

### WHO SETS THE FASHIONS?

Who sets the fashions, I'd like to know,  
For the little people beneath the snow?  
And are they working a weary while,  
To dress themselves in the latest style?

There's Mrs. Primrose, who used to be  
The very picture of Modesty;  
Plain were her dresses, but now she goes  
With cramps and fringes and furbelows.

And even Miss Buttercup puts on airs,  
Because the color in vogue she wears;  
And as for Dandelion, dear me?  
A vainer creature you ne'er will see.

When Mrs. Poppy—that dreadful flirt—  
Was younger, she wore but one plain skirt:  
But now I notice, with great surprise,  
She's several patterns of largest size.

The Fuchsia sisters—those lovely belles!—  
Improve their styles as the mode compels;  
And though everybody is loud in their praise,  
They ne'er depart from their modest ways.

And the Pansy family must have found  
Queen Elizabeth's wardrobe under ground;  
For in velvets and satins of every shade,  
Throughout the season they're all arrayed.

Pinks and Daisies and all the flowers  
Change their fashions, as we change ours;  
And those who knew them in olden days  
Are mystified by their modern ways.

Who sets the fashions, I'd like to know,  
For the little people beneath the snow?  
And are they busy a weary while,  
Dressing themselves in the latest style

*New-York Independent.*

**GREEN PEAS.**—The most productive very early pea on my grounds was Burpee's Extra Early, although it was three days later than Tom Thumb. For the main crop I prefer American Wonder.—*Rural New Yorker.*

**EARLY "PARAGON" RHUBARB.**—This is a new variety, originated in England, and now introduced here. We grew it last year alongside of the older kinds, and were favourably impressed with its superiority. The stalks are bright red, very heavy, and produced in quick succession and wonderful abundance. It is earlier, of more delicate flavor, and decidedly less acid than any other variety we are acquainted with. But its most remarkable and most valuable qualification is that it does not produce flower

stalks, to which fact its great productiveness is mainly attributable, all the strength of the plant being used for the development of its leaves. The habit of the plant is remarkably compact, so that plantations do not require to be renewed every few years, while the clumps nevertheless retain their original position. To judge from the high praise this variety has received in England, as well as from our own experience in growing it, we do not doubt that, when generally known, it will be largely planted in preference to the older kinds.—*American Garden.*

**KEROSENE TO KILL INSECTS.**—Since the illuminating oil obtained from petroleum, known in this country as kerosene, and in England as paraffine oil, came into general use, it has been employed with variable success as an insecticide. That it would destroy insect life was long ago established; that it would also destroy plant life was sometimes demonstrated in a manner more convincing than pleasant. The oil in its concentrated form, can be tolerated by but few plants. The first improvement in its use was to add a very small quantity to a bucket of water, enough to make but a mere film upon the surface; then diffuse it through the water by violent stirring, and apply before the oil and water had time to separate. This answered fairly well, but was troublesome. The next step was to divide the kerosene, not by dissolving it, but by diffusing it in the form of an emulsion. It is well known that oils may be suspended in water by means of gum, sugar, etc., and may be kept thus for some hours or even days. It has been discovered that milk, either fresh or soured, is a convenient medium to unite kerosene and water. Mix together kerosene and half as much milk, stirring them thoroughly to form a cream-like mixture. When the two are so completely united that no oil is visible, dilute the mixture with twelve times its bulk of water, adding the water gradually, and stirring thoroughly. This emulsion has been found especially useful in the treatment of the various scale insects, so difficult to destroy by ordinary insecticides, and is used for various other insect pests. For trees use a syringe or force pump, and for house-plants, often injured by scale insects, apply with a sponge or swab.—*American Agriculturist.*