

admitted during the day than is practicable later in the season. English ivies destined for the parlor should be taken in before fires are made in the house. If, however, they have been neglected, they should be put in a cold room, out of the way of the direct rays of the sun, and the temperature gradually raised; or else they will shed their leaves, and you will have sorry-looking stems to reproach you for your carelessness. Slips of ivy will grow to considerable length in water. A very pretty way to grow them is to put them in bottles (with a bit of charcoal at the bottom); tie the bottles behind a picture or a bracket, and let the sprays of fresh green ivy alone be seen. If you have a large fernery, that is a good place to start small cuttings. The German ivy (which, by the way, is not really an ivy at all) must have the sunshine, or it will not do well.

For hanging-baskets, even for the parlor window, deny yourself the handsome enamelled ones. No jar that is not porous is good for plants. The common red earthen crocks are the best of all. They can be obtained of very pretty form; and it will not be long before the drooping vines will hide entirely the objectionable material. Wire baskets, lined with moss, will do better for a conservatory than for a parlor; because, as they must be well soaked two or three times a week, they are almost perpetually dripping.

If you have your basket filled at a greenhouse, you will do well to let it remain there till the plants are established, and be very careful not to let it get chilled in removing it. The air of a furnace-heated room is barely endurable for plants in vigorous growth, and will most certainly prove fatal to cuttings or to anything newly transplanted. If, as I will suppose, you choose to stock your basket at home, in the first place put in a handful of broken pieces of crocks for drainage. Then put in a little prepared soil (which should be of one-third sand and two-thirds rich garden soil), and next arrange the plants. There should be some showy plant of upright habit for the centre; say a begonia, or a bright-flowering geranium. Around this dispose your creeping plants, of which there are such a variety and they are so well known that I hardly need mention any. The lobelia, nasturtium, lycopodiums, saxifrage, tradiscantia, oxalis, and even the common moneywort and periwinkle will do well in these baskets, if faithfully cared for. If the basket is to hang in a northern or eastern window, the lycopodiums, periwinkle, and moneywort will thrive better than most other plants, because requiring less sunlight.

Having filled your basket, put it in a moderately cool room, where the sun will not shine upon it, but where it will have plenty of light, for three or four

weeks: in which time such of your plants as do well will have begun to grow, and you will have been able to replace any which may have died.

The wire-stands which are now to be found at any house-furnishing store are a charming invention for the parlor garden. The old wooden ones, with shelves, were clumsy and ugly, and took up more space than could be spared in a medium-sized room. These wire-stands are light and graceful and every way desirable. In selecting plants to fill them unless you are supplied weekly with those in bloom from the green house, as is the practice now with those who can afford it, do not be too ambitious. A healthy geranium of the most ordinary kind looks better than a sickly camelia. Do not experiment with those which are catalogued as greenhouse plants. They will not dwell except in the moist air of a greenhouse and you will have spent your money and time in vain. Monthly tearoses, and fuchsias, sweetscented and flowering geraniums, carnation pinks, English violets and mignonette, and many others of which any gardener will tell you, will do well. If you place an ivy among them, it will add much to the beauty of your flower-stand by being trained so as to conceal the flower-jars.

The culture of bulbs, is now so generally understood that I hardly need give minute directions for it. Select single flowering hyacinths for blooming in water; keep them in the dark till the roots are an inch or two long, and then give them abundant sunlight, and keep the roots *clean* by changing the water as soon as it becomes foul. Never put in colder water than that which you pour out of the bulb-glass. The roots of plants are as much chilled by very cold water as a person's feet would be if it was poured upon them.—*Independent*.

FINISH YOUR WORK.

"Dissatisfied" would have expressed Sophie's state of mind as she laid down the seventh piece of work she had taken in hand that short November day.

"It is of no use, auntie; I have so much to do I can really do nothing. I get discouraged, and then I cannot half work. How I wish I could put all this tiresome sewing out!"

"I can tell you how to get your courage back," said placid Aunt Lydia, as she stitched away at the baby's dress. "Sit down and *finish* some one thing. Take the article nearest done and stick to it. You will gather new courage when you see a garment fairly finished and folded up, ready to be laid in the drawer for use when wanted. There is nothing like finishing work to encourage us to undertake a new