

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

is surely not asking too much that the planters preserve the names more carefully. A gentleman buys and plants a quantity of shrubbery, all correctly labelled. Oh! he will say, what need of me to preserve these dreadful Latin names and jawbreakers, why does not the nurseryman give his plants English names? and so in the course of the seasons the names one by one become lost. By and by one flower, it is different from the rest, it is different from anything in the neighborhood perhaps, some admirer inquires the name, the planter himself is seized by the same desire, but the label is lost and it entails perhaps years of enquiry before the last one is renamed.

It is a pleasure indeed to visit such grounds as those at Queen Victoria Park, Niagara Falls, where trees and shrubs from so many countries are growing and apparently flourishing. Mr. Cameron, the head gardener, readily

tells the name of any specimen in the collection, but says he intends to furnish all with conspicuous labels giving the correct botanical name, also the common or local name, for the information of the public. For herbaceous plants, or for plants like roses, that are pruned heavily each year, good stout cedar labels are the best, 20 in. long, 2 in. wide and 1 in. thick are the usual dimensions, point these, plane them on one side, rub the smooth surface with some light colored paint and write the name heavily and boldly, these labels can be read for several seasons. For permanent names for trees, shrubs, etc., the best thing we have seen is a very thin piece of soft sheet copper, on which the name is written heavily with any sharp pointed tool, and as it is fastened to the tree with copper wire, there is no reason why it should not be legible for a lifetime.

Hamilton.

WEBSTER BROS.

SNOWDROPS.

NOW that we are all planting bulbs let me put in plea for the snowdrop. What other bulb have we that is so pure and dainty, so brave and early, so easily cultivated? A little colony of the bulbs, planted in a sheltered nook will often surprise the owner with a handful of sweet, white flowers in January, notwithstanding the old hymn that

"The snowdrop in purest white array,
First rears her head on Candlemas day."

Scillas, chionodoxas, crocus and aconite bloom about the same time as the snowdrop and might be planted with it for variety, but I shall always want one little colony that is all white. Elwesii giant is the finest of the snowdrops.

The bulbs need only to be planted and then let alone. Under ordinary conditions they soon naturalize themselves. The individuality of the snowdrop—originality, if you will—has made it the subject of many poetical references. All are not equally accurate, however. Tennyson evidently noted the small white flowers, for he wrote:

"Pure as the virgin tint of green,
That streaks the snowdrop's inner leaves."

For the snowdrop is not pure white as some poets would have it. They, I fear, love it better than our gardeners. To find snowdrops in Carolina gardens is the exception rather than the rule.—Vicks Magazine.