

with in the ornamentation with nasturtiums, but occasionally place between the covers a mat of these flowers with their own foliage. Asparagus forms the lightest mat, and may be left to trail out from the flowers toward the centre of the table and the nasturtiums strewn in it. From all the mats let the foliage join a centre vine down the table and reach up over candelabra at the corners. Nasturtiums look very rich on a table cover of old gold satin or plush, and nearly as well on a cover of yellow damask.

About the choicest dinner arrangement of the month was made by S. J. Burnham at Washington Heights last week. The table cover was a delicate salmon color satin, and the centre-piece was a flat oval of Gloire de Dijon roses with their own foliage and a fringing of adiantums. Every rose was full blown and had a glowing heart. At every cover stood a small peach blow vase containing a single rose. There were golden candelabra at each end of the table, about which was entwined rose foliage with luxuriant buds.

Room ornamentation is made largely at present with fan palm leaves distributed to present a highly aesthetic effect. Leaves of *Latania borbonica* are grouped in the corners of pictures or mirrors, at the side and top of easels, and at one side of door cornices. This arrangement is sometimes combined with a cluster of tassels of *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*, and sometimes with a large bunch of snowballs so arranged as to droop clear of the palm stocks. All the damaged leaves from palms when removed from the plants can be utilized by bronzing and gilding. This is good work for dull times. Frequently palm leaves with only a slight marring or discoloration at their tips are cut off specimen plants. These may be gilded for room decoration. They look extremely handsome combined with a scarf of some rich fabric over the corner of a picture frame. Those possessing large palm houses should take the hint.

For a golden wedding yesterday the drawing rooms of a mansion at Larchmont were ornamented with ox-eyed daisies and cat tails. The fine yellow flowers, with their staunch stems, were made into large clusters and pierced by a bunch of the brown cat-tails. There were banks of the yellow flowers in the corners of the room, and a pyramid between the doors. A portiere of yellow gauze hung across the bay window where bride and groom of half a century stood; this was most artistically looped back with a huge cluster of daisies and cat-tails. A gilt horn of plenty was suspended in the centre of the portiere. It was filled to overflowing with the yellow flowers and crossed at the small end by the cluster of cat tails.

Shells of several kinds have come into favor for holders of floral souvenirs. A shell full of roses or orchids is a charming gift, and is now considered the choicest present for new babies, those departing on ships, and

for tokens of welcome. These shells are so filled as to show a part of the color of their lining, if it is pink and polished. The flowers are made to lie all one way and fall over one edge in profusion. Then tufts of *Hydrocotylum* or mats of foliage are laid over the stems and a sash of ribbon is drawn across to hold it and to finish the arrangement. Large conch shells filled with pansies and larkspur and crossed by a pale blue satin ribbon, are fascinating souvenirs. A large shell filled with lilies and ferns looks very pretty on the corridor table or in a grate. A very dainty christening present was sent last Sabbath to a babe. It was a large shell filled with white rosebuds and fringed with adiantums. At one side of the shell both buds and foliage were drawn away from the pinkish lining, and here a narrow white satin ribbon held them back.

For a funeral of a young lady which took place in a church a bier was arranged of *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*, the tassels all falling down one over the other very evenly. It looked like a white cascade. A pall of white surah silk was draped half way over the casket and caught up with a very large cluster of Beauty roses. No floral designs were placed around, excepting a harp of flowers five feet high, with strings of gold bullion, which stood near the head of the casket. The harp was made entirely of Perle roses. *American Florist.*

Flower Garden.

BULBS AND TUBERS FOR OUT-DOOR CULTURE.

BY MRS. T. L. NELSON.

Read before the Mass. Hort. Society.

Bulbs, tubers and corms, or hard bulbs, are storehouses of food for the embryo plant, and serve to nourish it until the roots start. In the northern States we have many indigenous lilies, aiums, etc., but few of them are cultivated, because they are preferred in their native haunts. If cultivation would improve them it would be worth while to transplant them to our gardens, but in many cases it is almost impossible to make them grow at all—much more to make them grow satisfactorily. It is best, therefore, to let native plants and bulbs alone, unless we have a place as nearly as possible like that from which we take them. The native-lilies, *canadense* and *superbum*, however, do well in cultivation, and will repay the cultivator.

Lilies are among the most reliable bulbs after the bloom of the spring flower is past. *L. candidum* (the common white lily) is one of the hardiest, but one of the most particular about the time of planting. This must be done while the bulbs are in a dormant state, about the last of August or first of September. After that time they start again, and the leaves remain green throughout the winter, and the bulbs will not bloom if disturbed after they commence growing. *L.*

longiflorum is not as hardy as many of the species, because the bulbs are liable to start in the fall if the weather is warm. It is best to cover early with leaves or light compost, as a hard frost after the bulbs have started almost invariably kills them. They are easily transplanted. *L. auratum* is quite uncertain, even with the best protection. A few bulbs may be planted every year, and the cost counted as of bedding plants, for they are worth growing if they afford one season's bloom. Some of them will survive the winter and bloom again, but they cannot be depended upon. All the varieties of *L. speciosum* are hardy. *Album precox*, a much finer variety than *album* or *rubrum rosatum*, *punctatum*, *melampicne* and *purpuratum* are all desirable. *L. pardalinum* (sometimes called leopard lily) is fine and hardy. *L. excelsum* is of bright buff color and one of the most beautiful. *L. Brownii* is rare and costly, and from its peculiar purple outside and the pure white waxen inside presents a striking contrast to *longiflorum* and others of that class. *L. Leichtlinii*, *L. monadelphum* and *L. Parryi* are fine yellow varieties. All the varieties of *L. martagon* (the Turk's Cap lily) are good. *L. chalcodonium* (Scarlet Turk's Cap) is one of the best. *L. tennifolium*, one of the earliest, if not the earliest, has slender stems and foliage and a lovely scarlet flower with reflexed petals. *L. pomponianum verum* is much like *L. tenuifolium* but a little more robust and blooms a little later. There are many inexpensive varieties, like *Thunbergianum*, *umbellatum* and the varieties of *tigrinum*, which are showy and perfectly hardy. Lilies are easily cultivated, but they will not thrive on low land, unless it is thoroughly drained; water at the roots, or wet heavy soil is fatal. The soil should be light and rich; it must be remembered that it is not the bulb that needs feeding, but the roots beneath. If annuals or some light bedding plants are planted between the bulbs it will serve to keep the surface cool and moist.

The iris in its many varieties is one of the best garden tubers. They increase rapidly, and all the varieties are hardy. The English, Spanish and German species are good, but the *Iris Kämpferi*, from Japan, is the best. The iris has a wide range of color, and some of the blooms strikingly resemble some of the varieties of valuable orchids. All of the family are the easiest culture, only requiring considerable moisture.

Herbaceous peonies are reliable garden plants, for they are never winter-killed. They are very showy and especially adapted to large gardens, affording a succession of bloom all through the early summer months. *P. tenuifolia* has small blooms of a clear bright red, not unlike a rose, and finely cut foliage.

Gladioli are by far the most valuable of all the summer-blooming bulbs. They are easy to grow, easy to keep, and exceedingly valuable for cut flowers. If a spike is cut when