

Hyde park has an area of nearly 450 acres. Many early spring flowers are grown here, such as hyacinths, tulips and primroses.

Battersea park occupies 200 acres and was purchased in 1851 by the government for \$55,000. The most noteworthy feature of this park is the Alpine Garden; here are to be found the snow plant, mossy saxifrages, veronicas, seduces, thymes and junipers, ornamental grasses are also extensively cultivated.

Kew gardens and pleasure grounds cover an area of 200 acres, and are among the finest botanical gardens of the world.

The Crystal palace is well-known as being one of the leading horticultural establishments in England. Roses and aquatic plants such as water lilies like *Victoria Regia* are leading features.

SMALL FRUIT CULTURE FOR WOMEN.

Now the question suggests itself, would not the culture of small fruits be most remunerative? I think it can be answered without hesitation in the affirmative; observation proves that such is the case. If women can raise fine berries, luscious and juicy, fine-flavored currants—and there is no good reason why they cannot—they will, without doubt, command the highest market price. Some might raise two objections against this question of remuneration: First, a danger of the market being overstocked, thus not finding ready sale; and, secondly, that fruit culture affords employment only for a few months of the year. To the first I would reply that in seasonable articles of consumption there is little danger of the supply exceeding the demand, while the palate-pleasing, health-producing, labor-saving properties of fruit render it a specially desirable article of diet. The confined limits of the city lots prevent its cultivation; hence, we find good fruit ever in demand. If at any time fruit cannot be disposed of when fresh, no loss need be sustained, it may easily be canned and sold advantageously in that form.

The second objection I think can also be gracefully dismissed; for if men can make the culture of small fruits profitable, and observation proves that they do, why should not women do the same; the fruit season is, of course, very short, but the vines must be

carefully attended to that they may produce more abundantly the coming season, and why should not young plants be grown for sale, thereby increasing the profits? Besides in the very objection itself may be discerned a virtue. Owing to the long hours of many employments, women are compelled to neglect their mental faculties, and frequently to pay others for what they could do themselves, if they had time, in the matter of clothing, etc.

This is money to the industrious, and leisure during the winter months could be profitably used, thus proving no drain on the profits arising from the work of summer months.—*Miss Jessie Robertson.*

THE JAPAN IVY.

(*Ampelopsis Tricuspidata.*)

The Japan Ivy, probably better known as *Ampelopsis Veitchii*, from its introducers, Messrs. Veitch Brothers of London, is one of the finest of wall plants, clinging to the smoothest surface perfectly. It seems to have strength enough in itself to hold itself upright, only requiring something to lean against. It is very free-growing and will spread out all over a wall and cover it completely, if planted close to it. The leaves are smaller than those of the American variety and grow in threes, whence its specific name, *tricuspidata*. The vine grows more compactly, the leaves overlapping each other in the most regular manner, forming a dense sheet of green through the summer, coloring exquisitely in the autumn, with beautiful shades of orange and crimson. It is entirely hardy after getting once established and grows rapidly. Although not an evergreen like its sister the English Ivy, it is superior to it on account of its greater hardiness in our changeable climate.

DON'T MAKE SO MUCH NOISE.

An ostrich egg weighs nearly thirty times as much as an average hen's egg; but to hear the hen's remarks after laying an egg one would suppose she had beat the ostrich out of sight. It is a good deal the same way with human beings. Some will make more fuss and brag over their little thin-shelled achievements than others do over an invention or work that becomes historical.