

## THE FLOWER GARDEN.

ON STRIKING CUTTINGS OF THE MONTHLY BLOOMING CHINA ROSES.—Making a call on a friend a few months since, who had standing in her parlour window some monthly China roses, and plants of the fuchsia that were rather overgrown, she requested me to trim them a little, which I did, and was collecting what was cut off to throw away; she said, "Perhaps you will take them home and strike them." I replied, "The roses are too much trouble, but not having the variety of the fuchsia, I will take them." She immediately said, "The roses are no sort of trouble, I struck all these in water in a glass bottle last year."

Hearing this I took part of them home, and the first thing I met with was a doll's China sugar basin, belonging to one of my little girls. I put into it about half an inch deep of earth, and filled it up with water, put in the cuttings, and placed it in an attic window, used as a lumber room. About a month since I went into the room, all the cuttings looked well, and had made wood. On taking them out of the water, the fuchsias had made splendid roots, and each of the roses had made three or four roots an inch long; I planted them in pots, and they are doing well.

I have for some seasons struck a quantity of cuttings of different things by the following easy method:—Take a pot of any size, large or small, then a smaller one, stop up the hole of the small one with a cork, and make it water tight; place drainage in the larger one, and put the small one in it, and fill up the space around the small one inside the large one, with some light soil mixed with a little sand. So that there may be about two inches of soil all round the pot; this may be filled with cuttings, and a good-sized pot will hold a great many; then fill the smaller one with water, and keep it so. The porous nature of the pot will keep the earth continually in a state of moisture, and in about ten or fourteen days, if the pot is kept in a warm window, the whole will be well rooted and fit to plant out either in pots or beds.—*Flor. Cabinet.*

DANIELS.—Disbudding the different varieties must now be carefully attended to by the cultivators of these flowers. In order to increase the size of the blooms—which is a great object to parties who are desirous of obtaining prizes at public exhibitions—great care is required in performing this operation. All small and imperfect buds should be pinched off, leaving only those to expand that are considered the most perfect. As soon as the buds begin to show colour, they should be protected with muslin bags to preserve the blooms. This is of the utmost importance to exhibitors, as it allows the blooms to expand in perfection. In protecting them, it is necessary to have two sizes of bags, so that when the buds are in a young state, they can be covered with small bags, and, as they increase in size, the small ones should be removed, and larger substituted.

A muslin bag made 6 inches by 8 is sufficiently large to preserve a full-sized flower. They should be drawn over the buds, and tied tightly to the footstalks of the blooms. After the buds are enclosed, they require to be examined occasionally, to ascertain if all is going on right. In windy weather, the bags are apt to press tightly on the blooms, which must be seen to frequently, in order to prevent the flowers from being cramped in their florets. The side branches require to be well secured to strong stakes, to preserve them from violent winds, which are continually destroying them if left neglected. The ground may be loosened round the stems of the plants, and a good top-dressing of half-rotted horse-manure placed round them. This is of great benefit to the plants, particularly in a hot season.—*Gardeners' Journal.*

TREATMENT OF HOUSE PLANTS.—Water, air, heat, and light are the four essential stimulants to plants; water, heat, and air to promote growth, and light to render that growth perfect. Water, heat, and air, man can command at pleasure by artificial means; but over light, as an element of the perfect growth of plants, we have less control. To be beneficial to plants, light must come directly from the sun; and, therefore, plants should be so placed that it may act upon them with as little as possible of that refraction and decomposition which it suffers when it passes through glass or any other medium except the open air. Plants grown in the open air, and with such free exposure to the light as their habits require, not only develop all their parts in their proper form, but their and leaves flavours. Plants excluded from light have not their natural colour, odour, nor flavour; they make little or no charcoal in the woody part, the leaves are not green, and if they do flower and fruit, which is rarely the case, the flowers are pale and scentless, and the fruit is insipid; this has been proved by many experiments, of which the blanching of celery and endive by earthing-up, and that of cabbage, by the natural process of hearthing, are familiar instances. A geranium placed in a dark room becomes first pale, then spotted, and ultimately white, and if brought to the light it again acquires its colour. If plants kept in the dark are exposed to the action of hydrogen gas, they retain their green colour, though how this gas acts has not been ascertained. Some flowers, too, such as the crocus and the tulip, are coloured, though grown in the dark. Light seems to be fully as essential to plants as leaves; it appears to be injurious to the under surfaces, at least of some plants; for in whichever way a plant is placed, it contrives to turn the upper surface of its leaves to the light. Plants in rooms turn not only their leaves but their branches to the window at which the light enters, and a plant may, by turning it at intervals, be made to bend successively to all sides; but such bendings weaken the plant, and spoil its appearance.—*Floricultural Cabinet.*