

deep orange, with all intervening shades and veining. The foliage of some varieties is of a deep green, others, as *A. Thompsonii*, mottled with yellow shading out into a creamy white.

*Achania* is another green-house shrub, a continuous bloomer, bearing scarlet flowers, and, from its freedom from insects and its easy cultivation, a most desirable house-plant.

Almost all begonias are also desirable for window gardening, as each has special merits either as constant bloomers, or from beauty of foliage, and in the same list we place *bonvardias*, requiring about the same temperature as begonias, an average of 65 degrees, easy of culture and a profuse and brilliant winter bloomer.

These last named require more heat than geraniums and abutilons, and can be given the warmest side of the plant stand or the brackets nearest the stove.

#### ON ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

Not long ago a Committee was appointed by the U. S. National Board of Trade for the purpose of awarding large prizes for the best Act or Acts, accompanied by an essay, designed to prevent injurious adulteration, and to regulate the sale of food without imposing unnecessary burdens upon commerce.

From the report of the Committee of Award, made after a careful examination of the papers submitted, we take the following extracts, just published in a Supplement of the *Sanitary Engineer* :—

In view of the statements, which for the last two or three years have from time to time been made, with regard to the prevalence in this country of adulterations of food, which are dangerous to health and life, and which have created so

much agitation in the public mind, as to induce the National Board of Trade to establish this competition, it is very gratifying to find that none of the essayists produce any definite or satisfactory evidence as to the widespread existence of such dangerous adulterations in this country.

The absence of such evidence, in addition to the results recently obtained by several expert chemists in extensive series of analyses of the usual articles of food in this country, which results have been made known to the committee, fully warrants us in declaring that none of our staple articles of food or drink are so commonly adulterated as to be dangerous to health or life. Such dangerous adulterations appear to be mainly in the form of poisonous colors or coloring matters as, for instance, in confectionery, and even these are rare.

The question of the adulteration of food, with perhaps the exception of milk, should therefore be considered not so much from a sanitary standpoint as from that of commercial interests; as being of the nature of a fraud, in aiding the sale of articles which are not what they are represented to be. The main objects of legislation upon this subject should be to prevent deception, to furnish to the public authoritative information, and to nullify the operations of ignorant and sensational alarmists, who damage the business interests of the country quite as much as do the evils of which they complain.

We are of the opinion that there is much more danger to health and life in this country from adulterated drugs than there is from adulterated food, and that any legislation which is to deal with the one should also deal with the other.

To indicate the legislation upon the adulteration of food and drugs,