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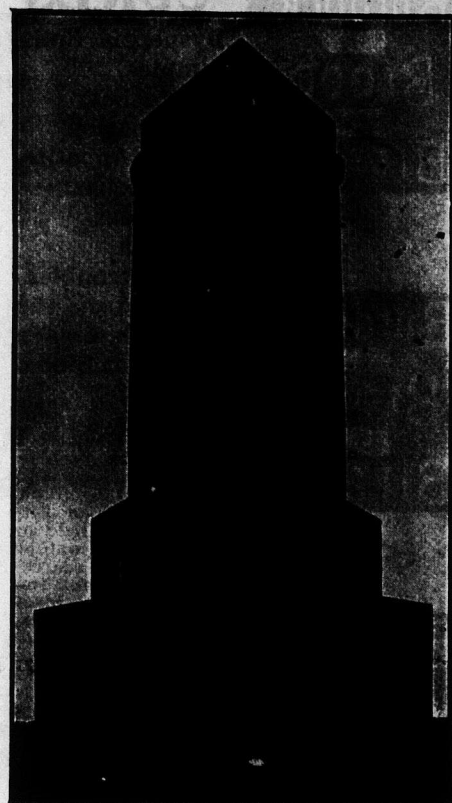
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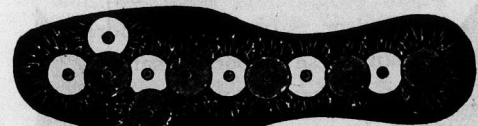
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Among the Flowers.

The Snowdrops.

"It's rather dark in the earth today"
Said a little bulb to his brother,
"But I thought I felt a warm sunray;
Let's strive and grow till we find a way
Out of this prison, with walls of clay."

And they nestled close to each other,
Then they upward pressed by day and night,
Till two little Snowdrops in green
and white

Slipped out of the darkness into the light—
And hastened to kiss one another.

Starting Cuttings.

The woman who takes pride in the symmetrical appearance of her plants will find it necessary to prune them more than once during the season. Here will be a branch where none is needed. There will be a branch that persists in outgrowing all other branches. The unnecessary branch should be removed, that all the vigor of the plant may be thrown into the branches that are to remain, and the too vigorous branch should be shortened to keep it in proportion with the rest of the plant. Both these branches can be made to take root, and form independent plants by inserting them in saucers of sand, which should be kept moist all through, all the time, and warm. Therefore, do not throw away any cutting. You can make use of the plant grown from it in next summer's garden, or, if you have no use for it, some friend will be glad to get it. I find it an easy matter to secure enough geranium plants each season, from cuttings obtained in training old plants, to fill the beds on the lawn, each summer. The same is true of heliotropes and salvias. I keep a vessel of sand in the greenhouse all the time to put cuttings into as fast as they are made. The person who has a love for flowers never likes to throw away anything that can be made into a plant. There are always poor children in the community who will be delighted with a plant in the spring. They will get a great deal of pleasure from it, and it will have an educative value as well, to say nothing of the refining, uplifting influence which a flower always exerts. Don't throw your cuttings away.

The Chinese Primrose.

I have found the Chinese primrose as satisfactory a plant for winter blooming as I have ever had in my window. It does not require a great deal of sunshine; in fact, it may be grown in a window where there is practically no sun. It is not a delicate plant to rear, and asks but little care—yet it blooms constantly and freely all through the winter months. The young plants, raised from the seed, may be procured in the fall from any florist, and they are the best for winter blooming. There are a variety of colors to choose from—white, carmine, pink, red and violet. The flowers are each about the size of a quarter of a dollar, and often bloom out in a great cluster, entirely enveloping the plant. The stalks to the flowers are just long enough to lift them well above the foliage, so that the plant is really a very beautiful one when in bloom.

There is one thing about which you must be very particular in potting your primrose. It must be set high in the pot, so that the water cannot possibly gather about the crown of the plant from which the leaves spring. Otherwise the plant will not thrive. In order to provide the best conditions for its growth, the pot must be well drained by supplying a thick layer of broken pottery, covered with dried moss and soil, at the bottom; and then the plant must be set with the crown so high as to be well above the soil, which should be made to slope away from it to the edge of the pot. The primrose likes a rather light, porous soil and but a moderate amount of water. You will find it necessary to support the plant in some way, as the weight of the flowers and leaves will otherwise bend it over and oftentimes break it. Sticks about the size of matches, but longer, may be inserted in the soil at the base of the plant, and serve as excellent supports, to which the stalks may be tied with bits of soft string. If these simple details are observed in potting, the primrose will thereafter require but very little care, and I am sure everyone cannot but be pleased with its success as a winter bloomer.

For the Cemetery Lot.

It is hard to advise as to what will best suit for planting on or about the graves of loved ones; cemeteries are usually on high ground, where the heat of summer and severe cold of winter have full play, and unless a caretaker is on the grounds all the time, only such plants as will stand the frosts of winter, and which will bear the inevitable neglect to which they must in most cases be subjected, should be chosen. There are a few such plants, but even these require some care in order to do their best. A few plants will bloom continuously, or give masses of green foliage as long as they can live; but they are very few. It is a good idea, during the rest season of the summer, to remove the stiff clay that is usually heaped on the top of the mound and for it substitute plenty of rich garden loam. Do not use fresh manure, as this tends to dry out the soil. Rich garden loam is best. After the soil is prepared, hardy perennial seeds may be sown, or, a little later in the season—the middle of September to the first of October—stock plants of the kind wanted should be set, well watered, and a mulch of chaff, short straw, or hay should be laid thickly on the soil to enable it to retain the moisture. Plants having delicate colors should be preferred. There are satisfactory annuals which "seed themselves" in the fall, low-growing and fragrant, which bloom profusely, even in drouth. Hardy, ever-blooming or monthly roses are fine, after getting established. Then, there are the hardy bulbs, which should be planted this fall, and the old, old myrtle that creeps so daintily over the ground, and the memorial roses, though shy bloomers, will form a matting of small, delicate foliage over the soil. The common tradescantia, Kenilworth ivy and moneywort are all hardy and form a close covering, while each of them have pretty, though inconspicuous, little flowers. If nothing better can be done, after attending to the soil, have it soded and then let love attest its strength in memory.

Kentia and Areca Palms.

A lady writes to ask us to tell her what the difference is between a Kentia and an Areca palm. She adds that the pictures of them in the catalogues look so much alike that she is greatly puzzled over them. Sometimes a cut labelled Areca in one catalogue is called a Kentia in another.

Some florists are not very particular about their illustrations, and, like my correspondent, I have often seen a picture of a Kentia doing duty as an Areca, and vice versa. Therefore, it is not to be wondered at that the amateur florist has no clear conception of the difference between these two varieties of the palm family. The leaf-stalks of the two are of about the same length, but that of the Kentia is stronger and darker green than that of the Areca. The pinnated portion of the latter is longer than that of the Kentia, but the Kentias have a coarser, wider pinnate. On this account the Areca is considered the more graceful in its habit. It is more delicate than the Kentia, therefore the latter are best adapted to house culture. They are of more robust habit, and have strength and dignity where the Areca has delicacy and grace.

"Made-up" plants are given this name because three or four seedlings are grown together, appearing to be one plant with as many crowns as there are plants in the group. Generally plants of different size are used, as this combination secures foliage from the pot up. A "made-up" plant will have several times as much foliage as a single plant. It costs more and is worth a good deal more, from the decorative standpoint.

Resourceful Nimrod.

They were spinning yarns of the great north woods and finally it came to the old major's turn. "Gentlemen," he began, "you have all told stories of close calls in the great forests of the North, but I think my yarn will eclipse them all. Would you believe that I was once treed by one of the most ferocious bull moose that ever walked the woods? Well, gentlemen, I was, and to make matters worse, my ammunition gave out. As I thought of the loved ones at home tears came in my eyes, rolled down in the palm of my hand and froze as hard as marbles. A happy thought flashed through my mind. Taking the frozen tears I rammed them in my gun, blazed away, killed the moose, and then gentlemen, and then—"

But just then the picture of Ananias fell off the wall.

Are you a sufferer with corns? If you are, get a bottle of Holloway's Corn Cure. It has never been known to fail.

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A WOMAN'S LIFE

WHEN

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AND NERVE PILLS

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