

Others we have to pardon, remembering the many good turns they do for us in the country and in town.

Their role it is, not only to make the lovely more beautiful, but also to beautify the unlovely. Over the hedgerows they scatter showers of gipsy-roses, the lanes they stud with starry stitchworts, white as milk, along with cuckoo-loving campions, lilac scabious, blue chicory, and all the other weeds that lead their lives 'twixt dusty road and meadow grass. No barren space, be it

railway cutting, neglected churchyard, or any other vacant spot, is left unfilled, at any rate with leafage.

"Soon is the foliage soft and green
Drifts of hawthorn fall for a sreen."

Through all the changing seasons from spring to winter's fall, the weeds and wildlings are very busy filling gaps and making backgrounds for us. Let us be grateful, and look with lenient eyes even upon our "outcast garden-folk."—*The Gardener's Magazine*.

IVY FOR PICTURE FRAMES.

IVY is one of the best plants to have in the house, as it bears a large amount of neglect and abuse, and gratefully repays good treatment. It is not rare to see a pot of ivy placed where it can be trained around picture frames or mirrors, and thus border them with living green. A good plan is to dispense with the pot, or rather have a substitute for it, which is kept out of sight.

Our illustration shows a picture frame wreathed with ivy after this method. Only a good-sized picture or mirror can be treated in this way, and as such are usually hung so that the top of the frame leans forward, the space between the frame and the wall is available for the receptacle for the plant. A pot or pan of zinc, of a wedge-shape, and size to suit the space between the frame and the wall, can be made by any tin-smith. This is to be hung against the wall so as to be quite concealed by the picture, and the ivy tastefully trained over the frame. A rustic frame is better suited to this purpose, as it not only affords better facilities for attaching the stems to the frame, but its style seems better adapted to this kind of decoration than more pretentious ones. Still, a gilt frame may be made beautiful in the same way. There is only one precaution to

be used, viz.: Not to hang such a frame over the fire place, for the combined heat and dust would soon destroy the plant. Let it hang so that it may face a north or east window. Don't forget the water; the pan holding the plant is out of sight, and, therefore, should be kept in mind.

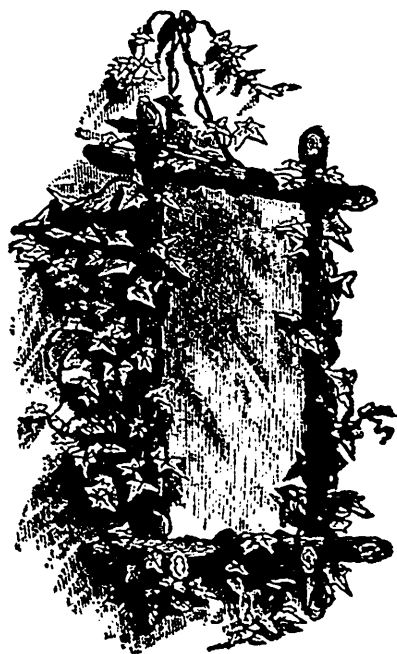


FIG. 2656. IVY FOR PICTURE FRAMES.