

and equally eligible for planting on a grave. First, the variegated Day Lily, *Funkia albo marginata*, which, like the *Kerria*, prefers not to be exposed to the hottest sun, and is unexcelled by any plant in the lovely markings and the graceful Acanthus-like display of the leaves; and, second, the Star of Bethlehem, *Ornithogallum umbellatum*, also lily-like, and common in gardens, with profusion of pure white star-shaped flowers, boldly held up to sun or wind from eleven o'clock till three. It fears nothing, grows anywhere, and is always neat and tidy the summer through. — From "Hardy Foliage Plants," in VICK'S MAGAZINE for June.

STRAWBERRIES.

Some very good practical notes on Strawberries are afforded by correspondents of the *Canadian Horticulturist*, in the May number. In regard to hardiness of flower buds, the following, by W. W. HILBORN, of Arkona, Ontario, is appropriate: "I made a thorough examination of the blossoms and buds last spring after the frost of May 29th (1884) when we had four degrees of frost. On referring to notes taken at that time, I find that Jersey Queen had not yet opened any bloom, but more than one-half the buds were killed. Primo and Mrs. Garfield were just beginning to open with a very large percentage of the unopened buds killed, while Daniel Boone, James Vick and Manchester, growing by the side of them were uninjured. Crescent Seedling and Captain Jack are also safe ones to plant."

A great deal was written, last year, for and against a theory that pistillate varieties of Strawberries fertilized by staminate of different kinds bear fruit varying in form to correspond with the forms of the varieties by which they have been fertilized. As very much more on this subject will probably find its way into the press the present season, the following testimony by the same writer from whom we have quoted, should have the weight it is entitled to: "I have had Crescent fertilized with Wilson, Captain Jack, Kentucky, Sharpless, New Dominion, Duncan, Cumberland Triumph, James Vick, Warren, and many others, on different soils, and have watched them very closely for several years, and find that wherever I plant Crescent I always get Crescent fruit, no matter what they have been fertilized with. * * * I have also tested many other pistillate varieties on a more limited scale, and find the above to hold good with all of them." — VICK'S MAGAZINE for June.

CENTRANTHUS.

We miss the beauty and the best effects of very many of the annuals cultivated for their flowers in our gardens, for the reason that the plants are often set singly when they should be in masses, and should display sheets of color instead of the few flowers or heads of bloom that are frequently seen. There is very much to be learned in this respect by the ordinary gardener, amateur, or otherwise. Many flowers that are comparatively insignificant in themselves, have no mean importance when raised in masses. Such a plant is the *Centranthus*, a low-growing annual, with small flowers, borne numerously in large heads. When planted so as to spread over a few square yards in extent the appearance in full bloom is very fine. The pink and white varieties of *C. macrocephalus*, as shown in the colored plate of this month, are the best, though there are several other varieties of this species. The *Centranthus* is easily raised by sowing seeds of it in

well prepared soil in spring, and allowing the plants to remain undisturbed, only thinning out as may be deemed proper. — VICK'S MAGAZINE for June.

ROSE BUGS.

It is said that Paris green applied to Rose bushes and Grape vines infested with Rose bugs will kill the insects as surely as it does the Potato bug, when used on Potato plants. The application can be dry, mixed with flour, or land plaster, or in liquid form, mixed with water, and sprinkled on, in the same manner as for the Potato bug. (1) — VICK'S MAGAZINE for June.

THE DRINKING WATER OF VILLAGES.

To secure good pure water for drinking and culinary purposes, cities may have expensive waterworks, but villages of from five hundred to ten thousand inhabitants can seldom afford so great expense; they must rely upon wells, usually from twelve to fifty feet deep. That the water in these wells may be kept pure and sweet it is evident that no filth or organic matter should be allowed to enter and contaminate it. Liquids that filter through the soil soon become purified, but where an opening is made so that a stream passes, but little purification can take place. The roots of trees seeking moisture often find the well several rods distant, and in another direction the privy vault. When these roots decay a direct communication is made between them. Worms and insects, also frequently fill the soil with pores. A stratum of sand or gravel may, and often does, connect wells and cess-pools all over the village. Pure water in the village wells requires that no privy vault be allowed below the surface of the ground. The importance of this point is so great that laws should be made, and enforced, prohibiting the sinking of any such vault. Privies should be placed upon the alleys, and so arranged that ashes or dry earth may be frequently thrown in to deodorize and disinfect them, and that the contents may be frequently and regularly carried beyond the village limits. — D. H. ROBERTS, in VICK'S MAGAZINE for June.

THE HELIOTROPE.

One day the botanist, JUSSIEU, was herborizing on the Cordilleras, when he suddenly found himself inebriated by the most delicious perfume. He looked round expecting to discover some splendid flower, but perceived nothing but some pretty clumps of a gentle green, from the bottom of which little capsules of a faded blue color were detaching themselves. He observed that the flowers turned toward the sun, and he therefore gave it the name of *Heliotrope*. Charmed with his acquisition, he collected some of the seeds, and sent them to the Jardin du Roi. The French ladies were charmed with it, and made of it a floral pet. They placed it in costly vases and christened it the flower of love. From thence it soon spread to other parts of the world, and has everywhere been greatly admired. One day, a very charming woman, who doted passionately on the *Heliotrope*, was asked what she could see in this dull and sombre looking plant to justify so much admiration. "Because," she replied, "the *Heliotrope's* perfume is to my parterre what the soul is to beauty, refinement to love, and love to youth." — MRS. M. D. WELLCOME, in VICK'S MAGAZINE for June.

(1) From what I hear, this insect laughs at Paris green or London purple. Nothing but *Pyrethrum* seems to affect it seriously.