

ed a little nursery, out of which I got more enjoyment to the square inch than from any other spot on the place. Here I raised rows upon rows of thrifty perennial plantlets, delphineums, shasta daisies, perennial chrysanthemums, Canterbury bells, gypsophila (baby's breath), foxgloves, and many others, which, as

they became large enough, I transplanted to the perennial bed, so that now, after three years, I have my border filled to overflowing, and could do away entirely with the annuals, although I still reserve a strip in front of the bed for the gorgeous, annual display of poppies, succeeded by an equally beautiful

display of asters, and I still outline the border with the staunch alyssum. The result every season is a bed which is the object of interest and admiration to every passerby, as well as the unfailing source of supply for cut flowers throughout the summer, and so a joy also even to my most distant friends.

Orchids: the Goddesses of the Flower Families

F. E. Buck, C.E.F., Ottawa, Ont.

AL.D. J. A. ELLIS, M.L.A., of Ottawa, is one of the very few men in Canada who has grown orchids successfully. As an amateur who has grown them for many years he speaks appreciatively of the rewards they have given him.

On the occasion a short time ago of a visit to his home to see his plants, I asked him if he did not experience a good deal of pleasure in being able to grow the flowers of a millionaire on the income of an ordinary man. To this he replied that the flowers which could be grown with the very minimum of care and with a maximum of results, were orchids. He added, of course, that this is provided one does not attempt the high temperature section, or some of the expensive varieties which are often less beautiful than those of reasonable price.

"As a matter of fact," said Mr. Ellis, "I haven't spent a cent on orchids for the past five years. Some of the plants I have to-day are those I began with many years ago. Of course they have increased, as most orchids do, until to-day the increase of some has been perhaps fifty-fold."

Mr. Ellis took me into several rooms of the house where orchids were used for table decorations, and similar purposes, instead of palms or ferns. He remarked about one fine flowering plant that "it had been brought out of the greenhouse when it started to bloom three weeks ago, and was good for another month, when another one from the greenhouse would take its place." Varieties which flower in winter are his choice, because, as he says, "in the summer there are plenty of flowers in the garden which can be used as cut flowers in the house."

WHY ORCHIDS

Orchids are seldom grown. Most people think that they cannot be grown by the amateur, or that they are the flowers of the millionaire. Such opinions in some cases are well founded, although only in some cases. The experience of Mr. Ellis and others who have grown them, refute such an idea. Actually there is a strong case in favor of the orchid as a plant for home use, and especially for the winter season. The case is supported by the following facts:

First: Orchids require a minimum of care and attention.

Second: The expense of growing orchids is not prohibitive, and after one has started, less than that of other plants.

Third: As suitable house plants, wonderful in their beauty of coloring and charm of form, they are unsurpassed.

WHY EXPENSIVE

The varieties which the amateur should attempt to grow are not expensive, but rare varieties fetch sums which only a millionaire could dream of giving for them. Such varieties are bought on the same basis as curios are bought, to add to priceless collections. Some few years ago I was visiting a commercial establishment which has a fine collection of orchids, and in discussing prices with the manager I was told this: That a short time before his firm made a purchase of several hundred bulbs, paying, I think, on the average about a dollar apiece for them. In this collection were one or two rare plants. About the time they were in bloom another orchid specialist visited this collection and asked to be given a price on two of the rare plants. One

was quoted to him at seventy-five dollars, and the other, a very beautiful plant, at one hundred and fifty dollars. He bought them at these prices and a few months later the one hundred and fifty dollar plant was shown by him at a world-famed exhibition where it took the first prize, and was then sold to some admiring rich man for five hundred dollars. An incident like this explains high prices, but the amateur is not to be frightened by such incidents, and they should not keep him from trying his hand at a most interesting, even if sometimes a rich man's hobby.

There are three essentials to success in growing orchids. Should you be able to supply these essentials try a few orchids.

First: The greenhouse, or that part of it set aside for the orchids, must always be heated to a temperature ranging from 55 degrees F. to 70 degrees F. It would prove fatal to the plants if it fell below 45 degrees F. We shall see why, later.

Second: Proper ventilation must be provided. But it must be provided so



The Vine, *Clematis Paniculata*, Growing on the Residence of Mr. Herman Simmers, Toronto, Ont.

This is an easy growing, hardy, free flowering, fragrant climber. The vine on the verandah is a *Clematis Virginiana*, a rapid growing, very hardy, native variety of *Clematis*. It is not as nice a vine nor has it as fine foliage as the *Paniculata*.