

The Amateur's Home Greenhouse

F. E. Buck, B.S.A., Experimental Farm, Ottawa

TO many the small greenhouse attached to a private home appeals as a luxury which requires a greater share of their time and money than they care to give. To others, and especially to those who like to indulge in

without the cellar, was only about half that sum. The glass used is twenty-four by twenty-four inches for the sides and sixteen by twenty-four for the roof. Part of the floor is of cement and part is floored with wood in order that it might

small sum lasts him two years and saves him a great deal of time and trouble.

Proper understanding of the watering problem means success with plants where some people have failure. Mr. Whyte has found from experience that in his greenhouse he must water about every other day in the summer and twice a week in the winter. Plants should be watered when they need water and generally at some regular period. No other correct rule for watering can be given. Just when they need water will depend upon the conditions under which they are growing.

Closely allied to the problem of "watering" is that of "ventilation." In a small greenhouse a good ventilation system and a proper attention to the atmospheric conditions are fully as necessary as in a large greenhouse. During the very hot days of summer it is always necessary to provide some shade for those plants which are left in the greenhouse. Mr. Whyte has tried several systems but states that he finds whitewashing the glass, a practice followed by commercial greenhouse men, is the best and cheapest method of providing shade.

Plants grown under glass are just as liable to be troubled with insect pests and fungous diseases as are those grown outside. Perhaps the worst enemy of indoor grown plants is that known as aphids or "plant lice." As a remedy against these Mr. Whyte has found the following simple procedure perfectly effective. To one pint of water placed in a flat dish he adds two teaspoonfuls of Nicotine (tobacco extract) and then places in the dish a hot smoothing iron. The heat from the iron evaporates the mix-



The Simple Greenhouse in which Mr. R. B. Whyte, of Ottawa, Spends Many Happy Hours

See accompanying article.

one of the finest hobbies in the world, the small, modest, "home greenhouse" is not looked upon in the light either of a luxury or a burden, far from it. To the latter class of people such an addition to the home is an investment, an investment bringing in a constant revenue of enjoyment and satisfaction.

The "amateur's greenhouse" of these notes is quite a modest little structure and a stranger perhaps might be pardoned if he questioned the owner as to the returns on the sums spent in its construction and upkeep. Those who know Mr. R. B. Whyte, of Ottawa, however, as a shrewd and successful business man, as well as a noted amateur horticulturist, know full well that he would not speak in such unmeasured terms of satisfaction in regard to the pleasures as well as the rewards derivable from such structures if he did not base his remarks on the experience of many years.

SIZE AND COST

Mr. Whyte's greenhouse is built on the east side of the house, and under it at the time of construction a cellar was also built in which the Dutch bulbs and similar flowers might be stored as soon as they are potted in the autumn. The greenhouse itself is ten feet wide, twenty-seven feet long and averages eight feet in height. The initial cost of the house, together with the cellar, was some six hundred dollars. Mr. Whyte thinks that perhaps the actual cost of the house,

be used as a sewing room. The greenhouse is heated by pipes connected to the house furnace as this plan entails less work. A door connects the greenhouse to the living room and since this is often left open the former may be considered as really one of the rooms of the house.

To obtain proper soil for his plants, Mr. Whyte adopts a very simple plan. He orders a load of greenhouse soil from a local florist. This costs him only a



Corner of a Conservatory that is also a Living Room—Residence of Mr. T. A. Trisholm, Montreal