

catalogue, I shall describe as I know them a few of the varieties named, with this exception that I hope to give some much more satisfying information, gained from experience.

The Wild Grape vines are so well known that we can pass them by with but little discussion, together with the various Ivies (the true Ivies), and the old-fashioned Virginian creepers. They might almost be called "The Poor Man's Vines," so easy of culture are they, and so cheaply purchased. These facts, however, do not by any means make them the less desirable, because they are absolutely necessary in the ordinary scheme of things. They fill a place that no other vines can fill. For such purposes as covering large areas in a short time, places that require permanent vines, such as line fences, back sheds, or ordinary outbuildings of all descriptions, or for forming the groundwork of coverings for arbors, summer houses or porches, nothing can take their place. A summer house covered with the ordinary Wild Grape in early summer, when the vine is in blossom, is one of the most delightful places the most exacting person can demand; the blossoms are very faintly fragrant, and are a great attraction for the bees, which come in swarms from everywhere, and, as they work away among the vines, to sit beneath the shade and hear the deep humming and buzzing, to watch the tiny dainty green stars that fall softly over everything, and to hear the gentle rustle of the breeze is really very pleasant. While the Wild Grape is often a prey to most bothersome insects, a careful spraying night and morning with the ordinary hose, especially in the early weeks of summer, and an occasional dose of some medicated spray, will entirely prevent these pests from breeding, beside affording drink to the vines.

With the first touch of frost the grape vines lose their beauty, but anything more gorgeous than the burning blood tints of the Virginian Creeper I have yet to see. Unfortunately the leaves remain but a few days on the vines after they have grown so beautiful. It is not ordinarily known that the Boston Ivy and the Virginian Creeper belong to the same family, but such is the case; it too takes on beautiful tints in autumn.

Since we have mentioned the Ivies, let us finish with them. Few words need be said

concerning them. Their utility is well known. There are so many members of the family, from the ancient ivies storied in history and song, to the small hanging-basket varieties, that a volume might very well be written on them. Here, suffice it to say, that their equal does not exist, for covering walls, rocks, and ruins of every description. When they have attained a very great age, flowers and berries are borne although the Boston Ivy and Virginian Creeper do bear berries when they are a few years old. These last two are not true ivies, but belong to the *Amelopsis*, a family that belongs peculiarly to this country.

The history of the *Wistaria* is lost in the mists of Time; China claims the vine, likewise Japan; United States also lays claim to this grand climber, and it is from a former Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, living at the end of the nineteenth century, one Caspar Wistar, that the name is derived, so that the name at any rate is American. Of the three varieties the Japanese *Wistaria* is undoubtedly the most desirable, it being of more luxuriant habit. The bloom rivals description, the long racemes of pendulous, pea-shaped flowers, from thirty to quite fifty in number, the whole cluster usually reaching anywhere from eighteen inches to three feet in length and appearing early in the season, before the leaves have opened out.

There are the three kinds, a rich creamy white, a very dark double purple, and a delicate light lavender flower, and which is the most beautiful would puzzle any one to decide. The heavy pungent perfume is appreciable for a long distance. The leaves are pinnate, very green and the vine itself is entirely free from pests of any description. It is best trained with a single central stem which should be kept free from branches for a distance of quite eight feet, and then spreading branches should be encouraged from this distance upwards.

After the vine has become thoroughly well established, which should be in at least three years, conditions being favorable, all ragged growth should be discouraged, and rather severe pruning indulged in, which will force the vine to bear profusely. By removing all auxiliary shoots and forcing the vigor into one main chan-