

Remember that no plant can remain healthy if infested with insects, and aim always to reduce this source of danger to the minimum. Give your palms, oleanders and oranges a thorough washing with fir-tree oil soapsuds before putting them out of doors, on the verandah, for the summer, and it will be an easy matter to keep them free from insects throughout the season.

The Hardy Flower Garden.

The First Spring Bloomers.

By the time the rose bushes are uncovered and pruned, and the garden and yard put in neat condition, the crocuses have bloomed and gone, and the hyacinths and tulips have begun to make a brave show, with colonies here and there of narcissus, jonquils and primroses.



THE CHIMSON RAMBLER.

Courtesy of J. A. Summers.

The crocuses I plant in the lawn, as they do not look well springing from the bare ground. A hundred, planted about three inches apart each way, give a good account of themselves. I simply thrust the trowel into the ground, tuck in a crocus corm, press the sod back with my foot, and go on to the next.

As for tulips and hyacinths, I know of no better place than in the Japanese anemone beds. They will have bloomed and ripened their bulbs by the time they would be overgrown by the anemones.

Here one may say that the tulips finally get too deep in the ground to bloom, if not lifted and re-set. Yes, but they are not worth the trouble, since they will do well for three years, undisturbed. And they are so cheap by the hundred that it is really less expense to get a new lot every two or three years, to say nothing of the delights of better blooms and newer varieties.

Bulb beds are sorry things, unless properly managed, and I do not advise anyone to give them much thought. Better consider where bulbs may be used in connection with other plants, which will follow them, as in the case of the anemone. I have also found it satisfactory to plant dwarf nasturtiums, Drummond phlox, begonia Erfordii, and many small rooting annuals in the bulb beds.

The hardy bulbs must, of course, be planted in the fall, and may be moved every year except such touch-me-nots as narcissus and camassia esculentum, and chionodoxa. These should be left to themselves for a series of years. — *Rev. E. W. Collesper*

When Sending Flowers.

THERE are few pleasures in life sweeter than that given a friend when you send her a box or a nosegay of flowers, and certainly that pleasure is very reflective, bringing much joy to the giver as well. Simple, old-fashioned flowers are as dear, possibly dearer, to the heart of the flower lover as are orchids or French roses. A welcome evidence of your thoughtfulness for your friend who is going or coming, who confesses to another birthday, who is an enforced stay-at-home, or who is alone with sorrow, will be a bunch of fresh violets, or of mignonette, or of daisies, or of bachelor's buttons (those beautifully blue, dear old flowers); or you might send a box of merry-faced pansies, or a pot of lilies of the valley, or a coarse basket filled with wild flowers and ferns. But to give your offering a distinctly personal, a poetical flavor, tuck a little note down in the heart of the gift—just some kind little wish for her, or a pretty-rhymed praise of the flowers you send. This will take only an additional minute, but it is this particular little bit of thoughtfulness that will give the personality to your gift, that will free it from all evidences of a gift carelessly, hastily sent.

Home Gardening.

IN a certain city, Social Settlement workers have successfully awakened interest in the culture of flowers among their neighborhood people. By individual efforts, says the *Outlook*, they justified their belief that, if each household performed its part, not only orderliness and cleanliness, but also beauty, would assert their supremacy over the disorder and dirt characteristic of many crowded city neighborhoods. A year ago these workers conceived the capital idea of extending their endeavor, and reaching through the public school children all the crowded neighborhoods



AGUSTA VICTORIA WHITE EVER-BLOOMING GARDEN ROSE.
Courtesy of J. A. Summers.

of the city. The plan adopted was to supply penny packages of easily grown flowering annuals, to be sold to such pupils as wished to purchase them. The teachers gave short talks upon the preparation of soil, the effects of sunshine and shade upon plants, and the proper times for watering. Enthusiasm was manifested in many ways, and the consequent flower shows held in several buildings through-

out the city gave evidence that at least three-quarters of the plantings were successful. Even where the children were not successful no discouragement was expressed. But the greatest good accomplished was in the efforts of children to make others happy with the flowers.

Exercise for Women.

DAILY exercise in the open air should be made a matter of conscience, for there is nothing like a walk to straighten out the tangles in one's heart and brain, and to woo sweet sleep.

In addition to the employment of external means, there are others which it will also be necessary to observe in order to obtain a clear complexion. Not only the general rules of health must be followed, but one must avoid heavy and indigestible articles of food. Fruit should be eaten abundantly. Salads of cresses,



BOSTON IVY.

Courtesy of J. A. Summers.

horseradish and lettuce, while in season, should form a part of at least one meal a day.

These are not new things, yet women have to be told them at least once or twice a year, to keep them before their minds. Youth is prone to laugh, and say that age is always harping on something; but when the eye begins to lose its lustre, the complexion its freshness, and wrinkles make an unwelcome appearance in the face, the remedies are soon in demand.

Women must not think it a waste of time to strive for beauty, as they cannot have a more powerful assistant in making a success of life. Intellectual women who have been lacking in this particular have realized this. Madame de Stael, one of the most brilliant women of her day, said that she would willingly give up all of her intellectual gifts if she could but have the beauty of Madame Recamier. Beauty is a gift, but not necessarily a fatal one, as so many people think, and wise indeed is the woman who strives for the preservation of her physical charms.—*Maude C. Munz-Miller.*

PATIENCE, accomplish thy labor, accomplish thy work of affliction!
Sorrow and silence are strong, and patient endurance is God-like.
LONGFELLOW.

Utilizing the Opportunity.

VISITOR (shrieking for help)—"Oh, please come and kill this snake that's crawled up my skirt." Summer Resort Reporter—"Allow me, madam. With your permission I'll keep it and spring a sensation next week."