

collector. Our purpose should be the embellishment of home grounds, large and small, and we should choose such as are adapted for the purpose.

HARDY PERENNIAL PLANTS.

No grounds, however limited in extent, should be without some hard perennials, and it is difficult to understand why so few are cultivated. When once planted they are lasting, and do not need the care required to grow annuals. Perhaps the most satisfactory way to grow these "nurslings of nature" is in borders by themselves. I will refer briefly to a few species, supplementing these with a list which may be cultivated to advantage.

THE PÆONY.—The Pæony is the noblest and showiest of the perennials and is very fragrant. I would strongly urge every person who owns a piece of ground to obtain a good collection of these plants, which George Ellwanger says "almost rivals the rose in brilliancy of color and perfection of bloom, and the rhododendron in stately growth."

The Chinese varieties are all hardy, and by having a dozen or more varieties—the more the better—one can have them in bloom from almost June 1st to July 15th. They do not bloom until the second year after planting, and scarcely need any attention. After they once become established they continue to increase in beauty year by year. The following list includes early, medium and late, and is perhaps as good a one as can be obtained :

P. Ambrose Verschaffelt—Purplish crimson, very fragrant.

P. Baron James Rothschild—Outside petals rose, centre salmon.

P. Delachi—Dark purplish crimson, shaded violet.

P. Eugene Verdier—Blush shaded with pink.

P. Globosa Grandiflora—White, large globular flowers.

P. Louis Van Houttee (Calot)—Bright purple cherry, large.

P. Madame Victor Verdier—Crimson rose, light violet, large.

P. Modeste—Deep rose.