

May Miller, a deep rose; Thomsonii plena, with golden spotted leaves; Lanata, deep red flowers; with Darwinii in bright orange, veined with red, make a fine collection and not expensive.

They have few superiors as balcony and garden plants; are continuously in bloom; and with the exception of the geranium there is no class of plants that has been more improved by cross fertilization. It requires much sunlight to grow to perfection the variegated sorts, and if this is not abundant, choose, by all means, the plain leaf. The running or trailing Megapota-micum variety, of bright red, yellow and brown centre, makes a nice border next a row of Darwinii, and then a line of Lantana, and, is possible, a centre of the golden spotted Thomsonii plena.

A bed of two or three dozen of these flowers, arranged tastily, is one of the handsomest found in a large and expensive garden; and from one plant each we can grow as many as we wish.

Some are slower in growth than others, therefore the Darwinii should come next the border. Cutting back is a blessing to them truly, so do not fail to trim well.

They harmonize finely with Crotons, Dracenas, Ferns, Palms and kindred plants, and well grown are a joy forever. A cool rather than warm location suits them best, yet not too cool.

Too much heat is inducive of red spider, and gives them a straggling appearance. Shower them upper and under frequently, and if done with regularity, the spider will not trouble them.

If pots are plunged in the ground, take the greatest care the roots do not come through the bottom of the pot. To avoid this set the pot on a flat stone, or cork them. Set in pots they are quite as thrifty and require less labor, and the growth is more compact.

In the country, never more than one or two of these modest and attractive flowers are usually seen in the house, but an assortment will give as much pleasure as a fine bed of pansies do in summer, and both prefer a somewhat sheltered place. At the closing day of my life, I find the love of flowers increasing instead of diminishing, and the need of a small conservatory more pressing since I have lost every treasure I possessed in this line by the blasts of winter.

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CAULIFLOWERS THAT WERE PROFITABLE.—A noticeable exhibit at the Hamilton Society's Flower Show on the 8th and 9th of November, was some immense heads of cauliflower sent in by Mr. H. H. Hurd, of Burlington. From  $2\frac{1}{4}$  acres Mr. Hurd gathered 14 tons of cauliflowers, and the cash proceeds were \$600!

## Our Book Table.

CATALOGUES.—Herb and Wulle, seed and bulb growers, Naples, Italy. General catalogue of seeds.

STRAWBERRY CATALOGUE and price list: Charles H. Snow, Cummings Bridge, Ont., for spring 1900. In addition to the standard varieties, Mr. Snow advertises a new berry called Snow's Perfection.

ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS for garden, lawn and park planting, with an account of the origin, capabilities and adaptation of the numerous species and varieties, native and foreign, and especially of the new and rare sorts suited to cultivation in the United States, by Lucius D. Davis; fully illustrated, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, 1899.

This book of 338 pages embellished with over 100 illustrations in one of the most comprehensive and valuable yet published on the subject of

shrubs. It is addressed to both scientific men and those who while lovers of plants have no knowledge of plants. It is handsomely bound and printed in large type on good paper. We are sure all garden lovers will be interested in it.

HOW TO PLAN THE HOME GROUNDS by S. Parsons, Jr., ex-superintendent of parks, New York city, with illustrations by W. E. Spader, published by Doubleday & McClure, New York, 1899.

THE author of that charming work "Landscape Gardening" has again given the public another valuable work on horticulture, less expensive, and if anything more practical than its predecessor. It sets forth the simple basic principles whereby the home grounds may be made beautiful. In the short space of 250 pages all the elements of landscape art seem to be treated of and dealt with by the hand of a master.