

well to start with strong ivy plants, as they are somewhat slow of growth at times. Two plants of partly creeping habit are *Panicum variegatum* a plant of angular growth but of exceedingly pretty variegated foliage and the wandering jew, *Saxifraga sarmentosa*; the latter sends out runners as strawberries do, which hang over the pot, rooting when they touch soil.

Good soil is an important matter in the growing of plants. Florists prepare a heap of it a year beforehand, by taking the top spit of a meadow, cutting it in squares as is done for sodding purposes, and making a heap by placing a layer of sod and a layer of stable manure alternately. When rotted up this is excellent. In an emergency such sods may be cut from a meadow and be chopped up into quite small pieces, be mixed with one-fourth decayed manure and used at once.

To have success with flowers, it is most important that the plants enter the house entirely free from insects. Green fly, thrip, red spider, and mealy bug are their chief enemies. Examine them well from now on, syringing them well at times with force enough to dislodge any insects that may be on them, which can be done except in the case of the mealy bug. These get in the axils of the leaves and are destroyed by gardeners by using a tooth brush to dislodge them.

Provision should be made now for suitable stands for the plants. The window-sill is not the place for them. With saucers under the pots tables can be used. Zinc lined boxes are now much used. They are made long and narrow, to suit the ledge of the window, whatever the length may be. They can be made of a size to be set on a table and of any size desired. These boxes are not intended for plants to be planted in them, but only to hold the pots, so as to catch what water runs from the plants.

It seems out of season to refer to plants for winter now, but it is not. This is the time to begin to get the collection together, if we would have the pleasure beautiful plants bring us in the winter season.—JOSEPH MEEHAN in Country Gentlemen.

## DRIED FLOWERS AS ORNAMENTS.



FOR winter use as bouquets, immortelles, grasses, sedges, berries, etc., preserve a fresh appearance and enhance the beauty of the farmer's home. Now is the time for the farmer's wife to make the selections for drying and preservation. There is a class of plants called everlastings, immortelles, and the like, which from their strawy nature are particularly adapted to winter use, retaining their colors fully as well after drying as when growing. An old favorite of this class in times gone by was the Globe anemone, with several colors. It was useful as a garden flower and excellent in the winter bouquet. Now it is almost a rarity.