

month of May and give it, together with a small amount of money to spend on seeds, to a child who has had a garden of its own and learnt to love flowers. Do not give any help in the choosing unless especially asked to do so, and limit the choice to about three or four packets. For a child to get the most pleasure out of a garden it should not have too much assistance, either in plants or work. The soil should be well dug up to begin with, all else should be done by the juvenile proprietor, and for the garden to be of the most use, it should not be made too easy to get plants, so that each one may be cherished and new ones grown from seeds or cuttings. I know from my own experience when a child, what a source of delight my garden was. On coming home from boarding-school to spend the holidays, the first thing to be looked at was my garden. The associations with flowers are all good and enlightening, and a love for them should be most carefully engendered and cherished in those unhappy children where it does not exist naturally. Such however, are exceedingly rare. The greatest encouragement to a child who has a garden of its own, is for the elders to take an interest in it, never decline to go and look at it whenever asked to do so, and above all things do not interfere in the arrangement and management except to prevent disastrous mistakes; small mistakes will do good, by teaching their own lessons. Now, what these gardens are to children, public gardens are to the masses, furnishing them with, at the same time, innocent and beneficial and also engrossing and satisfying occupation.

All public gardens should be scientific to the extent of having everything properly named and plainly labelled. The first demand when anything creates interest is to know its name, and it is a great disappointment when this cannot be obtained. As a matter of history it is interesting to learn that the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew, now the most extensive scientific garden in the world, was far from being scientific at the time it was taken over, and the committee appointed to investigate the matter, when referring to the fact that few plants were properly labelled, expressed the following opinion of a garden in that state: "It is not easy to discover what advantage except that of a pleasant walk has been derived, by the public, from the privilege of visiting the garden."

The value of plants as food and medicine is a legitimate field of