

✧ Our Affiliated Societies. ✧

GRIMSBY.—On Friday evening the 12th of May, the Society at Grimsby had their annual meeting for the distribution of plants to the members.

Mr. A. Cole the Grimsby florist, made a fine display of plants in bloom, besides a fine collection of urns and hanging baskets, full of ornamental plants. The Grimsby Band occupied the platform and gave a fine programme of instrumental music. There was a full house and great interest was taken in the roll call of members, as each came forward for his collection of plants.

A beautiful May wedding took place here, on the 11th inst., at the house of the Secretary of the Ontario Association. The house at Maplehurst was beautifully decorated for the occasion with evergreens, peach, crab apple, and double cherry blossoms, Japan quince, roses and carnations. The work was done by five young lady friends of the bride and their work was well worthy of notice in connection with our Grimsby Society. Miss M. F. Woolverton, now Mrs. Mode, will make her home in Yarmouth, N. S.

LINDSAY. TREATMENT OF HOUSE PLANTS. The council chamber presented a charming and æsthetic appearance on Thursday night, April 20th., when about 100 people ranged themselves in front of a long bank of blooms to hear Messrs. Maxsom and Beall discuss matters pertaining to the care of fruit and flowers. The magnificent specimens with which Mr. Maxsom illustrated his remarks were at once charming to see and helpful to a comprehension of the points discussed. Maxsom's remarks ran somewhat as follows :

MISTAKES ABOUT WILD PLANTS.

Unless one is a close discerner he is apt to get mistaken ideas about the way to treat plants from watching them in their wild condition. For example: ferns grow in swamps, and one can easily imagine he should keep his tame ferns in very wet soil but that is not the case. No ferns want much water. The wild plant grows in the swamp but on soil that is covered with water perhaps for a short time but not for long and is of such a nature that it dries out very quickly. Even calla lilies cannot be grown in water at home. They do live in water out-doors but it is run-

ning water and pure. When in-doors in stagnant water they die for the water becomes foul. These are only two examples of how one may be misled by wild plants unless he is a close observer.

THE PROPER SOIL FOR POTS.

Black muck alone is not a good thing to pot plants in. In the first place you cannot get it sweet and clean unless you expose it to the light and air for two years. Taken directly into the house it soon smells very foul. The leaf-mold found in the hardwood bush is one of the very best things for lightening up the soil for plants. In England they have men go about the parks and collect all the leaves. These are thrown in between stone wall or some such place and left for a couple of years when they can be sifted. Half a bushel of soil, one peck of manure and a peck of the mould make a splendid mixture to put plants in.

ABOUT FLOWER POTS.

Do not put a young plant into a large pot. It is better to have the roots come out to the edge than have so much soil that it sours and kills the plant. A three inch pot is large enough to begin with for most plants. Then move them into one an inch larger and so on an inch at a time.

HOW TO PUT PLANTS INTO THE POTS.

When you have the proper soil and the proper pot put a little dry grass into the bottom and then put in the plant and punch the soil down firmly around it with a wooden paddle. Do this thoroughly for if any cavities remain the water will all run into them and sour there while the rest of the soil will be parched. And if the soil is loosely put in it will be too open and the water will run through it and do the plant little good.

HOW TO GET THEM OUT.

Many people run a knife around between the soil and the pot when they want to take the plant out. There is great danger of cutting the delicate roots that way. If the plant has been properly potted it will slip out freely if turned upside down over the fingers. The pot may be gently tapped if necessary.

FLOWERS NEED LIGHT.

Mr. Maxsom spoke very pointedly about keeping plants in the dark. He said there was only one plant that will live in the dark. Its name was such that it is no wonder it had to stay in-doors. Many ladies were said to be so particular about the sun fading their carpets that they let the darkness fade the flowers instead. He had seen many languishing plants that needed only more light. Plants do not like to be put into prison.