

decorated with Watteau figures. The favor in which green is held is remarkable, for from clothing and jewelry to furniture, curtains and china this color easily leads in popularity.

#### THE KEEPSAKE BOOK.

A curious and novel fancy is the keepsake book, in which its possessor notes down any interesting facts about her belongings, whether books, jewelry or costly lace, that are likely to last beyond her use of them. After the date of purchase or bestowal, if a gift, she adds any brief and pertinent information

about her treasure that she may think worth while, together with the declaration that it is ultimately to be given to Mary or her friend Jane. In this way a keepsake book may develop a charitable nature. When buying or receiving a pretty article, the thought of its re-bestowal may thus be made part of the pleasure it gives. To the morbid mind this book may have the gruesome significance of perpetual will-making, but the cheerful possessor can find in it a source of mental ease, knowing that her most prized belongings are to be given to whom she would. It's all according to the point of view.

EDNA S. WITHEPSPOON.

## THE FLOWER GARDEN.

By E. C. VICK.

[MR. VICK WILL BE PLEASED TO ANSWER IN THIS DEPARTMENT ALL SPECIAL INQUIRIES CONCERNING FLOWER CULTURE. LETTERS TO HIM MAY BE SENT IN CARE OF THE EDITOR OF THE DELINEATOR.]

### THE TUBEROSE.

The tuberose—whitest, sweetest, loveliest and most loved of flowers—is a native of the East Indies, whence it was taken to England more than two hundred years ago. The first double-flowering tuberose was obtained from seed by a Dutch gardener who, many years, would not under any circumstances allow a root to pass from his possession; after growing more than he could use the surplus of tubers were destroyed in order that he might enjoy a monopoly of the flower. The tuberose flourishes in a light, rich soil with plenty of heat and moisture. When these conditions are applied, success is sure. The bulbs should be planted about the first of June, covering them with about one inch of light, fine soil. Select tubers that are sufficiently green at the top to show signs of life. The bulbs during the Winter require a warm, dry atmosphere; if kept in a damp, cool place, they rot away in the center, becoming worthless. The temperature in the room where the bulbs are kept should never fall below fifty degrees.

In sections of the country where the season is short the tuberose is often forwarded so as to flower early in the Fall. This is done by placing dry bulbs in pots, several tubers in a pot, of damp moss about the middle of May, covering just enough with moss to keep them in an upright position. The pots are placed where the temperature will average seventy-five or even as high as eighty degrees. As soon as the weather has become warm, they may be set out and will start to grow at once, flowering nearly a month earlier than if planted in the open ground.

The tuberose flowers but once and new ones are formed each season that in turn flower after a year's growth. There is a tendency in all hybrids to return to their original type, and it is for this reason that the flowers sometimes come single.

### WORK OF THE MONTH

The gardener's activity this month almost regulates the whole season. Cut down the weeds as fast as they appear. A well-kept garden is easily kept. Finish every operation before another is taken in hand.

Annuals sown under frames during March will need transplanting into another glass frame, or to another part of the frame in which they were planted, where they can be placed a few inches apart. Sprinkle frequently with water and shade them for a few days until the plants have taken a fresh start; then give plenty of air and by the first of next month harden the plants for the open ground by exposing them both night and day. Annual seeds of all kinds may be sown any time after the middle of the month.

As the season advances and the growth of plants in the house or greenhouse increases, the waterings will need to be both more frequent and copious, but avoid over-watering. Syringing the foliage occasionally will add to its beauty. If mildew appears, dust the affected part with flower of sulphur after spraying. Plants in the living room suffer most during this season for want of air. Keep a window near the plants open a little. Plants taken from a greenhouse to a living room during the Spring ought not to be exposed to the direct rays of the sun. If after coming from the damp and mild atmosphere of the greenhouse, they are placed in a southern window with the

hot sun blazing upon them the result will doubtless be disastrous. Bring out the plants that have been stored in the cellar, and if the weather is still too cold to put them out of doors, keep them in a light place, water freely and they will commence growing and will make quite a start by the time they are to be set out. Most plants stored in a cellar may be put out of doors by the middle of the month. If any are in need of larger pots, take them out of the old pot, reduce the balls of earth and put them in larger pots, using fresh soil, or plant them in the ground. Be sure to keep hydrangeas in a shady place. Where there are scale insects on the plants, have them removed and the plants thoroughly cleaned.

Hyacinths, tulips and other Holland bulbs may be taken out of the ground in a few weeks after they have finished flowering and when the foliage begins to dry. Dig up the bulbs and spread them out in a dry place for a few days and then, after the leaves have been removed, put them away in a cool, dry place, until wanted for planting again in the Fall. The small offsets may be either kept in the same way or planted immediately. Do not allow the bulbs to seed, unless seeds are desired for planting, as it retards their ripening and weakens the roots.

### THE PANSY.

The pansy is a good illustration of what culture will do for a flower. This magnificent flower would not be recognized as a very close relative of the little heartsease, or three-colored violet, by any one but a botanist, but the difference in appearance is simply the result of culture. It gives an abundance of bloom until after severe frost, endures the Winter well and at the first opportunity given it by Spring throws out its beautiful blossom. If planted where it will be shaded from the sun, it will flower better in the middle of Summer. At this season it will need a good supply of water, but in almost any location will give a generous supply of flowers in Spring and Autumn. If the plant should come into bloom in the middle of Summer, the flowers will be small at first but will increase in size and beauty as the weather becomes cooler. Giant pansies frequently measure three inches or more in diameter. Butterfly pansies are beautifully marked. The Trimardeau, with immense flowers and robust growth, is one the best for bedding. The pansy's different strains, shading from pure white to a dense black with all kinds of queer markings, the profusion with which it blooms, the beauty of the flowers, their value for bouquets or designs, the delicacy and exquisiteness of its odor and the splendid keeping qualities of the flower, make it one of the most satisfactory plants for either amateur or professional.

All treatment and adverse circumstances are fatal. Plant the seed as early as possible. Seed sown in a cool, shady place and well watered until up will make fine plants for Autumn flowers. If young plants are grown in the Autumn and kept in a frame during Winter, they will be ready to set out early in the Spring. The pansy is peculiarly adapted for flowering in the South during the cool, moist Winter weather. It is an imperfect perennial and will live for several years, but does not give large, fine blossoms after the plants have become old. Growers should purchase seed from a reliable seedsman and a planting should be made at least every two years. My plants have flowered most and best the second season.