

and cutting round holes in it a trifle less in diameter than the pots. The board should be set on a frame sufficiently high to allow the pots to clear the floor.

In Fig. 7 is shown a simple fruit basket smoothed up and treated to several coats of paint. A hoop of appropriate size is nailed securely to its rim. This is bent to harmonize with the lines of the basket, and besides affording a decorative feature, is useful as a means of lifting the plant. In painting these holders select such colors as will not offend good taste. Warm tints are the best, as they afford a pleasing contrast to the foliage. Rich dark browns, dull reds, or pale cream tints, are good and effective, yet quiet and restful to the eye. The basket is set on a light stand of polished wood, quite Japanese in design. Though very simple in construction, it gives distinction to the plant and is a protection to the carpet or table on which it rests.—*From the Ladies' Home Journal, copyrighted by the Curtis Pub. Co., Philadelphia.*

### THE BACK YARD AS A SUMMER RETREAT.

The Englishman realizes the value of flowers in and about his home as a refreshing element. In the city or country the stately mansion or humble cottage is never without its note of color given by potted plants showing at the window or planted in the available space about the dooryard. American city dwellings rarely have more than a few square feet of ground in the rear of the building, but by ingenuity and care much can be done to beautify this little breathing space.

Assuming that a high board fence separates our yard from that of our neighbour, let us consider it the frame for a picture. For a space of two feet from the ground paint the boards dark, quiet green. Above this use a cream, white or very pale green. This will make a pleasant, harmonious background for the delicate tracery of leaves and flowers growing against the fence. The clothes lines should be fastened to posts set at the outside edge

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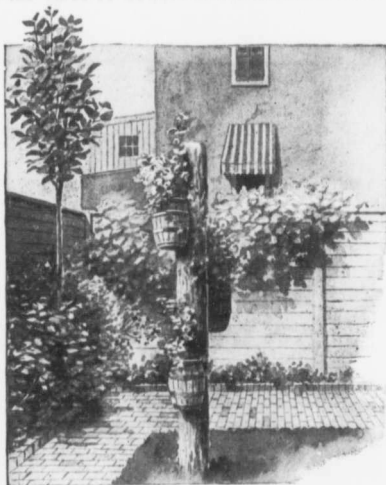


Fig. 1.