

THE CLIMBING PLANTS.—No class of plants are more useful in the hands of the skillful gardener than the climbers. They possess almost miraculous powers, transforming any unsightly out-building into an object of real beauty. No good gardener will have any bare board fences about his premises,—all are wreathed and festooned, and made gay and graceful. Then for covering cottage verandahs, what can equal this class of plants? They put to the blush all the expensive work of the architect, and the builder, and make the poor man's cottage appear more elegant—possessing more of nature—more of quiet grace—than the palace of a prince. For this purpose, the hardy varieties of grape vines are very useful.

The *Virginia Creeper* is an excellent climber, and although a native of our own land, much more popular in Europe than with us. Its leaves are digitate, of a dark rich green in summer, and becoming of a rich crimson in the autumn. It throws out little roots at the joints, by which it fastens itself to anything it touches.

The *Honeysuckles* we have in great variety, and everybody loves them, though we are sorry so few show their love in a practical way.

The *Periploca* or *Virginian Silk* is a rapid growing, fine climber, and will twine itself round a tree or any other object for twenty or forty feet in height. The foliage is bright and glossy, but the flowers are brown and not showy.

The *Chinese Wistaria* is one of the most rapid growing of all climbing plants, after it gets a fair start. Sometimes, for some unaccountable reason, it refuses to make any material growth for a year or two after being planted, but all at once takes a start and makes a splendid growth, throwing out shoots ten, fifteen, and twenty feet in length, in one season. It commences blooming early in June, and a large plant will be literally loaded with thousands of rich clusters or pendulous racemes of delicate, pale blue blossoms, so numerous that the plant seems to be a floral wreath. The racemes are from ten to twelve inches long, and well filled with delicate sweetly perfumed flowers. The foliage is abundant, and of a pleasant lively green. It succeeds best in a rich deep loam. It does not flower until the plant gets strong, and the older the plant the more freely it seems to flower.

The *Climbing Roses* are now to be had of almost every variety of color, and should be extensively planted.

The *Bignonia* or *Trumpet Flower*, is a magnificent climbing plant, producing large trumpet-shaped climbing flowers with something of an orange tinge, and of great beauty. They are produced in clusters. A good plant trained to a pillar or trellis, when in flower, presents a most splendid sight.

Aristolochia, or *Dutchman's Pipe*, is an elegant climbing plant, with very handsome,

broad leaves, and very curious flowers, closely resembling a meerschaum pipe, and hence the name. It grows fifteen or twenty feet high, and begins to flower in June. It makes a splendid shade for a verandah or summer house.—*Rural New Yorker*.

ON THE CULTURE OF THE CAMELIA IN THE PARLOR OR DRAWING ROOM.—I had three tables made, about five feet long and three feet three inches wide, with strides around the edges, so as to be about a third of an inch above the margins all round, and then common (sawed) laths cut into short pieces; and placed about two inches apart on the top surface of the tables, so that the water which ran from the flower-pots could pass from one part of the table to another, cross-wise or lengthwise, and pass out at a notch in the edging spoken of above; by which means the pots would not stand in the water which runs from them. These tables I placed far enough from the windows and walls to allow a person to pass all round them, and to water and syringe the plants; which made a space of about one and a half or two feet in front and at the ends. The tables should be of a height in proportion to the windows, which windows should be made to let down at the top. By that means the plants can have air in upon them, without a strong current passing through them. This I consider a very important matter, as a strong draught or current of air is very injurious.—*Exchange*.

PACKING FRUIT.—A correspondent of the *Gardener's Chronicle* packs apples in shallow boxes, in dry bran. He finds it light, clean, elastic and excellent for packing. Packing peaches, nectarines, apricots and grapes to go long distances, he wraps the fruits snugly in tissue paper. Grapes are best sent in paper bags, in single layers, and the bran run in between layers of bags to keep all firm. Wheat bran is used after being sifted to get out all the small heavy particles of husks.

Domestic.

Good Housekeeping.

So much "Advice to Housekeepers," is constantly going the rounds of the press, that we feel a little diffident about broaching the subject; but as it is a prolific theme, and one of general interest, inasmuch as the comfort, health and happiness of every family depends very much on good housekeeping, we will venture a word. These writers on housekeeping—who, by the way, are generally men,—seem to think that one word covers the whole ground, and that is—work. To work early and late, to scrub and scour, and churn, and sweep, and wash, and bake—this, according to their theory, is good housekeeping. There never was a greater mis-