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## The Western Home Monthly

### Among the Flowers.

Waiting.

"Serene I fold my arms and wait,  
Nor care for wind, or tide, or sea;  
I rave no more 'gainst time or fate,  
For lo! my own shall come to me.

I stay my haste, I make delays,  
For what avails this eager pace?  
I stand amid the eternal ways,  
And what is mine shall know my face.

Asleep, awake, by night or day,  
The friends I seek are seeking me;  
No wind can drive my bark astray,  
Nor change the tide of destiny.

What matter if I stand alone?  
I wait with joy the coming years;  
My heart shall reap where it has sown,  
And garner up its fruit of tears.

The waters know their own, and draw  
The brook that springs in yonder  
height;  
So flows the good with equal law  
Unto the soul of pure delight.

The floweret nodding in the wind  
Is ready pledged to the bee;  
And, maiden, why that look unkind?  
For lo! they lover seeketh thee.

The stars come nightly to the sky;  
The tidal wave unto the sea;  
Nor time, nor space, nor deep, nor high,  
Can keep my own away from me."

#### WINTER HOUSE PLANTS.

To a lover of flowers, there is nothing  
more gratifying than the raising of  
plants by one's own efforts. And as  
knowledge is gained, those same efforts  
become a pleasure. Select varieties that  
are easily grown, and have only a few.  
Study each plant and if it does not  
thrive on one kind of treatment experi-  
ment until you find out the kind of  
soil, the amount of sun and water and  
the temperature, which that particular  
plant needs to make it healthy and  
vigorous.

#### Soil.

Plants which have large, strong roots  
will do better in a loam containing less  
sand, while those with thin hairy roots  
must have a fine light soil.  
To obtain good loam use rich earth  
from the garden or leaf mould from  
the woods. It may be necessary to heat  
it in the oven to kill all animal life.  
Mix this with sand until the earth is  
crumbly. Fill a small pot with the  
mixture and wet it thoroughly. If the  
water runs right through and leaves  
the soil mealy and wet, it is in the  
proper condition, but if muddy and  
smooth it needs a greater amount of  
sand. Mix more than you need and  
keep it in reserve for the time when  
the plants require shifting into larger  
pots.

#### Potting.

Always select pots in proportion to  
the size of the plant, as it is as weak-  
ening to the plant to have too much  
earth as to have too little; young plants  
can be started in pots three or four  
inches in diameter.

To examine the roots, place the first  
and second fingers on each side of the  
plant, turn the pot upside down, give  
it a quick rap, then lift off the pot. If  
the soil is covered with a fine network  
of roots, place in another perfectly  
clean pot one or two sizes larger. Do  
not disturb the root ball. Simply put  
fresh soil under and around it, shaking  
the new earth into place rather than  
pressing it down. Water well and pro-  
tect from the sun for a few days.

If plants are old and a larger pot  
would be out of proportion to the size  
of the plant—once or twice a year  
crumble away some of the old earth  
around the roots, taking great care not  
to bruise them, wash the pots out and  
replace with fresh soil.

When potting plants, it is most im-  
portant to provide drainage. The best  
material to use for drainage is an old  
pot or bricks broken into pieces the  
size of pebbles. Put about an inch of  
this into four or five inch pots, a little  
more in larger pots, over this put a thin  
layer of sod, then the soil prepared  
from loam and sand.

#### Watering Plants.

When watering, pour on enough to  
thoroughly saturate all the earth in the  
pot, or until a little runs out into the  
saucer. Then do not water again until  
the earth begins to look dry. Keep the  
earth at the top of the pot loose, so  
that air may circulate. This is espe-  
cially important with ferns and other  
plants which do not have sunlight, as  
the roots sometimes sour. Wash the  
leaves frequently with a soft sponge, as  
the leaves are the plant's lungs. Be-  
sides, they are so much more attractive  
if clean. Change the air of the room  
every day, taking care to open a window  
away from the flower window. Where  
the atmosphere is dry, keep a pan of  
water on the stove or near the flower  
stand. Spraying the plants with a  
regular florist's syringe is also helpful

to them. Moist air is not only  
beneficial to the plants, but will keep  
away various insects which multiply in  
a dry atmosphere.

#### Plant Parasites.

One of the most destructive insects  
is the red spider. He will be found on  
the under side of a leaf, a very minute  
speck, but capable of doing plants great  
harm. Directly the red spiders appear  
the leaves turn yellow and fall off.  
Water makes this little fellow take his  
departure. Wash the plants carefully  
and frequently and there will be no  
further trouble. A solution of fir tree  
oil is even more effective.

For the green apple aphids which ap-  
pear on the tender growing shoots, dip-  
ping the plants into a tea made of to-  
bacco stems or leaves is best. Florists  
fumigate their greenhouses, but this is  
objectionable in the house.

The only way to rout the white mealy  
bugs is to pick them off with a stiff  
bristle brush or pointed stick.

#### Temperature.

In arranging plants about the house,  
place them in rooms where they will  
have as even temperature as possible,  
in the kitchen, dining, or living rooms.

In the bedroom, where the windows  
would be open at night, plants might  
be frosted. Next assort them accord-  
ing to the sun they require. Rose, ger-  
aniums, carnations, heliotrope and  
nearly all flowers with rich coloring  
thrive best with southern or western  
exposures.

Fuchsias, begonias, marguerites and  
lilies will do well in windows facing  
east. Ferns and palms require no sun  
at all and add much to the attractive  
appearance of a room. Every now and  
then turn the plants around so that  
they will not grow one sided. If they  
grow straggling and send up only one  
tall stalk, cut the stalk back or pinch  
off the bud until the plant has ac-  
quired the desired bushy shape.

#### Bulbs.

October and November are the best  
months in which to plant bulbs. Dig up  
the ground for the bulb beds and mix  
through the soil a liberal amount of  
well rotted manure. Set the bulbs at  
least three inches deep; they should be  
set in regard to color and height of  
flowers, as a promiscuous setting of  
bulbs is a great mistake. Bedded tulips  
three years old should be reset. Sepa-  
rate the bulbs, and set them in a bed  
by themselves, arranging the colors to  
form a star or some other artistic de-  
sign. Narcissus make a lovely border  
for a hyacinth bed. They, with the  
daffodil and jonquil, thrive best in a  
partly shaded place.

The crocuses being so early should  
be planted by themselves. Placed in a  
trench as a border along walks they are  
very pretty, as their blossoms beckon a  
welcome to all who approach.

After the bulbs are planted, cover the  
soil with a mulch of dead leaves, and  
over these lay a few boards, raising  
them at one side, by placing a few  
stones under each board, to allow a cur-  
rent of air to pass through. Remove  
the covering when winter is past, not  
too early, as the flowers will be fuller  
and more beautiful when not touched  
by snow.

Pansies and lilies need good protec-  
tion through the winter and should  
be planted deeper than most bulbs. Give  
them a sunny exposure and do not  
hurry them in the spring. All covering  
should not be removed until the frosty  
nights are past.

#### Growing Violets.

A correspondent writes: I received an  
unrooted runner from a friend, by  
mail, that readily took roots and made  
a good growth; the next spring I trans-  
planted it into a box containing soil to  
the depth of eight inches. (This box  
had a slanting top with a glass frame  
for frosty nights in the fall.) I then  
set it on the north side of a building  
where it got the sunlight toward  
evening, watering freely, and in the fall  
it was filled with strong young plants  
of immense growth that produced some  
blossoms in October. Later the box of  
violets was placed in an east window in  
the cellar, where it had the sun part of  
the forenoon. In February buds began  
to appear and grow rapidly, and now at  
this writing, March 20, there are more  
buds and bloom than I have time to  
count. I water now with warm water  
only when the soil appears dry, and the  
box is a perfect mass of foliage and  
buds.—J. Treadwell.

#### To Those of Sedentary Occupation.

Men who follow the sedentary occupa-  
tions, which deprive them of fresh air  
and exercise, are more prone to dis-  
orders of the liver and kidneys than  
those who lead active, outdoor lives.  
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writes: "We have used Dr. Fowler's  
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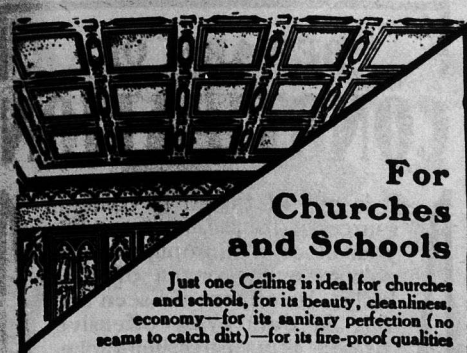
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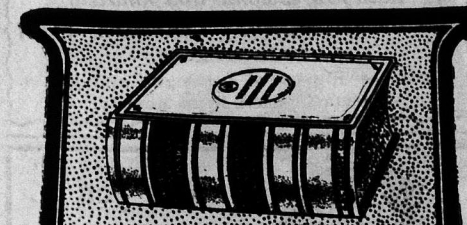
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