very showy when in flower, and remains in bloom a long time. It is an excellent plant for the background of a lawn or among trees skirting a driveway. It is one of the very few plants which will flourish under the shade of trees. It is a native plant and is generally found on cool moist banks in partial shade. It is becoming rather rare.

One of the very best summer conservatory plants, and perhaps the least understood, is the *Tuberous Begonia.* In its variety of form and color it is a brilliant display in itself throughout the whole summer. The greatest and brightest display can be secured by it alone if properly managed. Like the fuchsia, a rather low and even, summer temperature is necessary to the most perfect results.

The glass should be whitened or shaded in some way as soon as hot, bright weather may be expected. As for most fine rooted plants an open porous soil is the best, but success may be attained with it in soils quite different from this, if the temperature is kept right. The bulbs can easily and safely be kept through the dormant season in any cool cellar. Some would-be authorities tell us the temperature should never go below fifty in the place in which the bulbs are stored. There is nothing in this ; a low temperature is in no way injurious, if it does not go below the freezing point.

Enquiries are often made of florists for plants which will withstand the effects of coal gas. I may say, as I have often said, that there is no plant to which coal gas is not, more or less, injurious. Plants with hard coriaceous leaves do not so quickly *show* the effects of it. Neither do plants, which remain inactive for a period, show immediate effects of it during the period of their inactivity. But to all plants coal gas is poison, slow or quick, according to their nature or to the condition in which they may be when subjected to it. Plants grown by florists when first removed and subjected to ordinary dwelling-house conditions, will often (even if no coal gas be present) be affected in appearance by the change to greater or less degree. The usual reason for this is that the air in the dwelling is drier than it is in the greenhouse. If the dryness is not extreme the plant will soon accommodate itself to its new conditions. But if the air be so dry as to be of a burnt or kiln-dried nature the plant will never flourish.

Enquires are often made as to the amount of water house plants should receive. A general rule is that water should be sufficiently withheld to allow admittance of air to the roots every two or three days at least. Saucers which are often used in dwelling-houses under the pots should only be used to catch such water as may drain from the pots when watering. The only common plants which will thrive with the saucers constantly filled with water are Sedges and Callas.

There are no hard and fast rules for the management of plants. He or she will be the most successful who makes a study of the general and individual nature and necessities of plant life.

Mr. GROFF : I would like to ask Mr. Mitchell if his reference to tuberous begonias referred to them as house plants, conservatory plants or bedding plants.

Mr. MITCHELL : I referred to them as conservatory plants, but I have experimented with them also as bedding plants, and I have not personally found them altogether successful. I have seen them growing to perfection in the open air with others but they have not done so with myself. They do the best in the open air or in places moderately sheltered, or where they do not receive much wind. It seems as if they cannot abide heavy winds.

Mr. J. CAMERON : Do you recommend putting pots in the sand for the purpose of keeping them damp ?

Mr. MITCHELL : It certainly will do them no harm, and I think it might be some benefit. I believe that there is only a small portion of the people here who have seen the tuberous begonia at its best ; it is most beautiful indeed, and makes a perfectly grand display. A summer conservatory with nothing in it but tuberous begonias can be made as bright and beautiful as it is possible to make it. (Hear, hear).

Mr. PARKER : Was not the injury that was done to these frozen plants with water done by watering at an improper time ? If they were frozen during the night