

while they are in the cellar, with tepid water, and they keep in fine order. In the spring the foliage looks fresh and green. The scarlet geraniums we have taken up with a spade, the earth shaken from the roots, and the geraniums tied in bundles of five or six together, and then fastened to the beams of the cellar without further protection. In April they looked wilted, but when transplanted into the open air, they soon recover and grow luxuriantly. I have been very successful in growing the scarlet salvia from seed sown in pots in February, and then placed in a room facing east, where the temperature is even, but low. They are transplanted in beds in the garden in May, and with me they always grow and blossom luxuriantly until frost. The climbing cobeia I have taken up in the fall, and transplanted into a large eight inch pot, and then placed in this room. I water it freely when first taken up. Last winter this vine grew finely, covering one side of the room with its beautiful and delicate foliage."

### SMALL ANIMALS GNAWING TREES.

Every winter the agricultural journals contain inquiries as to a remedy to prevent mice and rabbits gnawing trees, and we have nearly annually answered them. Our remedy, which we have tried with success, has proved effectual in every instance in which it has been properly applied. It is to bandage the trees with any old cotton or woollen cloth, or very stiff paper will do—for mice eight or ten inches high will answer; for rabbits not less than two feet. The latter standing upright will reach up nearly two feet, and as far as they can reach they will gnaw. The same cloth, if put away, will last for several years. Of course the bandaging must be well done and tied to the tree securely.

In gardens, where rabbits are sure to be found if they are in the vicinity, a good protection is to feed them with cabbage-stalks, or decayed heads of cabbage, offals of ruta-bagas, carrots, etc., a supply of which is to be found on every farm. A "dead trap," baited with apple, will also clear a garden; but if in a starving condition a half a dozen rabbits will destroy fifty young trees in a single night. One winter they not only injured several young pear trees for us, but nipped off the tender ends of certain shrubs as cleanly as if done with pruning shears. But, as we say, they are driven to this by starvation, when the ground is covered with snow.—*Germantown Tel.*

### THE BLACKBERRY CROP.

It cannot be denied that we possess many advantages for making money that other countries cannot have. Many fruits that can hardly be grown in other sections, with all the care that may be given them, with us are indigenous.

We will only mention now the Blackberry. There is scarcely a farm in our whole country that will not yield from one to five hundred bushels of blackberries. They are everywhere—along our highways and byways—in our fence corners where they ought not to be—in our fields, &c., &c.

Now, here is a fortune for some enterprising, energetic man. Gather those berries, and either dry them or make into wine; a ready market can be found for either.

Last year about \$80,000 worth of dried blackber-

ries were shipped from one town in North Carolina. This year we notice that heavy contracts have been made for them in that State and Georgia, to be shipped to California. Who will be the first to try them in Mississippi?—*Model Farmer, Corinth, Miss.*

### FLOWER SEED IN POTS.

A few general rules are, applicable to all seeds sown in pots:

1. All pots and pans used for seed sowing should be well drained in the ordinary way, and as fine soil is much employed in seed sowing, a layer of dry moss or of roughish soil should separate the drainage and the fine soil above.

2. The soil on the top surface of all pots, pans, &c., used for seed sowing, should be finely pulverized by sifting.

3. Good sandy loam may be taken as the basis of all soils used for seed growing, but it should always have at least half its bulk of finely pulverized leaf mould, peat, or some vegetable soil in it, and fully one-fourth of the whole should be sand.

4. The soil should be made perfectly fine and firm in the pots, particularly in the case of small seeds.

5. All seeds sown in pots, frames or houses require shading during sunshine, and it is particularly necessary for the smaller seeds on the surface.

### GARDENING IN THE EVENING OF LIFE.

I would recommend to every man especially in the autumn of his life, to take to gardening, if he has not already experienced its pleasures. Of all occupations in the world, it is the one which best combines repose and activity. It is rest in work and work in rest. It is not idleness: it is not stagnation; and yet it is perfect quietude. Like all things mortal it has its failures and disappointments, and there are some things hard to understand. But it is never without its rewards, and perhaps, if there were nothing but successful cultivation, the aggregate enjoyment would be less. It is better for the occasional shadows that come over the scene. The discipline, too, is most salutary. It tries our patience and it tries our faith. But even in the worst of seasons, there is far more to reward and encourage than to dishearten and disappoint. There is no day of the year without something on which the mind may rest—rest with profit and delight.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

### THE GRUB IN STRAWBERRY BEDS.

This formidable enemy to the growth of the strawberry in new lands, the larva of dor-bug, or May-beetle, has been successfully destroyed by means of coarse salt applied to the beds in the month of April, at the rate of one bushel and a quarter to the one fourth acre of land, distributed evenly for the same. A few of the plants where the salt rested immediately upon the leaves, were a little blackened, but not at all damaged to prevent fruiting and a vigorous growth. But, lo! the grub evidently was not accustomed to salt victuals—they all disappeared. A few weeks later the same amount of salt was spread broadcast over a piece of land that was to receive plants, before they were set, and was equally successful.—*Rural World.*