

yes, and dining-room, too, for after a "tea" or two taken in the shade of the vines, very few of the family will be likely to long very strongly for the indoor dining-apartment, at least during the bright summer days.

The Americans have learned the value of outdoor living much sooner than we. On almost every house of the better

class "over the line," large verandas are to be seen, some semicircular, some square, but in a really large enough to be furnished as a living-room with tables and groups of chairs—a pleasing variation from the beige-like verandas and stiff lines of piazza-seats so often seen about Canadian houses. Fig. 1 of our illustration shows one of these roomy modern verandas, placed on the north

side in order to give the house the benefit of all the sunshine possible.

We had intended touching upon outdoor sleeping rooms to-day, but will leave them for a later date. This time we will close with a suggestion offered by a Farmer's Advocate reader. She has planned to have a sort of summerhouse made with a close roof, chicken-wire sides, and vines, of course, near the

kitchen door. At one end of it she will have a cupboard. The rest of the furnishing will consist of a plain table and chairs. Here, during the summer, the family will eat most of their meals. Here, too, the dishes will be washed up, sewing and all sorts of work done. As a result, as she says, "less muss in the house, more time to rest, more good of the summer-time."

With the Flowers.

The Dahlia.

Perhaps few plants, with the exception of the Sweet Pea, Nasturtium, and Golden Glow, have sprung into such widespread popularity as the Dahlia. Little wonder that this is so. Dahlia culture is not difficult—a consideration of some moment with amateurs; the foliage is at all times attractive, never yellow and straggling, as that of some plants becomes towards the close of their blooming season, and the period of bloom, under favorable conditions, extends over a good month and a half or two months before frost. The colors of the blossoms are unusually rich, varying from the faintest rose to the deepest crimson, and from palest lemon to a rich orange. Moreover, the flowers are greatly varied in form. For those who like extremely regular, formal flowers, there are the pompon varieties, round as an orange, with every ray perfectly curved like a little cornucopia. Then there are the regular, flat-rayed varieties, the curiously-spined cactus species, and the loosely-constructed single kinds, most beautiful of all, perhaps, from an artistic point of view.

The Dahlia got its name from Dahl, a Swedish botanist, and pupil of Charles Linnæus. At first the only kind known was a straggling single variety of indifferent coloring; but from it new species have been evolved with remarkable rapidity, until, it is estimated, about 3,000 varieties in all have been catalogued. It may be interesting to note, in passing, that it belongs to the same family as the well-known Cosmos and Coreopsis of our gardens, and, strangely enough, is a near cousin of the ugly little weed commonly known as beggar-ticks.

Dahlias may be propagated by seed (a usual way of securing new varieties), by grafting, and by planting the tubers. If the first method is adopted, the seed should be sown quite early in boxes in the house, but the little plants, which are very sensitive to frost, as Dahlias are, in fact, in all stages, must not be planted out until all danger of frost is past. Grafting is always done upon the tubers, the green shoot being trimmed to a wedge to fit a corresponding wedge-shaped slit in the tuber.

Propagation by division of the roots is, however, the one most usually resorted to. In dividing the roots, it must be remembered that the eyes are not on the tubers, but on the crown to which they are attached, and in making a division, care must be taken that there is at least one eye on each tuber. The best way is to start the whole bunch in a box of moist sand, then divide gently when the sprouts have started, and plant again, leaving but one shoot to each tuber. Dahlia tubers should never be placed more than an inch or two below the surface of the soil.

Dahlias grow best in a place protected from high winds, in which they will have plenty of air and sunlight. The soil should be well enriched with very old manure, and thoroughly worked up to a considerable depth. Until the plants are in bud, cultivation should be frequent and rather deep; after that the soil should be stirred to a depth of 1 to 3 inches, often enough to prevent the soil from being baked. If this steady cultivation be attended to, the plants, unless in a very dry season, will need very little watering until they have come in bloom. Then

a thorough watering, preferably of soapsuds, once a week, will be found of value. After each watering the soil should be stirred all over the surface, to form a dust mulch, which will conserve the moisture. If large blossoms are wanted, all the buds save one should be removed from each branch.

Paris-green solution is recommended for the insect pests that attack Dahlias. A thorough soaking of the soil to a depth of three or four inches, with this solution (1 teaspoonful to 3 gallons of water), begun when the plant is a foot high, and continued until it is full-grown, will, it is said, prevent the appearance of the borer. For other pests, spray the leaves.

Dahlia tubers are stored as easily as potatoes. In the fall, after all the foliage has been cut down by frost, take up the tubers, leaving about a foot of the stem to each cluster. Let them dry in the air for a few hours, then store in sand or on a shelf in a cool, frost-proof cellar. If the tubers seem to be drying out too much during the winter, sprinkle occasionally with water.



Fig. 2.—An easily-made back-yard "stoop."—[From "Country Life."]

Rest Your House Plants.

Don't forget that practically all flowering house-plants need a rest during summer, if they are expected to bloom next winter. Oxalis and Callas need a thorough drying off, and this may be given them by simply turning the pots over on their sides in the garden in June, and leaving them without any attention at all until September. Other plants, Geraniums, Heliotropes, Begonias, Primroses, may be treated as follows: Dig a trench in a partially-shaded situation. Put an inch of ashes at bottom to keep angle-worms out, set the pots on the ashes, and bank the earth up to the

rim. Leave here until near the time of frost. No water at all will be needed, unless in an exceptionally dry summer, when just enough may be given to keep the plants from dying. Cyclamens, however, must at no time be permitted to dry completely out.

Green Plant Lice.

Please advise me what to do with house plants that are infested with little green lice. A SUBSCRIBER.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

Tobacco in some form is the usual remedy for green aphids. They may be treated either by fumigating with tobacco smoke, or by holding the plants upside down and dipping them in tobacco water, made strong enough to be about the color of tea. Eben Rexford, an authority on plants, also gives the following: "Shave a quarter of a pound of ivory soap into thin pieces, and pour water over it. Set on the stove to dissolve. When liquified, add 5 gallons of water, and apply the infusion to your plants, either by dipping or syringing."

course, be lukewarm when poured on, the dish being afterwards kept in a bright, warm place. After flowering, the bulbs are of no further use.

A Nightmare of Fair Women.

[In order (?) after our "Dream of Fair Women."]

The latest fad has struck our house—there's women everywhere; Or, rather, women's pictures—on each pillow, plate or chair; The Countess of Potocka, with her wan and weary smile, Is pyrographed about the house in almost every style; No matter where you sit or stand, 'most any way you look, You'll see her dreamy eyes peer from some unexpected nook, And then, to-day the workmen came to wax the parlor floor Where there's a burnt-in picture of Mme. de Pompadour.

There's Antoinettes and Columbines upon the window frames, Du Barrys, too, and princesses—I don't know all the names; A dozen Lady Washingtons are scattered through the place— Upon the grand piano there's a gilt enamelled face Of Cleopatra; yes, and from the hall-seat there appeal The sorrow-laden optics of the much-abused Camille; The rocking chair I like the best holds Clara Vere de Vere— So I sit on a shoe-box, where no faces yet appear.

It's snowing sofa pillows—they are in the vestibule, And bobbing through the parlors like big apples in a pool; They show us pretty duchesses and jaunty chorus girls, And other women famous for complexion or for curls; I've tripped upon the lovely face of more than one fair maid As through the pillow flood at night I've vainly tried to wade; This morning when I shaved myself, it startled me to see The towel had some heroine done in embroidery!

Last night when I had carved the roast— This is as true as fate— A Gibson girl was smiling through the gravy on the plate! The platter showed Priscilla and John Alden true to life— I must confess I stabbed at them with that big carving knife! The latest fad has struck us bad—it's pictures everywhere, All pyrographed and photographed on pillow, plate and chair— It makes me feel like—this, I know, is not so very kind— Congratulating beggars on the fact that they are blind.

—W. D. N., in Chicago Tribune.

Recipes.

Cookies.—Two cups sugar, 2 eggs, 1 cup butter (melted), 1 teaspoon soda, 6 tablespoons cold water, enough "Five Roses" flour to make a dough. Roll thin.

Molasses Cookies.—Two cups molasses, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup butter, 1 cup boiling water, 2 small teaspoons soda, 2 tablespoons ginger, 1 tablespoon cinnamon, enough "Five Roses" flour to make a soft dough.

"So many prominent men are reported to be ill. What do you suppose is the matter with them?" "Probably suffering from exposure."

Chinese Sacred Lily.

A bulb of the Chinese Lily was given to me. I do not understand its cultivation. Kindly give me a few hints regarding its culture through the columns of your valuable paper.

AMATEUR GARDENER.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

The culture of the Chinese Sacred Lily, which is really a species of Narcissus, is very simple. It will grow in either soil or water. The Chinese, however, always grow it in water for house decoration, first placing pebbles or shells in the bottom of a shallow dish, then the bulbs on top of these. The water should just come up far enough to surround the bases of the bulbs nicely, and should, of