



Exterior View of Mr. T. A. Trenholm's Conservatory, Montreal, Que.

Note that there is a continuous row of ventilating shaft at the ridge on both sides, so that whichever way the wind may be blowing the opposite each can be opened so as to prevent a draught on the plants.

ture, the fumes of which destroy the lice. The doors and ventilators must, of course, be tightly closed during this fumigation process.

In this small house of his Mr. Whyte has tried many kinds of plants. His chief show plants, however, are the bulbs and never from early winter till late spring is his house without a beautiful display of these gorgeous and most satisfactory flowers. Freesias, narcissi, tulips, hyacinths, form the staple crops, while crocuses, grown in flat pans, also make very effective shows. Several hundred pots of these plants are grown each winter. In addition to the bulbs, he finds geraniums, begonias and cacti are among the best plants to grow. He is quite partial to the cacti, chiefly because all of them are quaint and practically proof against all injury from no matter what cause, and also because the two classes which he chiefly grows, namely the Epiphyllum or Crab Cacti, and the Phyllocactus, are showy flowering plants and their blossoms last during a whole season. Cacti may be neglected for days and no injury will result. In this regard no other flower can compete with them.

Ferns are such useful plants that everyone should possess at least a few varieties. Mr. Whyte finds the sword ferns, or the Nephrolepis type, do best with him, the maidenhairs or Adiantum are apt to dry up too quickly. Palms and shrubs although tried he has not found so satisfactory on account of the large amount of space they require.

Vegetables, such as lettuce and radish, are not grown to any extent for the same reason that shrubs are not grown. That is, Mr. Whyte loves to have a big display of flowers to which he is partial, and does not care to crowd them out to

make room for a greater variety of plants, and besides this, vegetables require a somewhat lower temperature than suits most other plants.

ADVANTAGES OF A SMALL GREENHOUSE

A large amount of interest and pleasurable recreation is attached to the care of a small "home greenhouse." The real labor on the other hand is very slight. The advantages of growing plants in a small greenhouse as compared to growing them in the rooms of the house, may be summed up as follows:

The light conditions are better and more easily controlled.

Temperature conditions may be made nearly perfect. A temperature of sixty-five to seventy-five degrees by day and fifty-five to sixty-five degrees at night are the optimum temperatures.

The humidity of the atmosphere may be kept more regular; the dry atmosphere of rooms often causes the death of plants. In a greenhouse the floor can be sprinkled.

Such work as potting is more easily and pleasantly performed than in a room.

Proper ventilation can be given with less likelihood of direct draughts.

All types of flowering plants may be grown, as well as foliage plants.

Insects can be dealt with more easily. No injury results from leaking gas pipes.

Cuttings may be grown in a propagating bench.

What lover of flowers would not have a greenhouse?

For the important task of thorough weeding I find the trowel a great help, especially where I do not care to trust the hoe.—H. M. Speechly, Pilot Mound, Man.

Preparing Plants for the Winter Conservatory

Wm. Hunt, O.A.C. Guelph, Ont.

The all-enduring, useful geraniums are often imposed upon by flower-lovers and expected to continue growing and flowering the whole year round without cessation. Most plants require a season of rest and special preparation to do their best in the winter season. The geranium is no exception.

If there should happen to be a few geraniums left over after finishing up the bedding out and window boxes, they will come in splendidly for winter flowering if properly treated. They should be potted up at once into six or seven inch pots, using plenty of drainage at the bottom of the pots. Give them a good, rich, loamy soil, and when potted plunge the pots (that is, sink the pots up to the top) in the open ground in the garden. It is well to put about an inch of coal ashes or a piece of slate or flat stone underneath when doing so to keep earthworms from getting into the pots. Keep them well watered and all bloom buds and blossoms picked off until September.

About the first or second week in September the pots may be lifted from the ground and taken into the greenhouse. If the plants are given a little liquid fertilizer every week or ten days from this time on, they will flower well all the winter. You may have some old plants of geraniums in pots that have grown tall and unsightly. If so, they may be cut well back to where the stems are getting slightly woody. Leave them in the pots, giving them enough water to keep the soil moist. In about three or four weeks signs of young growth should be seen on them. They may then be taken out of the pots, all the soil shaken from the roots, the roots cut back nearly one-half, and the plants potted into a rather sandy soil in a one or two sized smaller pot. This is called "potting back." They should not be given too much water at this time.

When the new growth has five or six leaves developed, they can be potted carefully without disturbing the roots into the original sized pot or one size larger. Use nearly an inch of drainage and good, rich loamy soil when repotting them. Old plants treated in this way, in July or August, will give good flowering results during winter, much better oftentimes than young plants will.

PELARGONIUMS

The fancy type of pelargoniums or "Lady Washington" geraniums, as they are sometimes called, should be treated just in the same way as the old geraniums just mentioned. About the end of August is the best time to cut them back. They should be cut back so that only three or four inches in length of the base of the shoots or growth made last year is left. The future treatment is the same.