

Our next illustration represents the Pouter, the Mawmet, and the Nun. The Pouter is a fine handsome bird, distinguished by the peculiar size and form of the crop, which the bird is able to distend at pleasure. They are difficult birds to rear, as, being very voracious, they are liable to over-feed themselves. When a Pouter is unable to distend his crop handsomely he is considered a defective bird. The Mawmet, or Mahomet is supposed to be the kind of bird that whispered in the ear of the bogus Arabian prophet. It is a beautiful bird, of a cream colour, having bars of black across its wings. The Nun is a fine bird, and much esteemed by fanciers. Its head is almost covered with a veil of feathers, from which circumstance it derives its name. "Its body is chiefly white; while its head, tail, and the six flight feathers of its wings should be entirely red, yellow or black. When its head is red, the tail and flight feathers should be red; and when the head is yellow or black the tail and flight feathers should correspond with it."

The Household.

FRENCH COFFEE AND ENGLISH TEA.—Mrs. Stowe describes these most appetizingly:

In the first place, then, the French coffee is coffee, and not chicory, or rye, or beans or peas. In the second place it is freshly roasted, whenever made—roasted with care and evenness in a little revolving cylinder, which makes part of the furniture of every kitchen, and which keeps in the aroma of the berry. It is never over-done, so as to destroy the coffee-flavor, which is in nine cases out of ten the fault of the coffee we meet with. Then it is ground and placed in a coffee pot with a filter, through which it percolates in clear drops, the coffee-pot standing on a heated stove to maintain the temperature. The nose of the coffee-pot is stopped up to prevent the escape of the aroma during this process. The extract thus obtained is a perfectly clear, dark fluid, known as *café noir*, or black coffee. It is black only because of its strength, being in fact almost the very essential oil of coffee. A tablespoonful of this in boiled milk would make what is ordinarily called a strong cup of coffee. The boiled milk is prepared with no less care. It must be fresh and new, not merely warmed or even brought to a boiling point, but slowly simmered until it attains a thick, creamy richness. The coffee mixed with this, and sweetened with that sparkling beet-root sugar which ornaments a French table, is the celebrated *café-au-lait*, the name of which has gone round the world.

As we look to France for the best coffee, so we must look to England for the perfection of tea. The teakettle is as much an English institution as aristocracy or the prayer-book; and when one wants to know exactly how tea should be made, one has only to ask how a fine old English housekeeper makes it. The first article of her faith is that the water must not merely be hot, not merely have boiled a few moments since, but be actually boiling at the moment it touches the tea. Hence, though servants in England are vastly better trained than with us, this delicate mystery is seldom left to their hands. Tea-making belongs to the drawing-room, and high born ladies preside at "the babbling and loud-hissing urn," and see that all the due rites and solemnities are properly performed—that the cups are hot, and that the infused tea waits the exact time before the libations commence.

SMOKE FOR THE CURE OF WOUNDS.—A correspondent of the *Albany Country Gentleman* recommends smoke as a curative agent for wounds in men and animals. He says:—"I cut my foot with an axe. The lady of the house, seizing the foot while it was yet bleeding freely, held it over a pan containing smoking tag locks. In a few minutes the bleeding stopped, the smoke was removed and a bandage applied to protect it from accidental blows. The wound never suppurated, and consequently never pained me. I have seen the remedy tried in many similar cases, and always with the same result. Let the reader bear in mind that no liniment or salve, drawing or healing, should be applied. You have merely to smoke the wound well and nature will do the rest. I suppose the smoke of burning wood would produce the same results, but it would not be so manageable. There is a principle in the smoke of wool, which when applied to the flesh, coagulates the albumen, thus rendering it unsusceptible of putrefaction. The same principle stops bleeding by coagulating the blood. It promotes healing, and may be applied with decided benefit to all ulcers, wounds and cutaneous diseases."



New Annuals.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—A few notes respecting some of the new annuals of this season and last, may not be uninteresting to some of your readers.

Reseda crystallina.—This new mignonette is more robust and spreading in habit than its older relations, and the flower spikes are more elongated and pointed, and without any of the red tinge existing in the old varieties. Unlike, and inferior to them in one respect, it possesses no odour, and therefore lacks the greatest charm possessed by the older varieties. It, however, stands the heat better, and works up very well into bouquets. The seeds are perfectly black, why it should be christened *crystallina*, I know not.

Helipterum Sandfordii is a new and pretty dwarf everlasting, growing about 9 inches high, and flowering in tufts of a bright yellow colour. It will be very useful for bouquets, during summer or winter, as from its neat habit it works in beautifully.

Rhodanthe atrosanguinea.—The finest of all this handsome family, of a deep crimson colour, and more robust in habit than any of its genus. Makes a fine contrast to the plant above mentioned, and like it, is also an everlasting.

Polycolymna Stuartii.—Another everlasting, neat in its habit, and with white flowers. Works up well with the two preceding ones. The seed is apt to germinate badly. All the everlastings should be sown in frames or hot beds, and afterward transplanted where they are to bloom. The flowers should be cut immediately, when fully expanded.

Portulacca splendens, fl. pl.—Double flowered Portulacca. The gorgeous appearance presented by a bed of this beautiful novelty, is almost beyond description. It is really a magnificent production, and I have no doubt when the seeds become cheaper will be generally planted. We have now four colours,—white, crimson, scarlet, and yellow, and as our seedlings come more into flower we hope to get other shades. The brighter and hotter the weather, the more bloom is produced. This must become a general favourite. It grows from two to three inches in height, and spreads considerably.

Chrysanthemum carinatum.—The purple and scarlet varieties of this showy flower are an acquisition. While being quite as showy as the Zinnia, they are more compact in habit, and, with very ornamental foliage, make a fine bed.

Chrysanthemum coronarium.—The double yellow, and double white varieties are very handsome, and worthy a place in every garden,—and look well in a mixed border or in beds.

Tagetes signata pumila.—The new dwarf Marigold, growing only 4 to 6 inches high, and with beautiful foliage. This makes a splendid bed or border, also a fine row for the ribbon system of planting.

During the present season, as the different varieties come into flower, I will add to the present list, if acceptable to your readers. The above descriptions are given from the plants at present in bloom in our grounds. W. T. GOLDSMITH.

St. Catharines, Aug. 2, 1865.

GRAPES FOR WESTERN OR NORTHERN ASPECT.—Dr. Schröder, of Bloomington, Ill., in an Essay on the Planting of Grape Vines, read before the Mo. Hort. Society says, after recommending Southern, South-eastern, South-western or Eastern aspects for vineyards:—"If on hills, and they are not too high or too steep, a Western, or even a Northern aspect might do. I have seen Concord and Hartford Prolifics grown on Northern aspects and they have done finely. The fruit was larger and richer than either of these varieties dare to be when grown in any of the Eastern States. Therefore, if you have to use a Western or Northern aspect I would advise you to choose these kinds. In such case I would advise you to run your rows North and South, while on all other aspects I should advise the rows to be planted East and West, especially if you use trellis."

New Evergreens.

THERE are a few evergreens that are either new or not well known, but yet are so very desirable that it may serve a useful purpose to name them here.

Among the Fir tribe, the Siberian Silver Fir (*Picea pichla*) is very hardy and very beautiful; it is truly an evergreen—a bright, shining, glossy evergreen; for many, as you know, have a rather fuscous tinge in winter time. Among Spruces the Menzies' Spruce (*Abies Menziesii*) is a magnificent 'hing; the silvery under-surface of the leaves is freely exhibited, through the habit of the shoots being somewhat erect; and in contrast with the green upper surface, presents an appearance that always interests the commonest beholder. The Douglas' Spruce (*Abies Douglassii*) is another admirable plant. In summer, when the growth is not fully mature, the plant at a little distance seems enveloped in a strange mistiness, which gives it a sort of fairy elegance none other has. Of the dwarfier trees *Cupressus Lawsoniana*, and *Thuja plicata borealis*, are admirable evergreens, and among those of still dwarfier growth, the *Thuja ericoides*, the best of the hardy dwarf evergreens ever introduced. —T. MECHAN, *Editor Gardener's Monthly*.

TOP DRESSING FOR STRAWBERRIES.—Supposing the land to be in good vegetable condition and deeply dug, I know no dressing which will so delight the strawberry, as a heavy coat of dark forest-mould. They are the children of the wilderness, force them as we will; and their little fibrous roots never forget their longing for the dark unctuous odour of mouldering forest leaves.—*Cor. Mass. Ploughman*.

THE TOMATO AS FOOD.—A good medical authority ascribes to the tomato the following very important medical qualities:—1st. That the tomato is one of the most powerful aperients of the liver and other organs; where calomel is indicated, it is one of the most effective and the least harmful medical agents known to the profession. 2nd. That a chemical extract will be obtained from it that will supersede the use of calomel in the cure of disease. 3rd. That he has successfully treated diarrhoea with this article alone. 4th. That when used as an article of diet, it is almost sovereign for dyspepsia and indigestion. 5th. That it should be constantly used for daily food. Either cooked or raw, or in the form of catsup, it is the most healthy article now in use.

GREAT PRODUCTION OF STRAWBERRIES.—Tobias Grubb, of this village, had a bed of strawberries this season so wonderfully productive that I think it is worthy of public notice. His bed is 29 feet square, and he set his plants on the 7th of May, 1864, 17 plants each way—making 289 plants in all. From these plants were picked, this summer, 292 quarts of berries, or nine bushels and four quarts—or more than a quart to each plant. Mr. Grubb is an aged gentleman and an invalid, and made this bed his special care. The plants were kept in hills, all the runners were pinched off as soon as they appeared, and the whole bed kept as clean as possible. The plants were of the Wilson variety. If anybody can beat this, I would like to hear of it.—B. G. DAVIS, Sargentown, Crawford Co., Pa., in *Rural New Yorker*.

DOUBLE GLAZED FRAMES FOR EXCLUDING COLD.

There are so many persons who desire to save their plants during winter, who have no means of applying heat in any way, that I think I may do them a service by bringing to their notice the plan I have found so very useful—viz., a double frame to keep out the extreme cold. This idea I obtained from seeing double windows employed in several London houses, in Piccadilly, and the west of London generally, to keep out the noise, and maintain the rooms at a more equable temperature. Knowing well, as I do, that a stratum of air between two glasses will keep out noise, heat, and cold, the adaptation of this principle to preserving plants in winter is not very surprising; and having in practice for two or three years proved its value, I now bring it before your readers in order to verify my discovery, or rather adaptation, of a fact well known. I have had my lights made with a very broad frame, so that two sashes can be made upon it—one under, one over—so that they both lift at the same time, when it is necessary to give air to the plants beneath. I have some of the usual—shall I say old-fashioned?—glasses, the snow has fallen upon them, and I find a very marked difference in the melting of the snow. The snow rapidly disappears from the single lights, but on my double sashes it remains. I will not go into the science of radiation, conduction, transmission of heat, &c., suffice it to say to a gardener, that with a double light the cold will not go down to half-buried pots or plants as through a single light.—*Septimus Piesse, Ph. D., in Journal of Horticulture*.