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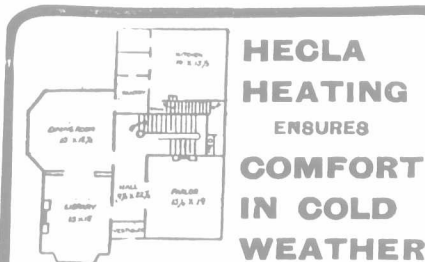
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Making Flower Beds.

As was suggested some time ago, it is well to make flower-beds very early in spring, so that the frost and rain may help in mellowing the soil. It must be remembered, however, that no matter how early the beds are made, the majority of seeds must not be sown too soon. It is, of course, a great temptation to get out and put in the seed during the first warm, dry days, when it seems impossible that March winds and nipping frosts should come back upon us; but, if you would have a successful garden, you must resist. Sweet peas, of course, cannot be in too early, and seed of poppies, sweet alyssum, or any other plants which you may have observed to "self-sow" themselves successfully, may be put in as early as you choose, but for all less hardy varieties the old rule holds good, "Sow when the farmer is putting in his corn." This is also the time in which plantlets from the cold frame or window-box should be transplanted.

If possible, flower-beds should be given a southern exposure on the southern side of a building, a clump of trees or a mass of tall shrubs. If there is also some protection to the westward all the better. The first thing to do is to mark them out and spade thoroughly to a depth of about two feet. Unless the soil is very rich, leaf mould and mucky manure should be liberally incorporated, and the whole mixed up as finely and evenly as possible. Swamp muck should never be added except for salvia, ricinus, cannas, and spotted callas or other marsh plants. Unless the beds are

intended for peonies, lilies, etc., which are liable to rot if compelled to lie in the wet during spring or autumn, it is as well to make them rather flat for convenience in watering. When finished, drive in bricks or siding held in place by pegs all around the beds in order to protect them from encroachment of grass. These foreign borders do not look very attractive at first, but may soon be rendered practically invisible by giving them a coat of dull green paint, and planting a thick border just inside. Dusty miller, dwarf phlox, feverfew, sweet alyssum and ageratum will all be found admirable for such borders.

May we conclude with a few rules which have been often given, but which seem to bear repetition during every season of garden-making? (1) See to it that the tallest plants are placed at the back of the borders or the center of the beds. (2) Do not mix blue and red flowers in the same bed, nor pink and red, pink and blue, blue and purple, etc. (3) Use white flowers lavishly. (4) Mass flowers as far as possible; this is nature's way. A single clump of Sweet William, or a few straggling stalks of summer-flowering hyacinths may not be a very imposing sight, but place a mass of Sweet Williams before some shrubbery, or mix in a hundred white-bellied hyacinths in a bed of scarlet salvias or geraniums, and see what the effect will be. (5) In all your gardening exercise ceaseless observation and care. This alone will secure you artistic and satisfactory results.

FLORA FERNLEAF.

"Farmer's Advocate" office, London, Ont.



Simple Clothing for Children.

While a great many people are converted to the truth that there cannot be good health without a certain amount of fresh air and exercise, a number of them believe that they themselves are too busy to spare time for it. There are always so many things to be done that make for the comfort of the family, and, if the family comprises little children, the mending and making, etc., for them constitutes a never-ending task. In making children's clothing, why not simplify everything as much as possible? I do not think it is right to make a child wear something it feels to be ugly and dislikes, or is ashamed to be seen in, but simple clothing for children is really the prettiest, and is becoming more and more fashionable. Frills and trimming do not make the child happier, healthier, or prettier. Little children are pretty enough in their childishness, and the plainer their clothes are the better they look, as a rule. Children need a great many changes of plain clothes, to the end that they may be kept constantly clean and dry—they do not need anything more. Little dresses can be made of seersucker for everyday use. As these do not require to be ironed, there at once is a saving of time and energy, which will do the children much good, if applied to the care of their mother's health, thus giving her a chance to adjust the really important things with better judgment than she can possibly have when tired or worn out. Again, why does not the mother always sit down to prepare vegetables and wash dishes? There is no reason why she should not; and how much bet-

ter washing can be done on the kitchen veranda; and why should not the sewing machine find a place there also? Why should not meals be eaten there upon a clean, white deal table, and tablecloths and the washing of them dispensed with during the hot weather. There is plenty to be done in the summer, and little enough time for the farmer's wife to spend pleasantly out of doors. I recommend, therefore, that at the time of the spring cleaning, everything not necessary for use or comfort, and with the exception of the household goods without which would be desolation, all bric-a-brac be put away for the season, to save cleaning and dusting, and make more room. It is for just this sort of thing that people leave beautiful homes in the cities and go out to wild places in the woods to camp—to get away from the heat and multiplicity of "things." No sensible woman wants to look at furniture in the sitting-room on a beautiful summer evening, when she might sit outside and be rested and refreshed, nor, I should think, would anyone want to dust ornaments and unnecessary furniture on a beautiful summer morning. I know there are some who consider any condition that might be called "resting" almost a crime, but they might at least transfer their energies to the garden, and get some fresh air and outdoor life.

A. G. OWEN.

A short refrain from a former Review:

Little Willie had a mirror
And he liked the back all off
Thinking in his childish error
It would cure his whooping cough.
At the funeral, Willie's mother
Sadly said to Mrs. Brown,
'Twas a chilly day for Willie
When the mercury went down



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