

the vines once a week ; I think this helps to keep them away. Have hoed them three times ; twice after rain, as soon as the ground would permit, once when dry ; after working, I go over the ground and pull up all large weeds, if any. Melons should be worked well at the start, then the vines will not trouble you so much."

### THE FLOWER GARDEN.

**SOWING SEEDS.**—Annuals are propagated exclusively from seed. They are sown after two ways: the one in the borders where they are intended to remain ; the other in prepared beds, from whence they are translated to the flower garden. The former plan, although the most simple and most ordinary adopted, has many inconveniences ; one of the principal of which is, that the ground is occupied for a long period before they arrive at perfection. It would, therefore, be the more advisable, if it were possible, to sow all annuals in prepared beds, and afterwards transplant ; but there are some, such as poppies and similar-rooted plants, that do not bear transplanting, so that these, under any circumstances, must be sown where they are to flower. It is also essential, in order to ensure success in raising seeds of any kind, to bear the following important rule in mind. That the smaller the seeds, the less deeply should they be covered with earth ; indeed, some seeds are so fine that they ought to be sprinkled slightly over the ground, and should the weather at the time be very dry, a thin layer of damp moss ought to be placed over them till they begin to germinate ; but there are few hardy annuals that require such extreme attention as this, such care being more intended for the raising of *Calceolaria* and other minute seeds in pot-culture.

**BIENNIALS** are those plants, principally hardy ones, that do not generally

flower until the second summer's growth and when properly planted out grow most vigorously the first summer and autumn, then bloom profusely the second season and die. The section includes some splendid flowers for effect, scarcely equalled in any other for decoration either in the open beds or in pots. Those which are inclined to an annual style of growth should be sown not earlier than June and July, to avoid grossness of growth, which is unfavorable for severe winters ; such are Wall-flowers, Canterbury Bells, Borage, Fox-glove, *Oenothera*, Honesty, Sweet Williams, Hollyhocks, Sweet Scabious, *Dianthus corymbosus*, French Honey-suckle ; and those inclined to a perennial or triennial duration, may be sown late in May to obtain extra size and vigor ; such are *Campanula pyramidalis*, blue and white, Valerian, some species of *Dianthus*, *Verbascum*, Rose Campion, *Antirrhinum*, Brompton Stocks, &c.—JAMES VICK.

### IMPROVEMENT OF SCHOOL GROUNDS.

The Michigan State Horticultural Society has for some years been awakening sentiment looking toward the ornamentation of the country school premises in that State.

The society proposes this year to offer an additional inducement in the way of premiums to the school districts that will make the best exhibits of flowers produced under the care of the children upon the school premises. The following is the exact wording of the offer, as it will appear in the premium list :

" For the largest and best collection of cut flowers grown by pupils in school grounds of any school house in any district in this State ; first premium, \$15 ; second premium, \$10 ;