

lets appear about the outside of the soil when it is turned out in a ball, transplant to larger pots.

Flower Shows.

Why is it that flower shows are not more general throughout the country? This question is prompted by a clipping from an English paper recently given me by Mr. Charles Fox, an enthusiastic flower-lover of this city. The clipping tells of a Chrysanthemum Show recently held at Dorchester, in the County of Dorset, and, judging from the description given, one must conclude that flower shows in England are regarded, as they should be, as affairs of importance.

The show in question was opened by Mrs. A. T. Brinsley Sheridan. To quote from the report:

"Mrs. Sheridan, instead of contenting herself with saying the 'few words' too usual on such an occasion, made an apt and eloquent speech, worthy of the daughter of the eminent John Lothrop Motley. In the course of it she said:

"When, ladies and gentlemen, your Honorary Secretary having invited me to open this exhibition, I happened to be in London a short time ago, I asked my friend, the Colonial Secretary, who is passionately devoted to gardening, and whose plants and flowers rival those at Kew, what I had better say on such an occasion. His answer was: 'Say that flowers mellow the homes of the people.' (Applause.) That is a sentiment on which we are all agreed, for surely nothing so mellow, beautifies, and humanizes our homes as flowers. (Hear, hear.) The cult of flowers has of late increased enormously, and many of our old favorites have assumed proportions such as we should never have believed possible. Flowers have become with us, I will not say the fashion, because I hate the word, but such a part of our lives that we have learnt to appreciate more fully than ever their manifold beauties in shape, color, and construction. (Hear, hear.) We, the happy possessors of gardens, know what a constant and daily pleasure and comfort flowers are to us. We greet their advent in the spring, and bemoan bitterly their departure in the autumn, when, as the American poet, Bryant, says:

"The melancholy days have come
The saddest of the year,"

which sweep away so many beautiful flowers, except those that we have been able to cultivate and preserve under glass. Let me say, to those who have gardens, that the more flowers they can grow, the more there will be to give away, the more the shops and market-places will be stocked at reasonable prices, and the more the homes of those less highly favored than we are will also be mellowed and beautified. (Applause.) Here we have fine collections of that marvellous floral creation from which this show takes its name. Every year new varieties appear, new beauties, new harmonizing shades and colors; and all these are due to the gardeners who, with so much intelligence, care, and patience, have produced such splendid results. (Applause.) We are also grateful to those who have been willing to send us their cherished possessions, to excite our admiration and to gladden our eyes. Last, but not least, our thanks are due to the working committee, who have spared neither time nor thought in bringing this show up to a high level of perfection. (Hear, hear.) The Dorchester Chrysanthemum Show hereafter will become famous, not only throughout the length and breadth of Dorset, but also in other parts of England. I congratulate the committee on their well-deserved success, and have great pleasure in declaring this exhibition open. (Loud applause.)

"Captain Dymond presented to Mrs. Sheridan a beautiful bouquet of yellow and amber chrysanthemums, and expressed to her the hearty thanks of the committee, both for so kindly coming to open the bazaar, and for her extraordinarily good speech. (Applause.)

The seed catalogues will soon be coming in, with all their inspiration. We should not lose one inspiration by not having a flower show, or a series of flower shows, in your locality this year. The



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house might very well be utilized for such a purpose, with one department reserved for children's exhibits. A fee of five or ten cents could provide funds for awards, if awards be given. Really, the idea seems not at all difficult.

This is the season for all such planning, so what do you think about it?

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By the way, if you have never, hitherto, received a seed catalogue, watch for the advertisements of any of the seedsmen who advertise in "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," and write to those seedsmen for copies. When you have a seed catalogue, you simply cannot resist having a garden also.

CROCHET MITTENS.

Dear Ingle Nook Friends.—For a number of years past I have been a reader of "The Farmer's Advocate," and I enjoy its pages very much, especially Hope's Quiet Hour, which is certainly a very comforting sermon for anyone to read. Now, my dear friends, I hope you will pardon me for any mistakes I may make, as this is my first letter to the paper. I have read it for the past twelve years, but when you know I am a farmer's wife, and also the mother of eight children, you will understand how it is I have not written oftener. I noticed in December 19th issue, a request for crochet-mitten pattern, and as I have a very good pattern, I thought I would send it in. I have also another pattern for baby's mittens which is very nice, but will not send it just now.

Crocheted Mittens.—Materials, three-thread "Starlight Saxony" and steel crochet hook. Make a chain of 52 stitches. This will fit a lady who wears a 6½ glove. Join the ends of the chain. Crochet 2 rows around in single crochet. On the third row, exactly opposite the starting point, widen by crocheting two stitches in one, then one plain, then widen again. Rest of row plain, short crochets. Fourth row—Plain, short crochets. Fifth row—Widen opposite the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Sixth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Seventh row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Eighth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Ninth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Tenth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Eleventh row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Twelfth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Thirteenth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Fourteenth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Fifteenth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Sixteenth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Seventeenth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Eighteenth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Nineteenth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Twentieth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Twenty-first row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Twenty-second row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Twenty-third row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Twenty-fourth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. Twenty-fifth row—Widen the first widening in the third row, short crochets. 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