

The following is a plan of the flowers: The small centre is *Mesembyanthemum Cordifolium* and the first ring is *Alternanthera Parenchoides Magnifica*. Next come eight sharp triangles, forming the eight points of the star, the two opposed triangles being of the same plant.

The following four plants compose them: *Alternanthera Amoniae*, *Alternanthera Aurea*, *Crassula Borig*, *Sedum Glaucum*.

The numerals and letters are of *Alternanthera Schmidtii*.

On a groundwork of *Alternanthera Amoniae*, the sixty minutes are marked out in Klenia, and the small outer border is *Cerastrum Tomentosum*. Altogether it forms a remarkable, and is a marvellously well kept bed, constantly "groomed" and perfectly flat.

Mr. Symes has brought his *Schizanthus* to a pitch of absolute perfection in habit, compactness and size of flower. I have taken two groups of these and, if the film is successful, I hope to send them to you later, with particulars concerning his cultivation of them. Many horticulturists assail him with questions about them. He does not always answer. I was favored, because, first, he found by a pertinent question of mine, that I understood something about them; second, because I was a Devonshire woman; third, because Canada is my home. To "come from Canada" generally opens English hearts.

One word must be added concerning our steamer trip on the Thames from Oxford. I will not try to paint the natural beauty, nor can I hope that any description of mine will convey the wonder of those gardens that reach to the waters of the old river.

Great magnificent "seats," old and new, hidden among the trees, peeping out from wondrous leafage, little bungalows and thatch-roofed summer cottages all standing amid green velvet of lawns, amid huge beds of standard hybrid perpetual and tea roses in full bloom, and of every form and color, all festooned; everywhere with arch upon arch and bower and pergola over which crimson rambles, Dorothy Perkins, Lady Gay and white climbing roses flung their flower-laden sprays in an abandonment of delightful growth, breaking down beneath their own weight and wealth of bloom, while beneath their feet are masses of campanula, linum coccineum and pink and white lavatera which, by the way, grown in masses, are a charming sight. I hope to follow this by a letter on new hybrid geraniums, schizanthus, and other plants.

To secure success with bulbs it is necessary to begin aright by getting sound bulbs of good size. I would warn intending purchasers against buying cheap, under-sized bulbs.—Thomas Jackson, Winnipeg.

Hints About House Plants

Wm. Hunt, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.

Water pot plants only when they need it, then water them thoroughly. When the soil begins to get dry and powdery on the surface, or when the pot is tapped with the fingers it emits a ringing sound—the plant requires water. Then give sufficient water so that it runs through the bottom of the pot, then withhold water until needed again. Giving a little water every day or at any

the sink. This should be done on fine warm days if possible. Hirsute or rough-leaved plants, such as the rex begonia, gloxinias, etc., should not be sprinkled over the foliage.

FERTILIZERS

When the pots become full of roots and the soil worn out or exhausted, a little fertilizer can be given. The soil should be moist, not dry or very wet, when fertilizer is applied. There are several good plant foods sold at large seed stores. Sterlingworth Plant Tablets or Bonora are both good. The first costs 10 cents for a small box sufficient for a good collection of plants for the whole winter. Bonora is 25 cents a small tin. This is the best fertilizer for plants that I have tried for amateur work.

Half an ounce of nitrate of soda dissolved in one gallon of water makes a good fertilizer for pot plants. About half a teacupful every two weeks for a plant in a six inch pot will be sufficient. Begonias and coleus must not be given too much fertilizer. Geraniums and chrysanthemums will bear a larger quantity.

INSECT PESTS

The spraying with water will help keep down insect pests, especially if the water is applied to the under side of the leaves. Insect pests increase and thrive best in a dry, warm atmosphere. They do not like moisture. For aphids or green lice, red spider and thrip sulpho-Tobacco Soap is a good remedy. This costs 10 cents a packet at seed stores. Soapy water or a solution of whale oil soap and tobacco water is beneficial.

Smoking the plants is also beneficial. Care must be taken not to burn the plants. Smoking or fumigating with to-



stated interval is not the way to water plants. Use tepid rain water or water that has been exposed to air and sun if possible for a day or two. The water should be just lukewarm about 50 to 60 degrees. Never use ice cold spring water for pot plants in winter.

VENTILATION

Give air from the top of the window or from an adjoining room. Avoid cold draughts of air on plants. Ventilate only on mild, still days. In late fall, early winter, or in spring plants may sometimes be stood out for an hour or two, but the temperature should be at least 65 degrees outside.

MOIST ATMOSPHERE

A moist atmosphere is one of the main essentials to achieve success with plants. Place pans or saucers of water on the heaters or registers. As this evaporates it causes a moisture very beneficial to plants. Saucers of water placed under the plants are beneficial or a steaming kettle or pot on the stove is a great help.

SPRAYING PLANTS

Glaucous or glossy-leaved plants, such as palms, rubber plants, Boston ferns, calla lilies, etc., should have the leaves sponged with clean water once every week, with an occasional spraying at



White Roman Hyacinths