

## Charming Display Throughout the Season

FOR a succession of bloom from early spring until late fall it would be difficult to obtain a better effect than appears in the beautiful garden of Mr. H. Spencer Case, of Hamilton. Diligent and intelligent work throughout the year results in an attractive floral panorama from March 15 until October. Every inch of space is made use of, and by studying the season of bulbs and various perennials a perfect succession is maintained from the time the snowdrops and crocuses appear until Jack Frost nips off the hardiest perennials in the fall.

"In early spring," said Mr. Case to a representative of THE HORTICULTURIST who called on him, "snowdrops are the first to appear. Then *Scilla Siberica* comes along. After these about 2,500 crocuses of different color make a brilliant display. Over 400 hyacinths are done blooming by the end of May. Narcissus and tulips, too, are in evidence from late April until early June.

"Perennials of different kinds, including columbines, oriental poppies, globe flowers and *Lilium candidum* come in during June. Altogether, there are about 450 varieties of roses, many of which have been imported from Ireland. Climbers decorate the fences and verandas. The crimson rambler and many kinds of clematis produce a brilliant effect during June. In July gladioli of all shades and *Lilium aratum* are most in evidence. *Lilium speciosum*

and a second crop of gladioli brighten the garden in August. I make four plantings of the gladiolus bulbs, the first early in May, and the succeeding plantings at intervals of 15 days. They are put in amongst the shrubbery and roses about four inches deep, wherever a space as large as a silver dollar is left, and in this way bloom is had from the last of July until the middle of October.

"I do not pay attention to annuals," continued Mr. Case, "because they die down too frequently and leave too many bare places. The perennials, when established, are there to stay. If I had more space I might have some of the annuals as well."

### CULTURAL METHODS

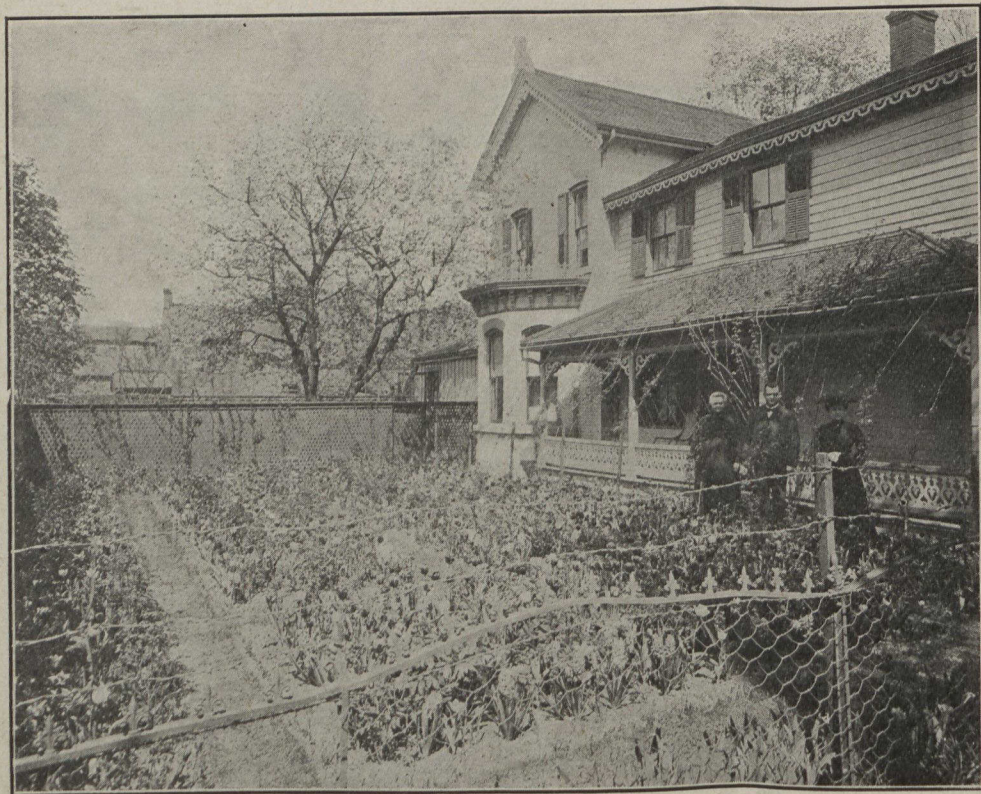
"In the fall," remarked Mr. Case, "I apply a mulch of straw about six inches deep as soon as the ground freezes. I have tried many kinds of mulch but prefer the straw to leaves, manure or other mulches frequently used. The objection to many mulches is that they mat down closely after heavy rains and hold the heat that is being given off by the earth, so that the bulbs are induced to grow. When growth is started prematurely the bulbs die again underneath the mulch and become blanched. I have seen beds of bulbs that were covered with leaves, where growth was induced in this way, and when the mulch was removed early in March, new leaves four inches long were lying flat along the ground. With

the straw this growth pushes its way straight up, and when the mulch is removed growth continues. Manure, besides being too heating, is objectionable on account of the unsightly appearance and disagreeable odors.

"When the straw mulch is removed in March I put on a sprinkling of powdered sheep manure and bone meal. A surface dressing is all that can be given, because the bulbs are so close together that no digging can be practised. The sheep manure and bone meal contain nitrogen and phosphates, and the rains wash these fertilizing substances into the soil readily. In April I fork around the rose bushes and loosen the earth wherever I can. When the foliage appears in May I look out for the rose caterpillar which is very troublesome in my garden. The only way to conquer it is to pick it off. The aphid can be held in check by spraying with nicotine and whale-oil soap. If the fight is begun in time three sprayings suffice for the season. I use about a tablespoonful of nicotine and one-quarter pound of whale-oil soap to three gallons of water. As the aphid have to be killed by contact, special care must be taken to apply it to the under sides of the leaves where the aphid collect. Paris green is liable to kill the foliage on roses. Helbore is the best poison to use for those insects which eat the leaves. It is just as effective as Paris green and does not do any damage to the plants.

"Mildew appears now and again, the date of first appearance depending on the season. It sometimes attacks the rose bushes in July, while other seasons it does not appear until much later. Powdered sulphur dusted on the plants gives satisfactory results. If the mildew has not obtained too firm a footing it will at least check the disease. In case this fungus is well established it is advisable to cut off the branches that are most affected and burn them. The conditions that result in rapid development of this trouble are cold, damp weather with sudden changes to warmer temperature.

During July and August there is not much to look after except watering and keeping the weeds and other objectionable growths from amongst the flowers. In September, *Lilium candidum* should be planted. In October crocuses, tulips, hyacinths, etc., should be put in. These bulbs can be secured from any reliable seed house, and may be planted around the edges of the beds or under the shrubbery. A rich soil is not required, because sufficient food is stored in the bulb to support it until it is matured. *Lilium aratum* does not thrive well in a strong soil. This bulb is a failure



Mr. Case's Tulip and Hyacinth Display last May