

army have learned to do that—and the Captain is looking for heroes everywhere. Let us try to live splendidly to-day; offering service, if we may, or endurance; if that is the gift He asks from us, and praying always:

"Let every thought, and work, and word
To Thee be ever given;
Then life shall be Thy service, Lord,
And death the gate of heaven."

No day can be uninteresting or commonplace, if we walk always with One we love, and may offer to Him every moment in consecrated service or humble and beautiful submission to His Will. If we failed to do this during the last hour, we may climb up to a higher level during the next. St. Peter failed, too, but the Master was ready at once to lift him up and encourage him to try again. Just because our Lord can see that we love Him, He demands that we shall prove our love, and so strengthen it more and more every day. "But why should we love God?" someone may say. Just because we are so constituted that

"We needs must love the highest when we see it."

If we don't love God, it can only be because we have not gazed at Him, have not seen the beauty of His perfect Love and perfect Purity, have not lifted our thoughts from the imperfections of earthly things to the absolute beauty of Holiness.

"O wondrous peace, in thought to dwell
On excellence divine;
To know that nought in man can tell
How fair Thy beauties shine!"

For when we feel the praise of Thee
A task beyond our powers,
We say, 'A perfect GOD is He,
And He is fully ours.'"

DORA FARNCOMB.

The Ingle Nook.

[Rules for correspondents in this and other Departments: (1) Kindly write on one side of paper only. (2) Always send name and address with communications. If pen-name is also given, the real name will not be published. (3) When enclosing a letter to be forwarded to anyone, place it in stamped envelope ready to be sent on. (4) Allow one month in this department, for answers to questions to appear.]

Preparing for the Next Year's Flower Garden.

Not one person out of ten, perhaps, takes time by the forelock enough to begin the next summer's garden on the preceding fall; even the famous Elizabeth of the German Garden, if we remember rightly, prided herself upon settling to work—upon the seed catalogues—in December.

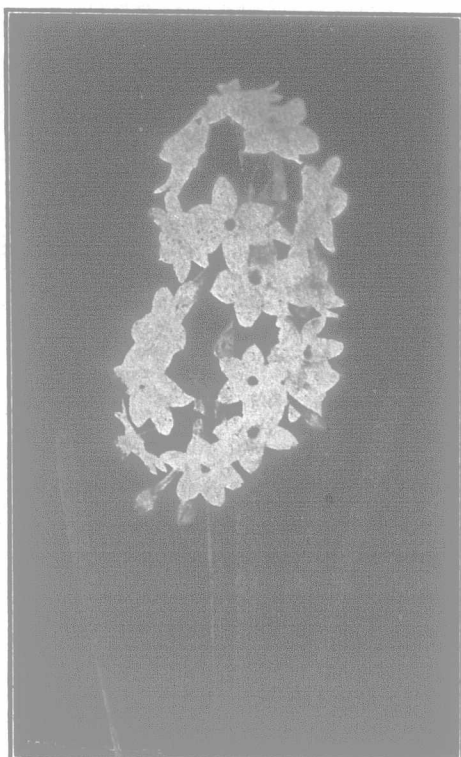
The enthusiastic gardener, however, the experienced gardener who achieves a luxuriance of foliage and flowers that are a source of delight to all beholders, knows better than this. He (or she) knows that luxuriance of growth can only come from deep, rich, moist, well-drained root-beds, and that such root-beds can be best secured by setting to work in the fall, when there is more leisure than in spring for patient digging and pulverizing, and when winter itself may be enlisted to help in the mellowing process that is so grateful to all flowers.

Begin your flower garden in fall, then, by all means, but do not begin it precipitately or "headlessly." Remember that you must work according to a plan, if you do not want your garden to be a mere hodge-podge, and set about making your plan first; and remember, above all things, that this plan must depend greatly upon the extent of ground that you have at your disposal. This last necessity recognized, then consider the following questions:

- (1) Do you wish to concentrate your efforts chiefly upon lawn effects?
- (2) Have you room both for lawn and separate flower garden?
- (3) Is your space greatly limited, say, just a small plot at front, side, or rear of the house? Then, what will you do with it?

In answering any of these you will, doubtless, call to mind the few broad principles of landscape gardening, so

often repeated in the columns of this paper and of all gardening journals,—principles that apply to all gardens, whether large or small, viz.: (1) That, somewhere, as a background to all houses, there should be trees. (2) That to the front and to one or more sides of all houses there should be an open space, to admit sunlight and air, and permit the house to occupy the position of importance which is its due. This does not, of course, shut out the planting or leaving of a fine tree or two close to the house,—what can be prettier than the arms of an old apple tree pushing up to the upper windows of an old-fashioned house? It simply provides that houses shall not be made damp, or dark, or apparently smothered by a host of trees in too close proximity. Trees? Yes, you shall have them, in as great a number, as you choose, but a little back from the walls, where they should be. (3) A third principle of landscape gardening, not always observed even by gardeners who should know better, is that



Cluster of Paper-white Narcissus.

lawn must not be cut up by flower-beds. If you want flowers about the lawn arrange them in clumps or masses at the sides, wherever opportunity offers, or run them in long irregular borders, jutting out with the shrubbery and trees along the outskirts, but do not place them in stiff circular or crescent or star-shaped beds on the lawn proper. The lawn itself should be an emerald setting to your picture, and if you want "beds" you must have them packed in a garden by themselves, somewhere either at the side or rear of the house.

Of course if you have but a very tiny plot of ground at your disposal, whether at front or rear, you may devote it entirely to flowers. One of the prettiest "gardens" we have ever seen was a little front-yard, quite fenced in, and "laid out" to a complete geometrical pattern, with gravelled paths between. The beds were outlined by low border-plants, inside of which flowers grew luxuriantly, vines ran riot over the fence and up the veranda posts, and the whole plot, from spring till fall, was a vision of delight.

Now, then, keeping these broad, general principles in mind, make out the plan that suits your special circumstances, and put it down on paper; you will forget it if you don't. And remember that conformance to these general rules need by no means shut out individuality in your planning, nor necessarily make your garden look like everybody else's. Your disposition of trees and shrubbery may be different—and you may use as many of them as you please outside of your open space; your planting of vines may be different; your tree-bordered driveways may, almost necessarily will, run differently; you may introduce all the arbors and lily-ponds, and massed planting you choose, and exercise all the individuality you possess in thinking out color schemes for your flowers; you may have copes, and winding paths, and "objective points" to your own sweet will,—so what better scope for the personal garden need you?

Don't forget, however, to have openings in the bordering trees wherever an especially fine view may be had from the house—let the trees inclose it as the frame to a picture; don't forget to have plenty of shrubbery about the foundations of the house, to connect it with the ground and make it look as if it belonged to the general scheme of things; and don't forget to screen unsightly or uninteresting things, such as sheds or out-houses, with trees, vines, tall plants, anything to hide their ugliness.

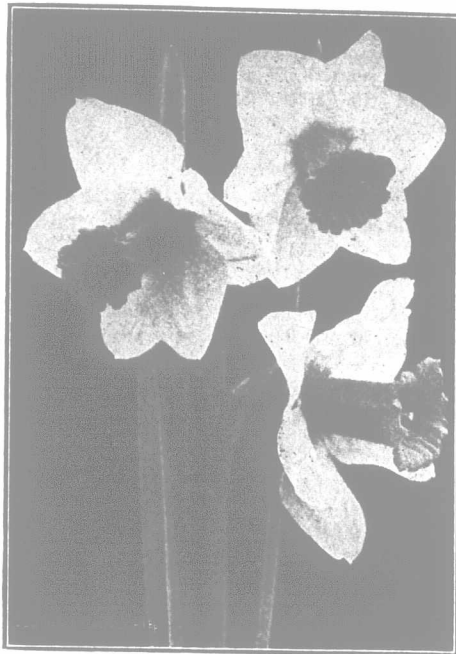
A writer on gardening has said, "Believe me, friends, the fun of gardening is to make pictures." Keep in mind that you are to make pictures—pictures all the time, and from every point of view, not just one picture which you can take in at a glance, for that would very soon be uninteresting, but a series of pictures. . . Have you ever noticed, too, how much "surprises" add to the delight of a garden?—the flat stone steps with shrubbery and ferns on either hand, that run down to a spring; the winding path through a coppice that stops suddenly at the top of a hill from which a fine view can be had, at a circular flower-garden with a sun-dial in the middle, or at a rustic arbor with seats and a hammock. These are the things that make the best gardens (we are using the term garden in the broad sense of home-grounds) the most lovable.

PREPARATION OF THE GROUND.

Now, having your plan all down on paper, the next step is the preparation of the ground.

In the first place, cut down all of this year's old flower-stalks and burn them. By doing this you will likely destroy a number of chrysalides that might otherwise send forth pestiferous insects to cause you trouble next year. Especially get rid of any weedstalks that may have been carelessly left standing. When you know that a single ragweed may have 23,100 seeds locked up within it waiting for wintry winds to set them flying to the ground, a single plant of purslane 69,000 seeds, a single red-root pigweed 85,000, and a single fox-tail plant 113,600 seeds, you will recognize the advisability of this fall burning.

Next, wherever you want flowers, prepare the seed or root-bed. A good,



Trumpet Narcissus.

well-drained loam, well enriched with old manure, suits the majority of plants, but the root-bed should be well-worked up. If done this fall, less time will be required to put it in shape in spring.

If the soil is very heavy, enough sand should be added to loosen it; if very sandy, it is advisable to haul a few loads of heavy soil, if possible, to add to the beds or borders. Very sandy soil, indeed, presents a hard proposition in gardening. An under-stratum of sand drains off a great deal of the "virtue" of the manure added, and it becomes necessary to keep up the supply by watering the plant-roots frequently during the summer with manure water.

THE PLANTING.

The beds and borders ready, what shall I plant? This is indeed an important question that necessitates some more thinking, some more planning.

Undoubtedly flowering shrubs and perennials (including such biennials as self-sow) give good results for less labor than annuals. Most of these may be planted, by the root, this fall,—also many of the vines. If you will refer to Mr. Straight's article in our issue for August 21st, you will find a list of these plants, also of trees suitable for planting in Canada. Be sure, however, when planting, that you do not place a magenta-flowered species next to a scarlet one, nor yet scarlet and blue together. Study your color-scheme (the catalogues from reliable seedsmen give some clue to color) and, when necessary, separate elements by masses of white.

Do you want an "old-fashioned garden"? Then you will provide for plenty of peonies, bleeding-heart, Sweet William, perennial larkspur, perennial phlox, "old man," Sweet Mary, foxgloves, brier-rose, and all such dear old favorites, most of which may be planted in fall. But there are numbers of beautiful plants among the newer species, too.

For early spring bloom, plant bulbs now,—tulips, crocuses, scillas, narcissus, hyacinths, etc., putting a handful of sand under each bulb and covering with eight or ten inches of leaves or litter when the surface of the ground freezes.

Next spring will be time enough to think of the annuals (plants whose seed should be sown each year), but I cannot refrain from mentioning, just here, that the plants which, we observed, were giving most bloom in the gardens visited during our garden-judging trip, were (in August) snapdragons, phlox drummondii, candytuft, coreopsis, morning-glories, petunias, sweet peas, nasturtiums, with a fine promise of asters a little later.

We should like to see a flower-garden competition set up for each county in Canada. Could not the Women's Institute do something toward this end by setting apart prizes, or getting the leading public men to offer prizes for the best gardens in each county? Local judges could be easily secured, and at little expense, and the delight of so many flowers through our fair country would surely be recompense for the trouble many times over.

Biscuits—Cleaning Gloves.

Would you please give me a recipe, through your paper, for making light biscuits, so light that they will rise up and split at the top; also a recipe for cleaning white kid gloves?

A READER OF YOUR PAPER.

Grey Co., Ont.

The lightness of biscuits depends so much on the way they are mixed, and the exact heat of the oven, that we can not guarantee exactly what yours will be. The following, however, is a good recipe: For one dozen large biscuits, take 1 quart flour, add to it 1 teaspoon salt and 2 heaping teaspoons baking powder. Sift well, then rub in 2 even tablespoons lard or butter, and just enough sweet milk to make into a light dough. Form into a smooth ball, roll out 1 inch thick, and cut into cakes. Bake 30 minutes in a moderate oven on an ungreased tin. If you like, you may omit the butter or lard, simply mixing with rich, sweet cream. Biscuits should never be kneaded like bread. They should be made very quickly, and baked as soon as possible.

To clean the kid gloves, rub them with a cloth dipped in clean gasoline, then in powdered chalk. Keep away from fires during the process.

NOTE.—All who write to this column must give name and address along with pen-name.

Enlarged Pores.

I saw in one of your "Farmer's Advocates" that you spoke on enlarged pores of the skin, which cause the skin to look coarse instead of fine-grained, and which harbor the particles of dust and cause black-heads. Can you kindly tell me how to prevent enlarged pores of the face, and give a cure for pimples? Does fruit cause pimples if you eat a lot of it?

Elgin Co., Ont.

To prevent black-heads and have a fine-grained skin, one must take a bath every day, and keep the face scrupulously clean by washing it well every night with warm water and a mild soap, such as