

fruit equal access to the vivifying influence of light and air.

Bulbs and plants from California are being transported over the Pacific Railroad in a good state of preservation. Thirty thousand *Lilium auratum* bulbs were lately received in this way in New York where they were sold by auction. They come in boxes, packed in kiln-dried earth and were sent from Yokohama to San Francisco by the Pacific Railroad. It is but a few years since these bulbs brought four dollars each, and even now good ones are sold by florists at one dollar each.

Annie S. Downs, of Andover, Mass., writing, in the *Springfield Republican*, on "House Decorations in Winter," says:—If your window is sunny, there is no limit to the flowers you may have, from Christmas until the wild ones come again. With two *maurandias*, one white, the other purple, with a high-colored dwarf nasturtian, or *tropaeolum*, as it is properly called, an English ivy, and a vigorous plant of German ivy, or *sencio scandens*, you can make a screen for your windows more beautiful than Raphael or Da Vinci ever designed, for yours is the original of their defective representations."

—At a recent meeting of the Horticultural Society of Western New York D. S. Wagner gave a description of the method he adopts in grafting the grape vine. He grafts from early Spring till last of June. The grafts are cut early the previous Winter and packed in saw-dust. He grafts a little below the ordinary surface of the ground and covers with earth. The moisture of the soil is preserved by two inches of mulching. The cleft is sawn in without splitting. He has set the Delaware and Isabella roots with good success, and in one instance had a crop of grapes the same year. A strong stock desirable such as Isabella, Catawaba, and Diana. The Rebecca does better on a strong stock than on its own roots.

—The *Gardener's Magazine* says that the evergreens most suitable for windows are the aucuba, rhododendron, box, arbor vitae, holly and evergreen privets. All hardy kinds of ivy are suitable; the commonest kinds looks well if properly trained from the bottom of the pot outwards, and if allowed plenty of water. When the plants are on the outside of the window sills, put a little chip, or wedge, under them, so as to keep them level, or else you cannot water them properly; also fit in the joint of the walls, strong nails, half way up the plants; then get some thin copper wire and fasten it to the nails from one side to the other. This prevents the wind from blowing them down.

A correspondent of the *New England Farmer* says that Scarlet Zonale Geraniums, and all their varieties of cherry, pink salmon, and white, are the most desirable plants for house culture, because they are never infested by insects. They require little care, and will bloom ten months out of twelve. Plants of a years growth do better in doors than those of a greater age. If plants are kept in the kitchen, the frequent opening of the outside door will freshen them, and the moisture arising from cooking on the stove will be very conducive to their health. More thrifty and vigorous plants

may be seen in a farmer's wife's kitchen, than in a gorgeous parlor in Boston. Fresh air and moisture produce the results.

An English cultivator of the rose says that few persons are aware of the magnitude to which the rose may be grown as a standard, or the splendid effect it may be made to produce on a lawn or pleasure ground. Yet, with a stem sufficiently strong, and system of careful and patient training, there can be no reasonable doubt but that the standard rose can be grown to the size and form of the ordinary examples of the weeping ash, having the branches all produced from the top of a single stem, and flowing downward on all sides, thus forming a very ornamental object on a lawn.

A correspondent of the *Gardener's Chronicle* says that the *Lilium auratum* is not permanent; the best varieties have a tendency to revert to their original common kind. He states that a few years ago he took great pains in keeping separate a few remarkable distinct varieties; among them a genuine semi-double. Another season, he discovered a pure white variety, with no spotting, and with scarcely the sign of the usual yellow band. Also a fine, large-flowered variety, that had more dark red about it than any color. The following year, they all turned out the common kind.

A correspondent of the *Rural World* says that in gathering Janet apples last Fall, about a peck of them fell on the inside of his garden, near a place where he had occasion, subsequently, to throw the clay from a flowing pit, which he had excavated. Not noticing the apples, the workmen threw the yellow, dry clay over them, about a foot deep. There they remained until January when on removing the clay, the apples were found in an excellent state of preservation, and were delightfully mellow and juicy—far more so than those gathered from the same tree, and which had been stored in barrels in a dry cellar.

A. M. Purdy, in his *Small Fruit Recorder*, relates his experiments with blackberries. Twenty-five years ago, he bought at South Bend, Ind., a piece of land that was said to be too poor to grow white beans. The blackberries planted on it made a moderate growth, but subsequently bore enormous crops, being literally loaded to the ground. A richer piece of land was also planted; the bushes grew rank, bore moderately, and winter-killed badly. Blackberry bushes, like the large-growing Harrison grapes, do not want rich soil. It is proper to add that the poor soil was thoroughly cultivated.

A correspondent of the *Florist and Pomologist* says that he used sheet India rubber as a substitute for grafting-wax, with very satisfactory results. It may be purchased in sheets about the thickness of brown paper from those who deal in articles of that class. The undressed sheets are the best. Before using it, wash it in clean water, and dry by rubbing it with a handkerchief or cloth. These sheets are cut into pieces of about an inch in length, and about an eighth of an inch in width, according to the space to be covered, and the little band so formed, is twisted round in the same way as a piece of matting would be, and, of course, elongated considerably, encompassing the stem two or three times. The end is simply but securely fastened by pressing it into the other with the thumb nail.