

THE BACK YARD AS A SUMMER RETREAT.



FIG. 1214.

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 neighbor, let us consider it the frame for a picture. For a space of two feet from the ground paint the boards a 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 of the walk. If you have much space plant the posts at the corners, as shown in Fig. 1214. The plot of turf in the centre should not be broken up with flower beds. A group of aquatic plants can sometimes be introduced, however, by sinking a half barrel in the ground, as shown in Fig. 1220. But do not attempt to sacrifice this valuable space to flower beds or floral effects of any sort unless you have an abundance of room.

With little expense and the expenditure of time some tree trunks can be obtained from

the neighbouring country, and used instead of the posts. Use your discretion in sawing off the branches. Pretty rustic effects can be obtained by leaving some of them longer than others. These trees can be located at various points to avoid a set appearance and will thus add a picturesque feature. A tub containing trailing vines

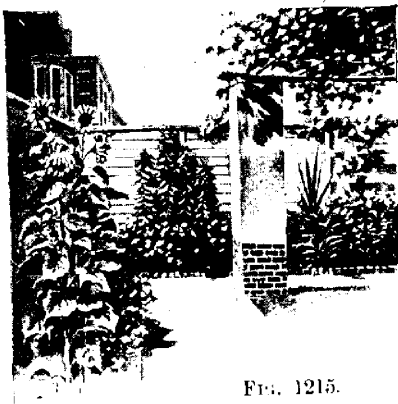


FIG. 1215.