

HOUSE AND BEDDING PLANTS.

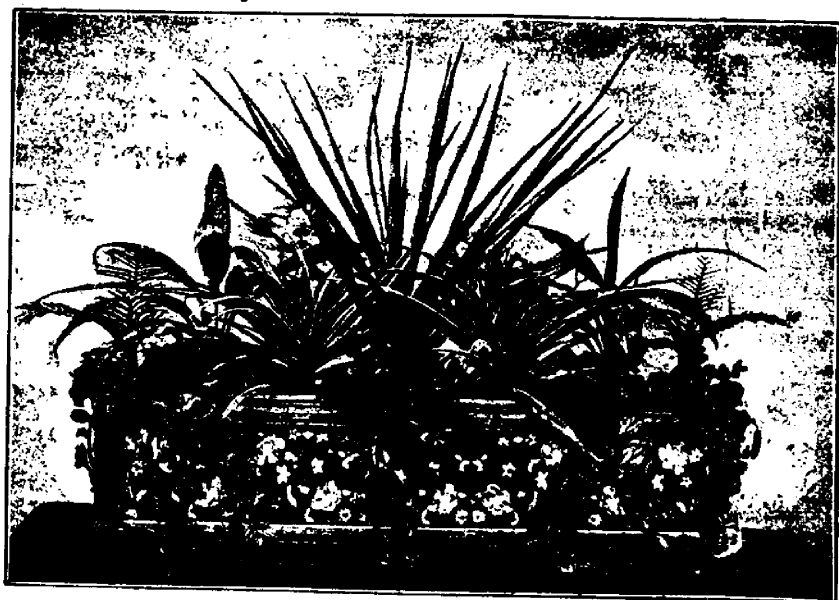


FIG. 1484. — A WINDOW BOX.

SUCCESS with house plants, like success with anything else, does not depend altogether on the immediate surroundings, but rather if I may use the term, upon the stick-to-itiveness of the person. The successful grower of plants like the successful student, mechanic, or business man, is observant, careful, and methodical, always devoting his or her attention to the subject, never losing sight of the high standard to be attained.

Flowers have an ennobling and elevating influence ; their influence is not only elevating but instructive, and every home should have a window set apart for their cultivation. This window should be the largest in the house, and facing the sunny side, and with ample ventilation provided.

It must be confessed that there is one great drawback to growing plants in the house, and that is the hot and dry at-

mosphere in our houses, and unless this is counterbalanced in some way plant life will be of short duration. I know of no better way than that practiced by a friend of mine this last season ; his method is as follows : His plant table has a piece about one inch square nailed on the outside edge ; on the table and over this, zinc has been placed, so that it makes as it were a large shallow pan ; in one corner he has a small pipe inserted to carry away any water that may run from the pots after watering ; the pipe has a tap on the end so that there is no danger from water dropping on the floor. On the table he placed about one inch of fine gravel, which has a tendency to hold the moisture, and its slow evaporation moderates the atmosphere to a certain extent.

In flower culture it is usually the cheap things that are good ; strong healthy plants, increasing easily and rapidly by cuttings or from seed, make