

THE HOUSEHOLD.

A CHEAP CONSERVATORY.

Useful hints for the construction of a cheap conservatory may be found in the following description sent by a lady to *Vick's Magazine*. She says:—

Last February I sent you several letters of enquiry, and informed you that my love for floral pursuits was on the increase, and that I contemplated making a conservatory of my balcony. The plan for the new structure was suggested by the July number of your magazine, and I was aided by a neighbor who kindly offered to assist me in the undertaking. By his assistance I was saved the cost of putting up the sash-frames, door, transom and carpenter work in general, and we spent several evenings very pleasantly together, and finished at last at a very moderate expense, as the following statement will show.

Sash, door and transom.....	\$14.00
Sash-strips for outside.....	50
80 feet lumber.....	2.40
4 lbs. putty.....	15-
Butts for transom.....	10
Screws.....	85
5 lbs. mixed paint.....	80
Painting inside.....	1.00
1 lb. nails.....	08
Boards for shelves.....	1.14
1 pair brackets, small.....	25
2 " " large.....	70
Strips for shelves.....	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22.17</b>

Less amount allowed from rent by landlord..... 12.00

Total net cost to the present time..... \$10.17

Just think of it, a conservatory for \$10.17! Who would do without one, if they could obtain it for so trifling an expense? I have no doubt that many of your readers possessed of small means, like myself, could obtain a conservatory nearly as cheap as the one I have. I forgot to state that most of the painting was done by myself at odd times. Of course, all landlords are not as liberal as they might be, but when a tenant tries to do justice to the property he inhabits, and instead of destroying it or let things take their course, tries to beautify his home, his actions will not go unnoticed. So, when I mentioned the subject to my landlord, it did not meet his approbation at first, but afterward he gave his consent by allowing me twelve dollars from the rent, the remainder, whatever the cost should be, I was to pay; so work was commenced at once.

In the rear of my sitting-room, on the second floor, is a balcony six feet wide, sixteen feet long and ten feet high, facing the east, which has the morning sun. A door and window open from the sitting-room. This room is heated by a register. The north and south ends of the balcony have a board partition, separating the property on either side; in the front is a railing two feet high and fourteen feet long, with a pillar in the centre to support the roof; a stairway leads to the yard below. The glass partition rests on the railing, which has been boarded up on the inside from the top of the railing to the floor. The sash consists of three frames, containing eighty-four panes of 8x10 glass with a door and transom of four panes each. The frames are matched together for strength, which does away with any extra braces that would take up room and obstruct the light. They are fastened in by screws, so that they can be taken out if occasion requires. I did not find it necessary to do so this summer, as I reduced the temperature ten degrees by throwing water over the place with a hose tipped with a fine rose. Spraying the plants and leaves has kept them clean and free from insects and dust.

I have arranged three shelves a foot wide, and fastened to the sides of them strips an inch and a half wide, and filled the shelves with river sand. The pots of plants are arranged on these shelves with moss packed between them, thus retaining the moisture in the pots. For propagating, I have six small boxes about a foot square and three inches deep, and have placed them in a position where the morning sun falls on them through the glass, and the air allowed to pass freely through them. The cuttings are kept always moist. I succeed better in this way than by placing the boxes in the shade, and do not lose so many cuttings.

My conservatory is not without a rockery, for at the northern end are some boxes of uniform size, filled with granite and feldspar, and sifted peat and well-prepared dirt. The boxes are free from the floor about an inch, which prevents decay. Among the rocks are grown *Tradescantia zebrina*, *T. vulgaris*, *T. aquatica*, *T. repens vittata*, *Saxifraga*

*sarmentosa*, *Panicum variegatum*, *Sedums*, *Liverworts*, *Feris* in variety, and *Lycopodium*. The conservatory is filled with a general collection of young plants, mostly greenhouse perennials, some scarce and rare, as well as those more common.

For climbers I have arranged a network of twine all round the sides and across the ceiling, and have a mass of beautiful foliage produced by *Cobœa scandens*, *Lophospermum*, *Cissus discolor*, *Maurandya*, *Passiflora variegata*, *Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*, *Hoya carnosa*, *Clerodendrum Balfour*, *Lygodium repens*, and English and German Ivy.

In creepers and low-growing vines there are *Torenia*, *Lycopodiums*, *Fittionias*, *Winter-greens*, *Goodyera repens*, *Achimenes*, &c. Foliage plants are represented by *Maranta zebrina*, *Begonia Rex*, *Begonia zebrina*, *Poinsettia*, *Ferns* in variety, *Agaves*, *Cacti*, *Crotons*, *Coccolobia*, *Hibiscus variegata*, and others, besides twelve distinct varieties of fancy *Caladiums*. The latter I started from bulbs potted in four and six-inch pots last February with bottom heat, and they have given me one continuous mass of foliage, one bulb having nearly twenty handsome leaves. These plants have been the admiration of all who have seen them, and a leading florist of our city complimented me for such marked results, as they were far ahead of any in his collection. I kept the pots packed in moss, and standing in water, which, with the good start given them from bottom heat, no doubt had much to do with the success I had in their culture. They were exhibited on Children's Day at one of our leading churches, and were much admired, and gained the owner many kind expressions, as well as numerous offers of plants and cuttings.

I have more than a dozen varieties of *Begonia*, and some half dozen kinds of *Abutilons*; also, *Ageratum*, *Heliotropes*, *Amaryllis*, *Crinum*, *Ornithogalum*, *Pomegranate*, *Echeveria*, *Hibiscus*, *Ardisia*, *Cuphea*, *Feverfew*, *Geraniums* in great variety, *Justicia*, *Plumbago*, some twenty varieties of *Roses*, &c.

From the ceiling are suspended baskets, shells and globes, filled with *Tradescantia*, *Oxalis Bowii*, *Othonna crassifolia*, *Tydea gigantea*, *Love and Tangle*, *Sedum variegata*, *Moneywort*, *Maurandya Barclayana*, and fastened on boards padded with moss I have the *Bryophillum* growing on the wall.

TWO KINDS OF APPRENTICES.

An old plumber writes from Montreal to that useful and excellent paper, the *Sanitary Engineer* of New York, upon the apprentices he has tried to train to his business. He mentions particularly two kinds. Not the two kinds delineated by Hogarth, in his immortal series of the Good and Bad Apprentice. In the plumbing business, he says, a very good boy may turn out a very bad apprentice.

"As an illustration," he says, "take two apprentices who were under my training. One was a quiet, studious, good boy, fond of reading, of a nice appearance and attractive manner, well read, could talk correctly about the business, yet he was a poor workman.

"After his time was out he tried his hand in this city in other shops, also travelled, but he never could keep a job, and he finally had the sense to see he was not a success, and has gone into another business and is doing well at it.

"Number two was the terror of the shop, always in mischief, full of pranks, continually being complained of by the men, and, in fact, I thought I should have to discharge him, but as a last resort I gave him a kit of tools and sent him out on his own account, and he was a success from the word 'go.'

"He is not a reader but he has the knack of seeing into or through any little problem that comes up, or the cheek to ask for what he 'don't know, and is a good, reliable workman to-day, earning good wages, and I should be very sorry to lose him, and so it has been in dozens of cases that have come under my observation."

The true moral is: Find out what you are fit for, and stick to that. But we observe from some recent articles in our educational exchanges that there are among us those who explain such facts very differently. They say that apprentice number one was the victim of going to school, and apprentice number two was lucky in being ignorant.

Every business man who has had to do with numbers of boys and young men on their entrance into industrial life knows very well

that the quality that makes success is neither given nor taken away by schools.

Apprentice number two had *gumption*. He was a good piece of stuff originally. He had *go* in him. He had a brain of good consistency, quick to see, to comprehend, to adapt means to ends. A school of the right kind would have improved him, as a grindstone improves a good tool by making it sharp; as a skilful temperer improves Swedish iron into watch-spring steel.

The teacher, we firmly believe, is, in republics, next to religion, the most important, the most indispensable, of all public servants. But he is not a creator. He must have the material to work upon.

Suppose apprentice number one had not gone to school, had not become studious, polite, agreeable, and fluent. He would have been, in that case, a worthless and uncomfortable lout. As improved by the schoolmaster's cunning hand, he can fulfil with credit many useful offices.

We cannot all be presidents and plumbers. There is room in the world for the magnificent hotel clerk; for the artists who "dress" shop-windows; for the oleaginous hair-cutter and the majestic policeman.

Apprentice number one, let us hope, through the schoolmaster's aid, is serving his country well in one of these useful employments.—*Youth's Companion*.

ENTERTAINING COMPANY.—I pray you, oh excellent wife, not to cumber yourself and me to get a rich dinner for this man or this woman, who has alighted at our gate, nor a bed chamber made ready at too great a cost. These things, if they are curious in, they can get for a dollar at the village. But let this stranger see if he will, in your looks, in your accent and behavior, your heart and earnestness, your thought and will, what he cannot buy at any price, at any village or city, and which he may well travel fifty miles, and dine sparingly, and sleep hard, in order to behold. Certainly let the board bespread and the bed be dressed for the traveller, but let not the emphasis of hospitality be in these things. Honor to the house where they are simple to the verge of hardship, so that the intellect is awake and sees the laws of the universe, the soul worships truth and love, and honor and courtesy flow into all deeds.—*R. W. Emerson*.

MERINGUE RICE PUDDING.—Put two cups and a half of new milk to heat in a double boiler. Beat the yolks of two eggs with a good half-cupful of sugar; then add a tablespoonful of cornstarch, dissolved in half a cup of cold milk, and stir in the hot milk gradually. Return this mixture to the double boiler, with a cup of fresh boiled rice. Cook and stir constantly until it thickens, then flavor with vanilla and put it into a pudding-dish and into the oven until lightly colored, but be sure not to cook it long enough to curdle the custard. Beat the whites of two eggs stiff; add two tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar, and flavor with lemon; then beat again until it will not run. Spread the frosting over the top of the pudding, and place on the grating of the oven until delicately colored. It may be served warm, but is better cold.

VINEGAR, CHEAP AND GOOD.—Do not throw away your apple-peelings. They can be turned to good account in making vinegar. Have a clean, tight half barrel, or a large stone jar, and as you peel your apples for mince-meat or apple butter, throw aside any skins or cores which are decayed, and put the rest into the jar. Cover them with boiling water, and lay a cloth over the top of them as well as the cover. Set in a warm place in the cellar, and in seven or eight weeks you will find it turned into good vinegar. You can then strain it off into bowls or jugs ready for use.

BEANS WITHOUT PORK.—Soak the beans over night. In the morning put them on to boil in cold water, having first strained them. When boiled tender, skim them out into your baking dish; stir in butter the size of an egg, a little salt and a tablespoonful of molasses. Then turn a cupful of rich milk over them, or enough to cover them. Cooked in this way the top beans will be nicely browned, and at the same time be soft. This is a good recipe, and beans cooked in this way are excellent.

GREENERY FOR THE WINTER.—Mrs. Henderson, in her "Practical Cooking and Dinner-Giving," gives these directions for a simple and beautiful centre-piece for the dinner table. It would be worth trying.

"Sew coarse flannel around a goblet with the stem broken off; put this shapely dome into a saucer of water; wet the flannel and sprinkle over it as much flax seed as will adhere to it. The flannel will absorb the water from the saucer, which should be often replenished. In about two weeks the flannel will be concealed in a beautiful verdure."

PUZZLES.

PI.

Kepas lulf lewlni ganlugea antiug dan donle, Eon how wedltelh yb het tasdlec neRih, Hwne eh eladd eth lerfow, os uleb nad ogeInd,

Sastr, taht ni rathe's nirametfm od hisen.

PECULIAR ENIGMAS.

I.

1. In night, in light, in sight,
2. In sleighing, but never in snow.
3. In mound, in found, in sound,
4. In winter, but never in blow.
5. In sing, in ring, in ding,
6. In water, but never in flow.
7. In beat, in heat, in seat,
8. In linen, but never in tow.
9. In mind, in kind, in find,
10. In woman, but never in beau.
11. In this one word we find it—fish, My whole is a famous novelist.

II.

1. In hum, in gum, in rum,
2. In river, but never in row.
3. In lad, in sad, in mad,
4. In David, but never in Joe.
5. In hill, in rill, in mill,
6. In feeling, but never in know.
7. In broom, in broom, in room,
8. In Bryant, but never in Poe.
9. In far, in car, in mar,
10. In silence, but never in show.
11. In this one word we find it—shove, My whole a work by the above.

WHAT AM I?

My whole's a part of priestly dress; My head cut off, a bird; Put on my head, cut off my tail, And find another word; A quadruped, whole call you have When you transpose a bird.

SYLLABLE PUZZLE.

1. A tribe and a vessel.
2. A little one and a head-covering.
3. A vehicle and a people.
4. A vegetable and a fowl.
5. A soft sound and an insect.
6. Part of a republic and part of a house.
7. An ornament for the head and a vegetable.
8. An animal and a heavenly body.
9. A conjunction and a metal.
10. A sack and a tube.

GARDEN PUZZLE.

I have laid out my garden this spring to suit myself. I would have just what I pleased and as I pleased. The result is as follows: To the right of the garden-walk I have a bed containing: 1, the name of an opera and consumed; 2, what all children are fond of and a small bunch; 3, kitchen utensils and a letter; 4, herds of sheep; 5, a pronoun, a falsehood, an exclamation, and a figure of speech; and in the centre, 6, name of a blonde. To the left I have another bed containing: 7, an animal and a part of the dress; 8, a solitary man and a kind of dress trimming; 9, a swift animal and a summons to church; and 10, a fragrant name. My walk was bordered on one side by 11, a blow, and on the other by a 12, place overgrown with shrubs. Over my porch I trained 13, a state and an insect; while in the rear I have indulged in my favorites—14, the origin of light and an ornament, and, 15, an evergreen and a kind of drink.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES OF AUGUST 15.

A Logograph.—Lament—Ament—Amen—Men—Me.

Rebus.—P-on-y—Pony.

Third Letter Changes.—Hose, Hope, Home, Hove, Hole.

Double Enigma.—Grosbeak—Bobolink.

Word Square.—

A G R E E  
G R I L L  
R I G I D  
E L I T E  
E L D E R

Decapitations.—1. Swan, wan. 2. Weasel, easel. 3. Fox, ox. 4. Swine, wine. 5. Goats, oats. 6. Lice, ice.