

dred roses. This has to be taken down each fall and lightly covered with straw. When well fed with a fertilizer it blooms abundantly, and also sends up strong new wood for the following year. Near the corner of the building are a clematis Jackmanni and a clematis candida. These varieties are very hardy; and while at their best, the foliage is fairly hidden by the profusion of beautiful showy flowers.

On the main part of the building there is another Virginia creeper. We plant each year some rapid and strong growing annual climber near the door. The *cobcea scandens* has won our favor on account of its rapid growth, fine foliage, and large, bell-shaped flowers.

On the lawn are four round flower beds about four and a half feet in diameter. Two of these are usually beds of showy geraniums, as we find nothing more satisfactory for this purpose than good geraniums. In another is phlox or some other bright and steady-blooming annual, and the fourth is filled with whatever our whim demands.

In addition to these flower-beds we have several rustic baskets and four iron vases. A very durable and attractive basket is made as follows: Get a kerosene barrel, cut out about six inches of the middle, and thus make two good-sized tubs. Give these a layer of green paint, and then cover them with tolerably straight branches running parallel to the staves. The sticks should be about an inch in diameter and should retain their bark. Cut these so that the outline of the tub may have a *serrate* form on both top and bottom. Trim with wild grape vine, and give the whole a coat of oil, or else a coat of dark brown paint. Set the tub on a post about eighteen inches high, and weave around the stump some large strong grape-vines, so twisted as to form a good broad base. The vines will twist into almost any shape if cut while the sap is in them. Another very neat basket is made in a similar way by cutting the top of the tub in scalloped form, and then neatly covered with bark. Cedar bark may be procured in almost any lumber yard. This fits nicely, looks well, and is very durable. This last basket counterfeits a large stump quite well. Four iron vases complete our outfit in this direction.

I must not forget, however, the thing of most interest to our little people. It is a large, rustic bird-house on a twenty-foot