading to another, by long easy steps or by gentle slopes.

If your garden is surrounded with park land, you will, of course, have great scope for leaving beautiful views of distant trees, etc., as well as for making charming bits of garden for special flowers, or special effects, such as a dell of Rhododendrons and Azaleas ; or a Rose walk, using all the briars and hardy climbing roses to grow in rampant profusion. Wherever your garden melts into the park land, or the Common, do not be content to let an ugly iron fence mark the boundary, but make a ha-ha where such a thing would be suitable, or, if you must have a fence, conceal it as far as you can by plantations.

Whatever is the size or shape of your garden,

you will need first to think of planting the dividing lines, and for this purpose banks or hedges of evergreens will be needed, such as Yew, Box, Holly, or Portugal Laurel, which will all, in a few years time, prove invaluable screens and divisions, and will thrive in almost any soil.

Pines, Cypress, and Firs of various kinds, I should advise you to plant as single specimens on the lawn, or in groups of several together, for making dividing lines in your landscape, for in laying out a garden you must remember not to let every part be seen at once. Be your garden large or small, one pretty vista should lead on to another, each one breaking fresh upon your sight as you come to it, an opening being left here and there for a more distant view, where it is possible to obtain one, but do not let the whole of your garden be laid bare to the eye, from any one point.

**Croquet Lawns, Lawn Tennis Ground.**—If you require a croquet lawn, or grounds for lawn-tennis, plan what position you will wish them to occupy.

**Kitchen-garden Paths.**—Arrange open sunny situations for your Kitchen-garden and Fruit-garden; then map out the various paths leading to them with great care, avoiding any forced curves,

but let your paths be either straight, or taking easy, gentle sweeps among the trees and beds.

**Nursery Beds.**—Above all things, do not forget to provide for the all-important nursery bed, in which to grow your seeds, cuttings and young stock; this should face north, or north-west, as nearly all cuttings and seeds will do best if they are kept from the heat of the sun.

**Potting-shed.**—Near your nursery should be the potting-shed, tool-house, etc., and all the little stores, so dear to the heart of the gardener, of sand, lime, leaf mould, etc.

**Frames.**—Your frame, or frames, should also be close at hand, but these must be in the sun, and facing south, if possible.

#### PLANTING THE GARDEN.

**Trees.**—Trees that will grow to a large size should not be planted very near the house, but one or two large trees on, or near, the lawn, are very desirable, such as a Copper Beech, or a Walnut Tree, for these trees are, as a rule, free from caterpillars and insects, and are pleasant to sit under.

**Evergreens.**—Banks of evergreens near the

house are often most useful in screening ugly corners, or concealing fences, making a green and cheerful sight, even in mid-winter when other things look bare and naked. Box and Yew mingle well together, and grow quickly. Groups of Holly can be left to grow in their natural forms, or trimmed into a thick and lasting hedge. Portugal Laurels make splendid clumps in a few years, reaching a great height, while the Laurestinus is beautiful for hedges, but will only thrive where there is chalk in the soil.

**Flower-beds.**—The flower-beds should be formed to fall in with the general idea of your garden, and may be of *any* shape, either simple or fantastic, that happens to fit in with their surroundings, or with the direction of your paths; a narrow ribbon bed twisting in and out among the specimen trees on the lawn is very pretty, and an excellent shape for perennials, most of which enjoy having plenty of air; and you will want large beds of various shapes such as “bean shape” or “palm shape,” etc., for the more massive plants and flowering shrubs.

I do not recommend putting any flowering plants in the same beds as the evergreens, or at all events

not with conifers, for the roots of these are always near the surface, and wide-spreading, absorbing all the goodness from the ground, and the poor perennials would get starved.

Flowering shrubs of many kinds look well in the larger beds with perennials, and are of great use in giving a substantial look to beds and borders between the more fleeting beauties of the flowering plants: many of the shrubs, too, although called deciduous, are objects of great beauty far into the winter months, and again early in the spring. (Particulars of various shrubs will be given in a later chapter.)

Thus with beautiful trees and evergreens to make your landscape, and with choice deciduous shrubs for the main features of your garden, you will have free scope for fancy, or for experiments, when you come to planting the actual flowers.

Shelter from cold winds, shelter from hot sun, shelter from the public eye, these are the first requirements of the ideal garden; then make your sheltered world as beautiful as you can, allowing distant views here and there to give the idea of space; and providing beautiful forms and lovely colours near at hand in abundance.

## THE SHRUBBERY.

If a shrubbery forms part of your design, let the colder northern side be planted to a great extent with evergreens, Pines, Firs, Cypress, etc., in all their lovely variety; the more sunny side being devoted to groups of Guelder-rose, Berberis, Spiræas (the larger growing kinds), Ribes, Cornus, Brooms, Cratægus, etc., in all their endless variations of foliage and colour; and, if your soil will grow them, of the peat-loving Rhododendrons and Azaleas.

I have not mentioned Laburnum and Lilac, for I should always place them well in sight of the windows, or at all events near the house, for no English garden would seem complete in May without these lovely flowers. Do not think from what I have said that I am advising what will lead to very heavy expense; I am well aware that with most people the expense of the garden must be kept down as much as is possible, and with care and forethought we can do a great deal without spending much money.

For instance, if you have a large space which you wish to fill with trees and shrubs, you should

select a few choice ones, for which you need not give more than one shilling and sixpence or two shillings each, and plant them at such distance from each other as *will* be required when they are full grown, and fill in with a very cheap kind which will grow quickly, and which can be removed as required to make room for the good ones ; such as a few choice (or moderately choice) Firs and Pines (I will not frighten you by their names), filled in with Larch, Arborvitæ, or Privet, which can be had for about five shillings a hundred or less.

With deciduous shrubs you may fill in with Elder, Thorn, Berberis, Rubus, etc.; choosing those things that grow most easily on your own soil.

This plan serves the purpose of economy, and also furnishes a good shelter for your more precious shrubs while they are growing, each inferior plant being moved as the better one grows up to it ; so that in years to come your space will be filled, and well filled, with good things only.

People are very apt to make the mistake of planting too closely, which ends in the good plants spoiling each other, or else entails their being moved at an advanced age when there is great risk of their being damaged.

One can often get very cheap lots of conifers, or of shrubs, at the sales which are constantly advertised, and these prove very useful where there is much ground to be covered; and from the large nurseries such as Sampson, Kilmarnock, you can be very reasonably supplied at all times.

#### TIME FOR PLANTING.

All conifers and evergreens are moved in the late spring (April) with far less risk of damage, than in the autumn; Hollies must not be moved until they begin to grow, in May. Deciduous shrubs may be moved any time in the autumn, or early spring, if the weather is open; and young trees should be transplanted when their leaves have finished dropping off.

#### PLANTING THE FLOWER BEDS.

When you come to the interesting moment of planting your flower beds, you will find that it is desirable to have one side, or one end, or perhaps the centre, higher than the rest of the bed, and this is where the flowering shrubs should find their place. The choice of these is enormous, but very puzzling to the novice, so I have given a detailed list of some of the best in a later chapter.

Berberis of almost every kind grow easily, and can hardly be surpassed for beauty of form and colour. Mahonia, Darwinii and Stenophylla are some of the lovely yellow flowered ones, the fruiting Berberis, so beautiful in autumn, and last, but not least, the purple leaved Berberis, which is such a delight to the eye, and such an enchanting contrast to the surrounding green.

Spiræas should be your next thought. *S. airæfolia*, growing twelve feet high, and becoming one mass of feathery cream flowers in July. *S. opufolia aurea*, showing its golden foliage in early spring. *S. thumbergii*, which is one of the first shrubs to put forth its white flowers, followed by the exquisite light green foliage, which takes all the colours of the rainbow in autumn. *S. Anthony Waterei*, three to four feet high, gives a magnificent sheet of crimson flowers in July. Indeed with Spiræas one can hardly go wrong, for almost all are both beautiful in foliage and prolific in bloom.

Brooms are very desirable in making a complete change of foliage from the other plants. The Spanish Broom is coarse growing, and only fit for shrubberies, but the delicate white Portugal Broom

is a delightful sight in early June, and should be planted where it has an evergreen background. The cream-coloured *Genista scoparia flore albo*, is low growing and spreading, flowering late in June. *Cytisus nigricans* is of delicate and graceful beauty in July and August. The common yellow Broom, *Cytisus scoparias*, and its red variety *C. andreana* are good for massing in places which are seen from a little distance.

If it is a new garden you are laying out, you must be careful to consider what is likely to grow well and easily in your particular soil and climate, and to ascertain this, it is well to look around you and see what kind of things flourish on your neighbour's land.

Our British evergreens of Box, Yew and Holly, are safe to do well in almost any soil, and always make a good background for flower beds, provided they are not overdone. Guelder-rose, Elder (cut leaved and golden), *Colutea*, the common *Berberis*, and *Cratægus* of various sorts, all start easily on the poorest of soils; while on a clay soil or moist loam you may plant *Weigela*, *Rubus* in every variety, *Pyrus*, *Deutzia*, *Cornus*, and many of the *Spiræas*.

Do not forget that even in a small garden you may find considerable variety of soil, and to take advantage of this is far better than making the soil, even if you have the means of such an expensive proceeding.

If you have to deal with a garden which is already made, as far as the placing and planting of trees and shrubs are concerned, your first care must be to put each new plant in the situation in which it is most likely to thrive.

We often find people who have got some new plant putting it at once into some empty space which they are anxious to fill, without considering at all what the plant likes, and then they are very much surprised to find the poor plant in a bad way, when it was perhaps pining for shade, and had been put into the hottest place in the garden. Now such conduct as this is very much to be avoided if you wish your garden to be a success, for you may be sure that no success will be so great as that of getting your plants to grow *happily*, and only growing such things as you can make really thrive in your own particular garden.

When there is a vacant space in your borders

which you wish to fill, you should consider first what would be likely to thrive in that particular position, and to have a good effect there; likewise when you become possessed of a new plant, your first thought should be to place it where it will have what is most beneficial to it, in the way of soil, shade or sun. You may not always be able to find out the requirements of each plant at first, but if you study the subject you will soon learn.

Do not make a garden of herbaceous flowers in a stiff pattern, by planting rows of one sort of plant; though of course it is allowable, and often pretty, to put some one sort of plant as an edging, such as Pinks, Iceland Poppies, Thrift or Nasturtiums, but avoid putting several rows, one behind another, as is done with bedded-out plants.

Arrange your flowers in groups for the main part, but not in large groups, for this makes such large bare patches when that particular flower is over; but small groups of Oriental Poppies, Delphiniums, and Lupins at intervals along a straight border, look very well, and can be replaced in effect by succeeding groups of *Campanula grandis*, and *C. persifolia*, Foxgloves, Scarlet Lychnis, and Phlox, planted alternately with them, to be followed later by Heli-

anthus, Hollyhocks, Michaelmas Daisy, etc., in great variety.

In planting beds and borders your aim will of course be to have those beds bright and gay for as long a season as possible, so I will give you a short list of those plants which seem to me most indispensable, in the order in which they flower, details of which plants you will find in a future chapter.

Crocus, Daffodils, Primroses and Polyanthus, Scillas, S. Brigid Anemones, Tulips, Myosotis, *Silene pendula*, *Arabis fl. pl.*, *Aubretia*, Geums, Wallflowers, Pansies, Iris, Poppies, both Alpine and Iceland, and the glorious Oriental Poppies, Pæonies, Pinks, Lupin, *Spiræa*, Canterbury Bells, Aquilegias, *Pyrethrum*, *Delphinium*, *Antirrhinum*, Sweet William, *Campanula persicifolia*, *C. grandis*, *C. carpatica*, and *C. Pyramidalis*, Scarlet Lychnis, *Œnothera*, Gladiolas, *Gypsophila*, Phlox of all colours, *Salvias*, *Montbretia*, *Helianthus*, Japanese Anemones, early Chrysanthemums, and Michaelmas Daisies in abundance.

With a groundwork of these flowers to begin with, you will have a garden gay from early March till late November, and, as you go on, countless other plants will come under your notice, and be

added to fill up all the vacant spaces in your borders.

June is, of course, the *most* lovely month of all in herbaceous gardens, for then everything seems at the height of its beauty, nothing gone off, nothing cut down ; but the careful gardener must prepare for the sad moment when the first glory of June is over, when Irises are withered, and Poppies and Lupins have to be cut down ; and you will do well to remember to plant next to them, groups of Delphinium, Spiræa Aruncus, the beautiful Madonna Lilies, etc., to take their place in making a fine effect from a distance.

Another thing to remember is that your nursery bed must always be supplying you with plants to poke into empty spaces as they occur ; many of the larger plants can be brought on in pots for this purpose, by which means they will not be checked by the move.

Seeds of annuals should be sown about the end of April (or later for succession) in any spaces where they can grow well. Opium Poppies are one of the most useful annuals, making a delightful bit of colour in July.

*Dianthus Heddwigi* treated as a half-hardy

annual is most useful for putting in odd corners, while patches of *Linum grandiflorum*, *Pharcelia*, *Salpiglossis*, *Godetia*, *Love-in-a-mist*, *Eschscholtzia*, etc., are invaluable as a help in giving colour to the beds. Dwarf *Nasturtiums* will form a lovely edge, taking the place which double *Daisies* or *Pinks* filled in the early summer, *Petunias* and *Lavatera* are delightful in the late summer, also *Delphinium grandiflorum* treated as an annual.

There are so many different things to consider in arranging a garden that it sounds very difficult when you only read about it, but when you come to the actual work, experience will soon teach you what to look out for, and the study of your neighbours' gardens will do much to show you what to do, and what to avoid doing.

The height, the colour and the time of flowering have to be kept in mind when planting your beds, and the study of the good catalogues of herbaceous plants will be found an excellent guide, as all the best nurserymen give these particulars.

There are two great faults one often sees; one is that of having the beds not nearly full enough, just separate plants at respectful distances from each other, looking as if they had quarrelled! and

leaving ugly patches of earth between them ; where- as a really pretty bed should be *full* of plants, small things nestling in front of larger ones, tall, slight things towering gracefully above the sturdy ones, all making one harmonious whole.

The other fault I would warn you against is becoming greedy of plants, until your ground is almost all given over to the flower beds, only narrow, grudging room being left for paths or lawn, and the whole having the effect of a nursery garden. More than one garden of moderate size have I seen, where the owner seemed so anxious to possess *everything* in the way of plants, that all idea of restfulness and beauty had entirely departed from that garden.

Now that it is no longer the fashion to have gardens exclusively devoted to "bedding out," some people are apt to consider that a garden may be allowed to grow untidy looking ; now this is a very grave fault in a garden, and you should always make a point of having the lawn kept well mown, and the paths attended to. This latter point is, perhaps, the most important of all in giving a pleasant finished look to your garden ; gravel or cinder paths must be constantly gone over with a hoe to

keep down all weeds, and the edges of grass neatly clipped as often as they require it, for if your paths are well kept it gives at once a pleasant look of order and neatness to the whole garden.

In beds of herbaceous flowers a certain degree of untidiness is allowable, and one often gets pretty effects from one flower mingling with another, a strong growing plant, perhaps, supporting a weaker brother; but I do not mean by this that you can neglect the staking and tying up of tall growing plants in exposed positions; Lupins, Delphiniums, Michaelmas Daisies and hosts of others almost always require very careful tying, and you should try and remember to do this in good time, before the Delphiniums have grown "bow-legged" or the Michaelmas Daisies laid flat down on their next-door neighbour.

#### SPECIAL TREATMENT OF CERTAIN FLOWERS.

**Bulbs.**—Bulbs are often rather a difficulty in the flower garden, as, if they are planted among the herbaceous plants they are apt to be forgotten, and perhaps dug up; or they are overshadowed by other plants and do not get as much sun as is good for them in ripening the young bulbs; so I should

always advise Daffodils and Crocus having their own special corners in your garden, where the bare ground may be ignored later in the year, or perhaps lightly covered by some annual.

Tulips will look well in some large groups, and if these are allowed in the borders their place could be marked by some special spreading plant, such as double white Arabis, being planted over them; while clumps of the pretty white *Scilla campanulata* might mingle with *Veronica rupestris*, or Pansies. Beds of S. Brigid Anemones may possibly be arranged in a border of the kitchen garden, side by side with Lilies of the Valley, where both may be covered, after flowering, with leaf mould, to keep them cool in the hot sun of July and August.

**Primroses.**—Primroses and Polyanthus are so welcome in March and April that they should certainly be grown in your garden, but they do not lend themselves to mix well with other perennial plants, and should be given special beds, or borders of their own, where they get a good bit of sun early in the year, but shade from the heat of the summer. Primroses do *not* grow well under trees, but they are quite happy under bushes, or partly under

bushes, such as the hazel nut, or broom, and will grow all the better for the shade thus afforded at midsummer; Polyanthus are taller and require a rather more open situation, as they continue to flower all through May. Both these plants prefer a clay or loam soil.

Japanese Primroses are handsome, and flower in June, but these will only do well in a very moist soil.

There will be more variety in your garden if the centre of interest is not always in the same spot, so that it will be no harm to have parts that are specially beautiful in spring, and other lovely corners in autumn, while the more central parts of your garden are devoted to the glory of summer.

**Carnations.**—Carnations are another of the flowers which I think look best, and do best, in a place by themselves. They do not like to be crowded, as they are one of the plants that really *like* wind and air; an ideal situation for them is the top of a stone wall, or a steep bank, where they may grow hanging down, instead of being severely tied up to little green sticks; but where there is only a flat garden to deal with, you may derive great pleasure from beds of Carnations on the level; I prefer,

myself, growing them from seed, as these plants always give such abundance of bloom, and if fresh *good* seed is sown in August you will have good plants to put into beds for next year, and though there are sure to be *some* single ones among them the larger proportion will be double, and will provide you with sheaves of flowers for gathering in August when other flowers are scarce. Carnations like a sandy soil.

**Irises.**—Irises certainly show themselves off best where they are massed; if there is a sunny border on the outskirts of your shrubbery, German Irises, in great variety of colour, planted with an unsparing hand, would look well there, or in front of the shrubs bordering a carriage drive; or they may be grown in a border with tall perennials behind them; but they require *something* behind them, and do not look their best if they are planted in beds with no background.

*Iris Sibirica orientalis* is a variety that looks very well in the mixed border, as its leaves do not die down until quite the end of the summer; it is a good dark blue in colour, about two feet high. There is also a lovely white variety, *I. S. snow queen*.

In a light soil all these Irises grow and increase

very quickly, the roots can be divided in autumn to make fresh plants.

There are a number of different species of Irises, some of which flower very early in the year; but the most showy and effective ones for the garden are certainly the German Iris in all its colours, including the large blue *I. pallida*, which is most beautiful.

The rush Iris with bulbous roots, Spanish Iris and English Iris are very bright and pretty, succeeding each other in June; their place in the garden should be among the beds of Daffodils and Narcissus.

The Japanese Irises are extremely beautiful, but require very special treatment, as they like their roots very moist, practically in the water, but will only flower where they have full sun.

**Sweet Peas.**—Though only an annual, Sweet-Peas are a very important part of a charming garden, from their extreme beauty, and also from the immense quantity of flowers they produce, if the old blooms are cut off to prevent the plant wasting its strength in producing seed. They may be sown in three different ways: (1) in the open, in early autumn, September or October;

(2) raised under glass, three or four seeds in a pot, in January, hardened off in a cold frame, and planted out in April; (3) or sown in the open in February. In any case the preparation must be the same, *deep* digging of the trench, and, if possible, a liberal quantity of manure dug into the trench; it is well to soak the seeds in paraffin before planting, to prevent mischief from mice or slugs. Plant six inches apart in a double alternate row.

**Roses.**—I have said nothing at present about Roses, for I think that Roses look their best in beds or groups by themselves, rather than mixed with other flowers; either in a border with standards behind and dwarfs in front, or in a group of beds on the lawn, with some pillars and chains, and bush Roses below them; or on each side of a "Rose-walk" with arches and climbing roses at intervals. Most lovely of all to my mind are the Roses that can, and may, be let to grow rampant over walls and arches, or against buildings of any sort.

A steep bank covered with the almost evergreen Wichauriana Roses, with bushes or groups of the hardy China, or monthly Roses, dotted here and there among them, is a lovely sight.

Of the many different kinds of Hybrid perpetuals, Teas, and Hybrid Teas, I will say nothing, for everybody has their own ideas as to which Roses please them most, and where all are so beautiful, it is difficult to go far wrong.

**Briar Roses.**—If possible a place must be found for Briar Roses; Roses which are a never failing delight when they are planted in some place where they can be left to grow in their own rampant way. Have you not some dell where there would be shelter from the north and east, which would make a nice bowling-green, or a small lawn where you could plant masses of Briar Roses round two sides facing south and west; or perhaps there is a path through some wild bit of the garden that might be banked on one side with these lovely bushes, supported and protected on the colder side by Portugal Laurels, or other evergreens. If you can afford space to plant them in either of these ways, or in any other way that may commend itself to you, be sure to allow plenty of room for growth.

Begin by planting the beautiful **Penzance Sweet Briars** in all their various shades of colour, for the back row—you can reckon on their growing not less than ten feet high, and wide in proportion, as

they are rampant growers, throwing out beautiful drooping shoots of great length, giving a sheet of bloom in July, and filling the air with their delicious scent at all times, but especially after a summer shower. In front of the Penzance Briars you must have large groups of the brilliant double yellow **Persian Briar**, which grows into bushes some five or six feet high, spreading itself freely by root suckers, flowering in June.

**Austrian Briar** with its large single flowers of scarlet and gold, showy and distinct.

**Xanthina**, the pale yellow briar with darker centre, early flowering and very hardy.

**The Scotch Briar** with its button-like white roses by the thousand, in May, the fine foliage turning to such lovely colours in the autumn that it is worth growing on that account alone.

**Californica fl. pl.** with innumerable "rose de chine" single flowers in July.

With these you can place groups of the dear old **Pink Monthly Rose**, or **China Rose**, that never failing friend which gives us its lovely rose-coloured buds right up to Christmas, and is one of the first to bloom again in the summer. You may also have its lovely salmon-pink hybrids,

**Laurette Messimy** and **Madame Eugène Resal** and any of the hardy old-world bush Roses that you can possibly collect.

**Maiden's Blush** with its shell-pink flowers, semi-double and dark blue-green leaves.

**Moss Roses** of all shades.

**Rosa Alpina** blooming in May, single bright pink.

**Rosa Indica** of the same colour, late in the summer, and many others.

If you can give a bit of garden for growing such Roses as these I am sure you will be well rewarded, for you will have a beautiful wealth of flowers for the whole summer. It will be no use attempting this sort of Rose-dell or Rose-walk unless you can give them plenty of space, and an open airy situation; this I believe to be of more importance than a quantity of manure. Let them be well planted (in November), well pruned back the first year after planting, and then let them grow as rampant as they will, only cutting away dead or old wood, so as to give full play to the young shoots.

#### STRAIGHT BORDERS AND TERRACES.

Most gardens have some place where a straight wide border seems to be a necessity, and these can

be made a wonder of beauty if love and care are bestowed upon them. If the straight border is backed by a wall, it is a comparatively easy matter, for the wall can be covered with such lovely things as climbing Roses, Clematis, Jasmine, Magnolia, etc., but I should advise you always to break the line here and there by tall growing bushes which enjoy the protection of the wall, and make a pleasant variety to the look of your border: I mean such things as *Ceanothus*, *Solanum crispum*, *Cistus*, *Carpentaria*, *Choisya*, *Rhus cotinus*.

The shrubs should not only be allowed against the wall, but should be encouraged to come forward almost to the edge of your border at intervals; for by this means, besides the beauty of a more graceful variation, by having bushes in your border, you also get the advantage of shelter for pet things. Supposing your border faces west, you would get nice little sideway nooks in comparative shade for your *Aquilegias*, *Lychnis*, or other shade-loving plants, and charming sunny corners on the reverse for *Canterbury Bells*, *Poppies*, *Oxalis*, etc., which are children of the sun.

Do not put an edging of one flower all the way along a straight border—there is no greater

mistake; the effect is seen all at once, and is very monotonous; whereas, if you have the long broad border divided, as it were, into bays, there is constant fresh interest at every step.

If your straight border be cut off the edge of your vegetable garden, it must be treated differently, for it is not desirable to have any but deciduous plants in such a case, it would be robbing the vegetables of their full measure of sun. For such a border as this the back row of plants may consist of the taller growing Michaelmas Daisies, Helianthus, Delphiniums, Oriental Poppies, etc., or it may be made lovely by Clematis, Honeysuckle, Everlasting Peas, etc., growing over a rough made "post and rail" sort of fence; the front rows being mixed kinds of perennials, or large groups of spring, summer, and autumn flowering plants.

If it is a terrace border you have to deal with, which is seen from a distance and from which the distance is seen, there should be some sort of stiffness and formality in the arrangement; it need not be entirely stiff in design, but certain plants, or groups of plants at stated intervals, will give a stately effect, which is often desirable in such a case. For this purpose some of the evergreens

or conifers specially lend themselves, being equally beautiful in form and colour at all times of the year.

#### PERGOLAS.

Pergolas are now the fashion, so we see Pergolas wherever we go! but too often they are built in so unsuitable and so obtrusive a position that we could wish them removed. These arcades *can* be made very lovely, but they lose their loveliness if they have the appearance of being forced or unmeaning; they are never suitable, in my opinion, across a path in the kitchen-garden, for they give too much shade to be healthy for the vegetables. They should, if possible, lead to some pretty opening in the garden, or to some favourite seat. The idea of a Pergola is to shade one from too much sun; but, alas, in England we do not often get too much sun; therefore you must be careful not to put your arcade so that it should spoil your most bright and sunny walk, making it useless for the colder and damper seasons of the year. What can be more unpleasant than to go out soon after a summer shower, and feel the drip, drip, from roses and vines falling heavily upon you? I think that a short

distance of arcade is always preferable to, and more effective than, a long one; the latter soon becomes monotonous, and we long to be at the end of it by the time we are half-way through.

But if it is well placed and not overdone, you may have truly lovely effects from your arcade of Roses, Vines, Honeysuckle, Clematis, etc., choosing your climbers so that some are in beauty as early as May, while others do not make their display until September, many of the most showy being midsummer flowers, so that there may always be some plants in full effect during the season.

#### ROCKERIES.

The rock-garden is sometimes placed so as to appear incongruous with its surroundings. It is a form of gardening that is delightful for those who cannot do much hard manual labour themselves, but who can weed, and cherish a corner of rockery, when they have, perhaps, a very small garden, and only "a man to help" occasionally.

If you are one of those fortunate persons who have their garden in a land of stone, and of rippling brooks, you will have but little difficulty in finding a suitable place for your rockery; but I strongly

advise you to begin it in a small way, and let it *grow*; for in the end it will assume a far more natural appearance than if laid out from the beginning.

By the side of a little stream would be the best place for a rockery, if not overhung or overshadowed by trees, for rockeries must have full sunshine for the display of many of the most effective plants.

You may not, after all, have a stream, but yet you may possess some low-lying spot where a small amount of digging would find water, and if this is in a suitable situation, with some shelter from the north and east, it would be an ideal spot for your rockery; the earth that is dug out to form your pool would help to build a bank for the rocks on one side, rising in as irregular a way as possible to your highest level, and well banked in on the colder side with low-growing shrubs and bushes.

It is difficult to convey any instructions as to building a rock-garden. Remember the first principle is to place your rocks so that they may attract the heat of the sun, but keep the soil behind them cool and moist. The second considera-

tion is to provide some corners on the reverse, which are sheltered from midday sun, where your shade- and damp-loving plants can revel in their coolness; but bear in mind that these are in the minority in making a really pleasing rock-garden. If your rocks can extend into one of those pretty, roughly made stone walls, where you can have a "wall-garden," you will have still more scope for showing a blaze of beauty in the various Dianthus, Wallflowers, Campanulas, Helianthemums, etc.

Much depends on the background, and you *must* have plenty of green background, if your rock-work is to be really effective; with flowering shrubs and small evergreen shrubs, and with such a wealth of lovely things as you have to select from in the nurserymen's catalogues, this should be no very difficult matter.

## LIST I.

### PRACTICAL TREATMENT OF THE MOST USEFUL PERENNIALS.

If you are a beginner in the practical work of gardening, you will wish to know how to grow and increase the various groups of plants, although you may very likely know them well by sight

and by name; so I will now give you working directions for those I have recommended you to start with.

**Anemone.**—Nearly all Anemones are good, but the Irish strain, *A. coronaria* *S. Brigida*, is most valuable for making a gay appearance in the garden from March till June, and also for providing cut flowers for the house. They are of every imaginable colour and form, both single and double, and have beautiful fern-like foliage; they thrive best when raised from seed in your own soil. Sow the seed as soon as ripe (in May or June), prick out into boxes and keep moist. As soon as large enough plant them in the open in shade; they can be moved into their flowering quarters in the autumn, and should by that time be good plants with a quantity of root; they like a certain amount of chalk in the soil, and seem to benefit by manure from the poultry-yard. They flower best in an open sunny situation, but it is not good for the bulbs to be too much dried up in the summer, and it is well to cover them in July with some fresh soil or leaf-mould. The plants will flower well for several years, but it is advisable to renew your stock about every three years.

Japanese Anemone, *A. japonica*, is quite a dis-

tinct, tall-growing, autumn-flowering plant, *most* valuable in the garden, for when they have become well established they spread themselves into most artistic groups, and come in late in August when other flowers are getting scarce. There are white, pink, and dark-pink—the former are much the most effective; they prefer growing where there is some shade, and look well against a background of shrubs; bits of the running root will grow very easily if planted late in the autumn.

**Antirrhinum.**—These can be raised from seed sown under glass in January, or in the open in April; they are perennial, but often get spoilt or injured by severe frost. The tall kinds are far more effective in a garden than the dwarf; dark-red, white, coral-pink, or yellow, are the most useful colours; if you have any special pets, they can be increased by cuttings late in the summer. *Antirrhinum* requires a very dry, well-drained soil.

**Aquilegia.**—These lovely plants can be raised easily from seed, and become good flowering plants in the second year, by sowing fresh seed in the open in shade, and pricking them out into beds when large enough. The long-spurred varieties are

charming, flowering profusely in June; the old-fashioned double sorts are also very pretty and effective in a garden, and flower several weeks earlier; the double white and dark-purple are specially good; they all prefer some shade and moisture, growing best in leaf-mould, because these plants are natives of woods.

**Arabis.**—The old single white *Arabis*, or “Snow-on-the-mountain,” is one of the first flowers to welcome the spring, and a few patches of this make pleasant company for the *Crocus*, in March. Nearly a month later the double variety *Arabis alpina fl. pl.* comes into bloom, and here we have one of the most pleasing and useful of modern improvements, for it is a plant of great beauty and immense vigour. The flowers are on quite long stalks, and somewhat resemble a spike of small flowered white *Stock*; it is excellent for cutting, and lasts long in water, it continues in bloom for many weeks; the plant spreads with extraordinary rapidity, and a small plant will, in one season, become a patch several feet wide. A bed of this, with red *Primroses* next to it, is a beautiful sight; or you may plant *Daffodils* to grow up through the *Arabis*. The double variety does not seed, but it

is easy to make fresh plants by breaking off pieces, and planting them in a shady place.

**Aubretia.**—The pretty low-growing Aubretias flower about the same time as the last-named flower; the mauve and purple shades are prettier than the red; the best dark purple is *A. Dr. Mules*. You can raise them from seed, but they do not all come true, so the best way is to increase by layers. To do this, cover them thinly with earth, when the best of their flowering is over; the young shoots will soon come through, and root themselves, after which they can be carefully divided from the old plant, and be put out in a shady corner to grow into good plants. Aubretias prefer growing on a rockery, or on a stone wall, as their roots require lime, and the flowers look their best when hanging down.

**Campanula.**—There are so many, and such different varieties of Campanulas, but those I have found most useful are *C. muralis* (or *portenschlagiana*), about six inches high, covered with lilac flowers in June—grows best on a bank or rockery; increased by division.

*C. persicifolia*, white or blue, will grow anywhere, but likes shade in which it sows itself freely, and

the young plants give the best spikes of bloom ; two feet, flowers late in June.

*C. grandis*, rather like the preceding, but the flowers are set close to the stem, and it flowers a little later.

*C. carpatica* is about nine inches high, blue or white, grows into large tufts (which can be left unmolested for years), likes a sunny place, and flowers in July and August ; it is easily divided.

*C. pyramidalis* is a very tall species, three to six feet, blue, or white. It makes lovely effects in August and September when planted in groups ; the seed should be sown in May and grown on for the following year. Though it is called perennial, it generally behaves like a biennial and dies after flowering, so you should bring up a stock each year.

*C. celtidifolia* is good, two feet high, pale-lilac, flowering in July, and of long continuance.

*C. macrautha*, blue or white, is a handsome-looking plant with tall upright spikes of hanging, bell-shaped flowers, and has the merit of growing quite well in shade or under trees, but the flowers last a very short time ; it is easily raised from seed, or it can be divided.

*C. grandiflora* (now called *Platycodon grandiflora*) is a very beautiful bulbous root, and a slow grower, but can be raised from seed, sown as soon as ripe; it flowers in August, and lasts a long time. It has reddish stems with a soft blue bloom on them, and is a very aristocratic-looking plant; the shoots show themselves very late in the spring, and the place should always be marked before the flowers die down, to prevent damage when the beds are forked in the spring. Campanulas like soft sandstone, or rough sand.

**Canterbury Bells.**—*Campanula medium*. These are biennials, and should be sown in May for the next year's flowering. Sow in pans or boxes in the shade, and prick out into the nursery bed, removing them into their flowering quarters in early autumn. You can get them in purple, mauve, white, and, prettiest of all, clear bright pink; they look best in groups of from three to seven plants, or more, together, either in separate colours or mixed; the cup and saucer (*calycanthema*) varieties are the most showy. In a good soil these plants will go on flowering if you pick off the blooms as they fade; they grow best in a chalky soil and

an open, sunny situation, and should be planted eighteen inches apart.

**Chrysanthemum.**—The showy white Ox-eye Daisies, *Chrysanthemum maximum*, are well known to every one, and are useful in a garden, though one can easily have too much of them. But there is a beautiful variety with fringed petals (*C. leucanthemum Robinsoni*) that is of much more elegant growth, and an extremely good plant. They can all be increased by division of the roots, but they can also be grown easily from seed, and this is rather a good plan, for they then flower late in August and September and are doubly welcome.

The early out-of-door varieties of the autumn Chrysanthemums are well worth growing; you need not have all the small pom-pom flowered sorts, for these are apt to be either brickdust red, magenta, or greenish orange, but the yellow and white Japanese sorts, and some of the pink, are lovely, and should be grown in every garden. You can increase them either by division or cuttings, taking the new young shoots after the plants have flowered, and striking them under glass, pot them separately as soon as they have rooted; they must be kept under glass for the winter, or in a cold

frame, and planted out early in the summer, where they will get plenty of sun. If you possess a greenhouse or conservatory, it is nice to grow a few plants of better, late sorts, treating them in the same way, only lifting them and putting them into pots and under shelter as soon as the bad weather begins; all Chrysanthemums are very good-natured about moving, and will put up with it even when they are in bud.

The single pink and white are good for out-of-doors, and give a mass of bloom in October; the white is later than the pink.

**Crocus.**—I have named these bulbs as some of the most indispensable for your garden, as their brilliant colours come to cheer us in February, in spite of wintry weather, when we have nothing else in flower. It is well worth while to buy the best and largest sorts of the gold and the purple, as they do not deteriorate, but slowly and surely increase, making a lovely border for some of your beds, and need not be moved for some years, as other things can be planted close behind them, or alternate with them, for later effects.

**Daffodils.**—No garden would seem complete without a good supply of Daffodils (or *Narcissus*, as

they should be called). The long lists of these bulbs in the nurserymen's catalogues are enough to alarm any one, but you will find that for ordinary garden decoration eight or ten different varieties will keep you in flowers for several months. I advise the following: *Obvallaris* or the Tenby Daffodil, bright yellow, rather small but very early; *bicolor Horsfieldi*, early, very large, very free flowering and most beautiful; *Golden spur*, bright yellow, fine and early; *Incomparabilis cynosure* and *Incomparabilis soleil d'or*, *I. flore pleno* (butter and eggs), *I. orange Phœnix* (eggs and bacon), *Biflorus*, very late flowering; *Poeticus* (pheasant's eye Narcissus), *Poeticus plenus* (gardenia-flowered Narcissus). With these you will have flowers lasting from February till May, and as all those I have mentioned are cheap, you will be able to plant them in large quantities. This is far better in effect than having a great variety of new and expensive kinds, which can only be had sparingly. A bed or border full of these spring flowers is a beautiful sight, or they may be planted in the grass if you have a convenient place.

The bulbs should be planted in September, five or six inches deep (less deep if they are in grass),

in clumps of eight to twelve bulbs; after the flowering is over, the leaves should be left to die down, and must *not be cut off*. About every third or fourth year you should dig up each clump, as soon as the leaves are withering, or they will become too crowded. Select and replant the largest bulbs, and put the middle sized and smallest bulbs into the nursery bed, to grow to maturity. All Narcissi like an open, sunny situation, and they increase very quickly in a light, well-drained soil.

**Delphinium.**—These are, I think, the *most* beautiful of all our perennial plants; great clumps of blue spikes, often growing eight feet high, in every shade from sky blue to the deepest ultramarine. They are very easy to raise from seed, and if you can save some from a good light blue, and some from a dark blue, you may bring up any number of plants for the following year. Put the young plants in a nursery bed for the first season, and select the best for the flower-garden in the following summer. They soon grow into *large* clumps, and look their best so; or you may plant several in a group.

Slugs are a great enemy to the seedling plants, and they must be carefully guarded against with

soot and lime. If you sow seed in early spring under glass, you will have nice young plants coming into flower in August, which prove very useful in filling in gaps in the borders. *D. grandiflorum* is a quite distinct plant, and a very useful one; this does not flower in spikes, but is a branching plant twelve to eighteen inches high, dark blue or white. Both are very pretty, and come into bloom a little later than the tall ones, and last a long time; they are best treated as annuals, and raised under glass in February.

*D. cardinale* is a very beautiful variety with scarlet flowers on branching stems usually about three feet high, but I *have* had them as much as five feet. It is not a very easily grown plant, as the slugs are even more fond of it than they are of the blue! All Delphiniums should be moved in early spring, when the shoots are just above ground, or else immediately after flowering, but *not* in the autumn. Delphiniums prefer a deep soil, but not clay.

**Geum.**—*Geum coccineum* is a very useful plant in the border, as it flowers for the whole summer, never making a great blaze of colour, but always providing a nice glint of scarlet. They grow easily

from seed, but not very quickly. A light soil suits them.

*G. Heldreichii superbum* is an orange variety which is beautiful and very showy, having larger flowers than the former (nearly as large as a penny), giving a mass of flowers in May, and some again in the autumn. It is a good plant for rockeries.

**Gladioli.**—The spring flowering *Gladiolus Colvillei*, (“The Bride”), is pretty, and good for cutting, but the scarlet *G. Brenchleyensis* is most indispensable, flowering in July and August. It is quite hardy, and the bulbs may be left in the ground for some years before it is necessary to lift and divide them; they look best in masses, with low-growing flowers for a carpet. The other kinds of *Gladioli* are very beautiful, especially *G. Childsii*, but they are more delicate, and require to be planted each spring (April), and the bulbs stored for the winter, so they are more troublesome to grow, but their colours are lovely and very various, and can be procured from one shilling and threepence to two shillings a dozen.

**Gypsophila.**—The dwarf variety *G. cerastioides*, nine inches high, is a pretty plant for early spring; white flowers with a little red about them.

*G. Stevenii* is excellent, flowering in June, tall and good for cutting, with white flowers rather larger than *G. paniculata* which follows in July, giving a charming bush of tiny feathery blossoms. The double variety, *G. paniculata fl. pl.*, is several weeks later in flowering, and lasts a very long time; a most valuable plant. They can all be divided in the autumn, the three first-mentioned can also be raised from seed. Gypsophilas are said to require chalk, but they seem to grow almost anywhere.

**Helianthus.**—The perennial Sunflowers are very good autumn flowers; I do not advise you to grow the *earliest* varieties, for you can have better flowers still blowing in August; but *H. multiflorus maximus* and the double flowered variety of the same, with *H. rigidus*, are delightful in September and October for the back row of herbaceous borders, growing from four to six feet high, their golden flowers mixing well with the tall Michaelmas Daisies and *Pyrethrum uliginosum*. They grow quickly, and can be speedily increased by division. Any soil will suit them.

**Iris.**—What should we do without this most lovely and most easily cultivated of flowers; so delightful in form, and so diverse in colour. The

German Iris and its varieties look their best when grown in masses, or in a long border, perhaps bordering a shrubbery, with their leaves falling in graceful curves to meet the grass walk. They thrive in rather a light soil, and must have plenty of sun; they grow quickly, and can be increased by division in the autumn, but moving always checks their flowering for the next year or so. All the colours are beautiful, but the variety *Dalmatica* (*Pallida*) is the largest and most beautiful of all.

The bulbous Iris, "Spanish," flowering in June, followed by the "English," have rush-like leaves, and are beautiful in soils that suit them; they should be planted in August or September, and not moved unless of necessity.

*Iris Sibirica orientalis* (*sanguinea*) is a lovely dark-blue variety for growing in the border among other plants, also its white variety "Snow Queen".

The Japanese Irises are quite a different shaped flower, their petals spreading out flat like a large clematis. They can be had in splendid variety of colour, and are quite lovely, but require special treatment; roots in bog, and flowers in full sun.

**Lupin.**—Here are plants that require to be seen in large quantities to show themselves off. *Lupinus*

*polyphyllus*, in its various colours of lilac, blue, white, is beautiful in a mass, the tall spikes reaching up to five or six feet high; or small groups at intervals down a long border, coming in with the middle-time Iris and the Oriental Poppies, make a grand display of colour. Care must be taken to stake these plants in good time, for they grow very quickly, and the effect is quite spoilt if their spikes do not go straight up.

The Tree Lupins (*Lupinus arboreus*) are also very beautiful plants; the yellow variety I have seen in bushes seven feet high, and wide in proportion; the white one, "Snow Queen," does not grow quite so high, but spreads itself in width with great rapidity. It looks best where it can be allowed to grow as it likes, and not tied up, for it then forms dense bushes of elegant light-green foliage, which, however, are smothered in pure white blooms for quite six or eight weeks in the spring. It is *very* sweet scented, and excellent for cutting, altogether a charming plant. It is sometimes cut by severe frost, but grows again very quickly. All Lupins can be raised very easily and quickly from seed; they like a light soil, and plenty of sun.

**Lychnis.**—Good groups of Lychnis are most

useful in a garden, especially *L. chalcedonica* with its flat heads of scarlet flowers, coming in with the Delphiniums and Spiræas in July. *L. Haageana* follows next in various shades of red and pink, growing from twelve to eighteen inches high, while *L. coronaria* is a very different looking plant with white woolly leaves and a branching head of crimson flowers in August, about eighteen inches high. The ordinary form is rather too magenta in colour, but there is a dark-red variety, *L.C. atro-sanguinea*, which is excellent. *L. viscaria* is again quite another sort of plant, spikes of rose-pink flowers coming out of tufts of grass-like foliage in the early part of June. All these are plants of great effect in their different ways, but they require a damp soil and some shade to show themselves at their best. They can very easily be raised from seed, but slugs have a terrible fondness for *L. Haageana*.

**Michaelmas Daisies**—Asters, as they are properly called, are surely the most varied and delightful of all our late-flowering plants; the early dwarf varieties such as *A. alpinus* beginning in July; *A. acris* and *A. amellus* come in with their charming mauve and lilac flowers at the end of August, followed by the *Novæ Angliæ*, and other tall

varieties. They are so numerous that it is hard to select the most charming, but you should choose one or two good mauve and purple ones, with a red one or two, and be sure to have plenty of the lovely white varieties. *A. ericoides*, *A. Esme*, *A. vimineus perfectus*, are all very beautiful, with large feathery sprays of small white flowers. All the Asters grow quickly and can be increased by division in late autumn, or they can be raised from seed, but are not certain to come true; they prefer moist soil.

**Montbretias.**—These are valuable from their time of flowering, late in August and September, but they are sometimes rather troublesome and capricious things to grow. They like a certain amount of moisture, and even shade, but, on the other hand, they flower most abundantly in a rather light soil. Some people advise replanting the corms every year, but I have found them do best if only disturbed and replanted about every fourth year; they grow and increase quickly in places where they make themselves at home. As the leaves do not appear until rather late in the spring, you must take care that they are not overlooked or smothered.

**Myosotis.**—I consider the “Forget-me-not” is one of the indispensable flowers in a garden, for even if we do not want it for a little bit of “spring bedding” in some corner near the house, we could not do without its lovely sky-blue colour in the border in May. Groups of *M. dissitiflora*, “Star of Love,” contrasting with cushions of the lovely pink *Silene pendula*, making our beds look bright and lively before the wealth of summer flowers begin. It should be raised from seed sown in May or June, for flowering the following spring, or pieces of the old plants may be broken off, and these soon make roots for themselves if put into a moist shady corner of your nursery bed to grow.

**Œnothera**—or Evening Primrose—is of delicate beauty, the variety *Œ. Lamarckiana* is by far the most showy in a garden, as it grows to a height of six or seven feet and lasts in bloom for two months, beginning late in July, the primrose-yellow flowers opening day by day in great abundance. It is a biennial, but as it always sows itself, you have no further trouble when it is once established in a bed, care being taken in the spring to leave only those plants that are wanted.

*Œ. Fraseri* is a very good perennial sort growing

about eighteen inches high, with bright yellow flowers and red tinted buds. The white *Æ. speciosum* is good, eighteen inches high, with creeping roots, and *Æ. taraxacifolia* has a large white flower, the plant trailing on the ground with somewhat weedy-looking, flabby leaves; but it is very sweet scented, and worth growing.

**Pæony.**—There are two very distinct kinds of Pæony, the Tree Pæony, *P. montan*, and the Herbaceous Pæony. The former are magnificent plants, unfolding their beautiful leaves as early as April, and giving a shower of enormous blooms in May or early June; they live for a very long time when once established. I am well acquainted with one that is at least thirty-seven years old, and is still giving a mass of enormous rose-pink flowers every spring. They are considered rather tender, but I have not found them so; a west aspect probably suits them best, so that their early budding in April may not be injured by the spring frosts.

The Herbaceous Pæonies come in later, during June and July; they are all very beautiful plants, but the double varieties last longer in flower than the single. They look very well in mixed borders,

but like rich soil, and if you mean to go in for choice sorts, they are better put in a border specially devoted to them, where they can have plenty of manure, and be divided and replanted when they show signs of having exhausted the soil, about every five or six years.

The old-fashioned cottage garden Pæony, *P. officinalis*, is to my mind the really nice one for garden borders ; it is not so fastidious, or so greedy, and gives one flowers in plenty every year ; there are several shades of pink and red.

The time to move Pæonies is late August, or early September, and they can be increased by dividing them ; they can also be grown from seed, but require about five years to become flowering plants. The Tree Pæony can be increased by cuttings, or by layering them. The foliage of all pæonies takes beautiful colours in the autumn, and is very decorative, either in the garden or with cut flowers.

**Phlox.**—Herbaceous Phloxes are certainly one of the *most* valuable plants for the garden, giving us grand masses of brilliant colour in July, August and September ; they are very easily grown, and though they prefer a good soil, and a moist soil,

they can be persuaded to do very kindly in a poor one, by giving them some manure when they are first planted, and watering them in very dry weather. The right time for moving them is in the autumn, but they are very good-natured in this respect, and with care they can be moved at any time, even when they are in bud, without suffering any check.

When they are throwing up shoots in the spring, these should be carefully thinned, and if you want very fine blooms, only quite a few shoots should be left, but for garden effect it is not necessary to thin them quite so much.

There are two very distinct varieties, those that flower early in July, called *P. suffruticosa*, and the rather later ones, which are, as a rule, more showy and more robust, *P. decussata*. As to the names, every nurseryman seems to have his own distinct list, and there are such quantities that it is puzzling for a beginner. I advise you not to have too great a variety, but rather to have a fair number of each colour, in about a dozen different sorts, choosing a few from the early flowering ones, but most from the "decussata" section. "Coquelicot" and "George Stohlein" are splendid scarlets, "Fraulein

G. von Lassberg," an enormous pure white, very robust, "Gruppenkönigen" and "Pantheon," salmon and rose, with white eye, both very beautiful; but, no doubt, you will soon make favourites of your own, from what you see at exhibitions, or in your friends' gardens.

Good plants of Phlox need not be disturbed for four or five years, but when they begin to show signs of growing bare in the centre, or send up a quantity of weedy shoots, they should be taken up, and the outer bits replanted in fresh soil, the old bits thrown away.

Besides this division of root, they can be easily increased by taking some of the spring shoots as cuttings, when they are a few inches high; and also by stem cuttings, taken as soon as they have flowered, and put in shade in the open.

The low-growing *Phlox canadensis* and *Phlox setacea* which flower in April, May and June, are pretty carpeting plants, or useful on a rockery.

**Pinks**—*Dianthus plumarius*.—A good supply of garden Pinks is absolutely essential; they are among the sweetest and best of flowers for cutting. The large double white "Mrs. Sinkins" is very strong growing, and free flowering; the dear old pink sort

with crimson centre, "Anne Boleyn," and the white with brown centre, "Painted Lady," are all beautiful. The mule Pinks, *Dianthus hybridus*, both pink and crimson, are very strong growers, and a large plant of these gives a grand blaze of colour in June. All Pinks are easily increased by breaking off pieces of the old plants in August, or in early spring, and planting them in the shade until they are well rooted. "Mrs. Sinkins" makes a beautiful edge to a bed on the lawn, for even when the flowers are over the grey foliage is a striking and pretty contrast to the green of the grass.

There are endless beautiful Pinks (*Dianthus*) besides the few I have mentioned, and any kinds are acceptable in the garden, especially on rock- or wall-gardens.

**Poppies**—*Papaver*.—First in importance, as well as in size, comes *P. orientale bracteatum*; blood-red in colour, on stiff stems four feet high or more; it is a magnificent sight to see a plant with thirty or forty blossoms of dazzling red, each as large as a breakfast plate. A very quick-growing plant; if you sow fresh seed the young plants will flower the following year, and in two or three years

become large clumps; they root very deeply, and are not easy to move after the first year. The varieties of the *P. orientalis* are now numerous, and some of them are lovely shades of pink and red, but beware of getting any but the *clear* colours, some are muddy and dirty looking.

*P. nudicaule*, or the Iceland Poppy, I place next in importance, for it continues in flower from early June to the end of the summer. This plant makes a delightful edging to a bed, and seems to thrive in almost any position; the orange variety is the most effective in a garden, but the yellow and white are also charming. It is rather touchy about being moved, and care should be taken to do this in damp weather, and with young plants only; it is quickly and easily raised from seed, and sows itself freely in most soils.

The lovely little *P. alpinum* must not be forgotten; it is only about six inches high, with very pretty glaucous foliage growing in nice compact tufts, with either orange, pink, or white flowers, rather smaller than *P. nudicaule*. It blooms profusely for two or three months, and is quite hardy, but it sometimes suffers in the winter from the frost lifting the roots out of the ground, and for

this reason it is most at home on rock-gardens, but with care it can be grown on the flat, and is very easily raised from seed.

*P. pilosum* is another valuable border plant, with grey-green leaves, branching stems about eighteen inches high, and flowers of a lovely apricot colour three or four inches across. Its flowers are apt to fall after midday, but there is a fresh supply every morning for many weeks. When the plant begins to look untidy it should be cut down, and will soon send up new shoots and look fresh again; this also should be raised from seed.

For the sake of the unlearned, perhaps I may be excused for mentioning here the Welsh Poppy, which is really not a *Papaver* but *Meconopsis cambrica*. It is a charming, sturdy-growing plant, throwing up masses of clear yellow flowers early in May and continuing in bloom for many weeks. It will grow in complete shade under bushes and shrubs (as well as in sunny places) and sows itself freely, making pretty effects in peeping out from dark corners, and is invaluable in a north border; there is a newer double variety of an orange colour.

One more plant I must speak of as a Poppy, though the catalogues will call it *Glaucium*, but the Horn Poppy gives us such beautiful colour and form in its glaucous blue foliage, and yellow flowers, that it is a great help in our borders, as is also the variety *G. flavum tricolor*, with its orange-scarlet flowers. These you should raise from seed each year, sowing early to make good plants.

**Primrose and Polyanthus.**—Whatever the size of your garden, I would advise you to find a corner for these delightful spring flowers. Primroses, *Primula acaulis*, or *vulgaris*, begin to flower in March; you may either use them as an edging for beds, and move them to other quarters when they have done flowering, or you may give them a corner to themselves, where they can be left in peace during their untidy season, but in this case it must be a corner where they will get shade from the midsummer sun. The blue Primroses are most prolific bloomers, and make a pretty border, but there is a lilac one which is still prettier, and is charming in the house, for it keeps a beautiful colour by lamplight. The double varieties are good, but more difficult to cultivate in most soils.

A bed of many-coloured Primroses raised from

seed is charming, but care should be taken to weed out the muddy, uncertain colours, keeping only the clear ones.

Polyanthuses (*Primula elatior*) are easily raised from seed also, sown fresh when ripe, and provide magnificent bunches of flowers, especially the white and yellow varieties. They begin to flower at the end of March, and continue for two months or more; they prefer a clay soil. There are numerous other hardy Primulas worth growing. *P. denticulata* has large round heads of pale-lilac flowers, and handsome foliage. *P. japonica* has crimson or white flowers in whorls; fine and showy, blooming in June, but will only grow well where its roots are kept moist.

The special sorts of Primroses that you wish to preserve can be increased by division of the roots when the flowering season is over; indeed the old plants will die off in a year or two, unless they are divided and replanted every second or third year.

**Pyrethrums** (*Pyrethrum roseum*) are most attractive plants, and can be grown from seed in one season. If the seedlings are started under glass, they will flower a little late in the summer, and will be good plants the following year. The fern-like

foliage is pretty all the year, and they give a profusion of flowers which last in beauty for a long time, beginning early in June. You can procure seed of either single or double varieties; both are beautiful flowers, and can be had in white, buff, and every shade of pink and red. The double flowers last rather longer than the single; they are all very useful as cut flowers.

Pyrethrums do not move very kindly as full grown plants; the best time is immediately after flowering, but it is far better to bring them up from seed, and put out the young plants where you want them; they grow best in a cool moist soil.

*Pyrethrum uliginosum* is quite a distinct plant, growing four to six feet high, in habit like a Michaelmas Daisy, with branching heads of large, white, daisy-like flowers. It is one of the best and most indispensable of our autumn flowering plants, beautiful in the garden, or as a cut flower, and should be largely grown. The flowering season is a long one, beginning in September; the plant grows quickly, and can be increased by division of the roots in autumn.

**Salvia.**—This is a large class of plants which are hardly as much grown as they deserve to be.

Most people know the half-hardy *S. patens* with the lovely gentian-blue flowers, and if you have a greenhouse this is quite worth the trouble of growing, either raising it each year from seed sown in January, or lifting and storing the dahlia-like roots in autumn, keeping them in a boxful of dry earth or sand in the cellar. *S. ringens* is quite hardy, and has spikes two and a half feet high with large blue and white flowers in late August or September; a good plant, as is also *S. pratensis*.

*S. splendens* is another half-hardy sort that must be raised under glass in January. It has scarlet flowers, grows about eighteen inches high, and is very showy and beautiful; the variety *S. splendens*, "Star of Zurich," is very early, flowering in July, the others come in a month later. These are greedy plants, and like as much manure and as rich a soil as you can give them; they grow very quickly as seedling plants. You must be careful to prick them out into pots, and later into larger pots, seeing that they never get checked or starved. Last, but not least, I must mention *S. Grahamsi*, a delightful plant. It should be put in the hottest and most sunny place in your garden, and if given a little help in the way of protection, such as cinders over

its roots, in winter, it will prove quite hardy, and grow into a bush three or four feet high, or still higher if against a wall, and will flower for the whole summer and autumn, the blossoms being of a lovely soft red colour. Cuttings of this plant are easily struck any time in the summer, and a few young plants should always be kept in stock, in case of extra hard frost killing your old favourites.

**Scilla.**—The little blue *Scilla sibirica* is so lovely that it is hard to resist getting a good supply of the bulbs to gladden our eyes in the early days of the spring; they look delicious in the grass if there is some little corner of lawn which need not be mown until their leaves have died down. Their relations, the *Chionodoxa lucillæ*, are also very pretty, rather larger, rather later, and a little less brilliant, than the former; they are a good blue, with white centre, and look very well as an edging to a bed of Daffodils.

*Scilla campanulata* is the most useful in our borders, the white variety being specially beautiful. In form like large, fringed, glorified blue-bells, they should be planted in clumps of about twelve bulbs, raised and divided every few years, as they increase rapidly. They flower in May.

**Spiræa.**—Of the herbaceous Spiræas, the most

important in point of effect is *S. aruncus*. It has very beautiful large foliage, and throws up erect spikes of creamy flowers in June, which grow about four or five feet high. A large plant of this with twenty or thirty feather-like blooms is a fine sight, contrasting well with the blue Delphiniums. It looks best when seen against a background of shrubs or evergreens, the dark colour showing off the stately white plumes; it grows fairly quickly, and can be increased by dividing the roots in autumn.

*S. ulmaria* is a garden edition of the pretty wild Meadow Sweet, and is worth growing where you can give it a damp situation, in which it delights.

*S. filipendula* is also an indigenous plant and very pretty. It has low-growing fern-like foliage, from which rise many ivory-coloured flowers with reddish buds on stems eighteen inches high; they are in large sprays, and last in beauty for a long time. A very pretty plant in our borders, for the leaves are ornamental, even when the flowers are over. It is easily raised from seed.

One more that I would specially recommend is *S. palmata*; bold foliage, ending in beautiful sprays of carmine-coloured flowers, growing three to four feet high. A very handsome-looking plant, but one

that *must* have fairly moist soil to do well; it flowers in July, and can be increased by division of the roots in autumn. Of the many beautiful *shrubby* Spiræas I shall speak elsewhere.

**Sweet William**—*Dianthus barbatus*.—You may think this is rather too common a plant to put in a list of the “most desirable,” but its very homeliness makes it seem like an old friend when we meet with it in our gardens, and now that it is grown in such lovely colours, it makes a beautiful bit of brightness when we see a group of from three to a dozen plants, according to the available space. To my mind the plain colours are both the prettiest and the most effective, especially the dark-red (not magenta) and the newer lovely shades of salmon-pink, which vary from pale-pink to almost scarlet. The seed should be sown in June to make good plants for the following year, and it is advisable to bring up fresh plants about every two years, as some of the old ones are sure to die off, and some to get straggling and untidy. Sweet Williams will grow in any soil, and last in bloom for several weeks.

**Tulips**.—The bright colours of Tulips are always so cheering in May that one could hardly do without a few of them. Either the double Tulips or the

Parrot Tulips are most lasting in effect, and a few groups of them among our herbaceous plants are a great help and addition to the garden in early spring ; the foliage also is pretty. They can be left to die off, and the bulbs allowed to remain in the ground when other flowers take their place in June.

**Veronicas.**—There are such a large number of Veronicas that it is sometimes difficult to distinguish them, but those I have found most hardy, and most effective, are *V. rupestris*, a creeping plant, giving a sheet of brilliant blue flowers in early spring, spreading very quickly.

*V. spicata*, which grows about eighteen inches high, with spikes of violet-blue flowers in July. Both of these can be very easily increased by dividing the roots in autumn.

*V. Hendersoni* is far the most handsome Veronica that I know. A strong-growing robust plant, quite two and a half feet high, bearing large branching spikes of rich violet flowers in August. It is quite hardy ; prefers a moist soil with some shade ; this can be propagated by cuttings which strike very easily, if taken just as the flowers are fading.

**Violas.**—No flower is more welcome than the Violet, and even if we do not go in for growing

Violets in frames, we can all have and enjoy borders or beds of them. In good rich soil they grow and prosper with hardly any care, and give showers of bloom, but in hot or poor soils this is not the case, and you must take a good deal of trouble with them if you want to get plenty of bloom. As soon as they have done flowering in April you must take up the roots, cut off all runners, and divide the roots into separate crowns, planting them in a cool shady place with a good depth of the best soil you have, as Violets root very deeply. At the end of August they should be again moved into a sunny place where they can blow during the autumn, and again more lavishly in the spring.

*V. tricolor* is the Pansy, an invaluable plant for the garden. You can have Pansies in flower almost the whole year; they grow easily in almost any soil, and move without difficulty at any age. You can sow seed early in the year for summer flowering, and again in the autumn for spring beds, or, if you have special favourites, they are easily struck from cuttings, tearing the young shoots off the old stem. If the old plants have become straggling, cut them right back, and you will soon have plenty of new shoots which you can take as cuttings. Pansies

will not go on doing well in the same place for more than a few years, as the ground gets "Pansy-sick," and a fresh position must be found for them.

There is a fashion now in preference for the "Tufted Pansies," but I do not think they are nearly so pleasing.

*Viola cornuta* is a very good plant, bearing masses of rather slender mauve flowers in June and July, spreading very quickly, and covering the ground thickly. Do not keep very old plants of this, as they get untidy-looking; you will always find plenty of seedlings round the old ones in the autumn, as the seed-pods scatter their seeds in bursting when ripe.

**Wallflowers** — *Cheiranthus*. — "Gilly flowers" are such early bloomers, and so sweet, that it would be a great loss of pleasure for our gardens to be without them. Although they are perennials, they are rather apt to die off in some soils, or to get very untidy-looking as old plants, so it is advisable to bring some up from seed each year. They should be sown in May, and planted out in August or September for spring flowering, or sown under glass in January for summer flowering. The single kinds are best for beds, or borders, but the tall double-rocket varieties, which flower later, are

beautiful for the mixed border, in small groups, among the other plants; many of them growing as high as twenty-four inches.

The list I have given of herbaceous plants may seem a very short one, but if you provide yourself with these, or most of them, to start your garden with, you will certainly have a very gay garden for many months, and it will be an easy matter to add hundreds of others if you choose, selecting from nurserymen's catalogues, or collecting ideas from your friends and neighbours, or you may like to try some of those which I recommend for your consideration in my *second* list below. I strongly advise you to buy any plants you may require from one of the many first-rate herbaceous nurseries; you do not have to pay more, and you are sure of getting the right thing, properly named. If you happen to live in Kent you may safely trust either Messrs. Clark, Dover, or George Bunyard, Maidstone, to supply you with good things. The same remark applies to seeds, but this is a more difficult matter, as there are comparatively few seedsmen who offer seeds of many of the herbaceous plants. I have always got mine from Messrs. Thompson and Morgan, Ipswich, and found them highly satisfactory.

## LIST II.

### GOOD HERBACEOUS PLANTS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE.

**Achillea**—*A. ptarmica* “The Pearl”—is a good variety, two feet high; small, button-like double white flowers in large heads, in August.

**Alstromeria**—or “Peruvian Lily”—is a beautiful bulbous plant, with large heads of yellow or pinkish flowers. *A. peruviana* is one of the prettiest; they are not quite easy to establish. If bulbs are procured they must be planted very deep, ten to twelve inches, but the best way is to procure fresh seed, sow them in a large pot, about one inch deep, and transplant into the open ground as soon as they are a few inches high, protecting them with cinders for the first winter; they root very deeply and require rich, *well-drained* loam.

**Anchusa**.—This is one of the fashionable plants of the moment, at least *A. italica* (Dropmore variety) is. It is a beautiful bright blue flower, in

the nature of borage, four feet high, very effective in large groups among shrubs, or plants of large growth; will grow in any common soil.

**Bergamot.**—*Monarda didyma*.—A nice old-fashioned plant with red, nettle-like flowers. It grows about two feet high and spreads easily in rather a moist soil; the roots are near the surface, and will not bear scorching sun.

**Bush Clematis.**—The white-flowered bush Clematis (*C. recta fl. pl.*) is a charming plant, and well worth a place in your beds; the blue *C. Davidiana* and its hybrids are somewhat disappointing, as they are not plants of much effect. All Clematisses require chalk or lime in the soil.

**Candytuft**—*Iberis*.—Useful hardy plants, six to nine inches high, with white flowers; *I. sempervirens* is a good variety. They will grow in poor soil and sunny situations.

**Centaureas.**—Most of these are coarse-growing plants with thistle-like flowers in various colours, only fit for use in the rougher parts of the garden, but *C. ruthenica* is tall, growing four to five feet high, has very light pretty foliage, and curious straw-coloured flowers in July. Centaureas prefer calcareous soil.

**Christmas Roses**—*Helleborus*.—These charming white flowers are in bloom early in January, or sometimes earlier, and are well worth growing, but they increase slowly. When once established, they should not be disturbed, as they go on for many years. They are quite hardy, but if protected by a hand-light as the buds appear, you will get better and cleaner flowers; they like a damp or clay soil.

**Cistus**—*Helianthemum*.—Charming little wiry plants giving masses of bloom in every shade of white, pink, and yellow, in June. They like a sunny dry bank, or rockery. You will often find them put among "shrubs" in the nurserymen's catalogues; they must be grown in chalky soil to make good effect.

**Crane's Bill**—*Geranium*.—Very useful and pretty plant, with blue, pink, white, or purple flowers, and graceful foliage turning nice shades of red in autumn; they will grow in any soil or position, and flower for a long time.

**Crown Imperial**—*Fritillaria imperialis*.—Very handsome bulbous plants, flowering in early spring, growing three feet high, with a sort of crown of leaves, having pendant flowers below them, either

pink or yellow; they root deeply and require good loamy soil.

**Day Lily**—*Hemerocallis*.—Free-flowering plant with Iris-like foliage. *H. flava* is very sweet scented, with yellow flowers in May and June; increases rapidly in a dry soil. *H. aurantiaca* is a fine orange variety, flowering rather later.

**Desmodium penduliflorum**.—A very valuable plant for the autumn, with pea-shaped flowers in long elegant sprays of a red-purple colour; prefers a rich soil.

**Dictamnus Fraxinella**.—A very handsome plant, three feet high, with bold sturdy foliage, and upright spikes of red and white flowers which last a long time; there is also a variety with white flowers. It is sometimes called “the burning bush,” for the flower stem and calyx are possessed of aromatic oil, and if a lighted match is held to it, while in flower or immediately after flowering, the whole spray is for a moment enveloped in a sheet of flame. It can be increased by root cuttings, or from seed, but is *very* slow growing, and dislikes being moved; preferring poor soil, and a sunny position.

**Double Daisies**—*Bellis*.—These are very easily

raised from seed, and the old plants can be divided into any number of fresh ones; they are very useful for spring borders and edgings.

**Dielytra**—*Dicentra*.—An excellent old-fashioned plant with graceful foliage, and heart-shaped flowers of coral-red and white; about one foot high, flowering in April. Light rich soil and partial shade.

**Erigerons**.—All the Erigerons are useful, daisy-like flowers, very free blooming. *E. speciosum* is much the most showy—mauve with golden eye. It flowers in June, and if cut down immediately after flowering, will give a second crop in the autumn, equal to the first. Increased by division or seed; grows well in any common soil.

**Eschscholtzia**—or “California Poppy” as it is sometimes called—is a most useful and ornamental biennial. The old colour was brilliant yellow, but now you can get the charming *E. mandarin*, brilliant orange, and *E. carmine king*, a bright and beautiful crimson. They thrive in poor soil, and full sun, and are very easily grown. When once established will always reproduce themselves on the same spot, and go on flowering the whole summer; a poor dry soil seems to suit them best.

**Epimediums.**—These are plants which are useful for their pretty evergreen foliage, on wire-like stems, growing about nine inches high. The roots are spreading, but not very quickly. The flowers are inconspicuous; they grow well in cool peaty soils.

**Eryngium.**—These are the plants of which Sea Holly, *E. maritimum*, is one variety. *E. Oliverianum* is the handsomest, three feet high, with beautiful blue thistle-like flowers and stems. The roots spread quickly, and grow easily in light warm soil.

**Foxgloves**—*Digitalis*.—The pink and white foxgloves are excellent flowers for borders; a well-grown group of these is a fine sight for many weeks. They are easily raised from seed, but take two years to grow into good flowering plants; a loamy soil suits them.

**Funkias** or Plantain Lilies—are very handsome plants; the foliage large and effective, flowers rather like the Anthericums; they grow well in moist, half-shady positions.

**Gaillardia.**—Very showy August flowers, for sunny situations; red and yellow in various combinations. The dwarf variety, *G. grandiflora compacta*, is the best one to grow, as the taller ones

fall about, and are untidy-looking plants; they like rich soil, but are apt to die off in a very damp one.

**Gentians.**—Nothing is more lovely than a group or border of the lovely dark-blue *G. acaulis* in the very early spring; it is only four or five inches high, but has very large flowers. The Gentians grow best in damp, loamy soil, but must have full sunshine.

**Gillenia trifoliata.**—A very pretty “aristocratic-looking” plant, sometimes classed with Spiræas; two feet high, producing in July sprays of very light-looking white flowers, with red calyx and stems; will grow in any well-drained soil.

**Globe Thistles**—*Echinops*.—Tall and effective plants for the outskirts of the garden. *E. ritro* is a good blue variety, and *E. nivus* is white; will grow in the most arid dry places.

**Golden Rod**—*Solidago*.—I do not think these deserve a place in the garden, but they may be useful for filling in rough places in the background, with their large sprays of yellow flowers in the autumn; almost any soil will suit them.

**Heaths**—*Erica*.—All the heaths are pretty, but most of them require peaty soil to do well. The two most hardy kinds are *E. carnea*, which is

dwarf, and *E. Mediterranea*, which grows into a large bush.

**Helleniums.**—These are yellow, or yellowish daisy-like flowers, one or two feet high, flowering in July and August. They are not favourites of mine, as they are not very pretty, and they give an autumnal colouring to the garden before one need have it, but they thrive easily in any common soil.

**Heuchera.**—This is the genus of the well-known “London Pride”; slender stems of flowers, growing out of tufts of foliage. *H. sanguinum* is a lovely coral-red flower, and keeps in bloom for a very long time. They like moist soil, and a sunny situation; the roots should be divided and replanted every year.

**Hollyhocks** — *Althea*. — These handsome tall spikes of flowers are best raised from seed in your own soil. They are greedy of good feeding, and may be given any amount of manure. They should always be planted in groups, and look their best with a wall behind them, or in a corner by a doorway; if possible they should be sown where required and not transplanted.

**Incarvillea Delavayi.**—A very handsome plant,

two feet high, bearing heads of large rose-coloured flowers ; it requires rich soil to grow well.

**Jacob's Ladder**—*Polemonium*.—Rather a pretty plant, with light grey-blue flowers in June, about eighteen inches high ; very easily grown. *P. Richardsonii* is the best variety.

**Libertia grandiflora**.—A plant with rush-like leaves. When well grown it bears a quantity of white flowers early in June, and has an exceedingly good effect ; it is quite hardy in a light dry soil.

**Lily: Madonna Lily**.—*Lilium candidum* is the well-known white lily of cottage gardens. No one seems able to say what suits this lily, for it appears to do best in one way here, and another way there, so the only thing is to try for yourself, as it is well worth an effort.

**Tiger Lily**—*Lilium tigrinum*.—Orange-coloured, drooping flowers, with dark spots, and recurved petals ; is quite hardy, and easily grown in good soil.

**Orange Lily**.—*Lilium croceum* is the most hardy, and the most effective lily for use in the borders ; it has heads of up-standing orange flowers in July, growing about three feet high. The bulbs should be planted in a good large group ; prefers a light soil.

**Turk's Cap Lily**—*Lilium chalcedonicum*.—A pretty and hardy little lily, with rather small scarlet flowers.

**S. Bruno's Lily**—*Anthericum liliâstrum*.—A charming plant, with spikes of white flowers in May or June, about eighteen inches high. There are several varieties of *Anthericum*, all pretty and quite hardy, growing best in a sandy soil.

**Linums**.—The most useful of the perennial linums is *L. arboreum*, one foot high; a continuous bloomer with yellow flowers; it likes chalky soil.

**Mulleins**—*Verbascum*.—Plants with thick, flannel-like leaves growing in a rosette, which throw up a tall spike of flowers; most of them are yellow, and have a handsome effect from a little distance. Raised from seed (biennials) will grow well in the poorest and driest places.

**Oxalis floribunda**.—A charming plant with trefoil leaves and rose-coloured flowers in great abundance, about twelve inches high. Should be put in a warm sunny place, and it will then begin flowering in June and continue till the frost comes; warm dry soils suit it best.

**Pentstemons**.—Handsome and useful plants, which can be had in great variety; the best way

of making use of them for a garden is to bring up some from seed every year. *P. Hartwegii* will give you a choice of lovely reds and pinks; they will flower in August and September, and in a well-drained soil they are hardy. *P. heterophyllus* is a lovely sky-blue variety.

**Plumbago lapentæ.**—This hardy Plumbago should be grown in every garden. The flowers are of a clear bright blue, and the foliage tipped with red; it only grows nine to twelve inches high, but spreads very quickly, and as it does not begin to flower until September, it is most valuable as an autumn plant, and should be placed near the house in a sunny situation; it prefers a warm dry soil.

**Potentillas.**—Strawberry-shaped leaves, and flowers in all shades of red and yellow; very pretty and effective in a clay or loam soil, but they will not do well in a very light soil; they are easily raised from seed.

**Rhazya orientalis.**—This does not seem to be a well-known plant, but it is a very pretty one, with erect sprays of small light-blue flowers in profusion, about eighteen inches high, remaining in beauty for a long time, increased by division of roots; grows well in a light soil.

**Rudbeckias.**—Yellow Daisy-shaped flowers. *R. californica* flowers in August and September, eighteen inches high, golden flowers, dark centre; its roots grow very near the surface, so it easily suffers from drought, but is very hardy. *R. laciniatus* and *R. lacinatus*, "Golden Glow," are both about six feet high; a rich bright yellow, and very effective and handsome, coming in at the same time as the tall Michaelmas Daisies; they are not particular as to soil so long as they are not allowed to get parched.

**Scabiosa Caucasica** is a useful perennial, with large mauve flowers late in the summer, nearly two and a half feet high; chalky soil.

**Sea Lavender**—*Statice*.—Wiry flowers almost like Everlastings. *S. latifolia* is a coarse-growing plant, with large branching heads of lavender flowers in August. *S. incarna* is a dwarf variety, with darker coloured flowers in June; a sandy soil suits them best.

**Solomon's Seal**—*Polygonatum*.—This graceful plant grows best in moist places, where there is plenty of shade and loamy soil.

**Spiderworts**—*Tradescantia*.—Rush-leaved plants with pretty blue or purple flowers, eighteen inches

high; very easily grown, and increasing quickly, in light rich soil.

**Thalictrums.**—These are plants with ornamental foliage and heads of fluffy flowers; very pretty and effective in the borders. *T. aquilegiaefolium* is the prettiest, with white flowers; it grows three feet high. *T. adiantifolium*, one foot high, is good for cutting, and grows well on rockeries.

**Thriffs—Armeria.**—Tufts of grass-like foliage, with pink, white or rose-coloured flowers about nine inches high; they delight in dry sandy soil, flowering abundantly in early summer; a good plant for edges of beds. *A. Lauchiana* is a good bright-coloured variety.

**Thermopsis caroliniana** has flowers like an erect Laburnum, about two feet high. It is pretty but difficult to control, as the roots spread about; it flowers in May and June; will grow easily in any loamy soil.

**Tritoma or Kniphofia.**—The plant familiarly known as “red-hot-poker”. There are a great number of different varieties, but all are very similar; tuberous roots, which should be planted in good large groups. As they flower in September they are especially useful; a light soil suits them,

with a good dressing of manure and leaf-mould in the autumn.

**Trolliuses.**—These are like large double buttercups; very pretty plants in early summer, about one foot high. They are sometimes called “globe flower” from their round shape; there is a pretty orange variety called T. “orange globe”. Trollius can be raised from seed, if it is sown as soon as it is ripe; will thrive almost anywhere.

**Winter Cherry—*Physalis*.**—A favourite plant with some people, who keep the curious red bladder-like calyx for winter decoration. *P. Bunyardi* is a large and beautiful variety; they require fairly rich soil, and a warm situation to flower them well.

### FILLING IN BORDERS.

Herbaceous borders are not, like the bedding out, done “once for all” in a season; but the careful gardener who wishes to keep up the beauty and interest of his beds, is always “poking in” fresh plants, as the earlier ones die off, and have to be cut down; so I will now try and give you a few hints as to suitable plants to bring up for “filling in” your gaps.

The first serious gaps are always made by the

beautiful Oriental Poppies, as the leaves of these die right down, leaving large patches of bare earth; these of course are unsightly, so *something* must be done to cover them. If you are prepared beforehand with some **Campanula pyramidalis** in pots, or early flowering Chrysanthemums, or Michaelmas Daisies, these would be excellent to plant as near as possible to the roots of the Poppy, and would at once prevent any look of bareness. Again with Lupins, it is a very good plan to sow, early in April, a good sprinkling of **Opium Poppies** round them; they will be just growing into nice plants as the Lupins are over, and their beautiful colours are a welcome help to the garden in July, when there is apt to be a paucity of red and pink flowers.

**Indian Pinks** (*Dianthus Heddeewigi*) are excellent for filling in small spaces in front of the borders; they move easily, and can be raised under glass early in spring, or in the open if sown in April or May. Their colours are lovely, and in a moist soil they grow into nice sturdy little bushy plants, and can be put out in groups of three, or more, together. *D. H.* "*Vesuvius*" is a beautiful scarlet variety.

**Petunias.** — Petunias are other low-growing plants, which come in well in the late summer; they prefer a moist soil, but plenty of sun. The single kinds are best for growing out of doors; the dark velvety purple are most beautiful.

**Sunflowers.**—Annual Sunflowers are handsome, and can be very well used among the taller plants. They grow very quickly and need not be sown until June, and should be pricked out into pots, if you intend to use them for filling in the borders, as they require very careful transplanting.

**Mallow—*Lavatera*.**—Mallows, and their cousin *Lavatera trimestris*, are perhaps the most useful of all flowers for making our beds gay in August and September; especially the latter, for it can be sown, in the open in June, and the young plants move very readily, if well watered, and can be used to cover patches of bare earth where bulbs have died down. They will grow into fine branching plants more than two feet high, bearing an immense number of flowers for many weeks; the pink variety is a lovely clear colour. They last long in water as cut flowers.

**Asters.**—Asters (*Callistephus*) are very important flowers for our late summer gardening; they

can be had in such splendid variety of colour, in such different degrees of height, and can be brought into bloom at such a wide distance of time, that we should indeed feel lost without them. A border of Asters in our kitchen-garden is a joy to behold, and also to cut from; but besides this you will do well to have groups of Asters among your mixed flowers. Especially are the single Asters (*C. sinensis*) suitable for this, as they grow into fine branching plants, bearing a quantity of flowers of equal size and beauty; they can be had in lovely clear shades of mauve and pink, and also in white. There are so many kinds of Asters to select from that it is puzzling for a beginner, but I advise you to have some "Victoria Asters," some "Ostrich Plume," especially the salmon-pink, and some Pæony-flowered; and do not leave out "Vick's late white," which are very large, with delightful long stalks, and come into bloom long after any others, about the end of September or October.

Asters must be liberally treated if you want them at their best, and if you mean to use them for filling in borders you should prick them out of their seed-pan into large deep boxes of really good soil, at some distance apart, and let them grow there

into good plants; they will then move easily, with a good ball of earth to their roots, whenever you are ready for them, even if they are almost in flower.

**Perennials treated as Annuals.**—Another good plan for keeping yourself supplied with plants to “poke in” to the vacant places in your borders, is to bring up young plants of perennials so that they will flower late, such as *Delphiniums* sown in the early spring, under glass, and brought on without a check; these will give you some nice spikes of bloom late in the summer, and will prove very valuable. Treated in the same way *Delphinium grandiflorum* is invaluable, as it goes on flowering for many weeks, and can be had in white as well as blue; the height is about eighteen inches.

**Ox-eye Daisies.** — *Chrysanthemum maximum*. The large white Ox-eye Daisies can also be had in bloom in September by the same means.

**Pentstemons.**—Pentstemons may be treated in the same way, and make a beautiful show in a good soil. *P. Hartwegii* is the best variety to get.

**Antirrhinums.**—Antirrhinums are good and showy plants; if sown in early spring, they will go on flowering right into winter.

**Pansies.**—These plants are invaluable, for one can have them in almost any colour, and move them, or bring up young plants, at any time of year; raising them from seed, or from cuttings, taking the young side shoots off a plant that has been cut down after flowering, or these same side shoots may be rooted before they are removed from the old plant, by pegging them down, and sprinkling soil over the plant; in this way they will be rooted and ready to move in a few weeks.

**Salvias.**—*Salvia splendens* (scarlet), and *S. patens* (blue), can both be treated as annuals if sown under glass in February, and are invaluable for effect, until the frost comes.

**Victoria Lobelia**—*Lobelia fulgens*, with its dark-red leaves and scarlet or crimson flowers in spikes, will also blow from seed sown the same year; it is a charming plant, but difficult to keep through the winter, as it is apt to damp off.

#### TRANSPLANTING.

I must remind you, while we are on the subject of transplanting, that everything depends on doing this at a suitable moment, and if you can seize the

opportunity of moving your plants after a good heavy shower, when the ground is moist all round them, and the air is moist above them, you will have the best chance of seeing your new arrivals look none the worse for their removal; but if from the dryness of the season this is impossible, then you must do the best you can by moving them in the evening, so that they have the comparative coolness of the night to recover in, and of course you must give them a good watering as soon as they are planted. Never neglect to give the plants, of whatever kind, a thorough soaking *before* you attempt to take them out of their pots or boxes.

#### ANNUALS.

There are a certain number of hardy annuals which are very useful if sown in patches among herbaceous plants, as well as those I have mentioned which can be transplanted.

**Alonsoa.**—A most useful plant with scarlet flowers in spikes, beginning in August, and continuing until they are cut down by the frost. *Alonsoa Warscewiczii* is the most beautiful, growing two feet high; they should be thinned to at least eight inches apart. This plant is really a

perennial, but not hardy, and is most useful if sown as I have suggested.

**Godetias.**—Charming flowers, and very effective, but they will *not* move, and must be sown where you want them to bloom. The colours vary from white up to dazzling crimson, and the texture of the flowers is very shining and bright. Each plant should be given plenty of room, at *least* ten inches apart, as, if they are crowded, the flowering season is short, from the plants being poor and starved; but if you have a good group of plants, each ten or twelve inches from the other, they will soon fill up the space, and present a blaze of flowers for some weeks; they grow from one to two feet high, according to the kind selected. There is a double variety, *G. Schamini fl. pl.*, which is distinct and pretty, pale salmon-pink, and grows two feet high in rich soil.

**Larkspur.** — Branching Larkspur (*Delphinium consolida*) is a beautiful plant, growing three feet high, flowering in August, and lasting a long time. The young plants should be thinned to eight or ten inches apart, and a large patch of this is very showy and pretty in the dark-blue variety, or in the newer scarlet which is really a brilliant salmon-

rose colour. The "Rocket Larkspur" (*D. ajacis*), is pretty, but not so tall or so effective.

**Linums.**—*Linum grandiflorum* is one of our best annuals; brilliant carmine in colour, about one foot high. The seedlings should be thinned out to several inches apart, and they will then grow out well, and give a beautiful bit of colour for many weeks. The seed should be soaked in water for an hour or two before sowing; this makes it rather like a jelly, but if some dry sand is mixed with it you can handle it more easily.

**Love - in - a - Mist.**—The old-fashioned flower "Love-in-a-mist," *Nigella damascena*, is always welcome, its clear bright sky-blue colour being so valuable among other plants; the variety "Miss Jekyll" is the prettiest. It can be sown in autumn for June flowering, or in April for the later summer, and when once it is established you will not easily lose it, for it sows itself very readily. Do not let the plants be thicker than six inches apart; they will transplant when young if they are carefully handled and watered.

**Mignonette.**—You ought not to be without some patches of Mignonette (*Reseda odorata*), but it is not one of the most easy annuals to grow, for in

some seasons it seems as if it *would* not come up. It likes to be sown on very firm ground, and when you have put the seed in, you had better walk on it! I do not think that the "giant" varieties are nearly so pretty or so sweet as the ordinary sort.

**Nasturtiums.**—*Tropæolum*.—Nasturtiums are delightful; so good-natured, so fresh and clean-looking, and their big seeds so easy to sow just where you want them; they hardly ever disappoint or fail you. Sown in May they will flower in July and August. They look very well used as a border for a bed, or, if you have some earlier flower, such as Pinks for your border, it is nice to poke in some Nasturtium seeds just between, and behind the plants, for they will come in just as the Pinks are over, and keep a bright look for some time; of course I am speaking of the dwarf varieties *T. nanum*. They look very well in mixed colours and shades, or, if you prefer, you can keep to one colour for one bed; the crimson colour called "Roseum" is good, and so is the dark "Empress of India". The tall varieties, *T. majus*, are often very useful as climbers.

**Nemophila.**—*Nemophila insignis* is another old-fashioned annual that is pleasing from associations,

as well as from its pretty sky-blue colour. It is very low-growing, and flowers in June if sown in April, or it can be sown later for succession; thin the plants to five or six inches apart.

**Pharcelia.**—*Pharcelia campanularia* is a cousin, or at all events some relation, of the last-named annual, and very valuable from its brilliant gentian-blue flowers in July; plants should be four or five inches apart.

**Portulaccas.**—Portulaccas are most interesting little plants, with tiny fleshy leaves spreading over the ground like a carpet; the flowers are like small single roses, in every possible shade of red, pink, crimson, yellow and white, with quantities of yellow stamens. Portulaccas only open in the sun and like the hardest, driest and most sunny situation that you can give them. A border of these flowers on a sunny morning is a beautiful thing; but if the summer should prove wet and cloudy, your Portulaccas will not make any show. There is a double variety, but they are not nearly so pretty or effective; they transplant easily, and should be thinned out to leave six inches between them.

**Salpiglossis.**—In *Salpiglossis sinuata* you have one of the choicest of annuals. There is no other

flower, I think, in which you can find such infinite variety of colours, and colours which it is so impossible so describe, for they are so shaded, so shot, and so beautifully marked and veined with gold, that one cannot define them, but every one will agree that they are truly beautiful, and are at the same time perfectly easy to cultivate. The old-fashioned way was to sow them under glass and bring them up in pots to be put out in the borders, but any one who has tried, will, I am sure, agree with me that you get far better and stronger plants by sowing them in the open in May or early June, and transplant them if you wish; but to my mind they are never *so* beautiful as when they are seen in a large mass together, if you can find a nice corner to give them, facing west if possible, so that the setting sun lights up their beautiful colours. They grow two feet high, but do not branch widely, so the plants may be left pretty close together, and should be supported by short bits of pea-sticks stuck among them. Like most other annuals they enjoy rich soil, and will well repay trouble in attending to them.

**Salvia horminum.**—The annual *Salvia horminum*, variety "Blue Beard," is an easily grown plant reaching twelve to eighteen inches high, each

spike and side spike ending in bright purple bracts, which make it extremely effective; it lasts practically the whole summer, and sows itself lavishly. It is a plant that seems equally happy in shade or in sun, and has no troublesome prejudices as to soil; the young plants will move easily. Four or five plants are enough to make a good patch of colour, as each plant branches out to a considerable size.

There are, of course, hundreds of other hardy annuals, many of which are favourites with other people, but I have given you a list of those which I have found most useful and most effective.

#### PLANTS FOR CARPETING.

If your garden is somewhat large and rambling you will be sure to have some rather hopeless-looking corners, which are perhaps too shady for most plants, or too much exposed to cold winds, or maybe they are overhung by trees, or it has proved an exceptionally poor bit of soil, in some way or other; so it will be well to tell you of a few plants which you can rely on for carpeting such a corner, and hiding all its deficiencies.

**Periwinkle.** — The small Periwinkle (*Vinca*

*minor*) is a perfectly hardy evergreen plant, which spreads very quickly, and will grow under trees or shrubs, entirely covering the ground; it has pretty violet-blue flowers in May. There is a white-flowered variety also, but the best is *V. minor variegata*, which has white and green foliage, and blue flowers.

**S. John's-wort.**—Another evergreen plant that will grow *anywhere*, either in shade or sun, is S. John's-wort (*Hypericum calycinum*). Its large yellow flowers are too well known to need description, but it is as well liked as it is well known, and deservedly so, for it comes to our aid in covering the most unpromising banks and corners, making them look furnished and comfortable the whole year round.

**Speedwell.**—The little bright blue Speedwell (*Veronica rupestris*) is a very fast-growing plant, and is not particular as to soil, seeming rather to prefer that which is poor and stony; it will make itself at home anywhere. Its cheerful royal-blue flowers appear in June; the foliage remains green all the year.

**Alkanet.**—Another blue flower is *Anchusa sempervirens*, our indigenous "Evergreen Alkanet".

It is an excellent plant for filling in rough and cold places; it is a sturdy thick-leaved plant growing about eighteen inches high, bearing quantities of starry blue flowers, a beautiful shade of blue, like a large Forget-me-not. It spreads very quickly, and a few plants will soon fill a large space, and when once it is well established the appearance is excellent, for it is a handsome plant and not at all "weedy" looking.

**Valerian.**—The well-known Valerian (*Centranthus*) is a grand plant for massing in odd corners and crannies, for it will grow in the poorest of soil, or indeed where there is *no* soil, as it is quite at home on brick, and even on flint, walls, but yet will thrive also where it is in almost complete shade under trees. The red and the white varieties are *much* more beautiful than the pink; the two former make lovely effects of colour if left to group themselves. It grows readily from seed, and the young plants flower the first year; you will find masses of self-sown plants round the old ones every autumn.

**Arabis.**—The double white Arabis is another plant that will spread with extraordinary rapidity. It does not appear to be at all fussy as to soil, but I fancy it is at its best in a light one, and situated

where it has a fair share of sun ; it then presents a sheet of white blossom in April and May, standing about nine or twelve inches high. The foliage is of a greyish colour, and lasts through the year.

**Aubretias.**—Closely allied to the Arabis are the Aubretias, and though they do not spread with anything like the rapidity of the former, they increase fairly quickly, especially in light soils, and on chalky or rocky banks ; a few good plants make a beautiful show and keep in flower for a long time. "Dr. Mules" is a beautiful dark purple variety, and makes a charming contrast to the more commonly seen pale mauve.

**Wichuriana Rose.**—An entirely different sort of carpet plant is the Rose "Wichuriana," a plant that seems as easily grown as it is possible to imagine, and is quite happy trailing over the ground, making shoots twelve feet long, or more, in one season. You can train these long shoots to go any way you please, and within two or three years of planting they will have rooted themselves, and be sending out fresh branches on their own account, covering an enormous space, and throwing up sprays of single white Roses with yellow stamens in August. The scent of the flowers is perfectly delicious ; the

foliage is small and very shining, almost evergreen. Cuttings of this Rose are very easily struck.

**Cyclamen.**—Again another kind of plant is the hardy Cyclamen; one peculiarity of this bulb is that it will thrive under Beech trees, which very few other plants will do. The best variety is *C. neapolitanum*, which has rose-coloured flowers in the autumn, the flowers being *succeeded* by the large handsome leaves which make a magnificent carpet for the ground; the only difficulty about these bulbs is their price, for they cost from three to five shillings a dozen.

**Aconites.**—Winter Aconites (*Eranthus hyemalis*) are charming little plants which must not be forgotten. They will grow and flourish under any trees, or in the open, their yellow buttercup-like blossoms pushing up even through frost and snow in January; they are very cheap, and spread quickly.

There are many other plants which will suggest themselves, as you gain experience in gardening; but there is one which I should like to warn you against, and that is *Polygonum cuspidatum*. Be careful how you introduce this into your garden, for it becomes a perfect pest; the roots go down so

deeply that it is impossible to get rid of it when once you have got it.

#### PLANTS UNDER TREES.

The difficulty with overhanging trees is that the ground underneath is generally very dry, as no dew falls on it, and at other times it is beaten down hard after rain by the heavy drops falling from the leaves and branches. However, the triumph of gardening, as in every other art, is to overcome difficulties, so if you cannot do away with any beds or borders that have become overshadowed by trees, you must do the best you can to make them look furnished.

The shrubs that I have found most easily grown under these conditions are *Rosa rugosa*, *Spiræa sorbifolia*, Snowberry (*Symphoricarpus*), *Deutzia crenata fl. pl.*, Butcher's Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), and Alexandrian Laurel (*Ruscus racemosus*), but the two last are very slow growing.

The common "Male Fern" from the woods is always beautiful, and will grow under almost any conditions; while for flowering plants I would recommend *Campanula persicifolia*, *C. grandis*, *C. macrantha*, Foxgloves. Hepatica, and the little

Welsh Poppy (*Meconopsis cambrica*) are valuable in the foreground ; Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum*) is quite happy in the deepest shade ; many of the Michaelmas Daisies, Herbaceous Phlox, *Rudbeckia californica*, and *Paeonia officinalis*, will all do moderately well, and the old-fashioned double Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*) thrives and flowers well.

Do not make the mistake of planting bulbs of Daffodils, Narcissus, etc., under trees, or in complete shade ; they may live but they will *not* flower, and will only end in disappointing you. Snowdrops will do well, and so will *Scilla campanulata*, also *Anemone apennina*, and *A. blanda*. Honesty (*Lunaria*) will grow under most trees, but to my mind it is an untidy, weedy-looking plant, and its absence is better than its company in the garden.

#### PLANTS AGAINST WALLS.

There are a very large number of climbing plants which are suitable for growing up the walls of a house, and many others which, though not strictly speaking "climbing plants," are glad of the protection of a wall in our climate, and will produce lovely effects if they have this support.

Among the most easily grown and most effective, of these climbers I must place **Virginian Creeper**

(*Ampelopsis quinquefolia*). The old-fashioned large-leaved Virginian Creeper, which grows fast, is not at all particular about aspect, and turns most glorious colours in autumn, with the lovely young shoots hanging about in such artistic fashion. Still more valuable is the small-leaved *Ampelopsis Veitchii*, which has that delightful quality of attaching itself to the wall, without requiring nails or wires. It prefers a south or west aspect, but when once it is happily established it grows with great rapidity, and one plant will soon cover an enormous space.

**Cotoneaster horizontalis.**—An evergreen with small white flowers in spring, and crimson berries in the autumn.

**Pyracantha Laelandi.**—With white flowers in clusters in spring, and orange-scarlet berries in autumn; evergreen.

**Cydonia japonica.**—Is often spoken of as "*Pyrus japonica*". A charming plant which is equally happy on a south or a north wall, and gives a blaze of scarlet flowers in early spring; there is also a variety with white flowers and pink buds.

**Magnolia grandiflora.**—With massive evergreen leaves, and gigantic white flowers.

**Magnolia conspicua.**—Deciduous, with an endless profusion of white flowers in early spring.

**Wistaria sinensis.**—Deciduous; covered in June with trailing bunches of mauve flowers, which are succeeded by the pretty acacia-like leaves.

**Berberis Darwinii.**—This is a very beautiful shrub which appreciates the protection of a wall, and produces a fine effect, with its shining dark foliage and masses of orange-coloured flowers in June.

**Forsythia suspensa.**—Has drooping yellow flowers in early spring, *succeeded* by handsome bright-green foliage; it should be kept well cut back after flowering.

**Jasminium midiflorum.**—This also bears its yellow blossoms before the leaves, and is very valuable in making a display of cheerful colour in the first months of the year.

**Jasminium officinale** is the well-known sweet white Jasmine.

**Jasminium revolutum.**—A delightful Jasmine, with large yellow flowers, and evergreen leaves.

**Honeysuckle**—*Lonicera*.—There are many varieties of Honeysuckle, and they are all pretty; the golden-leaved variety, *L. aurea reticulata*, is specially good as a climber.

**Clematis**—*C. montana*, has lovely wreaths of medium-sized white flowers in June; one of our best and most rampant-growing climbing plants.

*C. flammula*, and, a little later, *C. paniculata*, are both charming autumn-flowering varieties, with masses of tiny white flowers with very sweet scent.

*C. Jackmani* has large purple flowers in summer. There are numberless other beautiful large-flowered varieties, in every shade of colour, details of which you will find in any nurseryman's catalogue. All Clematis require chalk in the soil.

**Vines**—*Vitis*.—All the vines are very beautiful as climbers; but they are, I think, more suitable for pergolas and arches than for walls. The purple Vine, *V. purpurea*, is lovely, but very slow growing; *V. Cognetiæ* is somewhat massive and heavy, but *V. Thomsoni* is extremely light and pretty.

**Roses**.—I have left it to the last to mention Roses, for they are to be had in such endless beauty and variety that it is hard to choose, and harder still to advise; but *Aimée Vibert*, with its evergreen foliage and large clusters of double white Roses, and pink buds, is delightful on the walls of your house, with its pretty flowers peeping in at your window.

“*Macartney*.”—Another evergreen Rose, with brilliant dark foliage, and large single white flowers with showy golden stamens.

*Gloire de Dijon*, and *Madame Berard*, if you want a sturdy quick-growing rose for a north or east aspect.

*W. A. Richardson*, *Madame Abel Chatenay*, *Papa Gontier* or *Comtesse de Nadaillac*, if you like a Rose that flowers for almost the whole summer.

Select from one of the good catalogues, or go and look for yourself what Roses flourish in your own neighbourhood.

One word of warning I must give you; do not put a Crimson Rambler against a wall, it prefers growing in the open, over an arch, or on a pillar; and I think the same is true of nearly all the Rambler style of Roses; but the Teas, and Hybrid-teas, delight in the protection of a wall.

All the plants I have mentioned are perfectly hardy; but if you are one of those persons who live in a specially mild part of England, or in a particularly favourable situation, there are hundreds of lovely things that you may safely plant in addition; such as—

**Solanum Jasminoides**, which will soon cover a house with its bunches of white flowers in August.

**Ceanothus.**—*Ceanothus* “*Gloire de Versailles*,” which is evergreen, and has heads of fluffy blue flowers in late summer. There are also many other beautiful varieties, such as *C. brilliant* and *C. rigidus*, the latter being a spring bloomer, in April and May.

**Bignonia carpreolata** has beautiful scarlet flowers of trumpet shape in September, or *B. radicans*, which is more hardy, and flowers rather earlier.

**Cistus Laudernifernus** is a beautiful plant, commonly known as “Gum Cistus,” and bears innumerable white flowers with a crimson blotch in each petal.

**Escalonia macrantha.**—An evergreen with beautiful shining leaves, and rose-coloured flowers of a trumpet shape, in great profusion, looking as if they were made of wax, and continuing all the summer.

**Indigofera floribunda**, with pretty finely divided foliage, and pink pea-shaped flowers in autumn.

**Passion Flower**—*Passiflora*, with its beautiful mauve flowers, and orange fruit.

These, and such as these, are plants of never-failing interest and beauty, making our houses into veritable fairy palaces.

#### CLIMBING PLANTS FOR FENCES AND ARCHES.

**Nasturtium**—*Tropæolum majus*.—This well-known annual can be had in all shades of red and yellow, and is very showy and effective in the late summer.

**Canary Flower**—*Tropæolum peregrinum*, has numerous bright yellow flowers, and pretty light foliage; a hardy annual.

**Flame Flower**—*Tropæolum speciosum*.—A most lovely perennial, but will only grow in favoured localities; it is a rampant climber in Scotland, North Wales, and many parts of the West of England. A plant that requires a thoroughly damp atmosphere, and the best chance of success is to give it a north, or north-west aspect, with shade and moisture to its roots, but the blossom in full light.

**Everlasting Peas**—*Lathyrus*.—The earliest and handsomest of these flowers is *L. grandiflorus*, which blows early in June; flowers, pink and carmine, two on a stem, as large, or larger than Sweet Peas, growing to a height of five or six feet;

a perennial which spreads and increases by root. *L. latifolius* is the kind that flowers in clusters, both pink and white; grows seven or eight feet high, and flowers in August; a perennial that can be easily raised from seed.

**Convolvulus major**—*Ipomœa purpurea*.—A lovely half-hardy annual climber; the seed should be sown where it is to grow early in June, and will quickly reach a height of twelve feet, or more, if trained on strings, wire or sticks. It bears masses of flowers for a long time, of every lovely colour in the rainbow, and is a beautiful sight on a sunny morning, but the flowers generally close at midday. Like all half-hardy annuals it enjoys a rich soil, and should be put in a position where it gets plenty of sun.

**Cobaea scandens**.—A half hardy perennial which climbs *very* rapidly; it has dark purple bell-shaped flowers, and handsome foliage; one plant will cover an enormous space in the course of the summer.

**Mina lobata**.—This is another very rapid-growing half-hardy annual, with small scarlet and yellow trumpet-shaped flowers.

**Clematis**—*C. coccinea*.—A coral-red flower of curious vase shape, *very* pretty, and worth growing;

it reaches to a height of about twelve feet, and flowers in late summer; perennial.

*C. montana*, flowers white, about four inches across, in *great* profusion in June; a rampant climber; perennial.

*C. flammula*, and *C. paniculata*, are both charming perennial climbers for covering rough fences, or arches; growing in great masses, with profusion of tiny white flowers, in autumn; both are very fragrant, and in appearance rather like the wild Clematis.

*C. Jackmani* has large purple flowers in July and August; this and the other large-flowered Clematis are beautiful, but must be grown with other things to support them, as they have not foliage enough to look well quite alone. The kinds called Clematis of the *Patens-type*, and *Florida-type*, bear flowers in the spring on the old wood, and must not be cut back, but the *Viticella-type*, *Launginosa-type* and *Jackmani-type* bear flowers on the summer shoots, and may be cut right back to two or three feet high, after flowering, if you wish to make them flower near the ground; "Nellie Moser" is a very beautiful variety of the *Launginosa* type.

## SWEET-SCENTED FOLIAGE.

Do not forget to keep a sunny corner in your garden for the plants with sweet-scented foliage. They are favourites with most people, and there are not many who pass by a bush of Rosemary or lemon-scented Verbena without touching it, for the sake of the delicious scent left on their hands. For this reason it is nice to have them near the house, or close at hand in some sunny border, where every one who passes can enjoy them; or there may be some spot where you want a short low hedge, and where some plants of the quick-growing Southernwood would come in well, or bushes of the ever popular Lavender. These little hedges can often be introduced with great effect, leading from one bit of garden to another, and they can be formed of China Roses, Scotch Briar, Fuchsia (*Riccartoni*) or *Berberis Darwinii*, as well as of Lavender, Rosemary or Southernwood.

**Lavender**—*Lavandula* will grow about two feet high, and the plants should not be allowed to grow old and straggling, but be renewed every few years; they strike very easily from cuttings. The plants should be grown in full sun and they like sandy loam.

**Southernwood or Old Man**—*Artemisia abrotanum* is of feathery foliage and very quick growing; it should be kept well cut back to form bushy plants about three feet high; strikes very readily from cuttings; should be grown in full sunshine, and thrives in poor soil.

**Rosemary**—*Rosmarinus officinalis*, will also strike from cuttings put in in August, but is sometimes rather capricious about growing well, and should be given a South or West aspect; the scent is delightful, and the plant of pretty growth.

**Lemon-scented Verbena**—*Aloysia citriodora*, is a universal favourite, and if it can be given a nice sheltered corner, and protected during the winter, with cinders over the roots, and a light covering in severe frost, you may grow quite large bushes out of doors, even if you are not in one of those favoured localities where it will climb half-way up your house.

**Balm**—*Mellissa*.—This has also a pleasant lemon scent to its foliage, and is very easily grown anywhere, even under trees; the young foliage is pretty, but it gets rather untidy late in the summer, and dies right down in autumn.

**Salvia Grahmi**.—I have mentioned this plant

before, on account of its flowers, but the leaves have such a pleasant sage-like smell, that I think it should also be included among the plants with fragrant foliage. It must be grown in as much sun as possible.

Those people who have only lately taken up gardening as a hobby often feel somewhat at a loss how to find their favourite trees and shrubs in the catalogues of the nurserymen. These catalogues are delightful to those who know, but often a terrible worry and mystery to the beginner, who has not yet learned the botanical names of homely things. So I will give you a list of the most well-known and desirable trees and shrubs, with a short description where it seems needed.

#### LARGE TREES.

**Acacia—*Robina*.**—These are beautiful flowering trees, of considerable size; the foliage is very light and pretty, the flowers in drooping bunches rather like laburnum. *R. pseudacacia* has white flowers, and *R. hispida*, rose-pink.

**Alder—*Alnus*.**—Medium-sized trees, with dark-green foliage. They do best when planted near water, and are valuable for cutting.

**Ash**—*Fraxinus*.—Very large and handsome trees, growing to a great height, and very sturdy. *F. excelsior* is the common variety, *F. pendula* the very handsome weeping variety.

**Beech**—*Fagus*.—Beautiful trees both in form and colour; one of the latest to come out in the spring, but taking lovely colours in the autumn. *F. silvatica* is the ordinary one, and *F. purpurea* the lovely Copper Beech; they are very wide-spreading trees.

**Birch**—*Betula*.—There is no such beautiful tree, to my mind, as the common Silver Birch, *B. alba*, with its lovely silver bark, and straight trunk; it is always a beautiful sight, either in summer or winter, reaching to a great height, and always seems to look like an aristocrat among trees. The Weeping Birch (*B. pendula Youngii*), is also lovely.

**Catalpa syringæfolia**.—I have placed this among large trees, but it does not as a rule grow beyond quite a medium height in our country; it is handsome, with very large leaves, and pale-lilac flowers.

**Chestnut**—*Castanea*.—This is the well-known Sweet Chestnut, or Spanish Chestnut.

**Deciduous Cypress**—*Taxodium distichum*.—A tree not very commonly seen, but one of great beauty; in growth and foliage somewhat like a Cypress, reaching to a very considerable height where it does well; the light feathery foliage takes most beautiful colours in the autumn. It is said to like growing near water, or in places where the roots soon reach water; but I have seen it growing splendidly where there was no water near, but in good rich soil.

**Elm**—*Ulmus*.—Elms are fine-looking trees at a distance, but have nothing to recommend them for planting near at hand, and they are very brittle, more often getting injured by high wind than most trees.

**Horse Chestnut**—*Æsculus Hippocastatum*, has white flowers. *Æ. H. rubicunda* is the red-flowered variety.

**Ilex**—*Quercus Ilex*, or Evergreen Oak. This well-known evergreen tree is very beautiful in spring when the young shoots of light green show up against the dark foliage; it is a slow-growing tree, but attains a considerable size. The foliage of the wide-spreading branches is very dense, so that the tree affords splendid shelter from rain,

or shade from sun; it is not a good tree to have very near the house or lawn, as it sheds its leaves all through the summer.

**Lime**—*Tilia*.—Lime trees are much used for avenues or screens; they have very sweet-scented pale-green blossom in July.

**Maple**—*Acer*.—Nearly all the Maples are beautiful trees, and there are an immense number of varieties. *A. platanoides*, *A. saccharium* the "Sugar Maple," and *A. rubrum*, are some of the handsomest of the large-growing kinds. *A. negundo*, *A. colchicum*, and their varieties, are smaller trees, and can be grown as bushes; while *A. palmatum*, is the type of the "Japanese Maples," which are lovely, but *very* slow growing.

**Oak**—*Quercus*.—*Q. robur* is the ordinary English Oak, so handsome, but so slow growing; there are several varieties, which can be had from all large nurseries.

**Paulownia**—*Paulownia imperialis*, is a beautiful tree with immense leaves and blue flowers; it grows to a medium height in this country.

**Plane**—*Platanus orientalis*.—A tree which grows to an enormous height, and the branches of which cover an extraordinary extent. It is

valuable as a tree which will grow uninjured in the heart of London, and other large towns, for which reason it is often spoken of as the "London Plane".

**Poplar**—*Populus*.—This is a name given to trees of widely different appearance. The tall, narrow, upright trees which we so often see by the riverside, *P. fastigiata*, is the Lombardy Poplar. The Silver Poplar (*P. alba*) is of moderate size, with grey leaves, white on the underside. The Black Poplar and the Aspen Poplar are both trees of quick growth and immense size, but of no great beauty, nor of any use as timber. And there are many other varieties.

**Sycamore** — *Acer pseudo-platanus*. — A fast-growing tree, very like the Maple in appearance.

**Walnut**—*Juglans*.—The well-known Walnut tree is a very beautiful one; it is of slow growth, but is always of excellent form, and lives to a great age. It is a pleasant tree to sit under, as insects seem to shun it, from the slight aromatic scent of its leaves.

**Willow**—*Salix*.—Generally recommended as a tree for the water-side; the weeping form, *S. pendula*, is very graceful.

## SMALL TREES.

**Almond**—*Amygdalus*.—A beautiful tree about twenty feet high, which bears pink blossoms in March, before the leaves appear.

**Cherry**—*Cerasus*.—There are several varieties of Cherry which are grown as ornamental trees. *C. padus* or Bird Cherry, bears quantities of double white flowers in May; it grows quickly.

**Dogwood**—*Cornus*.—Many of these are very beautiful both in their flower and foliage, most of them turning lovely colours in the autumn. *C. sanguinea* has red stems, and the silver-leaved variety, *C. s. argentea marginata*, is very pretty. *C. siberica spathi* is variegated with gold, *C. florida rubra*, *C. Kousa* and *C. macrophylla*, are some choice varieties for growing on a lawn.

**Elder**—*Sambucus*.—The common Elder is of quick growth, but a coarse-looking tree; the golden variety, *S. aurea*, is useful in shrubberies. *S. lacinatus*, the cut-leaved Elder, is a very pretty small tree, and its golden variety is one of the best golden-leaved shrubs for a lawn.

**Filbert**—*Coryllus*.—The most ornamental of this species is the purple-leaved Filbert, *C. purpurea*,

which is a beautiful deep colour, most effective among the other trees and shrubs.

**Hazel**—*Coryllus*, the same as the last.

**Hornbeam**—*Carpinus*.—This is often used for high hedges, as it is very close growing, and its leaves do not drop in the autumn, when they change colour, but remain on the tree throughout the winter.

**Judas Tree**—*Cercis siliquastrum*.—A small tree of about fifteen feet high, round, bluish-green leaves, and red-purple flowers, which bloom all along the branches *before* the leaves appear. It grows best in a sheltered shady position; several in a group make a fine effect.

**Laburnum** — *Cytisus Laburnum*. — A small beautiful tree with drooping bunches of yellow flowers in May. There are several varieties.

**Lilac**—*Syringa*.—No garden should be without this, and if space permits, plenty of it; nothing else can equal the beauty of masses of Lilac and Laburnum in early spring. The white Lilac, the purple Lilac, and the old-fashioned Persian Lilac, should be planted in variety, and if possible massed in large clumps. They grow slowly, but live to a considerable age.

**Mulberry**—*Morus*.—This tree is a great favourite with many people, but I think it is a very heavy-looking one, and it certainly is a very untidy one for a lawn.

**Mountain Ash**—*Sorbus Aucuparia*.—A beautiful small tree, with fern-like foliage, and orange-scarlet berries in the autumn.

**Plum**—*Prunus*.—Several of the Plums are grown as ornamental trees on account of their flowers. *P. sinensis alba plena* has pretty double white blossom. *P. sinensis rosea plena*, double pink flowers. *P. Pissardii* is a handsome variety with dark-purple foliage. *P. myrobalum* grows very quickly, and is much used for hedges.

**Spindle Tree**—*Euonymus*.—*E. europæus* is the well-known bush or small tree that has lovely rose-coloured berries, which split open and show scarlet seeds inside ; it prefers growing in the shade of taller trees, and is quite hardy.

**Sumach**—*Rhus*.—*R. typhina* is a small tree, with large, palm-like leaves ; it thrives in poor soil, and should be kept well cut back. A group of this at a little distance, or by water, is very lovely in autumn, as the leaves take gorgeous colouring, but it is not specially pretty for the garden.

**Thorn** — *Cratægus*. — There are a great many varieties of Thorn, some are trees twenty or thirty feet high, such as *C. carrieri* and *C. crus-galli*, with white flowers in spring and large red berries in the autumn. The pink and red flowered Thorns are beautiful in early June; nearly all varieties take good colours in the autumn.

#### CONIFERS.

The names of conifers are often a great puzzle to beginners, and indeed are not easy for those who have some experience, for many of them, especially among the Cypresses and Abies, often show such varied growth that it is difficult to class them. The following short explanations may be a help to some.

**Arbor Vitæ**—*Thuja*.—Shrubs, also often used for hedges.

**Cedar**—*Cedrus*.—Large trees.

**Cypress**—*Cupressus*.—*C. Lawsoniana* is the best known of these; they are beautiful trees growing to a great height, in the form of a sugar loaf.

**Juniper**—*Juniperus*.—Useful shrubs in many varieties.

**Larch**—*Larix*.—Quick-growing deciduous trees;

very hardy. The bright-green shoots in spring are lovely against dark firs.

**Monkey Puzzle**—*Araucaria*.

**Pine**—*Pinus*.—Trees with needle-shaped leaves.

**Scotch Firs**—*Pinus sylvestris*.

**Silver Firs**—*Picea* and *Abies*.

**Spruce Firs**—*Abies*.

**Wellingtonia**—*Sequoia gigantea*.

#### EVERGREEN SHRUBS.

**Aucuba**—*Aucuba japonica*, or Spotted Laurel, are shrubs with large shining leaves mottled with yellow. To get berries, the male form (with green leaves) must be planted near the spotted kind.

**Arbutus**—*Arbutus unedo*, "Strawberry Tree". So called from the fruit, which is very like a strawberry. It is a beautiful shrub, growing ten or twelve feet high; it has white flowers, followed by the red fruit in great abundance in autumn, presenting a grand appearance, but it requires a sheltered position.

**Azalea**—*Azalea mollis*.—These are most charming shrubs, with flowers of every shade of yellow, pink and red; they *must* have a peat or iron soil, and a sheltered position; but if they are situated in a place and soil that suits them, nothing can

exceed their beauty when they have grown to be large bushes of seven or eight feet high, crowded with bloom in early summer. They should be massed together, with a background of Rhododendrons or other dark evergreen to show them off well.

**Barberry**—*Berberis*.—The *Berberis* are not all evergreen, strictly speaking, but I have placed them together to avoid confusion. *B. aquifolium*, or *Mahonia*, is a beautiful and distinct plant, with large evergreen foliage, wiry stems, and bunches of lemon-yellow flowers in June; it grows very easily, even under trees, and reaches a height of ten feet or more.

**B. Darwinii**.—A very fine-leaved plant, with beautiful orange flowers in April and May. It is not quite so hardy as some other varieties, but makes a beautiful plant to train against a wall.

**B. stenophylla** is very hardy, likes a dry soil, and grows quickly, with immensely long graceful drooping shoots, which are one mass of golden flowers in May and June; no more beautiful sight can be imagined than a bush such as I have often seen of this plant, ten feet high, and twenty feet through, looking like a sheet of golden fireworks in the light of the setting sun.

**B. vulgaris** is the fruit-bearing *Berberis*, a slow-growing tree, but will reach some twelve feet or more eventually. It is pretty and graceful, and when the berries turn red in autumn, it is a charming sight, but does not bear fruit until it is some age.

**B. vulgaris purpurea** is the purple-leaved variety, a *most* beautiful shrub at all times of the year. This plant is at its best in a poor dry soil, growing vigorously till it reaches ten feet high or more, and spreading wide on every side. The soft bloom on the purple leaves gives a sort of shot appearance, which is very attractive; in autumn, the foliage dies off in beautiful shades of red and yellow, its beauty often lasting up to Christmas. *B. Knighti*, a pretty small evergreen shrub, with yellow flowers, in June. There are also a great many other varieties.

**Bay**—*Laurus nobilis*.—An evergreen shrub with fragrant foliage, not hardy everywhere.

**Box**—*Buxus*.—This is a most useful evergreen, quite hardy, and very close growing; mixed with Yew, Holly, Juniper, etc., it forms splendid solid hedges and screens, reaching a very considerable height. The more you cut it, the better it grows.

**Butcher's Broom**—*Ruscus aculeatus*.—A curious stiff-growing plant, leaves very dark green, with sharp points; the bright-red berries grow *on* the leaves. This plant will flourish quite well under trees; it increases very slowly, and only reaches about three feet high.

**Camellia**—*Camellia*.—These are really very fairly hardy plants, and it is quite worth while to try them, as their beautiful flowers are so charming in the very early spring; against a wall facing west is the situation which would probably suit them best.

**Carpentaria**—*Carpentaria californica*.—A very lovely shrub, which has beautiful white flowers, about the size and shape of a wild rose, with quantities of yellow stamens, forming a charming sight when in bloom in July, if given a soil and situation that suits it. Some people treat it as a wall shrub, but this is not necessary if it be given a south-west aspect and loamy soil.

**Choisya**—*Choisya ternata*.—A low-growing shrub, not hardy everywhere; it has very sweet-scented white flowers in spring, but is not otherwise a pretty plant.

**Daphne**—*Daphne*.—*D. pontica* is a very useful

shrub, about four feet high, and spreading wide. It has inconspicuous greenish flowers in spring, with delicious scent; the stems have an elastic feel about them, which makes it a valuable plant for windy corners, as the wind makes no impression on the shape of the plant. *D. cneorum* is a lovely little prostrate shrub, with rose-pink flowers in May.

**Ecsallonia** — *Escallonia*. — These are specially seaside shrubs, but they will grow in other places against a wall, and are well worth trying on account of their great beauty; the leaves are small and very glossy, the flowers somewhat like Begonias and very numerous. *E. macrantha* is the best.

**Euonymus** — *Euonymus*. — Another evergreen which is specially adapted to the seaside; it is a neat-growing shrub, with each twig very much like the next one, and does not grow over five feet high, as a rule. There is a pretty golden variety, *E. ovata-aurea*. They are much used for hedges by the seaside.

**Garrya** — *Garrya elliptica* is a very noticeable and effective bush, with grey-green foliage, and long grey catkins in the winter, reaching six or seven feet in height. It is not specially hardy, and should be given a west aspect.

**Holly**—*Ilex*.—Holly is one of the evergreens which we could hardly do without in our gardens, not only for the sake of the beautiful berries, but the bushes or trees are highly ornamental themselves; absolutely hardy, and very dense in their growth, so that they afford excellent shelter from wind or sun.

There are an immense number of varieties. *I. aquifolium* is the common holly; the golden and silver hollies are beautiful, and must not be left out; they vary very much as to size and growth, so you must consult your nurseryman as to which to choose, according to your requirements.

Holly makes a beautiful and lasting hedge, about three or four feet wide, and kept cut square at the top.

**Ivy**—*Hedera*.—The bush Ivy is *H. arborea*, a plant which is often very useful and effective. Of the climbing varieties there are a large number, including both gold and silver variegated kinds.

**Laurel**—*Cerasus*.—The common Laurel is a very handsome shrub, with large shining leaves of bright light green, very close and compact in its growth. If the young shoots are kept well cut back, it will prove perfectly hardy. There are several varieties.

**Laurustinus**—*Viburnum Tinus*.—A charming shrub, growing eight to ten feet high, covered in early spring with large heads of white flowers with a dash of red about them; it is quite hardy, but grows best on a chalky soil.

**Magnolia**—*Magnolia*.—Most of the Magnolias are quite hardy, *M. acuminata* is a quick-growing plant, with enormous leaves and huge white flowers; there are also deciduous varieties, of which *M. conspicua* has white flowers in great abundance.

**Napal Laburnum**—*Piptanthus nepalensis*.—A beautiful shrub, about ten feet high, with leaves like a magnified Laburnum of dark glossy colour, and large bunches of yellow flowers; it is good as a wall plant.

**Olearia**—*Olearia*.—These are pretty and neat small shrubs with white flowers; most of them are quite hardy by the sea, or in sheltered positions. *O. Hastii* is the most hardy.

**Portugal Laurel**—*Cerasus lusitanica*.—An invaluable shrub, very hardy, growing quickly and reaching a height of fifteen to twenty feet. When well established it flowers profusely in spring, sprays of small white flowers covering the whole bush, followed by reddish berries, which, however,

are very quickly devoured by the birds. Two or three of these shrubs planted near together will, in a few years, form a splendid bank of evergreen.

**Privet**—*Ligustrum*.—The common Privet (*L. sempervirens*) is useful for hedges, and for filling in rough wild places. There are a number of ornamental varieties, including the gold and silver Privet, useful among other shrubs, and very hardy, but rather prim-looking, reminding one of little town gardens and of public recreation grounds.

**Rhododendrons**.—These well-known shrubs are very beautiful in a soil of loam and peat, where they will grow into enormous bushes, and are covered with flowers in April and May; but it is useless trying to cultivate them in an unfriendly soil.

**Roman Laurel**—*Ruscus racemosus*.—Wands of Smilax-like foliage, growing up from the ground, very pretty for decorative purposes; the sprays may be freely cut each year, as new ones are produced each spring to take the place of the old; the plant is about three feet high, and is slow to increase.

**Tamarisk**—*Tamarix*.—This is the feathery shrub which grows so freely close to the sea; it is quite

hardy, and is pretty for using inland by the water-side. There is a new variety, *T. hispida æstivalis*, which has brilliant carmine flowers, in feathery sprays, and is most effective.

**Veronica.**—The evergreen Veronicas are all pretty neat shrubs, with lilac, blue or white flowers, freely produced; most of them are not very hardy, and grow best in sheltered corners, or against a wall. There are several silver variegated varieties, and all are desirable plants for a garden which is not exposed to very severe frost. Veronicas like chalky soil.

**Yew—*Taxus.***—*T. baccata* is the common English Yew, so invaluable in our gardens for making grand hedges, either by itself or mixed with Box, Holly, etc., or allowed to grow into huge bushes, for screens or shelter; its dark green foliage makes a charming background here and there as a setting to the lighter plants.

If it is planted for a clipped hedge, be sure you do not clip the *top* until it has grown to the height you wish, but clip the sides as much as you like. Let me warn you also to be careful what is done with the clippings, for if they are left in the way of horses, cattle, or poultry, they will eat it, and die, for *newly cut* Yew is most poisonous.

The Irish *T. fastigiata* is the one that grows in a narrow upright way, of which there is also a golden variety *T. fastigiata aurea*.

#### DECIDUOUS SHRUBS.

**Berberis.**—See “Evergreen Shrubs”.

**Bladder Senna—*Colutea*.**—A pretty little shrub, or rather tiny tree, with light Acacia-like foliage, and quantities of yellow pea-shaped flowers, succeeded by curious bladder seed-pods; there are several varieties, and they have the amiable character of *rejoicing* in a poor soil.

**Broom.**—The Brooms are delightful plants, as their foliage is so light and pretty; it makes such a pleasing contrast to every other kind of shrub. They belong to the two large families of *Genista* and *Cytisus*.

*Cytisus scoparius*, the common yellow Broom; *C. scoparius Andraana*, the red variety of the same; *Genista multifolia alba*, white Portugal Broom; *Genista scoparia flore alba*, is a lovely cream-coloured Broom, growing about three feet high, and spreading wide; *Genista radiata*, creeping yellow Broom; *Spartium junceum*, Spanish Broom, a large and coarse-growing bush, and

many others; they thrive on light dry soils. There is a new variety called Pink Broom, *Noto Spartium Carmichaelæ*.

**Buddlea.**—The Buddleas are very quick-growing shrubs, something after the manner of Elder, the foliage whitish on the underside. *B. globosa* has flowers in summer like a bunch of small oranges, and is rather pretty. *B. variabilis Vietchiana* is a very beautiful and striking shrub, with spikes of brilliant lilac flowers in August. The long shoots droop with the weight of the flowers, so that the purple spikes all seem to point towards you; they are of astonishing beauty and size, many of the spikes being fifteen to eighteen inches in length, composed of myriads of lilac flowers with red throats, and at the base of the centre spike come side spikes, and again below that more side spikes, so that the whole effect when in flower is perfectly gorgeous. The scent is delicious, like honey, and the plant is beloved of all insects, so that it is alive with bees and butterflies, thus adding to its own attractions. The shoots should be shortened back after flowering, and again more severely in the spring, as it is a rampant grower, making shoots eight feet long or more in one season.

*B. variabilis magnifica*, only differs from the former in being a redder colour.

**Caryopteris.**—"Blue Spiræa," as it is sometimes called, is a low-growing shrub, rather dull dark leaves, white on the underside, and soft blue flowers in autumn, not very showy. It should be put in a sunny situation.

**Deutzia.**—The Deutzias are all hardy, and very floriferous. *D. gracilis*, which one so often sees in greenhouses, grows and flowers even better in the open. There are numerous hybrids of this variety, both white and pink flowered, all useful and pretty. *D. crenata* is quite a large-growing shrub, reaching eight to ten feet in height. The double-flowered variety is a most beautiful sight when in flower in July; it prefers a shady situation.

**Elder**—*Sambucus*.—I have placed this in my list of good shrubs for the sake of *S. laciniata folis aureis*, which is the most lovely golden shrub, the foliage so light and pretty, and keeps a good colour all the summer.

**Forsythia.**—A shrub with drooping yellow flowers the shape of a hyacinth, which appear *before* the leaves, in early spring; it is often used as a climber against a wall.

**Fuchsia.**—Not a very hardy plant, but in mild districts, or by the sea, growing to a great size; and it is so beautiful that it is well worth trying. Against a wall facing west would give it the best chance. *F. Riccartoni* is the most hardy.

**Gorse.**—The common Gorse is *Ulex europæus*, not very fit for a garden; but the Spanish Gorse, *Genista hispanica*, is a beautiful plant; low growing (about two feet) and spreading; a mass of golden flowers late in May.

**Guelder Rose**—*Viburnum*.—The well-known “Snowball Tree” is a lovely shrub for the garden. *V. opulus sterile* grows ten to twelve feet high, with pretty foliage and masses of round white balls of flower in June. The leaves take beautiful colours in the autumn, which makes it a specially desirable shrub. There are also a number of newer Japanese and Chinese varieties, of which *V. plicatum* is a very beautiful one.

**Hibiscus**—*Althea frutex*, is a beautiful flowering shrub, which grows ten feet high, with white flowers in autumn; there are also other varieties with different coloured flowers.

**Kerria**—*Kerria japonica*.—This is a fine old-fashioned plant, with little yellow rosette-like

flowers, in early summer. It is generally treated as a climber for walls or trellis. The foliage is scanty, and the growth of the plant rather attenuated and straggling.

**Leycesteria**—*Leycesteria formosa*.—Not quite a pretty shrub for the lawn, but nice for drives or shrubbery. It grows in long shoots from the ground, like a bamboo, with rather flabby leaves, and hanging flowers of dark red and white in late autumn.

**Pyrus**.—The Pyruses include a large group of flowering trees and bushes. The prettiest kinds for use in the garden are the *Pyrus malus* or Flowering Crabs. They can be grown either as small standard trees, or as bushes, and most of them have pink flowers, with deeper coloured buds, appearing in great profusion before the leaves, in early spring. *P. m. floribunda*, *P. m. Niedzwetzkyana*, and *P. m. baccata* or the Siberian Crab, are all very beautiful varieties.

**Ribes**.—"Flowering Currant," as this is often called, is a very pretty shrub when in flower, but is not suitable for garden beds, rather for shrubberies, or rougher parts of the garden. It is quite at its best hanging over water; and if seen thus, with its

bunches of red-pink flowers reflected in the water, it is very beautiful.

**Rosa rugosa.**—Japanese Roses make excellent shrubs for a background, or for growing under trees. They are very hardy, and their flowers are pretty and showy, the leaves a dark glossy green, turning bright yellow in autumn; the seed berries are very large, and bright red.

**Spiræa**—The Spiræas are a very large class, embracing trees of eighteen to twenty feet high, as well as quite small plants. I think they may well be considered the queen of shrubs for the garden; they are very hardy, very different in appearance, and very easy to please in the way of soil and situation.

*S. Lindleyana* is the tallest, growing to twenty feet high, with bold fern-like foliage, and large plumes of creamy flowers in July.

*S. ariaefolia* is the most beautiful; it has very light pretty foliage, reaching a height of fifteen feet in some places, and in July is densely covered from head to foot with immense drooping plumes of feathery creamy flowers. To show it in perfection it should stand alone on a lawn, and not be crowded into a bed with other things.

*S. sorbifolia* is a sturdy-growing plant with fern-shaped leaves, about five feet high, and bearing upright plumes of creamy white flowers; its roots spread quickly, and it will grow easily under trees. A very useful plant.

*S. Thunbergi*.—This delightful species is very different in appearance from all the former; it grows to about five or six feet in height, spreading in width. The flowers, which are pure white, small and in sprays, make their appearance very early in April, followed by the lovely grass-like foliage of light and tender green which is a beauty in itself for the whole summer, and takes the most brilliant and varied colours in late autumn, thus making the shrub a specially beautiful object for the greater part of the year. This again must not be crowded, but must be given a good position.

*S. bracteata*, *S. confusa*, and *S. prunifolia fl. pl.*, are all pretty shrubs, bearing rosettes of white flowers about June, growing on long graceful shoots, with small dark leaves. *S. opulifolia aurea* is another very distinct variety, six or seven feet high; leaves something the shape of Guelder Rose leaves. These appear in April, of a lovely golden colour, which continues through the summer; the flowers,

which are white, are not very conspicuous, but the whole shrub is lovely and valuable in the garden. Be careful to keep the dead wood cut out as the shrub grows older.

*S. Bumalda Anthony Waterer*.—A splendid wide-spreading shrub, about three feet high, bearing, in late July, flat heads of carmine flowers, a truly gorgeous sight, having the appearance of a bank of crimson. You must on no account leave out this plant, which is very fairly quick in growth, and an easy one to strike from cuttings.

There are a great many other *Spiræas*, but those I have named will give you a start with the cream of the family.

**Sumach**—*Rhus cotinus*.—A very beautiful shrub, growing eight to ten feet high, and spreading wide; pretty foliage, and in autumn a mass of feathery, fuzzy flowers of a soft reddish colour. It is a very ornamental plant, and should stand alone on the lawn, where it makes a delightful glow of colour in September; it must *not* be cut back, or, if absolutely necessary to cut, it should be done in the spring.

**Staphylea**—*Staphylea colchica*.—A nice useful shrub, with large spikes of white flowers in spring; a quick grower, and very hardy.

**Snow - berry**—*Symphoricarpus racemosus*.—A well-known shrub of slender wand-like growth, forming thick clumps eight to ten feet high, small round leaves, and quantities of round white berries in autumn; it is a useful shrub for filling in odd corners, or unsightly gaps, as it will grow quickly even under the drip from trees.

**Syringa**—*Philadelphus*, or “Mock Orange,” as it is often called, from the blossom being very similar to Orange-blossom—at least this applies to the old variety, the early, and very sweet-smelling *P. coronarius*. It is a rather straggling, untidy-looking bush, of about eight feet high, suitable for shrubberies, but the flower is delightful. It will grow quite well under trees. *P. grandiflorus* is similar, but of larger growth, and has larger, but less sweet, flowers, produced three weeks later than the former. There are also a large number of hybrid dwarf varieties, of great beauty for the flower-beds, growing three or four feet high, and bearing white flowers in profusion in June and July; *P. candelabra*, *P. erectus*, and *P. Boule d'Argent* are some of the most beautiful.

**Weigelia**—*Diervilla*.—These are lovely shrubs for the flower borders, growing about six feet high;

the foliage is very pretty, and the long shoots are covered with large trumpet-shaped flowers in June, in shade of pink and carmine. There are many varieties, but all are of similar growth. *D. argentea variegata* is a good variety. In this shrub the young wood should be encouraged, the old wood cut away.

Nearly all the deciduous shrubs can be very easily increased by cuttings, struck in the open, in a shady place; taken immediately after the plant has flowered.

#### SOWING SEEDS UNDER GLASS.

To sow very fine seed, like that of Begonia, take a small pan, put a good layer of crocks, then some moss, or half-decayed leaves (to keep the moisture from draining away too quickly), then some finely sifted earth, with a good proportion of sand mixed with it; make the surface level, but do not press it down hard, water it thoroughly with a very fine rose, then sprinkle the seed thinly. Do not put any earth or sand on the top, but cover with a bit of glass, and keep dark with brown paper until the seedlings show themselves.

You must not water *after* the seed is sown, as it

might wash the tiny seeds too far in ; but to keep it moist, stand the pan in a larger pan, filling the space between with soil which can be watered, so that the inner pan is kept from getting too dry.

With seeds that are not quite so small you may cover lightly with soil or sand, and water with a very fine rose.

All seeds germinate best when they are kept in the dark, or at least shaded, but as soon as they are up they should be placed on a high shelf in the greenhouse as near the glass as possible, to prevent them becoming drawn and weak.

Seeds of Asters, Stocks and other tender annuals, should not be sown before the end of March, or early in April, as they grow very quickly, and should be brought on without any check until they can be planted in the open. Always prick out seedlings into boxes as soon as you can handle them, and use good soil in the boxes to encourage growth.

Seeds of perennials all germinate much more surely and quickly if they are sown as soon as ripe, and this is the best way to increase such things as Campanulas, Delphiniums, Antirrhinums, etc. ; and if they are sown in the open in July or August you will have nice young plants for the following summer.

Tender perennials, such as Begonias, Coleus, etc., must be sown under glass in January.

#### SOWING SEEDS IN THE OPEN.

Seeds of biennials, such as Canterbury Bells, *Campanula pyramidalis*, and also of Wallflowers, should be sown in May, in pans or boxes, kept in shade under a wall facing north, and, as soon as large enough, pricked out into beds in the open, in half shade; they can grow there until the autumn, when you may put them into their flowering quarters.

Seeds of all hardy perennials can be treated in the same way, sowing them as soon as they are ripe. In the case of late seedlings which are still small when the wintry weather begins, you had better leave them in their boxes so that they may be sheltered in frames during very severe frost.

#### SOWING HARDY ANNUALS.

Some hardy annuals are best if sown in August or September, for they make much better plants for flowering the following year; such are, Love-in-a-Mist, Cornflowers, *Silene pendula*, which can be transplanted to the place in which you want them

to flower; Godetia and Poppies, both Shirley Poppies and Opium Poppies, which cannot be transplanted, must be sown where they are required.

Those that are sown in the spring, such as *Linum grandiflorum*, *Nemophila* and *Convolvulus major*, should be put in about the end of May or early in June, where you want them to flower.

#### CUTTINGS.

Taking cuttings is a very easy way of increasing many of the deciduous shrubs and *some* of the evergreens. (*Trees* should always be grown from seed.) The best time to take cuttings of almost any hardy shrub is immediately its flowering season is over; for instance, in *Spiræa Bumalda Anthony Waterer*, as soon as the flower is beginning to fade take shoots of about twelve inches long, cutting them off the older wood so that you carry away a little bit with you; trim off the lower leaves and shoots and bury half the length in the open ground, in complete shade; water if the weather is dry, and probably by the spring most of your cuttings will be nice little plants, and really *good* plants by the next year. The best soil for making cuttings is clay or loam, with some sand mixed in to help them root.

This plan can be followed with almost all the deciduous shrubs, and *most* of them will strike easily. Berberis, Broom and Gorse do not strike so readily, and should be raised from seed.

Roses are very easily struck from cuttings. Take long shoots of half-ripened wood, bury the *greater part* of the length in the ground, making a little trench, and putting in plenty of sand, so that the end of the cutting presses against the sand. Slant the cuttings backwards in putting them in, and tread the earth firmly round them. They should be placed in the shade of a hedge, or wall, facing north, and must be kept moist if the weather is dry. I have found rose cuttings most successful if taken just after the plant has finished blowing, or just finished its first set of blooms. The cuttings must be left where they are until the autumn of the next year, and by that time many of the most vigorous will be quite good plants. The best soil for cuttings is clay or loam, with a good proportion of road sand, or, failing this, silver sand.

#### COLOURS IN THE GARDEN.

Of all the colours among flowers, certainly yellow is the most common. In spring, yellow flowers all

seem the first to appear ; there are Crocus, Daffodils and Primroses, as well as the Jasmine undiflora, and Forsythia ; and how glad one is to see them.

In autumn again what masses of yellow flowers we have in Sunflowers, Harpalium, Coreopsis, Marigolds, and many others ; and it is at this time of year that I think you should be on your guard against having *too many* yellow flowers, or rather perhaps, I should say, be careful to get a good proportion of other colours to balance them ; it is very easy to overdo the yellow in a garden—yellow flowers always seem to “come of themselves,” so be careful to keep them under control. Many of the yellow flowers are lovely, but a yellow garden is *not* lovely.

Blue—real true blue (not lilac)—is, I think, the most uncommon colour among flowers, and certainly it is the one which most easily catches the eye from a distance ; no opportunity should be lost of collecting plants which have really blue flowers.

Orange is another very telling colour, and nothing can be prettier than the little orange Alpine and Nudicaule Poppies. The Orange Lily is always a valuable bit of colour, and the dwarf orange Eschscholtzia (Mandarin) is a most useful

plant; *Glaucium Tricolor*, the orange-red horn-Poppy is also *very* effective; but be careful how you employ the orange Marigold, for a little of it goes a long way, and I have seen a long border with a thick edging of Marigolds stretching out in one unbroken blaze of orange, which positively hurt one's eyes, and made one wish never to see another Marigold!

Of red flowers we have none too many, their brilliant colour is always welcome in a well-planned garden, where there is sure to be abundance of green background.

Magenta is a very difficult colour, and should be but sparingly admitted, if at all; the magenta Sweet-william and the magenta Petunias, are terribly trying, and there is no reason why you should grow them, when you can have the same flowers in such far more pleasing colours, like the salmon-pink Sweet-williams, and the dark velvety purple Petunias.

Pink flowers are always pretty, so long as they are a *clear* pink either in shades of salmon-pink or rose-pink, like the Lavatera; but all muddy and unclear looking pinks should be carefully avoided. Purple, lilac, and mauve are all welcome, and can

never come amiss. Above all be careful that you have an abundant supply of white flowers in your garden, for they set off all the colours, and are, as a rule, the most sought after as flowers for cutting.

#### MARKING OUT PATHS OR BEDS.

The actual work of marking out paths or flowerbeds is very interesting, and must be done as follows. Supply yourself with a large number of sticks two or three feet long, a garden line, and a spade; having measured, or at all events decided where your bed begins, or ends, put in the sticks a few feet apart, measuring by your eye; you will soon see how the line looks, and will, no doubt, alter it many times before you get it to your satisfaction; put the line round your sticks, and you will then see still more accurately where the curves can be altered and improved. Spare no pains to make it as good and artistic in outline as possible, and when you are satisfied, cut a little trench with a spade all the way round close to the line; after which dispense with both line and sticks.

In marking a path follow the same plan exactly, with *one* side of the walk, and measure the width, four feet or six feet, or whatever width you require

your path to be, every few feet, to get the other side correct.

#### EDGING OF PATHS OR BEDS.

Where the walks or paths are of grass, or where they are of gravel running through grass, you will not require any edging; but where you have a gravel path with borders or beds against it, some sort of edging is a necessity, and the prettiest kind of edging is small-sized bits of stone, irregular in form, fixed firmly into the edge of the border, against which the small front plants can nestle; but if you are in a part of the country where stone is difficult to get and very expensive, you may have some of the edging tiles which are sold for this purpose; or bricks put in at an angle, one overlapping another; or failing any of these things, ordinary big flint stones which can probably be dug up out of your own ground will do very well. Some people like an edging of box, but I do not advise this, as it makes a hiding-place for slugs and snails, requires a great deal of attention to keep it quite as it should be, and also, I think, it gives a great sameness to the border, for it prevents one from seeing the beauty and variety of the smaller flowers which should be at the edge of the bed.

In all my lists of trees and plants I have given only the most well-known and well-trying varieties, for in making a new garden it is necessary to get a furnished look to begin with, and some good-sized bushes and plants to make shelter for more precious and uncommon things, which can follow a little later; also, I think the first object should be to make a good and pleasing effect, not to allow your garden to become a mere botanical collection of plants, which can only be a pleasure to comparatively few people, but rather to create that which gives an idea of peacefulness and brightness to all who see it, and makes them feel inclined to say "What a pretty garden".

I need hardly say that I do not mean by this that you should avoid having rare and choice plants; on the contrary, I would advise you to grow as many uncommon things as possible, not just because they *are* uncommon, but select carefully, and by degrees, what will grow *well* in your particular soil, and what will make a good effect in that particular situation which you wish to fill.

Remember that the beauty of any plant depends on its doing itself justice. A weedy miserable specimen of some rare plant can be no pleasure to

yourself or to your friends ; whereas a well-grown plant, or group of plants, of the commonest things, such as a large bush of *Antirrhinums*, covered with coral-pink flowers ; or a group of *Delphiniums*, with countless spikes of blue, eight feet high, is a joy to every beholder.

Bearing this in mind, you will be able to have your own little pet plants "on trial" in some corner, and if they do well and prosper with you, proving a success in your soil, it is a delight to bring them into prominence.

Garden work is never at a loss for interest, for one is always planning for the future, so that while you are putting in seeds, or taking cuttings of some kinds of plants, you are, on the other hand, watching with joy the opening flowers of some pet plant, or gathering baskets full of bloom from another.

You will find in gardening that much success depends on doing things at an appropriate time, such as tying up *Pyrethrums*, *Delphiniums* and *Michaelmas Daisies*, *before* they have become blown about and misshapen by the wind ; or seizing the opportunity after a shower to pull up weeds, which will then come away so much more easily ; or to sow some seeds while the ground is both moist and

warm. If you have weeds in some place such as a nursery bed, that can be *hoed* up, this should be done in hot dry weather, so that they may die quickly.

Planting should be done in damp weather if possible, nothing hurts the delicate fibres of roots so much as letting them get dried up.

Cuttings should, in almost every case, be taken while the plant is still in flower, or just beginning to go off.

Watering should be done in the evening in very hot weather ; but precious seedlings, etc., in pots or pans, which are kept in the shade, should be watered in the morning, as it involves less risk of damage from slugs at night.

If my experience in all these matters of gardening, which I have tried to give, should prove useful, I shall be truly glad, and I only hope it may enable even one fellow-gardener to reap the pleasure which I have derived from my garden.

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