

cation of the following composition to the wounded part has been found beneficial:—two parts of cow dung intimately mixed with one part each of quick lime and wood ashes. Folding round the stem of the tree pieces of cotton or linen cloth, and smearing the surface with tar as high as the snow is likely to reach, before winter sets in, is often practised with advantageous results.

On Foliage Plants.

Read before the Hamilton Horticultural Club, by Thomas Buchanan, Gardener to W. P. McLaren, Esq., of that City.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—In submitting to your notice a short paper on Foliage Plants, that is, plants with ornamental foliage, I will confine myself to a few, which I think are really acquisitions, wherever a collection of plants is kept, and more especially if there be a conservatory required to be kept gay throughout the year. Every gardener knows the difficulty of keeping such a house furnished with plants in bloom at certain seasons, however large and select his collection of flowering plants may be; but, with a fair collection of foliage plants the task is rendered comparatively light. The most of them are of easy culture and of rapid growth, so that large plants can be grown in a short time. They delight in a warm, moist temperature, and on bright days they require to be shaded from about ten until four, P.M., for a very few bright sunny days would render the beautiful contrasting colours very unsightly of a great many of them. They are greatly benefited by a little liquid manure, for the more rapidly they grow the handsomer they look.

In describing a few of them, I will begin with *Aspidistra Lurida Variegata*,—somewhat after the style of *Arundo Variegata*, but of much stronger growth, with long lanceolate foliage, from four to six inches broad, and from two to three feet long. Some of the leaves are distinctly striped with white, yellow, and orange stripes, on a deep green ground; every leaf is marked distinctly different.

Alocasia Metallica,—With rich luscious bronzia leaves, which it retains the whole year.

Caladium Argyrites,—An exquisitely beautiful small plant, with small oblong heart-shaped ears, very distinctly marked with blotches of snow white upon a rich green ground. This plant requires a very high temperature to grow it well. It is the gem of caladiums when well grown.

Caladium Chantini,—A more robust grower than the preceding, with large oblong heart-shaped leaves on rosea-tinted foot-stems, elegantly marked with a large crimson centre, and

uniformly spotted over with a rosea white, upon a rich green ground; it is a noble-looking plant when it comes to measure about four feet through, with leaves measuring twenty inches long by ten across.

Caladium Bellymerii,—Is a less robust grower than *Chantini*, with large oblong heart-shaped leaves, elegantly transversed with silvery veins, on a dark green ground.

Cissus Discolor,—The most useful and highly ornamental climbing plant that we have got yet for covering a back wall or a pillar. It is a very rapid grower, and delights in a very moist, warm temperature, rich loamy soil, with frequent applications of liquid manure. After the plant is fairly started it will cover some hundreds of square feet on a back wall, in six or eight months; and, if properly shaded, is truly a magnificent sight. One season is long enough to keep the same plant, as old plants do not do so well. The leaves are oblong, heart-shaped, showing a rich chocolate crimson under side, whilst the upper surface shows a rich purplish ground, with whitish blotches, margined with a crimson hue.

Begonias have of late become so numerous that it is no easy matter to know the best, all possessing more or less beauty. Amongst the best are *Begonia Marshalli*, a very striking variety, with very large, slightly angular, serrate, crenate, cordate, ovate, leaves, very unequal at base, with a large silvery zone, and irregular silvery blotches, between the zone and margin, on a dark rich green ground.

Begonia Silver Queen,—Is a smaller grower, with small silvery blotches all over the leaf.

Begonia Lord Clyde,—Another small-growing variety, with a silvery zone inside the zone or centre of the leaf, bright crimson, very attractive.

Begonia President Van Vanden Hecke, a more robust grower; leaves marked with a silvery zone, and all dotted over as if nicely sandblasted on a dark green ground.

Begonia Pearl,—A beautiful variety, looking as if set with pearls all over the leaf.

The *Crotons* are a very interesting class of stone shrubs. That most powerful purgative croton oil, is obtained from the seeds of *Croton Tiglium*.

Croton Variegata,—Is a very beautiful shrub, retaining its foliage all the year, with lanceolate leaves, striped with whitish yellow, on a deep green ground.

Croton Picta,—Like the preceding in habit, blotches of white, shaded with crimson on a green ground.

Croton Longifolia, a smaller growing variety with longer leaves with white blotches on a green ground.

Cynophyllum Magnificum,—This noble plant is, without exception, one of the finest