

there is no other spot for one, or a box in a window, will bring them on very well, the great thing to rejoice in being a short and stumpy stature, to attain which advantage we must thin or prick off carefully.

The more tender annuals are, however, the interest of this season. The exquisite ipomœas, with their bells of white, and blue, and rose, and purple, which grow so quickly and blossom so profusely as to render themselves among the most general favorites, ought now to be sown in-doors. Last year I had quantities of these pretty flowers trained over wire stands and up besides some windows, and though they do best in a sunny aspect they still require to have a great deal of shade and water. The pleasantest plan of any is to have a wire frame or trellis filled up low down with shorter, bushier plants, which screen, but do not very often mix with, the climbing things behind.

The Ipomœas do best, if in 5-inch pots, when they are sown about five or six all round, but for the earliest flowers I have always found that a single seed sown in a three-inch flower-pot and left undisturbed will be sure to give a bright little wreath of blossoms. Burrige, rose-coloured; bona nox, white; and rubra cœrulea, a purplish blue, are very pretty kinds. It is best, I think, in sowing, to leave a hole in the middle of the pot, or to scoop out a little ditch round the edge, in which to pour the water. It never does with seedlings and amateurs to set the seed pots floating. The object is simply not to wet, but to keep the soil from actually drying up.

Digging the surface is also a great thing. Fault of a better spade a steel pen answers well for this purpose; and surface roots with seedlings ought to be much encouraged by little earthings-up when we see tiny white points appearing.

Balsams again are most amusing things to grow, because they contrive to get over the ground so fast. A good plan is that of sowing first in small 60-pots, letting them make their way up through successive changes, watering well, and giving them a warm and light and well-sheltered place. I say well sheltered, because no one knows how easily the stems of balsams snap. This reminds me of flower sticks. Ladies are frightfully apt to bury just one inch of the stick in soil, and then to wonder that the support is shak'y. Where a pot is being prepared for even a seed which is destined to grow up in it, the future stick should be fixed in with the soil, going down absolutely to the very hole, and being surrounded by the drainage. A shak'y stick is always hurting not only the stems but roots, not to speak of its unpleasant quality of making the whole untidy.

Celosias are very pretty plants to grow in pots, and so are some of the amaranths, treated like balsams, only with less water. Canary-flower ought always to be sown in the pots in which it may remain, and a large drainage hole in these cases is a great advantage. Transplanting or pricking out climbing plants is always injurious, as it checks their growth. Then there is the charming phlog Drummondii, and mimulus, Indian pinks, primulas, lobelias,

and petunias, even most part of the hardy annuals, which are none the worse for a little heat. The only thing is to mind they do not get drawn up too tall, for it is not always gratifying to be assured "our plants have been growing beautifully—they are—oh, so long!"

A very great point, indeed, is to guard against heavy showers and against twisting winds. A little dew might benefit the young plants, but if they are grown in boxes or plant cases, closing up the front when the sun is shining provides an instant vapor bath and an immediate shade from what would be too hot.

A thin sheet of moss laid over each pot is said to be very useful in keeping the soil from drying, and so it no doubt is. Still there is the awkwardness of separating it if the plants must be pricked out, and one is apt to fidget about small things getting choked. Unless, therefore, they are seeds sown to stand, I hardly advocate the use of the moss by window gardeners, except to cover the drainage. Sweet peas and climbers root down into it wonderfully. I even mean to experimentize on no drainage, but a quantity of moss.

In growing seeds in plant cases I think it is best to give no hot water at night. It saves a vast deal of "drawing-up," and if the top of the case is open then it is all the better. I always am glad to give a quiet cool place as soon as may be to seedlings. Many, too, as German asters, for instance, require to be where they can have light on all sides to keep up the pyramidal form, and this is hard to give where we have a crowd.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

Compote of Green Gooseberries.

This is an excellent compote, if made with fine sugar, and very good with any kind. Break five ounces into small lumps, and pour on them half a pint of water, boil these gently for ten minutes, and clear off all the scum; then add to them a pint of fresh gooseberries freed from the tops and stalks, washed and well drained, simmer them gently from eight to ten minutes, and serve hot or cold. Increase the quantity for a large dish.

TOMATO PRESERVES.—Take the round yellow variety as soon as ripe, scald and peel; then to seven pounds of tomatoes add seven pounds of white sugar, and let them stand over night; take the tomatoes out of the sugar, and boil the syrup, removing the scum, put in the tomatoes, and boil gently fifteen or twenty minutes; remove the fruit again, and boil until the syrup thickens. On cooling, put the fruit into jars, and pour the syrup over it, and add a few slices of lemon to each jar, and you will have something to please the taste of the most fastidious.

GOOD CURRANT JELLY.—Have four pounds of currants after picking over. Then dissolve in water four pounds of loaf sugar, which boil to a pretty thick syrup. Now put the currants in and let them come to a boil, boiling hard for six minutes. Pour the contents in a sieve, to drain off all the liquid. Put this liquor again in the pan and boil it, till, dropping a little on a plate, it congeals as it cools. It is then done.