

cotton sprinkled with mica or coarse salt (which is cheaper by far and more satisfactory) are often used to represent snow, and if the trees are to be lighted with the candles the effect is more pleasing to the small folks.

Wreaths of Christmas greens are still seen in the windows of rich and poor alike for many days before and after the all-important day which they are to celebrate. The fashion, if such it may be called, is in some localities on the wane, but it is still popular in many sections. Many persons decorate these wreaths with large scarlet bows which, if deftly tied and of the right kind of ribbon, add much to the decoration.

There are many ways of tying these bows. For a wreath of evergreen, which is less expensive than one of holly, much more trimming may be used. The ribbon chosen for the purpose should be the exact shade, or as near as possible, to that of the holly berry. The soft louisine ribbon is the easiest to manage and produces the most graceful effect when tied. A large bow of two loops and one end, placed at the top of the wreath, and extending in one piece of ribbon, over

to about an angle of 45 degrees, where it ends in another similar bow, is perhaps a novel way of tying. A large bow of four or five loops and two ends of the same length, tied to the lower part of the wreath and let hang in their own way, and a round bow of five or six shorter loops, with two ends, one to each side of the wreath, are each in themselves well adapted for evergreen wreaths. One medium sized bow for a holly wreath is sufficient. It is easier and more satisfactory to fasten the ribbon to the wreaths after the bows are made, sewing them on from the underside of the wreaths with a wire or black thread.

The wrapping of Christmas gifts, in white paper, tying them with narrow silk ribbon or fancy cord, and placing a small sprig of holly in the ends or loops of the bow, wrapping the whole in a heavy paper for transportation purposes, is now almost universal. The more dainty effect secured and the more the individuality of the sender is conveyed to the recipient, the nearer we will have come to the blessedness of giving, rather than of receiving.

CAULIFLOWERS AND THEIR GROWTH *

A. M'MEANS, BRANTFORD, ONT.

"I WAS asked to select a subject to subject to speak on at this convention, and I selected the cauliflower, because I have been growing it for the last 10 years. You have heard Alfred Herbert's definition of a cauliflower, 'A cabbage with a college education.'

"Men's ideas change. The grower who a few years ago was disposed to sneer at books and 'book farmers' now turns for information to the printed page. How easy it is to tell in a few short sentences that which we have been years in finding out.

Knowledge comes slowly and laboriously from the fields, and yet the closest observation of the character of a plant, its habits, likes and dislikes, and the habits of its enemies seldom goes unrewarded. Much has been written on the cauliflower, and yet it is a stranger to many a garden and is almost unknown in some markets.

"To grow cauliflowers successfully it is necessary to have good loam or sandy loam with loam predominating. It should be made as rich as we know how to make it. Where it is obtainable, I know of nothing

* Extract from an address delivered at the first annual convention of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association, held in Toronto at the time of the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition.