

THE EFFECT OF CHARCOAL ON FLOWERS.—About a year ago, I made a bargain for a rose-bush, of magnificent growth, and full of buds. I waited for them to blow, and expected roses worthy of such a noble plant, and of the praises bestowed upon it by the vender. At length, when it bloomed, all my hopes were blasted. The flowers were of a faded colour, and I discovered that I had only a middling multiflora, stale-coloured enough. I therefore resolved to sacrifice it to some experiments which I had in view. My attention had been captivated with the effects of charcoal, as stated in some English publications. I then covered the earth in the pot in which my rose-bush was, about half an inch deep, with pulverised charcoal. Some days after, I was astonished to see the roses, which bloomed of as fine a lively rose-colour as I could wish. I determined to repeat the experiment; and therefore when the rose-bush had done flowering, I took off the charcoal, and put fresh earth about the roots. You may conceive that I waited for the next spring impatiently, to see the result of this experiment. When it bloomed, the roses were, as at first, pale and discoloured; but by applying the charcoal as before, the roses soon resumed their rosy-red colour. I tried the powdered charcoal likewise in large quantities upon my petunias, and found that both the white and violet flowers were equally sensible to its action. It always gave great vigour to the red or violet colours of the flowers, and the white petunias became veined with red or violet tints; the violets became covered with irregular spots, of a bluish, or almost black tint. Many persons who admired them thought that they were new varieties from the seed. Yellow flowers are, as I have proved, sensible to the influence of charcoal.—*Horticultural Review.*

SINGULAR HABITS OF MENAGERIE BEASTS.—A writer in a Cincinnati paper describing a midnight visit to the animals of Raymond and Waring's menagerie, in the winter quarters in that city, with Driesbach, the famous keeper, says:—"It was a sight worth walking ten miles." We found, contrary to assertions of natural historians, an elephant lying down. It has always been asserted that these animals sleep standing. The different caged animals were reposing in the most graceful and classical attitudes. The lion and the tiger, the leopard and the panther, were lying with their paws affectionately twined about each other, without regard to species and nativity. In cages containing more than one animal, it is the never failing custom for one to keep watch while the others sleep. The sentry is relieved with as much regularity as in a well regulated camp of soldiers, although not probably with as much precision in regard to time. The

sentinel paces back and forth, and is careful not to touch or do anything to arouse his comrade. Occasionally he lies down, but always with his head towards the front of the cage, and never sleeps until he is relieved. This singular custom, Herr Driesbach informs us, since his connexion with the menagerie, he has never known to be violated. Thomas Cart, who is now the night watch of the establishment, and who is also the oldest showing master in the United States, confirms his statement.

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