

Horticultural Department.

Valuable Announcement.

We have great pleasure in being able to inform our readers that we have engaged the assistance of Mr. Henry Whitnall, for the season, to manage the Horticultural and Seed Department of the Emporium.—Mr. Whitnall's abilities, and thorough practical knowledge of Seeds, Plants and Flowers, are well known to all the leading horticulturists in this vicinity. In fact, he is the only gentleman we have ever found conducting a seed business in this city, who thoroughly understood the botanical arrangement and practical management of seeds and plants.

We are now importing our stock, and feel a greater confidence than ever of giving our subscribers every satisfaction in this department. Mr. Whitnall has not been in the habit of writing for any paper, but has consented to furnish us with a monthly summary of labors requiring to be done, and how to do them. At the present season, he says, but little can be done. But our lady readers that appreciate a beautiful plant or flower in their sitting-rooms in winter, will see in this and the next month's paper, such information in regard to their pet flowers as will be worth far more than the price of the paper to them.

WINDOW PLANTS.

To keep Window Plants in warm rooms in a growing condition, care should be taken that the frost at night does not overtake them. They should be kept in as low a temperature through the fall and winter as possible without freezing; they would not then be so liable to harm if they should have to pass through an extremely cold night; and if frosted they may be saved by watering them all over with a fine rose watering pot; a syringing would be better, done gently, so as to wet the under part of the leaf. The best temperature to keep them in through the winter would be 40 to 45 degrees. Pelargoniums and Geraniums are the chief window plants.—Others require much the same treatment. But when kept in a high temperature they need some more attention. First,

THE SOIL FOR GROWING THEM.

The best compost is half sandy loam, and half leaf mould. The best manure is liquid, made of sheep dung, very weak.—Large plants should have been cut in July if out of flower, and the cuttings planted. Examine the roots; if the pots are full of roots, trim a few away, and put them in a size larger pot. Keep the earth moistened, it admits warmth to the roots. Keep the rooms as damp as possible without doing mischief to the rooms, for the iron stoves are very drying to the atmosphere. Water kept boiling upon the stove would be of great advantage to the plants, as well as to the health of the individuals. Gas is deadly poison to plants. Dust is very hurtful upon the leaves, and should be washed off. Towards the spring, if dry, warm weather, the red spider will make its appearance upon the leaves. To get rid of it, the plants should be turned out of doors every mild day, and well syringed. Then they will be attacked by the queen fly. To get rid of this pest you must

FUMIGATE THEM.

Take the plants out of doors on a mild day; procure a large barrel or hoghead with one head out; place them under it; get some tobacco stems, (five cents worth would last the summer) put it into a tin plate, place it under the barrel with the plants, get an old horse shoe, or piece of iron, heat it hot so as to burn the tobacco when placed upon it, and make a great smoke. Let them remain under with the

smoke for two or three hours, then take them out and place in the window. If the flies are all killed, syringe thoroughly the next day; if not, give them another dose of tobacco smoke.

HYACINTH.

This is a hardy bulb, increased by offsets, and flourishes best in a sandy loam, well drained, and not mixed with vegetable matter, but with good old cow dung, as they are very fond of that manure. They should be planted in October, and as soon as the severe weather commences the beds should be well covered to keep the frost as much as possible from them; but as soon as the frost is over in the spring, take the covering off with care, or you may damage the crowns. To grow them plants you should procure deeper shaped ones than those in common use. An inch or two of very rotten cow dung should be placed in the bottom of the pots, to promote the richness of colors and perfume of the flowers; fill your pots with sandy loam; plant your bulbs, and put them away into a dark cupboard, where it does not freeze. If no such place can be had a box will do. Put the plants in the box, and cover all over with from three to four inches of tan, and let them remain so until the flower stems heave up the tan.—Take every pot out as this occurs, and set them in the light where they are intended to stand; turn the pot round daily, so as to insure a regular pyramidal shape, which is essential to the beauty and symmetry of the spikes of flowers when in bloom. The leaves soon become green when in the light. At this stage water freely.

HYACINTHS IN WATER GLASSES.

For early flowers a few may be put into glasses in the month of August, and again in September, and so on to keep up a general supply of bloom. Before planting it is a good plan to place them for a week in damp sand. At first the water should only just touch the base of the bulbs, and the glasses should be kept in a dark closet until the roots have attained the length of an inch and a half. Three drops of hartshorn may be added to the water in the glass when the bulbs are first put in, and whenever the water is changed. I think a piece of charcoal put into each glass may be of some advantage, to feed the plant and prevent putridity. I prefer dark colored glasses, as the absence of light is necessary to all roots. Bulbs grown in this manner are very much weakened, and it will take them three years at least to recover. So soon as they have done blooming, both in pots and glasses, they should be planted out in the open ground, in a bed properly prepared. Take care not to injure the leaves in removing the flower stalk.

THE CACTUS

is much used as a window plant, and is very pretty when in bloom. To keep them through the winter, they should be allowed to get quite dry in the autumn, and remain so all winter, placing them away from frost. In the spring bring them into a warm room, and use very little water, which increase as the season advances. These plants will bear the greatest extremes of dryness and moisture. Without proper attention is paid at the season of rest to keep them cool and dry, they never will bloom properly. Do not throw them out, thinking they are dead, in the spring, for they will come all right, and bloom well.

MUSHROOMS.

To produce mushrooms artificially, beds are made in various ways. The time for making them is from January to May, and for summer production from July to the end of the year, and so on for autumn and winter. The bed is usually constructed of stable dung, the same as for cucumbers, only it should be made in a dry, sheltered situation, and on the level ground. I think this preferable to founding it in a trench, as the spawn will not run well at the bottom, for there is nothing destroys mushrooms sooner than excessive moisture and extreme heat and cold. To obviate this it would be much better to construct

it under a shed. A dry root house would be better still—this may be always kept of sufficient temperature. Many gardeners grow them in the same bed with their melons and cucumbers. The spawn is put in the mould, and on the hills of the beds as soon as the burning heat is passed. I have known large crops produced this way—one bushel and a half to two bushels, from frames ten feet by six. With moderate watering mushrooms can be produced without much trouble. They will vegetate until frost prevents them. Then take off your glasses and put them away. Collect your spawn and dry it.

ANOTHER PLAN.

Procure a good sized box about a foot deep, put into it six inches of fresh, dry stable dung, well pressed in, set it in some situation free from damp or frost; and in three or four days, when heat has generated, the spawn may be laid on the surface by breaking the brick up. After six or seven days two inches more dung should be beaten down as before, and in about a fortnight the spawn will have run nearly through the dung. Mould should now be applied two inches and a half thick—make the surface level. In five or six weeks the mushrooms should begin to come up. If the mould appears too dry, it may be slightly watered with warm water. Each of these boxes will continue in production, if properly managed, about six or eight weeks. It sometimes happens that a bed will not come into bearing for five or six months. A knife should never be used in gathering.

WHERE SPAWN MAY BE GATHERED.

Spawn may be found in stable dung-hills, dungy horse-rides, in stable yards, horse mill tracks, and dry, spongy composts; the droppings of hard-fed horses produce it in greater abundance than the dung of any other animal. It may be collected in July, August and September—when it is in the greatest perfection. It is often found through the texture of cakes or lumps of dry, rotten dung. If kept dry it will remain good for three or four years. Spawn must not be so far advanced in vegetation, as to appear in threads or fibres. Spawn proper for inserting in a bed should have the appearance of indistinct white mould.

H. WHITNALL.

Josh Billings Papers.

PUDDIN' AND MILK.

Love is sed tew be blind, but I kno lots of phellows in love who kon see twice as much in their galls as I kan.

The mizer is a riddle. What he possesses he haint got, and what he leaves behind him he never had.

Good phisick is like a fiddle—it furnishes the tune, while natur cuts the pigeon wing and cures the patient.

Caution, tho very often wasted, is a good risk to take.

Pity is about the meanest wash that one man can offer another. I had rather have a ten dollar greenbac that had been torn in two twice and pasted together, than tew have all the pity there iz on the upper side of the earth. Pity is nothin more than a quiet satisfackshun that I am a great deal better oph than you are, and that I intend to keep so.

Fortule is like a coquette, if you don't run after her she will run after you.

Did you ever hear a very rich man sing?

If I was going to paint a picktur of Faith, Affection and Honesty, I would paint my dog looking up in mi face and waggen his tail.

The devil iz a mean kuss; he never keeps his own promises, but always makes us keep ours.

Truth is as artless as a child, and as persuasive.

There iz nothing in this life that men pay so high a price for az they dew for repentance.

Laws are made, customs grow—laws have tew be executed, customs execute themselves—laws begin where custom ends.

Men who have a good deal to say use the fewest words.

Punning is nothin more than mimicry; the best punster now living is a monkey; he makes a pun on a louse forty times a day by skatching his head.

The road to wealth is a highway, but the road tew knowledge is a byeway.

Shame is the dieing embers of virtew.

I don't kno ov a better kure for sorrow than tew pity sumbody else.

Experience is a grindstone, and it is lucky for us if we can git brightened by it, not ground.

We shouldn't forgit one thing, that thar is not a single fee simple on this futstool; even the best tooth in our hed may fall to aking before sunset and hev to be jerked out.

Ignorance is the wet nuss of prejudice.

Anticipation is constantly nibbling expected pleasure until it consumes it; just so the school boy, who visits his basket dvring the forenoon too often, has already discounted his dinner.

I never knu a man troubled with melan-kolly who had plenty tew do and did it.

Good breeding, as I understand it, is giving every man his due, without robbing yourself.

Natur iz just as honest as a cow.

Talk little, but listen out loud, young man, is the way tew make the company suspkt you ov knowing a great deal more than you actually do.

If yu should reduce the wants ov the people of New York City down to aktual necessities and plain comforts, yu would hav tew dubble the perlice force tew keep them from committing suicide.

People when they find fault with themselves are generally more anxious tew be consoled than forgiven, and, therefore, when a man begins to confess his sins tew me and sez, "thare aint no hope for him," I tell him he ought to kno awl about it, and I guess is more than half right.

Whot the world wants is good examples, not so much advice; advice may be wrong, but examples prove themselves.

Pride is bogus. Adam at one time had a right tew be proud, but he let sin beat him out of his birthright.

A crowing hen and a cackling ruester are very unfortunate poultry in a family.

As a general thing, a man who marries a woman ov more uppcrest than himself, will find the woman more anxious to preserve the distance between them than to bring him up to her grade, or go down to his level.

Titles are valuable; they make us acquainted with menny persons who other wise would be lost among the rubbish.

Peace is the soft and holy shadder that virtew casts.

Habits are like wrinkles on a man's brow, if you will smoothe out the one it will smoothe out the other.

It is a darned sight easier tew find six men who can tell exactly how a thing ought to be did, than tew find one who will do it.

Marrying for money is a meaner way to git it than counterfeiting.

Dispatch is taking time by the ears.—Hurry iz taking it by the end of the tail.

The mizer who heaps up gains to gloat over, iz like a hog in a pen fattened for a show.

MICHIGAN POTATOES.—The Western Rural states that of the sixty varieties of potatoes grown on the grounds of the Michigan Agricultural Oollege, the Early Rose and the Early Shaw are regarded as the best, the former standing first on the list. For this position it has a large vote in other places.