

AN ITALIAN VILLA.

dry. The bulbs can be planted quite closely—four or five in a six-inch pot, according to size ; there are five in the pot of *Horsfieldii* shown in the picture. In about six weeks they are nicely rooted, and can then be brought to the light, as required. We always keep them in a cool window, and they are

liberally supplied with water. No attempt whatever is made to *force* them to grow ; they are simply left to start when they are ready. After the flowers are out they should be kept as cool as possible ; by doing so each bloom will last for about two weeks and a-half.

Simcoe.

HENRY JOHNSON.

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THIRTY or forty years ago the Italian style of architecture was quite popular, and some of the finest houses in Toronto and Hamilton, and probably in most other cities in Ontario, were built in this style. It had many points of excellence, for additions can easily be made to the building without marring the unity of the design ; while the arcades, balconies and projecting eaves gave character to a style which was deservedly popular for country residences, because harmonizing so well in picturesque beauty with the rural landscape.

Our illustration shows an Italian villa, with charming surroundings, chief among which is the river bank, along which a delightful walk leads you along to the artistic summer house, so situated as to command a charming view of the whole surrounding scenery. Such a river or lake bank is just an ideal situation for

building a beautiful home. The house itself is not everything ; its surroundings are of still more importance, and should always be made the most of, never hiding a beautiful landscape with trees or shrubs. And yet we have often noticed the most charming scenery shut out from view by Norway spruce trees, or, still worse, by ugly barns ; or a beautiful and expensive house set down between small houses or ugly rookeries, making it unattractive by reason of its companionship.

In the yard before us we admire the few trees shading the sides of the house and bordering the lawn, and also the beautiful shrubs set where they will show to best advantage ; still we think a large stretch of green sward before the house the ideal arrangement, and would favor placing even the choicest flowering shrubs at the side, or in groups along the borders of the walks or drives.

SPRAYING FOR PEACH AND PLUM ROT.

Peach and plum rot are among the greatest evils which face the grower. Many seem to think this evil entirely the effect of damp weather, but investigation shows it to be a fungus (*Monilia*), which develops more rapidly in wet weather than in dry, and which lives over the winter in the mummified fruit, so often left hanging on the trees. These ought to be collected and burned,

and that which falls ploughed under.

The Delaware station advises spraying peach trees three times with Bordeaux mixture for rot, viz. :—(1) before blooming ; (2) after bloom has dropped, and (3) at the beginning of coloring. For the 3rd application copper acetate solution, 8 ounces to the barrel, is recommended. Such treatment has been found to increase the yield fourfold.