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THE HOME.

Help One Another.

"Help one another," the snowflake said, As they cuddled down in their flannel bed; "One of us here would not be left, One of us here would quickly melt; But I'll help you, and you help me, And what a big white drift we'll see!"

"Help one another," the maple spray said To its fellow leaves one day; "The sun would wither me here alone, Long enough ere the day is gone; But I'll help you, and you help me, And then what a splendid shade there'll be!"

"Help one another," the dew-drop cried, Seeing another drop close to its side; "This warm south breeze would dry me away, And I should be gone ere noon to-day; But I'll help you, and you help me, And we'll make a brook, and run to the sea!"

"Help one another," a grain of sand said To another grain just at hand; "The wind may carry me over the sea, And then, oh, what will become of me? But come, my brother, give me your hand, We'll build a mountain, and there we'll stand."

And so the snowflakes grew to drifts, The grains of sand to mountains, The leaves became a pleasant shade, And dew-drops fed the fountains.

—Rev. Geo. F. Huntington, in *Parish Visitor*.

THE FARM.

THE TIGHT REIN.—Most farmers who give no particular attention to horses usually drive with a loose rein. This is well enough with the "old family horse" in whom you have perfect confidence. It is never safe, however, with a young or spirited horse. Never drive such an animal with so loose a rein that you cannot instantly command the situation, whatever happens.

Bulbs for Window-gardens.

BY JOHN HARRINGTON.

Boys and girls who attempt window gardening this winter according to the excellent instructions given in *Harper's Young People* for October 19 will add much to their enjoyment and little to their expense and care by trying a few of the plants known among dealers as "Dutch bulbs." The best known, which are also the easiest to manage, are the hyacinth, narcissus, tulip, and crocus. Some of them used to be very rare and costly, but a mania for tulips in Holland about two hundred years ago raised the price of a single bulb to six thousand dollars, and the law had to stop the so-called "tulip war" by declaring that no tulip bulb should be sold for more than two hundred francs—about forty dollars. Some of the same variety may now be bought for twenty-five cents a dozen! Hyacinths good enough for a beginner, or indeed for anybody, can be bought at fifteen cents each, or cheaper by the dozen; polyanthus, narcissus, which are the best for house culture, the finest half an ounce; and crocus, the finest only a few cents a dozen. The bulbs can be bought for twenty cents a dozen! All of these bulbs will live and bloom in any sort of soil that is not hard or highly manured; they will also flourish in wet moss or even water. The best plan, however, is to plant them in soil of rocks, ferns, and mosses, and in a shallow box, where the earth is spongy and retains moisture well. The soil of Holland is a mixture of sand and vegetable mould, and can be imitated exactly by mixing with sand an equal quantity of the black earth that is found in clover, rock, fern, and moss, and other places where, for years the dead leaves have drifted and slowly rotted.

As for light and air, they will bloom in a diggy window of a cold cellar, or under the full glare of an attic skylight. It does not matter whether the exposure be north, south, east, or west; the greater the light and the brighter the sun, the sooner they will bloom; but the differing exposures will bring different pots into bloom in succession. There are but two conditions against which they will not grow: one is great heat, and the other is dryness of earth; the latter can be provided against by daily watering, and window casings generally admit enough air through the tiny cracks which sojourner can entirely close to keep the plants several degrees cooler than the air of the room.

Pot four or five inches in diameter at the top are of proper size for Dutch bulbs. In such a pot plant one hyacinth or narcissus, two or three tulips or six crocuses may go in a single pot. For hyacinths and narcissus the pot should be almost full of earth, and the bulbs be only half covered; otherwise it will start side shoots which will lessen the strength and beauty of the main stem. Tulips and crocus bulbs should be covered with about half an inch of earth. After watering thoroughly place all the pots in a dark cellar, or closet, and leave them there a month; they will improve every moment in making roots. At the end of this time bring them to light, and the tops will soon begin to appear. If you have many, bring up only a few at a time, at intervals of ten days. The leaves will spend a month or two in getting their full growth; then suddenly, while you are wondering whether they are ever going to flower, a flower-stem will shoot up rapidly from the centre of each cluster of leaves, and the buds will begin to open. A tulip bulb will give only one flower; the hyacinth bulb will send up one stalk, but on this will be from twenty-five to seventy-five flowers of exquisite color and perfume. The narcissus generally develops several stalks in succession, each with a cluster of yellow flowers at the top; and each crocus sends up several stalks, each with a single flower. All the pots must be watered profusely while the flowers are in bloom. The most exquisite perfume to be had for a given amount of money can be obtained from a pot of sweet-scented jonquils, which are little bulbs of the narcissus family. They can be bought from ten cents to fifty cents a dozen; the double variety, which brings the higher price named, is really the cheaper, as the bloom is much larger and lasts longer. Plant three in a pot, covering the tops as directed for tulips.

All Dutch bulbs should be potted by Dec. 1, the earlier they are planted the sooner they will bloom. When the bloom falls, cut the flower-stalk; the leaves will be ornamental. When the leaves begin to fade withhold water, and set the pots in some place where the foliage may die without marring my eyesight. When the leaves are dead and the earth dry, you will find in taking out the bulbs, that each tulip has divided into two, held together only by the skin of the original bulb. Some of the narcissus will also have divided. Wrap each bulb in dry paper, and lay it away in a dry place, to be replanted next season.

In twenty successive years of acquaintance with Dutch bulbs I never saw an insect of any kind on a hyacinth or narcissus. The green fly dearly loves the leaves of the crocus or crocus; but the green fly detests tobacco water, which is cheap and easy to apply.—*Harper's Young People*

TEMPERANCE.

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—Rex Seifer,
Rua St. Rum River,
County of Perdicion.

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