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HORTICULTURE IN PARIS.—I.

THAT the French are a flower-loving people, one realizes in a very short time spent amongst them. The large numbers of people seen hawking flowers in the streets; the large number of flower shops, which are almost as numerous as bread shops or dairy shops, would convince the most sceptical of that fact.

Reaching Paris late on a Saturday night in the end of March, in a short walk in the streets, flower sellers were met about every acre, and they were doing a brisk business. violets, primroses (wild), daffodils, and lilies of the valley, lilacs and roses, with some cytisuses, or kindred plants with yellow flowers, formed their principal stock in trade. Needless to say that at that date the lilacs and roses were forced. The French people take a special pleasure in lilacs, of which they possess a very large number of varieties, many of them of great beauty. In the gardens, on the outskirts of the city, we see them in large numbers, and we find the spikes of cut flowers throughout the entire season. They not only force them, but also retard them. As late as

October large quantities of them were still in evidence.

The Paris houses are always well supplied with flowers. They are daily renewed, and one sees the withered plants that have served their purpose, thrown out into the streets with the other rubbish, for the scavengers to carry off during the night or early morning.

The Paris dwelling houses open into court-yards; these court-yards, when not paved, are usually planted with a nice assortment of the better class shrubs—laurels, rhododendrons, azalea mollis, magnolia, &c., or, if paved, the plants are set around in large tubs or boxes, and may consist of palms, Araucarias, Aucubas, large ferns, and other plants of that character that may be frequently changed.

One of the climbers that one often sees is the Wistaria. In the early summer it bears hundreds of long, graceful, pendant clusters of blue, or white, flowers. Another beautiful climber is the Bignonia radicans, and almost everywhere the common and large-leaved ivies are seen, less frequent are the clematises, the ampelopses, and the