

garden of his own, especially on this side the Atlantic, and that he may rear in that garden things which would have been the despair of kings and princes in former centuries. We find from ancient history that the Persians were among the first to develop a great civilization, and they were among the first to develop gardening. I refer to the Persians in particular because from them western Europe, through Greece and Rome, obtained the chief flowers and fruits which were familiar in that part of the world from the time of the Persians down to almost the present century. England, as I shall point out afterwards, has been one of the leaders in developing the condition of horticulture, agriculture, and everything else, beyond that point. We read in Xenophon, for instance, that the great Cyrus in his journeyings about was careful to have a paradise, that is, a garden, established at the various places where he made his permanent or semi-permanent residences; and those gardens were furnished with pears and plums and peaches and apricots and things of that kind, which came to be the favorite and permanent fruits of Europe. They were also supplied by the various kinds of vines and climbers, the rose, the violet, the iris, different kinds of lilies, and a few other flowers; but the range was extremely limited when compared with the enormous range of the present day. I need hardly refer to the contribution of Egypt, which was very considerable, towards the development of agriculture and horticulture, too, in the growth of flowers, because, so far as it seems to have had an influence in developing Europe, it came after the Romans had conquered it; and although there was a good deal of fruit grown in many of the districts by the Phœnicians, still they do not seem, so far as any records we have or that I have been able to discover, at any rate, to have carried with them much of their gardening operations. The Greeks, who obtained most of their arts from the east, and who seem to have developed gardening along the Persian line first, were very particular in arranging their gardens artistically. In other words, the Greeks put a polish on gardening as they did upon literature, art and philosophy, and brought it to a much higher perfection than it had ever enjoyed before; and that they must have used forcing green-houses or something of that kind, is quite evident from the fact that we find in commercial records of Greece that flowers such as violets were sold in abundance in the Athenian markets in mid-winter; but just how they managed to produce them is not quite certain. When Rome came to swallow up Greece, and to sit at the feet of her Greek slaves for learning and knowledge and so on, Rome brought with them from Greece a knowledge of gardening; and the Romans, in their own sumptuous and gorgeous manner, with the pillage of the world, you might say, at their feet, went into gardening on a extremely grand and extensive scale. They incorporated into it, for perhaps the first time, an extensive architectural element, and a great feature of the Roman garden was its architecture, its fountains, its terraces up on the hills, the cascades, the immense plazas, stairways, balustrades—and all of these ornamented with the most expensive and delicate and often artistic statuary. Some remnants of those ancient Roman gardens are still to be found. Up on the hills, where the wealthy Romans had their country houses, and—most astonishing of all—out over that malarial district around Rome, through which the Appian Way passes—a place which was originally an extensive and malarial and poisonous marsh, but which the Romans, from the remains which are discovered there to-day, evidently converted into a suburb containing the richest, most expensive and elaborate palaces that the world has ever seen, in proportion to the ability and the extent of the people. These palaces were each surrounded by beautiful gardens; and the Romans managed in some way to control the malarial features of that region, and to convert the rich alluvial tract into a garden capable of producing the finest fruits and the finest flowers. But the Romans, like a good many other people who become suddenly rich—who are sent out, say, as poor governors to distant provinces and come home laden with spoils which were not all honestly obtained—went to work to expand these by means of their riches, and therefore there crept in a very extensive element of vulgarity, and the consequence was that they began to imitate nature, or rather, try to make nature imitate art. They built artificial mountains and artificial terraces, canals, and all sorts of things out on the plain territory, and thus led nature captive, as it were, after the ideal of human art. I hasten on now to the period succeeding Rome. It is an extremely interesting thing to go into the details of Roman garden and fruit growing, and so on; but I want to refer to that