



Freesias Grown in the Window  
Photograph by Prof. F. T. Shutt

while had he had patience they would soon have rewarded him with an abundance of bloom.

Freesias should be started in August if the bulbs can be obtained, and even if kept growing steadily no flowers need

be expected before the last week of December, unless with Bermuda-grown bulbs, which can be purchased early in July. With them flowers should be produced a little earlier. As the bulbs are very cheap, about \$1.00 per 100 retail, they may be used freely, and there will be a greater mass of flowers if planted fairly close. Freesias are very effective when grown in boxes, as is well shown in the illustration. They should be placed in the window so that the plants will get an abundance of light, for it takes a considerable time for them to come into bloom, and the plants will be very spindley and the flowers small unless they get plenty of light and sunshine.

The bulbs should be planted from one to two inches apart to get the most effective display of flowers. From a pot of six bulbs 124 flowers were produced. As the plants grow tall before blooming, they should be supported by a wire. They are very easily grown, but as they make a great deal of growth before the flower-buds show, one must have patience, but the reward is well worth waiting for.

## Our Native Ferns

Dr. Douglas G. Storms, Hamilton, Ont.

THERE is no branch of plant culture so fascinating as the collecting, arranging and growing of ferns in the garden. About 10 years ago I started to make a collection with the object, at first, of being in the woods and close to nature with my two little boys, but gradually the quest assumed new interests, until I was absorbed by it, and now I have a collection of 40 to 48 varieties all growing in the garden as well as they did at home in their own haunts. With about six exceptions all these varieties have been collected in the district surrounding Hamilton. Last fall I had a collection of 33 varieties at the Horticultural Exhibition held in Hamilton. Although the exhibit was interesting, it would have been much more so had the show been in July rather than in September.

When I began making the collection I was told by some men of wide experience, that ferns would not grow in such an exposed situation as mine was, but time has proved that they were wrong. The bed of *Adiantum pedatum* shown in the photograph, is nine years old, and is better than can be found in the woods anywhere to-day.

Several important points regarding the handling of these plants have been learned since the first specimens were put in the garden. Great care must be taken in gathering them. Less danger of loss will result if they are transplanted when in a quiescent state, but

with my limited time I have been obliged to take them at whatever season they were found, and I have rarely lost any specimens. Plenty of earth should be taken up with the plants, especially if they are removed out of season. A moderately good soil in as

shady a place as possible is the most suitable for their development. After being planted they should be left alone. If ferns are coddled they die.

Conditions, as nearly as possible the same as existed where the ferns were found, should be maintained at all sea-



Seventeen Varieties of Ferns in Dr. Storms' Garden