

hard winters with safety and greets us in the spring with a profusion of bright blossoms.

Pansy seed may be sown in different ways—in a hot bed or in open ground. If sown in the spring, get it in as soon as possible, so as to secure flowers during the early spring rains. Seeds sown in a cool place in May or June will produce flat flowering plants.

To have good plants, rapid and vigorous and beautiful flowers, the soil must be taken into consideration. Good rich yellow loam well watered is adapted to plant or flower culture. Young plants produce the largest and most wholesome in appearance. The old, worn-out plants should be replaced. If the plants come into bloom at mid-summer, the flowers will be small at first, but will increase in size and beauty as the weather becomes cooler. To have flowering a pansy bed at mid-summer locate it some place in the shade on your lawn or flower garden, keep a good supply of water, which will be taken off to water it with. A bed located in any situation will give rich, beautiful flowers in spring or autumn.—P. E. Buchner, Norfolk Co., Ont.

#### An Ideal House Plant

In our part of the community at least, the Hibiscus is very rare, yet there are very few plants so generally satisfactory as it is. It is beautiful, even without blossoms, for its leaves are a dark shining green, and are not dropped off at the bottom as it grows at the top, as so many plants do. And the blossoms are gorgeous and very freely borne, beginning when but a little slip of a plant and growing more numerous as it increases in size.

It does not require a large dish in proportion to its size, but it will grow as tall as one's head, and mine have always developed into shapely specimens without pruning, a fact which is decidedly in their favor, as many plants require more cutting back than they are apt to receive at the hands of an amateur. They form fine plants for the many people who only keep a few in number, and want these to be extra good specimens, especially if they can give it plenty of room to develop naturally.

Last year at our horticultural fair, the first prize for flowering plants not otherwise classed, was awarded an Abutilon, well grown, and pretty of color, but not a good patch on my Hibiscus at home, but I had not thought of showing it, simply because it was not mentioned in the list.

They do not seem to care much for liquid fertilizer, though perhaps they grow a little more rampantly if it is used, but common, good garden soil, and attention to its needs as regards watering, will fill the bill of its requirements. It has no far as I know, but one insect enemy, and that is the ever present aphid, but I keep this in check by rubbing up fine some leaf tobacco and covering the top of the soil with it.

The aphid show their sense by vacating the premises as soon as the water soaks the smell out. I have many plants in my collection, but none are more generally satisfactory with so little care as it is.

There is a kind with variegated leaves. This I have never tried, but mean to do so in the near future, for if the colored leaves have the same substance and gloss of the green ones, they must be beautiful indeed. I by no means advocate the discarding of the old stand-bys like geraniums and begonias, but why not invest a few cents once a year at least in a plant of a new family—to us? The result is interesting at least, and often most satisfactory.—Florence Holmes, Sutton, Que.

## The FAT of THE LAND

Recently published at \$1.50, now to be given away free. Read on.

#### WHAT THEY SAY.

MR. C. C. JAMES, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Ontario, says:

I procured a copy of "The Fat of the Land" last May and have only recently read it. Meanwhile I have been lending it to others to read, and the opinion of all has been that it is a very readable, suggestive and helpful book. It is the story of a man of means broken down in health through strenuous city practice who sought the country for health and enjoyment. The book is well written and keeps up the interest to the end. The question will at once arise: "Is there anything in it for the ordinary farmer who has to start life with small capital?" There certainly is. Some of the most important principles of the present day agricultural practice are worked out in a most interesting form. I would like to see our hard working, close thinking, undernourished Ontario farmer sit down to read this book. He will enjoy it. He will be able to compare experiences with his own, and he will be able to get much out of it for his own work. I have no fear of the Ontario farmer being misled by any of the methods proposed. He is shrewd enough to take such advice as is applicable to his own conditions. It is a stimulating book and one need not believe it all, or accept all the statements to be benefited by it. I believe it will do good to the struggling farmer as well as to the rich city man who longs to change his stuffy life office for the free air of the country.

DR. JAS. W. ROBERTSON, late Commissioner of Agriculture, Ottawa, says:

I read "The Fat of the Land" with keen interest. It is a book which reads in a very pleasant way many possible, if not actual, achievements by the application of intelligence and good business management to farming problems and affairs. I count it wholesome reading.

MR. F. W. HODSON, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner, Ottawa, says:

I received a copy of "The Fat of the Land," and have read it very carefully. It makes a good deal of useful information and should be read by every farmer in Canada.

The publishers of THE FARMING WORLD have arranged for a new edition of this book bound in paper, and in every respect as complete as the \$1.50 edition.

This new edition is not for sale, being reserved for use as a FARM-SCHOOL premium.

A copy will be sent, post free, to anyone who sends us \$1.20 for two new subscriptions for one year, or \$1.00 for one new subscription for two years, and who asks for "The Fat of the Land" as a premium.

The book will not be ready for some weeks, but send in the subscriptions now, and we will send it as soon as it is ready. Fill up and cut off the coupon on page 247.

Ask for "The Fat of the Land," as it will only be sent to those who read this special offer.

#### Potato Yields in England

Correspondents announce some remarkable potato yields as the result of their fall digging, despite the rather unfavorable season.

One farmer says he raised, without the aid of a fertilizer, from one small Grange Defiance potato weighing a quarter of an ounce, 36 pounds. Another claims to have realized 361 pounds from a half-ounce Eldorado. In another case 7 pounds of Eldorados are alleged to have produced 3,019 pounds.

According to still another farmer a ton to each pound of seed was the rate of yield of a crop of Eldorados. The same farmer says that 190 plants of Duchess of Cornwall potatoes produced 840 pounds. From 2 pounds of Eldorados, in another instance, were realized 2,491 pounds, after a struggle against caterpillars and aphids. The yield per root averaged about 8 pounds. The farms reporting these remarkable yields are in the adjoining county of Lincoln, and the name of the farmer is given in each case.—Frank W. Mahin, Nottingham, England.

#### Pruning Tomatoes

An experiment with a certain method of pruning tomatoes was tried last year with gratifying results. When the plants in the hot-beds had six strong leaves developed, which was on May 23rd, the tops were nipped off and the plants given more room, being placed  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches apart in the frame. The object of pinching off the top of the plant was to cause new shoots to develop at the axils of the leaves in order to have six branches bearing early tomatoes instead of the one cluster usually found on the top of the plant. These were planted out on June 6th, alongside other plants unpruned. On June 22nd half of the pruned plants were again pruned, all laterals being taken out and the six main branches only being left, the other plants were left to grow at will, and it was found that they produced the most ripe fruit, though not the largest early crop. This system of pruning is very promising. The further advanced the axillary shoots are when the plants are set out the larger the early crop is likely to be. In the experiment last year the plants were not started nearly early enough to get the best results. While the first fruit was ripe on the unpruned, Sparks' Earliana, on July 29th, there was very little ripe on that date.

Two varieties were under test, the Sparks' Earliana—one of the best, if not the best—an early variety, and the Matchless, a main crop sort. We would advise all market gardeners to give this system a trial this year.—W. T. Macoun, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

#### Crop Rotation

Mr. W. C. Shearer, addressing an Institute meeting in Eastern Ontario recently, spoke as follows, in reference to crop rotation: "I would recommend a four years' rotation as follows: First year, hay or clover; second year, a mixture of oats, barley and flax, for hog feed; third year, corn, roots or some other hoed crop; fourth year, barley or oats. Too many farmers make the mistake of taking off two or three crops of hay. This is not good, because, as the soil is robbed of too much fertility. The second year, when the mixed crop is grown, the field should be given a shallow plowing with a gang plow, and harrowed in August. The object of this is to get all the weed seeds in the soil to germinate. About the end of September, the field should be plowed down. Do not plow too deep, five or six inches is sufficient.