

Among the Flower Pots.

At this season of the year plants will not be making much growth; they will be getting ready for growth a little later on, says a writer in an exchange. It is well to anticipate this by putting them in the best possible condition to make that growth as effective as possible when it begins. Keep the soil stirred about the plant. This allows the air to enter it, and keeps it sweet and fresh much longer than will be the case where it is allowed to crust or harden over in such a manner as to keep out the air. It also keeps weeds from growing, to say nothing of the better appearance it gives a collection to have it clean and neat. To the lover of flowers there is always something attractive in the appearance of well-stirred, clean soil, probably because he knows that in a very great measure success depends on it, and he takes an active interest in everything which is conducive to the

WELL-BEING OF HIS PLANTS.

A real flower lover enjoys going into the garden in spring and digging among the beds long before a flower thinks of showing itself. One of the best tools to use among your plants is an old-fashioned two-tined fork. It stirs the soil to about the right depth and can be used among the tender roots without injuring them. It is more effective than any of the "weeder" advertised. Turn your plants at least once a week. The sun is not strong enough to draw them much at this season, but by turning them you give all sides a chance to get a little benefit from it. Later on, as the "days begin to lengthen and the sun begins to strengthen," it will be necessary to turn them often, for then they will be making new growth, which, being tender, will be easily drawn to the light. I often get letters in which the question is asked if it injures plants to turn them. "A friend tells me they will not blossom if they are moved," a correspondent writes. Nonsense. They will bloom just as well if you turn them twice a day, and you can't have good, symmetrical plants unless they are turned frequently. Care must be exercised at this season about watering. I think more plants are lost in winter from overwatering than from any other cause. They require but very little now. They are not in active growth, therefore the roots are not

TAKING UP MUCH MOISTURE

from the soil, and on account of lack of strong sunshine, the evaporation from the soil is slight. Make it a rule to water only when the surface of the soil has a dry look and adhere to this rule "through thick and thin," and you will not have a sour, heavy soil in which roots will become diseased. But if you go on watering your plants just as you did in the summer, as so many do, the year through, you will find that many of them will begin to have a sickly look; the leaves will turn yellow and drop, and the buds, if there are any, will blast, and some kinds, like the Chinese Primrose, will rot off close to the soil. Examine the soil in a pot in which a plant has died, and ten times out of a dozen you will find it sour, soggy, wet, with decayed roots all through it. The philosophy is this: While a plant is standing still it cannot take care of much food or water, elements of plant growth. Give too much of either and it is gorged, and a sort of dyspepsia is produced which results in disease or death. Fertilizers should never be given when a plant is trying to rest, for they excite premature growth, which is always dangerous to any plant. It is the same with water. It is only required in large quantities when the plant, by development of new branches, is in a condition to make use of it. Keep the dead leaves picked off. They do not look well, and they injure the plants to a great extent if allowed to remain on and among them. Gather them and burn them.

Be Fair to the Boys.

Why is it that in so many families the boys are neglected, while the girls are given the best the parents can afford? The boys are not dressed so well as their sisters, not given the same social advantages, and among the farmers they do not have nearly so good opportunities for getting an education. There are many families where the boys are "got out of the way," to quote from the mother, whenever company is expected to dinner, for fear they may display some awkwardness in handling their napkins, or because of some equally absurd reason; but the girls are nicely dressed and told how they must behave, and given a chance to learn how to appear when company arrives.

I say, such treatment is unfair to the boys, and a boy who does not resent it in thought if not in words, must indeed be very generous. How many boys are there whose first attempts to perform little acts of politeness are received with anything like courtesy? I dare say that nine boys are ridiculed and criticised, where one is politely thanked for the little attention. Yet they are censured for not repeating the attention, and running a risk of being ridiculed.

All mothers want their boys to be well-bred and thorough gentlemen; but all mothers are not willing to bestow on them the necessary care and love and patience, that they may become so.

A man who can appear in society without feeling awkward and ill at ease has a great advantage over the man whose early training has deprived him of that power. There are people who could not overlook a breach of good manners, no matter how unintentional it may have been, and the boy who is allowed to grow

up with no greater knowledge of polite society than that which is picked up here and there, has cause of complaint against his parents.

Foibles.

After using materials made up partly wrong side out and crosswise, and with the parti-colored edges showing, it does not seem as if there were much chance for the production of anything very startling; but perhaps something might be done by spatterwork with tartaric or citric acid on a complete frock. Borders of small spots in light color, or speckled sleeves with a plain waist or any desired combination, might be produced in this way. It would not be artistic, it would not be even pretty, but it would be odd, and if most women desire anything more in their costume, they fall short of attaining their wishes.

Call it the Hebe, not the Psyche-knot, if you would be truly English. The word affords as many opportunities for mispronunciation as the other. And do not say that you sent a despatch or a telegram, but that you wrote a wire. N. B. If you be a sensible woman you will forget both of these hints. Leave them to ladies' maids and the daughters of ladies' maids.

A London hairdresser gives his customers their choice between calling for a wig or a headdress when they want a combination of frizette for the brow, French twist for the back of the head and a set of puffs for the top of the head. The whole arrangement is declared to be very light, but to call it a headdress seems the height of absurdity.

As if a dotted veil would not produce effects sufficiently funny, an English milliner has introduced one sprinkled with stars, with a crescent so placed as to fall against one cheek of the wearer. The next thing will be the carriage and horses once actually worn as a patch in court plaster, but the veil will do for one season.

A watch case with space for two watches is a toy more useful now than in the days when one watch was enough for a woman. This case is in the shape of a chair, the back and the seat, painted in Watteau designs, with spaces for a watch concealed by each cushion.

A new design for a tea cosy is amusing, although not artistic, and not to be commended to those whose souls are unsatisfied unless continuously fed on the æsthetic. This pattern of cosy is embroidered with a clock face, with the hands pointing to five o'clock, and beneath it is a large "T" worked in gold.

Fifty shillings an ounce was the price paid in England the other day for an Irish toilet service in silver of the time of William and Mary. It was not very highly ornamented, but it sold for \$3560. All the glut of silver from all the mines in America cannot alter the price of good work.

Beard trimmings always look as if the wearer had been taking lessons in dress from an Indian squaw, but the pattern of a new Paris mantle of bright brocade, with leather fringes and leather figures stitched upon it, is actually borrowed from Buffalo Bill's Indians, tunics.

Eggs in Their Relation to Easter

Very pretty little gifts, suitable for Easter presents, can be made from egg shells. Pierce each end with an egg drill, and blow out the contents with a little blower that comes for the purpose. Almost any boy interested in making a collection of bird's eggs, you will find possesses these little implements. But if they cannot be procured, pierce each end with a darning needle, and blow out the white and yolk. Paint a little landscape, a spray of flowers, or an appropriate motto on them. Knot some narrow ribbon and run through the shells. They are pretty decorated with "Black Eyed Susans" and knotted with bright yellow and brown ribbon, or "Forget-me-nots" with pale pink or blue.

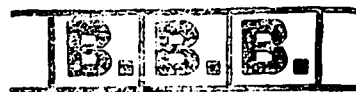
It was formerly a Swiss custom for the troubadours to stroll through the country, guitars in hand singing and playing their Easter carols, after which they were regaled by the good wives on bread and wine and colored eggs which had been prepared expressly for the occasion.

A prominent ancient writer supposes the egg at Easter, "An emblem of the rising up out of the grave, in the same manner as the chick entombed, as it were, in the egg, is in due time brought to life."

That the Church of Rome has considered eggs as emblematical of the Resurrection, may be gathered from the following prayer, "Bless O Lord! we beseech Thee, this thy creature of eggs, that it may become a wholesome sustenance to Thy faithful servants, eating it in thankfulness to Thee, on account of the resurrection of our Lord."

It isn't always the woman who rises at 9 o'clock in the morning who is the sweetest singer.

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LESSONS IN PHRENOLOGY EXAMINATIONS ORAL OR WRITTEN.

Mrs. Mendon, 238 McArthur Street.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP should always be used for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. 25c a bottle.

Cashmere Dresses.

For best wear, red, blue, gray, green or brown cashmere is selected for young girls. When half worn gowns of this material are re-made they are combined with collars, cuffs, round jacket fronts, belt from the side seams, and, if wished, a skirt border of black or colored velvet. The sleeves are of the leg o' mutton or full coat style, collars are high, round bodices are favored, and full gathered skirts. The latter garments should be hung over a gored lining of the usual shape finished with an outside facing of the goods. If the skirt is long enough to touch the shoes a braid should be used, sewing it flatly against the facing, so as to project below the edge. Gathered, straight skirts are made very full, four widths of 44 inch goods being used for a girl of twelve years.

How to Have a Cheap Garden.

The one great mistake that most persons make in selecting seeds is they select more than they can take care of, or have room for. You want enough to fill your little garden, and to occupy what time you have to devote to it, but no more. Club with your neighbors, and when the seeds come, divide them. In this way you will make the expense lighter, you will be able to get a larger variety, and you will have all the seeds you want, but none to waste, as might be the case if you were to get the whole package for yourself. Though there is no reason why a seed should be wasted, for there are always persons in every neighborhood who would like to grow flowers, but cannot afford to buy seed. Rather give to them what you do not care to use.

Bustles, like kites, are of no earthly use without strings.

IF YOUR BLOOD IS OUT OF ORDER, or if you feel languid and bilious, try Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery, and you will find it one of the best preparations in the market for such complaints.