


fore be kept moderately moist, as the plants in this condition do not pump any moisture from the soil, and little escapes directly by evaporation. Drainage by filling one-fifth of each pot with charcoal, is of importance.

Many house plants are destroyed by too much heat, which increases the dryness, and both these causes together are more than they can endure. A cool room never as low as freezing, is best. From 50 to 55 degrees is much better than 60 to 70, the ordinary temperature of living rooms.

Syringing the foliage with tepid water, to wash off whatever dust accumulates, is of use; and the admission of fresh air, when there is no danger of chilling or freezing the foliage, should not be neglected.

THE PLEASURES OF A GARDEN.

UTTING my last bouquet for the present season on the 26th October, I fell naturally into a train of reflections upon the events of the past and the pleasures of a garden—not a garden made classical with statues and rare vases, delighting in sparkling fountains ornamented with palatial arbors, or rejoicing in cool grottoes or secluded walks, though, when it has been mine to enjoy such rarities, I have enjoyed them with a relish unsurpassable; but the pleasures of a garden, unpretending in its character, and narrowed in its area—such, indeed, as may belong to a poor office-writer with a stipend not exceeding the wage of an ordinary skilled mechanic, and opportunities, for its culture most limited. Yet, still my garden has its pleasures, sweet and not transient; still it is a delightful thing, the “concentration of a thousand pleasant objects;” still does memory present, with fond affection, its long array of beauties unfaded; and many days of gloom and hours of monotonous toil will be relieved to myself and my old office-chair by pleasant reviews on the flowers that were, and fond anticipations of those to come.

And shall I tell how pleasures so simple

have been so sufficient? how, with opportunities of the most limited degree, I have needed never to repine? and how my daily bouquet has rarely for eight months in the year failed me? Two short rules have sufficed. I have confined myself to flowers of the easiest culture, and have learned to be content with results easily attainable and within my reach. Early rising has compensated for long office-hours, and afforded time for those little attentions in themselves so sweet and so delightfully required. Strong health has been given to me for a seeming sacrifice of rest; and nature seen in her dress of richly-spangled dew—more gorgeous than diamonds or orient pearls in beauty—has been my daily employment. Then, indeed, are the many glories of nature most glorious; then are her sweetest odors poured forth; then it is we are most ready to sing with Wordsworth—

“God made the flowers to beautify
The earth and cheer man’s careful mood;
And he is happiest who hath power
To gather wisdom from a flower,
And wake his heart in every hour
To pleasant gratitude.”


Then it is when “pleasant gratitude” rises most spontaneously to the Author of all good for the richly-varied beauties around us; then is the pansy most pleasant, the pink most delightful, the wall-flower, most sweet, the rose most charming; then strongest within us is the love of those sweets

“Which comfort man in his distress,
Which smile when he is gay;
Their fragrance and their loveliness
They yield him day by day;
For patience and for humbleness
No servitors like they.”

And fostering them we reap a rich harvest of peace and content. Such peace and such content—such pleasures as have been reaped by a poor office-writer—may be realized by every one; and it will gratify his fervent wish if his brief reverie shall conduce, even in the least, to a wider diffusion of the pleasures of a garden.—*Scottish Farmer.*

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

SMOKING MEAT.

OT a little has been written on the subject of preparing meat, in the best possible manner for domestic purposes, previous to placing it in the smoke-house; but little or nothing

has been said of the manner of smoking it. To appearance, it has been taken for granted, that this process, (so important in itself, and that it be done with care) could be performed by any one, who knows enough to build a fire. Those, who