

figures made by the interlacing branchlets against the sky. There is no need to speak of the endless varieties in the shade and texture of the bark, both of trunk and limb and spray, and it is well known that the richest colors in a winter landscape are those of the warm browns of a distant wood. The colors of the small twigs are especially varied, too, and the tinted mist which hovers over a shrubbery a few hundred feet away is collected from the mingled colors of the bark on the smaller branches.

This brings us to a point in planting shrubbery for winter effect which we wish here to insist upon. In former articles we have given lists of various shrubs which are ornamented with brightly colored fruit until midwinter, but we have not so often named those whose bark lends a pleasing color to the short days of the year. The glossy green branchlets of the kerrias, the golden bark of the willows which warms into still brighter yellow with the approach of spring, the ashen gray of some of the viburnums and the scarlet twigs of the dogwoods make pictures of unfailing beauty, either against the glittering snow or the brown earth. Taking the Cornels alone one is surprised to find the variety of form and color they

display at this season. Our common Red Osier, *Cornus stolonifera*, with its broad leaves, pale flowers and bluish white fruit, is ornamental all summer. Its leaves turn purple and yellow in autumn, and now its purple-red branches sustain its beauty in midwinter. There is a variety of the plant, too, with golden-yellow bark, specimens of which have been exhibited by Mr. Warren Manning at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and it is distinct and striking.

*Cornus alba*, the common European Red Osier, which is often sold by nurserymen as *Cornus sanguinea*, is another bright-barked plant. It is a variable shrub, and one strain, which is called *alba Siberica*, has stems of almost vermilion. *Cornus circinata*, too, one of our native species which is found on wooded hillsides, in addition to its beautiful flowers and light blue, has red and yellow stems which are sometimes finely mottled, while *Cornus candidissima* has an ashen gray bark of a singularly soft texture. Certainly a group of these Cornels properly arranged gives a pleasing stretch of varied color, and with judicious selections from other families, by harmonious contrasts, a most interesting feature can be added to our winter landscapes.—*Garden and Forest*.

## COLEUS IN WINTER.

**C**OLEUS plants, as a rule, are not a success in an ordinary window in the winter season. For several years I experimented with them, using both old and young plants, keeping them cool or hot, moist or dry, and finally hit on a plan by following which they are a complete success every year. My experience has been that old plants generally do not do well the whole winter through. When the main stock becomes thick and woody it is time to discard it and begin afresh.

My plan is this: Just before the first killing frost in the fall, I go the rounds of my coleus plants taking about three slips of each variety. These are placed in glasses of water to root; when nicely rooted they are potted off into three or four inch pots in a soil composed of two-thirds garden soil (not too rich) mixed with one-third sand. I find a very rich soil is not conducive to extra bright color in the leaves and I have known the plants to be grown beautifully bright in pure sand. I keep two plants of