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WINDOW GARDENS.

For the illustrations given with this article we are indebted to Mr James Vick, of Rochester, the well-known seedsman and florist. They give a good idea of what may be accomplished by the use of very simple means, in the way of beautifying a sitting-room or parlor window. As for the best plants to use, a writer in the Christian Union gives the following excellent advice:

Sunshine is an article that can't be manufactured, and without a liberal quantity of it almost all plants will languish. What can be done then? What shall be done in the many windows lacking sunshine, pitiable with their solemn array of weak, sickly, consumption-looking plants? Give them up. Cease doctoring the old incurables. Begin to cultivate what will succeed.

Cultivate vines at the window. Strive to produce leaves rather than flowers, and depend on foliage and its grouping for pleasing effects. There is that graceful runner, the Madeira vine. Start a plot of it in each corner of the window-sill. Let the vines run up on strings meeting in the centre of the frame above. You have the outlines of a pyramid that you can fill up very prettily. Suspend from the apex what I call a variety pot—a hanging pot with a tittle of several things in it. Put in a little money. I mean the plant, for the genuine you will need these hard times, a bit of Wandering Jew, one of the hardier members of the Colous family, and then add Busy Miner. The latter will look out of the foliage like the whitened head of the original as he stands among his flour barrels in the mill. Hang another pot below filled up in the same way. Indeed, put in as many as you can tastily.

On the window-sill below range a file of Flora's knights, anything pretty for its leaves. Put there a sweet-scented geranium. Begonias are pretty for leaf effect, and are reasonably sure to blossom without large doses of sunshine to stimulate them. Four fuchsias won't be likely to flower, but it will run and its drooping branches will have all the effect of vines. You may do something with the petiwinkle (vinca minor) and with some of the tougher foliage plants (coleus). It will be easy though to secure a bushy base for your pyramid. An ivy going about and over the window will make a rich frame for this pretty picture while as the side-tendrils of the Madeira vine shoot out you can swing them in festoons across the window.

A lady who has great success with house-plants arranges her plants as follows:

"A bay-window with an easterly and south-easterly exposure constitutes her conservatory. A large box supported on iron brackets at the centre window of the bay, is filled with geraniums. Shelves, also on iron brackets, are at the two side windows, upon which pots of plants stand. A firm bracket on each side of the arch of the window holds a pot with a trailing vine. Four-armed bronze pot brackets are screwed into the wall just above these and can be turned to or from the light at pleasure. A rustic basket is to hang from the centre of the arch, while a wire flower-stand on rollers will find its position in the window or can be moved away of an evening."

Giving the result of her experience in the Illustrated Christian Weekly for the benefit of others, she says:

"The first thing is the window. I do not expect very much return from my labor, unless I can have sunlight upon my plants during at least a considerable part of the day. For the best results a window with a south or south-east exposure is necessary.

"I bring the garden plants that I propose to carry through the winter under cover early, lest the frost may surprise me some of these fine nights. The plants taken from the beds have of

is practicable, to set the pots in water, and let them absorb the moisture rather than to pour water upon them. The water should not be cold, slightly tepid water is better. The leaves of the plants I try to keep clean, that is simply keeping their lungs open, and they will not thrive much without that.

"I find that if I want to keep my plants shapely, they must not always stand in the same position, but must be turned, now this side and now that, to the light."



course, to be put in pots or boxes, and some of the plants that have been in pots must be repotted. I do not re-pot them unless it is likely that the soil is worn out. In repotting I use good leaf-mould well mixed with sand, putting more sand in proportion for vines than for the harder-wooded plants. I prefer the common, unglazed earthen pot, because it is porous, and gives the roots a chance to breathe, as well as prevents the water from settling down and rotting them. To attain this latter result also, coarse gravel should be put in the bottom of the pots, securing thorough under-drainage.

"I sometimes put different varieties of the same species of plant in the same pot, using two more varieties in a hanging basket than elsewhere; but I do not mix the species in this manner. If that is done the stronger plant absorbs part of the life of the weaker one, but neither thrive as well as when kept separate.

"I have never found that it was safe to allow the pots to stand on the floor. The fire may go out, or an extraordinary cold snap may come, and then they will go almost sure to freeze. The higher stratum of air is so much warmer, that usually there is no danger if the plants do not stand directly on the floor.

"I find it necessary for the most thrifty growth of my plants, that they should be watered regularly; the intervals will of course vary with the habits of the plants. I prefer, when it

A YOUNG GORILLA

Mr Walker purchased from a native a fine healthy male Gorilla, apparently about two years of age, and shipped it for England. Being under the impression that he had taken too much care of all the other living ones which he had obtained at different times, he determined to let the new acquisition have its own way, and only take care that it did no mischief. When purchased, the animal was by no means strange or spiteful, but rather what may be termed shy, and suspicious of strangers. At the expiration of about a week, however, it became sufficiently tame and confident to admit of its being allowed to run about loose, and to do as it liked. At the same time its food, instead of being confined to the fruits on which it is supposed to feed in its wild state, consisted in general, of fragments from the table, and besides these it had anything edible it could lay its hands on, and occasionally a basin of condensed milk and a raw egg beaten up in it was given. It liked amomum fruit, but this produced diarrhoea, which had to be treated with chlorodyne and raw egg. Finding that the animal became restless, it was left entirely to its own devices, and especially as every one in the ship was at the same time so very busy as not to be able to pay much attention to it. It soon became quite at home, alternately eating, sleeping, and playing with a large bull-terrier (of by no means the most amiable disposition), which had a most decided dislike to negroes, but nevertheless took very kindly to the Gorilla, so that the two animals became constant play-fellows. By allowing the Gorilla to rough it, instead of watching it and appointing some one to take care of it, in which case these animals become so much attached to their keeper or attendant, that a separation from him almost invariably causes these affectionate Apes to pine away and die, and by habituating it to such food as is generally to be found on shipboard, it was hoped that it might be brought to England. But accidents will happen, even to Gorillas. It came down to dinner one day, and ate scraps with the dog, and went to sleep. When looked for some hours afterwards, it was missing, and must



have fallen off the taffrail into the sea. Strangely enough this young one was not given to climbing. It will be noticed that these remarks are totally at variance with those of M. Du Chailu, who was impressed with the untamable character of the gorilla, so we must wait until further evidence is produced, and probably until a little Gorilla is safely lodged in the Regent's Park. - From "Casell's Natural History" for January.

GREAT WEALTH A GREAT MOCKERY.

If you are ever tempted to purchase a very large pear, decline the investment, or reckon upon a disappointment you will probably find it woolly, almost tasteless, and more like a turnip than a pear. We know, for we have made the experiment in the land where the gigantic pears are grown. Overgrown fruits never seem to have the delicate sweetness which may be found in those of the usual dimensions. What is gained in quantity is more than lost in quality. In the same manner great wealth, great honor, and great rank, generally turn out to be great shams. Besides the counter-acting influences of great care and great temptation, there is the inevitable satiety in too much of anything which soon renders it tasteless. For sweetness prefer competence to enormous fortune, the esteem of a few to the homage of a multitude, and a quiet condition to a position of emulence and splendor. There is more flavor in enough than in too much. Solomon's proverb bids us prefer the dinner of herbs eaten in peace to the stalled ox consumed amid contention, and his remark is the more practical when we consider how often the fat ox succumbs of necessity to involve contention, while the herbs are not thought to be worth fighting for. He chose wisely, who said, "Give me neither poverty nor riches," he took the smaller and the sweeter pear. After all it is better to have a choice, but leave it all with our heavenly Father. Spurgeon.

BEARING RESPONSIBILITY.

How few, comparatively, learn to bear responsibility! Very many hear the command "Go, work to-day in my vineyard." They act as if it meant "Go into the vineyard and eat the grapes." There are always a large class of people in churches and associations who will do something if they "feel like it." They are not to be depended upon. They are like sponges, always trying to absorb and live on what they enjoy, but rarely ready to deny themselves by giving their service for others. They are dunting after enjoyment and miss the sweetest kind, which comes by unselfish devotion to the Lord's work. We are reminded of the Dutchman who attended the "big meetings." He thought he was converted. When the meetings were over, his pastor met him on the street, and asked him why he did not come to church, for says he, "it is expected, since you have become a Christian, that you will be faithful." He replied "Has de meetin' commenced again?" "No," says the pastor, "but you ought to come to church." "Oh, dat's de little meetin'. I belongs to de big meetin'. I don't join de little meetin'." There are a great many who belong to the "big meeting." They are on hand when there is an unusual stir, but never learn to bear responsibility in the every-day work. If the world is brought to Christ, it must be through the instrumentality of true and persistent devotion to the Lord's work, and not by those who consult their own ease.

Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding. Prov. xvii. 28.

Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness. - Prov. xx. 20.