

low they will either not strike at all or produce unhealthy plants. A shaded but airy situation is preferable, and if the soil is of a light sandy nature, the better success will attend the operation: the cuttings should be firmly inserted from one to two inches deep in the ground, and covered with a glass, or where that convenience is not at hand, they may be shaded during the day with oiled paper, or any similar substitute. In preparing the cuttings, care ought to be taken to cut close to a joint, a rule which should be strictly attended to in making cuttings of every description. When they have fairly rooted and taken a growth, they can be removed in cloudy, moist weather, to their proper allotments. Seeds ought to be carefully collected from the finer sorts, and sown as soon thereafter as convenience will allow, as they deteriorate by long keeping. Many hundreds of named varieties are carefully cultivated in England. A select list sent contains only three hundred and seventy-four names. To attempt a general or even brief description of them, would be considered prolix and unnecessary; but the following criteria of a fine Pansy has just passed a select committee of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society:—

“The chief object to be desired is symmetry of the flower. The petals should be large, broad, and flat, lying upon each other so as to form a circle, and prevent anything like angles or intersections of this circular outline. The petals should be as nearly of a size as possible, the two top ones being the largest, but so covered with the two side ones as not to appear disproportioned. The top petals should not wave or bend back. The bottom petal should be broad and two-lobed, flat, and not curving inward: above an inch in breadth is a good size; and the colours should be clear, brilliant, and not changing. The eye should not be too large, and it is accounted finest when the pencilling is so arranged as to form a dark angular spot.

“The flower-stalk should be long and stiff, rather than slender.”

CARNATIONS AND PINKS.—In order to make the former flower well, if the weather is dry, give them frequent waterings at the root, and tie them up neatly to their rods. *The criterion of a fine Carnation is*—The stem strong and straight, from thirty to forty inches high; the corolla three inches in diameter, consisting of large, round, well-formed petals, but not so many as to crowd it, nor so few as to make it appear thin or empty; the outside petals should rise above the calyx about half an inch, and then turn off in a horizontal direction, to support the interior petals, they forming nearly a hemispherical corolla. The interior petals should decrease in size toward the centre, all regularly disposed on every side; they should have a small degree of concavity at the lamina or broad end, the edges perfectly entire. The calyx above one inch in length, with strong broad points in a close and circular body. The colours must be perfectly distinct, disposed in regular strong stripes, broadest at the edge of the lamina, and gradually becoming narrower as they approach the unguis or base of the petal, there terminating in a fine point. Those that

contain two colours upon a white ground are esteemed the finest.

The criterion of a double pink.—The stem about twelve inches, the calyx smaller, but similar to a carnation, the flower two inches and a half in diameter; petals rose edges; colour white, or pure purple, or rich crimson; the nearer it approaches to black the more it is esteemed; proportions equal as in carnation. Those that are very tasteful with these flowers are attentive to the manner of their opening. Where the calyx is deficient in regular expansion, to display the petals; that is, where there is a tendency to burst open on one side more than on the other, the opposite side in two or three different indentations should be slit a little, at several times with the point of a small sharp knife, taking care not to cut the petals, and about the centre of the calyx tie a thread three or four times round to prevent any further irregularity. Some florists and connoisseurs place cards on them. This is done when the calyx is small. Take a piece of thin pasteboard, about the size of a dollar, cut a small aperture in its centre to admit the bud to pass through. When on, tie it tight to the stem to prevent the wind from blowing it about; and when the flower is expanded, draw up the card to about the middle of the calyx, and spread the petals one over the other regularly upon it. When these plants are in flower, their beauty may be prolonged by giving them a little shade from the mid-day sun by an awning of any simple description. Where they are in pots, they can be removed to a cool shady situation (but not directly under trees.)

OF LAYING CARNATIONS AND PINKS.—This is a necessary and yearly operation to keep a supply of plants, and likewise to have them always in perfection. As the process of laying, though simple, may not be known to all who are desirous of cultivating these plants, we will give an outline of the mode of operation. Provide first a quantity of small hooked twigs (pieces of *Asparagus* stems are very suitable,) about three inches long, for pegging the layers down into the earth. Select the outward, strongest and lowest shoots that are round the plant; trim off all above of the under leaves, and shorten the top ones with the knife, and then applying it at a joint about the middle of the under side of the shoot, cut about half through in a slanting direction, making an upward slit toward the next joint, near an inch in extent; and loosening the earth, make a small oblong cavity one or two inches deep, putting a little fresh light earth there. Lay the stem part where the slit is made into the earth, keeping the cut part open, and the base of the layer upright one or two inches out of the earth; and in that position peg down the layer with one of the hooked twigs, and cover the inserted part to the depth of one inch with some of the fresh earth, pressing it gently down. In this manner proceed to lay all the proper shoots on each plant. Keep the earth a little full around the plant, to retain longer the water that may be applied. Give immediately a moderate watering with a rose watering-pot, and in dry weather give light waterings every evening. Choose