

## Amateur Gardeners in March

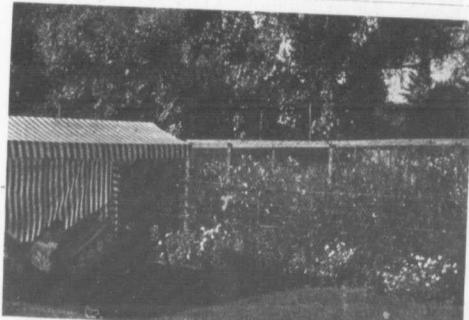
(From the Canadian Horticulturist.)

As there is not much to do in gardening indoors or out this month, spare time can be utilized to advantage in planning for the garden that is to be. Recall the weak spots of the garden last year and plan to remedy them. Was there not some fence or outbuilding that should have been covered with vines, some corner of the lawn or some place in the border where one or two shrubs would have improved the effect, some parts of the vegetable garden that were not occupied by plants, or something else that was neglected last year? A little forethought exercised now will do

water. Some weak tobacco water placed in the solution once a week will help to hold these pests in check.

Take proper precautions against extreme cold weather at night. The hot sun of some winter days often gives the amateur a feeling of security that makes him negligent in this frozen, keep them away from the heat, discover them carefully and keep them in the dark for twenty-four hours or place them in bright sunlight for a week or two afterwards.

Keep the leaves of house plants free from dust. Wipe them with a wet sponge once a week. Give them fresh air occasionally, but do not allow



A Shady Retreat in the Midst of Flowers that Bloom All Summer

Any home may have a place like this on the lawn or in the backyard. In place of canvas awnings, rustic work or plain boards may be used for the front of them. The flowers in this case are sweet peas with annuals in home, and plan to do it as soon as spring comes.

more for these places than can be done on the spur of the moment when time for action comes.

Do not wait until the last minute before ordering seeds and plants for next spring's use. Secure catalogues from seedsmen and nurserymen and make selections early. Even though you may not intend to buy, it is worth while getting these catalogues. They are interesting and contain much practical advice on the culture of the plants listed therein. As a first choice of seeds and plants, select those kinds that are well known and well tried. As a rule these are given the shortest descriptions in the catalogues. After satisfying your needs from the standard sorts, then choose a few novelties for experimentation and curiosity. All leading and reliable seed and nursery firms advertise in this paper. Consult their advertisements on other pages of this issue.

Now is the time to sow seeds of verbenas, lobelias, cockscombs, double petunias, sweet suikan, schizanthus, and mignonette in pots or boxes in the window. These will come in useful in early spring for window boxes and hanging baskets.

About this time sow a few sweet pea seeds indoors for planting outside when the time comes. Put six seeds in each five-inch pot. By the time you would be sowing seeds outside you will have strong plants three inches or four inches high. When the time comes these plants may be placed ten inches apart in trenches. When planting knock the ball of earth out of the pot carefully, and do not disturb the roots.

### WINTER PLANTS

With the increasing heat of the sun, insect pests on house plants will become troublesome. Keep all growing plants, such as fuchsias, geraniums, callas, lilies, and so on, well moistened at the roots. The foliage should be sprinkled or syringed two or three times a week with luke-warm

direct drafts to strike them.

Start fuchsias into growth. Prune back the tips of last year's growth so as to make a shapely plant. Give the plants more water than they had when resting. When placed in a warm position, and place them in a appear re-pot the plants into the same sized pot, first shaking them out from the soil in which they have been growing. When re-potting them, use soil composed of two parts of sand and leaf soil, mixed well together. Provide plenty of drainage. Water the soil when potted and not again until the soil shows signs of dryness. For the spider, a bad pest of the fuchsia, syringe the plants daily.

Fall propagated geraniums should be shifted into three and a half-inch pots and potted firmly in rather heavy rich soil. Cuttings may be taken from these plants in from three to five weeks.

A few tuberous-rooted begonias may be put in moss or sand to start them off before potting. They are easily handled and give great satisfaction. For most house plants a temperature of about 50 to 55 degrees at night will furnish the most desirable conditions for growth. Greater extremes between day and night temperatures are not conducive to best results.

Another lot of house bulbs may be potted early this month. Keep them cool and in the dark for three or four weeks, then bring to the light and perhaps you may have Loom about Easter time.

If you want to keep your fuchsia bulbs after flowering, give very little water until the foliage turns yellow and then give no more. Place pots in a cellar until next fall, when the bulbs may be taken from the soil and re-potted.



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## OUR HOME CLUB

### Our Schools

In the January 27th issue of Farm and Dairy I read with interest a letter from "The Doctor's Wife" on the above question, and being a worker in the Women's Institute and having our school interest at heart, I felt I would add a few words. How far should the Institute interest itself in the school? True, it is the place where our little ones spend most of their childhood, but do you not think more trouble would be taken to rectify those evils were we as mothers just to spend a few hours once a month in our schools?

I know in our own neighborhood there is not a mother visits the school—or a father either—excepting on our public examination day. We have a good, clean, well-ventilated school, but it is because our trustees have looked well to it. As parents we should call occasionally at the school and remain long enough to let the little ones and their teachers see we are interested in their work.

I would like to see individual cups provided for our children at school, but do not know whether our Women's Institute will be justified in asking these favors or not. We are going to discuss it at one of our meetings in the near future.—"Mother."

### THE PIN MONEY QUESTION

Being only a farmer's daughter, and not much chance to earn money or obtain money for some things I need it for, I am coming to the Home Club to see if any of the older and more experienced members can suggest some ways for the earning of money for the girls on the farm—some into the girls' hands—all her own. I know there are many ways some good and some not so easy to work. Has anyone anything new to offer?—"The Daughter."

### FARM WIFE HAS IT EASY

Much has been said in the "Home Club" of the position of woman on the farm. In so far as she has been represented as having a hard life, those doing so must have relied on memory, going back 40 or 50 years. Her position nowadays can hardly be said to deserve commiseration. The work she does is mainly that of house-making. The cases are rare of her going to labor out-of-doors, while inside, inventive genius has exerted itself to lessen her toils.

If there is any of the old-fashioned machine for this purpose is at hand. The carpets are swept by another machine. The family wash is put through expeditiously and with comparatively little labor by means of a third machine. Of knitting, very little is now done in the home. And the same may be said of the making of nearly all garments. Machinery in the factory turns out wearing apparel almost as cheaply as the material can be bought for in small quantities. The milking is mostly done by the men, and the milk is sent away to the cheese factory or creamery, and in either case, woman is relieved of responsibility.

Then consider how the isolation to which she was formerly doomed, is past. For thousands, a thing of the past. By the rural telephone system she is placed neighbor practically to all on the system. And the daily mail is no stranger to many a farm house. Besides the men employed as farm hands and for whom the women had to cook and wash their clothes are much fewer owing to the introduction of agricultural machinery, and the development of the dairy industry. For these and other reasons that might be mentioned, I conclude that the condition of woman on the modern farm is quite as good as that of

her sister in the town.—"The Parson."

### CONDOLENCES FOR FATHER

Several members of the Home Club have written to Farm and Dairy expressing their sympathy with "Father" in the loss of his beloved wife, recently. They take this means as a club to extend their condolences to "Father" in his most severe loss of a beloved mate, and to express their earnest hope that he will be able to look upon this affliction as one sent from Him who knoweth and doeth all things for the best. "Father" has all the best wishes of the Home Club for the future, and the hope that he may soon be back with our club again. We have missed him.—The Editor.

### A Cheap Smoke House

Money being a scarce article, we invented a smoke house which gives just as good service as though it cost a hundred dollars. It is made of a large packing box three and one-half feet high, two feet deep and three feet wide. A wide cleat is put in the top, to keep the meat from hanging against the box. In two days we smoked two large hams perfectly.



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### This contractor got results.

He knew how to feed his men.

Some years ago a contractor building a railroad in a warm climate was troubled a great deal by sickness among the laborers.

He turned his attention at once to their food and found that they were getting full rations of meat and were drinking water from a stream near by. He issued orders to cut down the amount of meat and to increase greatly the quantity of Quaker Oats fed to the men.

He also boiled Quaker Oats and mixed the thin oatmeal water with their drinking water.

Almost instantly all signs of stomach disorders passed and his men showed a decided improvement in strength and spirits.

This contractor had experience that taught him the great value of good oatmeal. 53



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