

weather continued mild most of the day, but in the evening it froze again. The snow must have been lessened somewhat, but not perceptibly.

Owing to the heavy covering of snow there is very little frost in the ground. The probability is that on this account spring will open very early this year, though it may be backwards enough later on. Bulbs had a splendid opportunity of making great root growth, and the flowers next spring should be very fine.

Evergreens are noticed in the winter months perhaps more than in the summer on account of their contrast with the bare-looking appearance of the deciduous trees, and it is surprising how much more comfortable a house looks with a few evergreens near it, even though they do not offer any protection from the cold winds, which they often do.

Among evergreens there are few as satisfactory as the different varieties of American Arbor vitæ. At the Central Experimental farm there are now fifty-one distinct forms growing which vary much in foliage and habit of growth from the dwarf and compact "Little Gem," which is only a few inches high, to the pyramidal Arbor vitæ which rises straight and full in striking contrast to it. The American Arbor vitæ adapts itself to a great variety of soils, and it is only on the heaviest clay and lightest sandy soils that it fails to make satisfactory growth. This adaptability to so many different situations is one of the reasons why it is so valuable for ornamental planting. Another important reason why they are so desirable is that they are all perfectly hardy, as the ordinary form grows in the coldest parts of Ontario and Quebec. Owing to the dwarf or semi-dwarf habit of most of the varieties, they are very useful for small grounds where there is not room to grow anything which will reach a great size. Some of the varieties are so distinct in shape, such as *com-*

*pacta*, *globosa*, *pyramidalis*, and *Hovei*, that visitors to the Experimental Farm are often led to believe that they have been pruned to their several shapes until informed to the contrary.

Out of the large collection the following are selected as being among the best as regards form and color of foliage:

Douglas' Golden Arbor vitæ (*Thuya occidentalis aurea Douglasii*): For those who are fond of yellow foliated evergreens, this is a very desirable one. It is of a fine, upright form, with bright golden leaves which retain their yellow color well in the winter, making this tree very attractive at that time of the year. Contrasted with darker kinds it makes a good effect.

Compact Arbor vitæ (*Thuya occidentalis compacta*):—This is a compact, dwarf variety with bright green foliage and is very pleasing to the eye. There is a variety, Parsoni, which is particularly good.

Ellwanger's Arbor vitæ (*Thuya occidentalis Ellwangeriana*):—Although this variety does not grow very tall, specimens from twelve to fourteen years old being about four feet high, it is a vigorous growing sort and spreads out well. It is a compact variety and has slender leaves and branches which give it a less stiff appearance than some other varieties.

Hovey's Arbor vitæ (*Thuya occidentalis Hovei*): This is one of the finest and most attractive varieties. The leaves are bright green and the branches flat and parallel, giving the shrub a very remarkable but pleasing appearance. It does not grow very tall, specimens from twelve to fourteen years of age being only between four and five feet high.

Pyramidal Arbor vitæ (*Thuya occidentalis pyramidalis*):—The pyramidal Arbor vitæ is one of the most distinct in form. It is a compact and very upright grower, being quite columnar in form, which makes it a very conspicuous object wherever planted.