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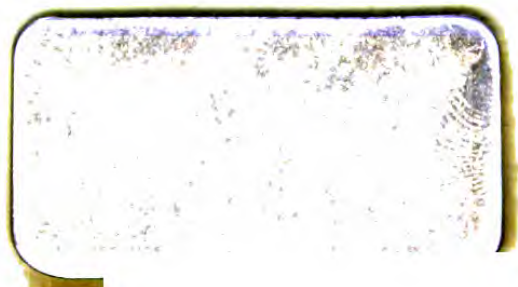
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SPRING & WINTER
GARDENING

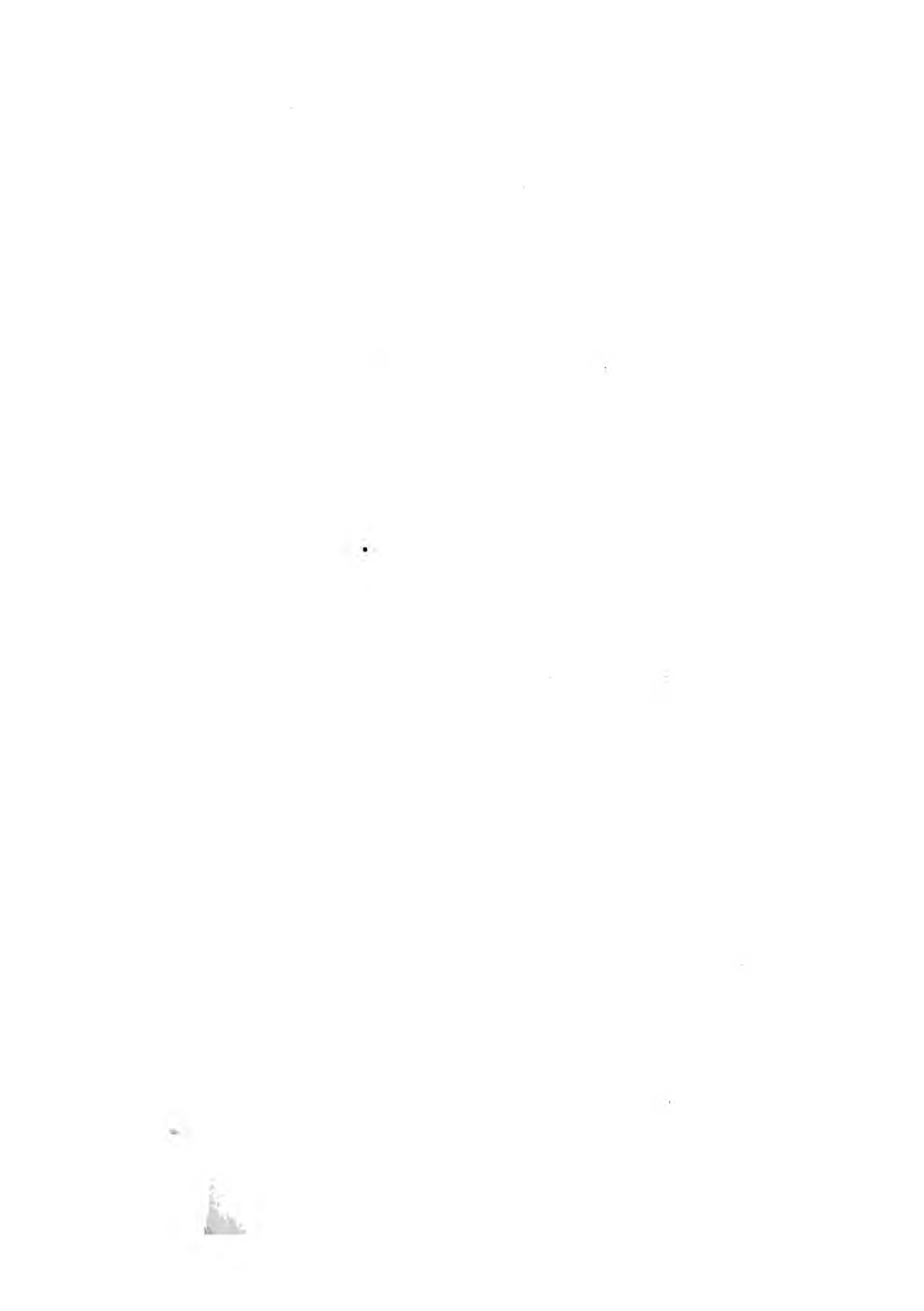
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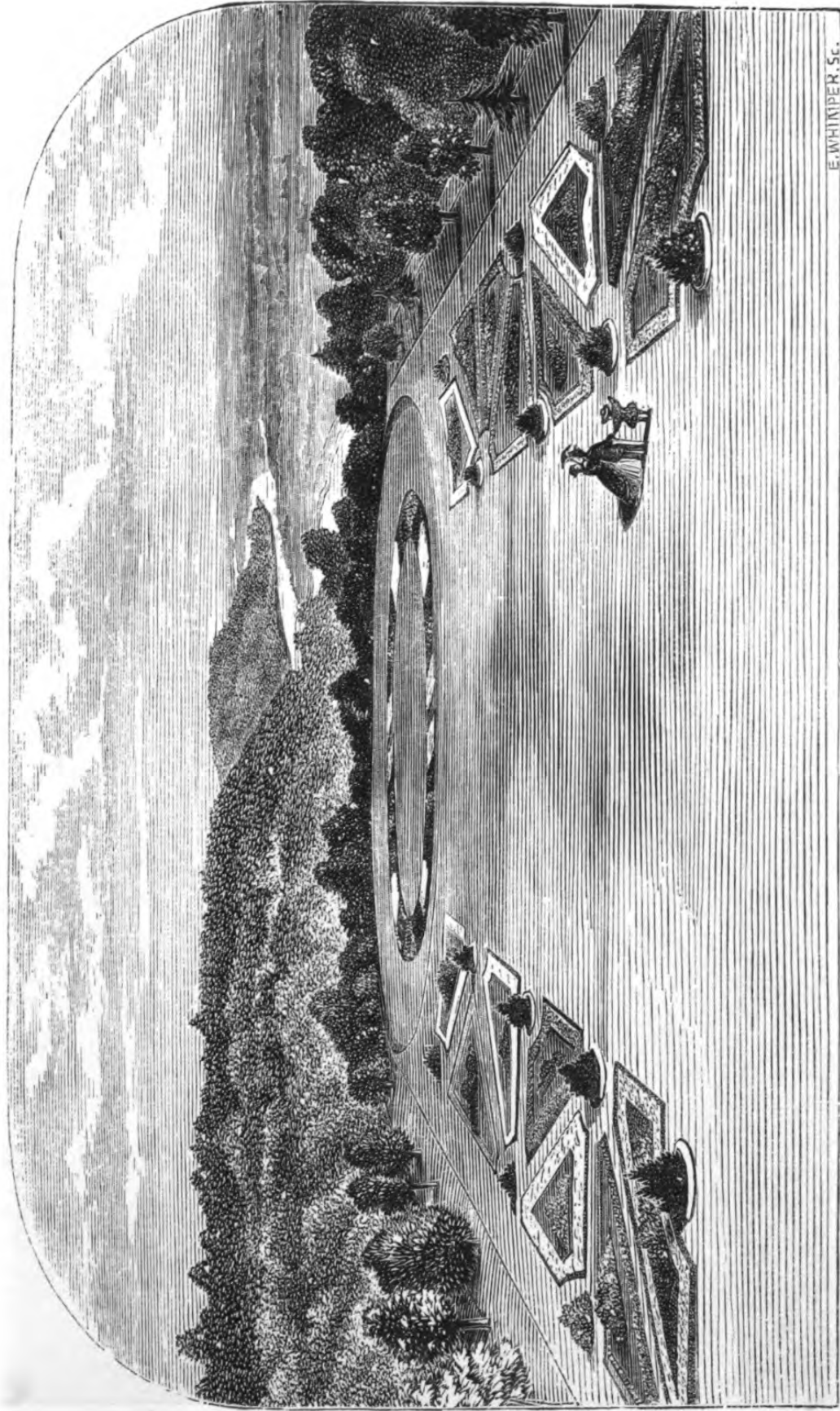
JOHN FLEMING

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E. WHIMPER, SC.

VIEW OF THE GREAT FLOWER GARDEN AT CLIVEDEN FROM THE MANSION.

THE SYSTEM OF THE
FLOWING CARTRIDGE

THE SYSTEM OF THE

AS DESCRIBED IN THE

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SPRING AND WINTER
FLOWER GARDENING:

CONTAINING

THE SYSTEM OF FLORAL DECORATION

AS PRACTISED AT CLIVEDEN, THE SEAT OF HER GRACE

HARRIET DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND.

By JOHN FLEMING,

GARDENER TO HER GRACE.



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TO HER GRACE

HARRIET

DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND,

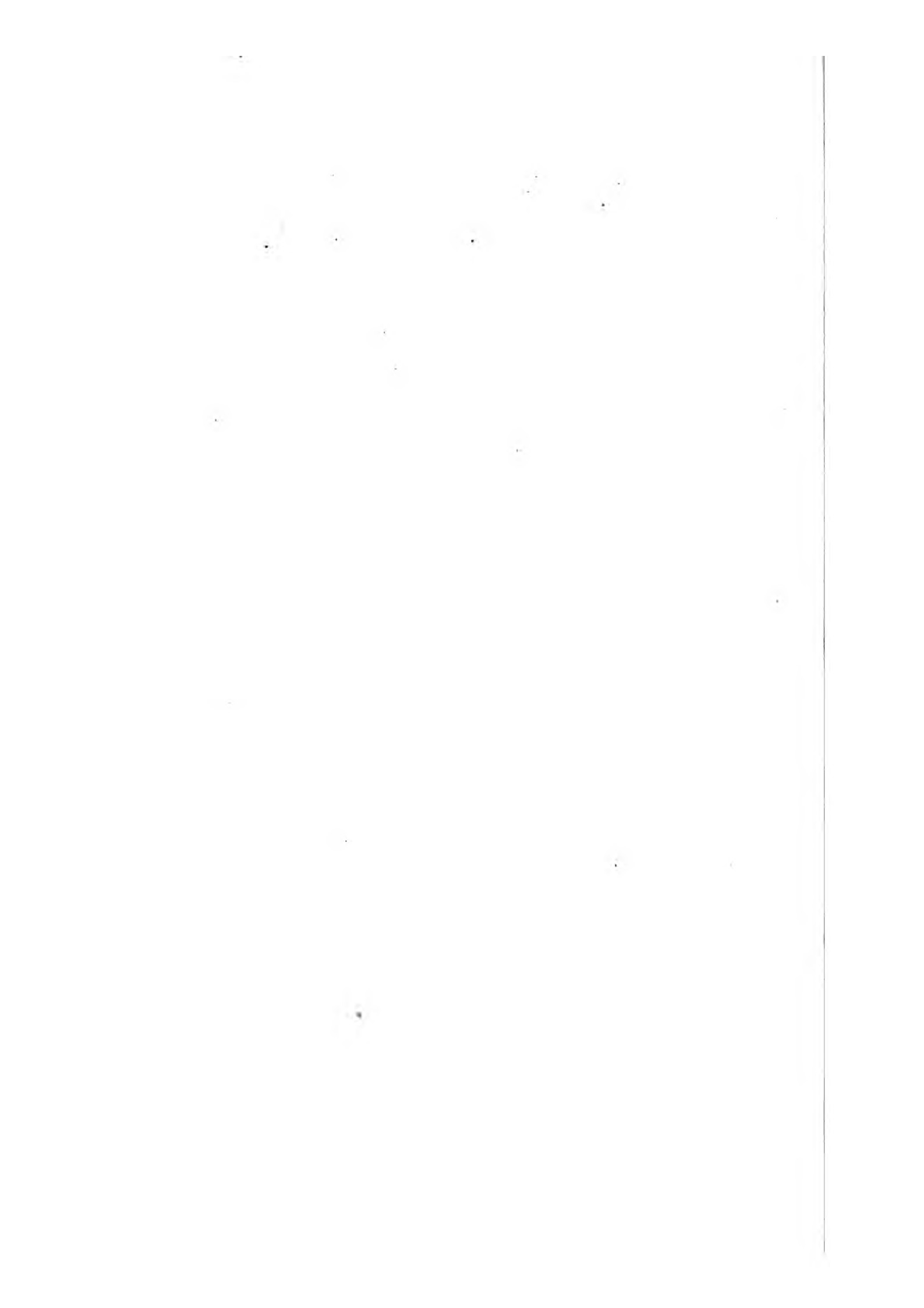
THIS WORK

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY HER GRACE'S

MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.



PREFACE.

—o—

SOME of our greatest horticulturists have lately brought the present system of Flower-garden Decoration very prominently before the public, pointing out the shortness of its duration, and thereby holding out an inducement to some one to give their experience where they conceive they themselves have been successful in prolonging the season of Floral display.

The inquiries I have received relative to the system of Spring Flower Gardening practised by me for several years past at Cliveden have been so numerous, that I suspect the subject is engrossing a large amount of public attention; and I have thought that the most effectual way of giving publicity to the practice I have followed would be to embody it in the form of a distinct

treatise; and this I have endeavoured to aim at in the following pages.

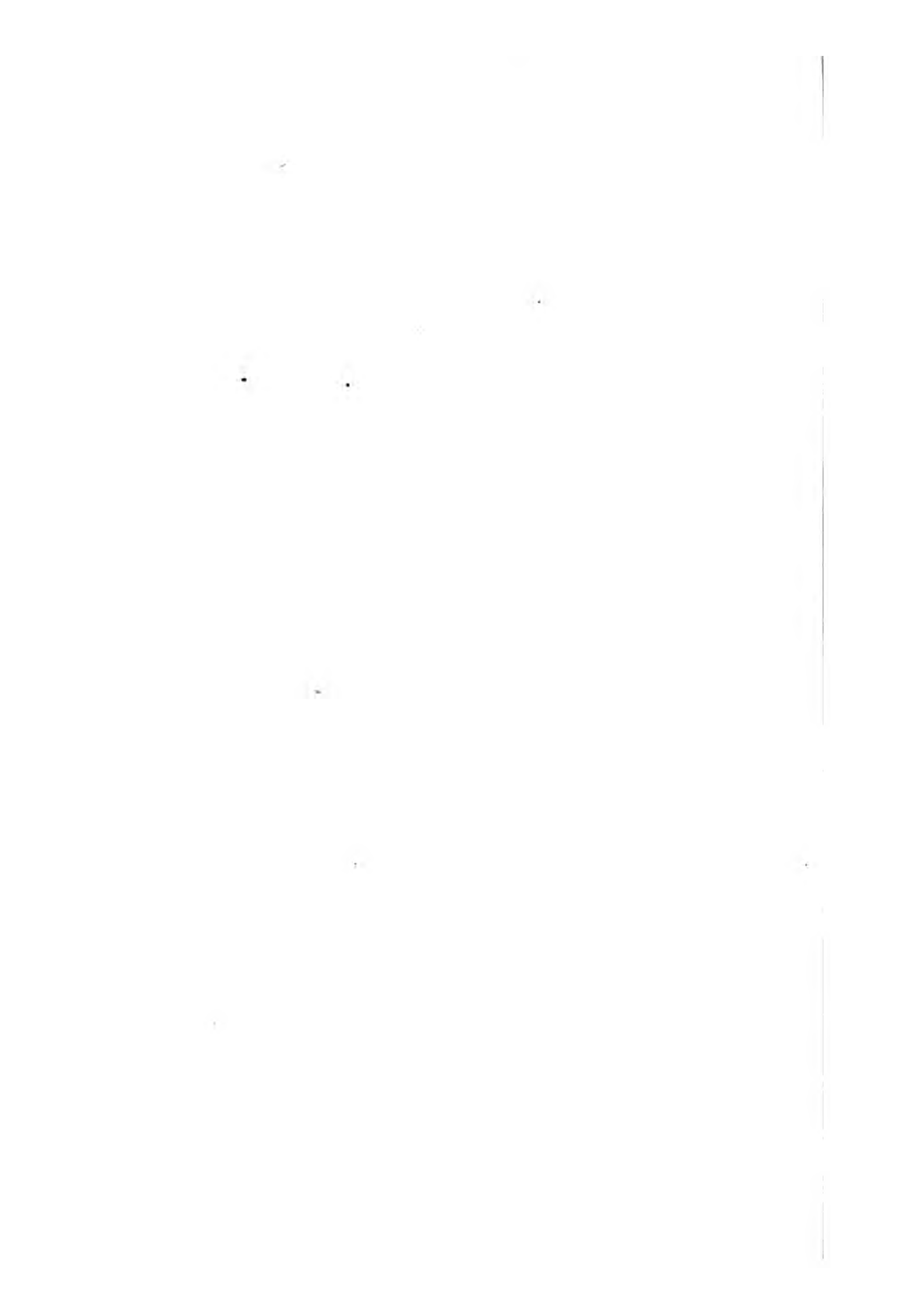
At Cliveden this attempt has for several years been successful; and, although some seasons have been severe—others, again, mild and moist in the extreme—yet in every instance there has been no failure in the spring display: nor is this likely to occur when the hardy nature of the plants made use of is taken into consideration.

That this system of Flower Gardening soon becomes popular there cannot be a doubt, if we may take our own neighbourhood as an example. Little, if anything, of this was attempted before it was begun here. Now, however, not only the larger places, but most of the cottages for a long radius round, have their patches of spring flowers in proportion as the love of their garden prevails.

To those of my own profession who may require it, I hope the experience given here will prove useful by aiding their endeavours in providing additional enjoyment and variety for their employers. There is great scope beyond the practice detailed in these pages for every one, and no extra trouble should prevent us making

every endeavour to gratify and foster that love of a garden and flowers so prevalent at present among all classes.

It may not be possible for many to receive the same amount of encouragement as I have done; because there is perhaps no other who has been so great a patron to, or done more to encourage, the higher branches of gardening to the same extent as my noble employer : but there are few places where this may not be carried out to some extent.



SPRING AND WINTER
FLOWER GARDENING.

CHAPTER I.

OBSERVATIONS ON SPRING AND WINTER FLOWER
GARDENING.

To most houses of any pretension in the country, and to many in and near towns, is attached a flower garden, varying in size and design according to the means and taste of the owner.

It appears to be the object of all parties to have this as near the house as possible, forming a prominent feature in the view from the windows, and therefore continually under the eye of the occupants at all seasons. This renders the management of the flower garden of considerable importance—in affording more or less gratification and pleasure, by prolonging its attractions, and in making it an object of interest and of beauty at all seasons of the year.

At present, in almost every garden the pre-

vailing rule is to throw all the energy and resources of the establishment into making provisions for the short season of summer. No one can deny that a well-filled flower garden, with a bright season, is very beautiful. It is, however, soon over; and then comes a much longer space, with nothing to look upon but the bare soil of the beds, in bad contrast, oftentimes, with the beautiful green sward with which they are surrounded.

There have been many plans tried and suggested as remedies for this defect, such as making the beds into different devices or separate gardens, or covering their surface with different coloured materials; but perhaps the most common is filling a portion with evergreens in pots, kept for this purpose, and transferred to the gardens after the summer flowers are over.

Wherever we have seen this carried out to any extent it gave the garden a stiff nursery appearance. It is not possible to plant them sufficiently full to make a level surface from this cause; and the upright habit of many of them is the probable reason of their never looking effective in flower-beds.

Ivy is the best substitute from its creeping habits, and the many beautiful variegated varieties now to be had; but it might be more in place, perhaps, as edgings, at all seasons for beds on grass or baskets, and as distinct beds of itself

for both winter and summer. Another drawback to shrubs is the sickly appearance they generally have after the first or second season, from being kept in the pots and cramped at the roots, or at times being a little short of water. They also require a large space of ground to plunge and keep them over the summer months, and a great amount of labour in watering and carrying them backwards and forwards. The same sized space required for them would alone be sufficient, if sown judiciously with a few of the annuals noticed hereafter, to fill a very large garden with the plants in the autumn, and make a fine display in spring.

It appears surprising that any of the above substitutes for flowers should be necessary at a time when, besides the many beautiful and neglected varieties of plants suitable for purposes of this sort, we are also laying the whole known world under contribution for supplying the demands of both garden and houses. To illustrate this we have only to consider how much care and attention have of late years been bestowed upon the half-hardy bedding plants, excluding from the garden nearly all other varieties as useless or not of sufficient merit to take part with the others in the general display. For several seasons past there appears to have been a change taking place in favour of spring flowers. There is this much in

favour of spring, that the annuals of which I have furnished lists can be used to any extent; the sun is not so scorching before June, and we have the same chance of getting in spring two months' good bloom, as they have in Scotland for the autumn display, where annuals are used so extensively, and where they succeed so well from the mildness of the atmosphere and an absence of too much sun.

If no provision is made for the garden in spring, which is generally the case, we frequently find at the end of the dull winter months fine midday weather, which is a strong inducement to extend and prolong to the fields and woods the casual walks of the past dull months. Many little flowers are then beginning to peep from every sheltered corner; and long before the garden is attractive, many rustic spots are studded with beautiful little flowers and bright colours. The garden is, in most instances, the point from which the walk begins and ends, and it generally fares but indifferently by comparison. Why then should we not in this matter take a lesson from nature? and if flowers at that season bloom in the fields and woods, they can also be made to bloom in the garden. The most beautiful of these wild flowers are gone before we can venture to turn out the summer plants. The sort of plants used are not of the least importance, if they give the colours

and furnish the necessary requisites. If they are sufficiently hardy to keep the beds green in the dead part of the winter months, and come out in spring with that display necessary to make the garden attractive, they answer all the purposes required of them.

It will be found that a great deal can be done for this part of the season without much difficulty, both with the beautiful new and old variegated and other shrubs, introduced in proper places, and also with the hardy variegated plants which have come in of late for such a large share of public favour.

The PLANTS suitable for spring decoration must possess the same qualifications as those used for the summer beds. They must have good habits and plenty of bloom, all of which are easily found among the great variety of beautiful and neglected spring-flowering plants. Many of them are as well adapted for the season in which they are required as the summer flowers are; and although to have a garden as perfect as in summer it requires of some sorts a much larger number, they are got without the expense of houses or fuel, and all may even be got in quantities without glass. The colours are also beautiful, and as varied as in the summer class.

If a good bed of scarlet is wanted, we have the single scarlet Anemone, which continues in bloom

for most of the season. The double varieties are more rich still, and for the time surpass any Scarlet Geranium; but they are not of so long duration, and more tender than the single. In the same class there is, besides the scarlet mentioned, a great variety of colours—some white, others a most beautiful blue; but nearly all the varieties are most appropriate in the various divisions of a flower garden. *Alyssum saxatile* is a fine yellow, equal in every way to a *Calceolaria*, with yellow Pansies, *Cheiranthus Marshallii*, and a great many others equally good, leaving no lack of choice for yellow beds and ribbons.

Daisies, both red and white, make good compact rows of colour in chains or ribbons. For small beds or edgings they are equally effective; but they must be planted close and full at first, and by March they are good distinct lines of colour. Through April there is scarcely a leaf to be seen from the great amount of bloom, which will continue up to the end of May.

For blue we have the beautiful *Myosotis arvensis*, which, being an annual, is easily got in great quantities with little care. It can also be planted at any time up to its blooming; but it is better to plant it early for the sake of covering the soil. Cliveden Blue Pansy makes fine rows in ribbons and small beds; and it is nearly always in bloom, both summer and winter. But April and

May, if planted in the beds early in the autumn, is the season in which it makes the most display.

The white *Myosotis arvensis*, and the creamy *Silene*, with white Pansies and Daisies, give good beds and rows of several heights; but all are very useful, and not to be surpassed by any of the summer plants. In Pansies we find a rival to the summer Verbenas. Their habits are better; and although there is not the rich scarlet, there is now a very good approach to red in some of the Fancy class. We can also add yellow, which is not found in the Verbena; and certainly a better blue, with striped varieties too numerous to mention. They are all well adapted for ribbons, and do not require pegging down. Great objections are frequently made to the gross habits of the Fancy varieties. This cannot be so for flower-garden purposes, as long as they retain their good blooming properties. It is often with great regret we have to remove Pansies and Daisies from the beds and ribbons in the end of May, when, after a long season, they are still one mass of bloom.

Among Primroses we have an extensive variety of colours, both in double and single; the latter, by far the most beautiful, continue much longer in bloom than the double, being one charming glow of colour from February to the middle of May. They are scarce, because their proper treatment has never been understood; or we might,

perhaps, with more justice, say their habits have never been studied, from there being no call for them in the garden requirements. I have no doubt this will soon be obviated when their beauties become better known.

Variegated and white edging plants are now in great demand for the summer beds, from which we are led to believe many would wish to continue the practice of winter and spring flower gardening. Nothing can be easier to accomplish, as many of the plants used for summer edgings are common hardy alpine plants, and, like most of that class, bloom beautifully in spring; several of them can also be used with great effect in ribbon rows.

The *Alyssum saxatile variegatum*, or Golden-edged Madwort, is perhaps not so showy in colour as the *Arabis mollis variegata*, and *Arabis lucida variegata*. *Cerastium Biebersteinii*, also *C. tomentosum* and *C. grandiflorum*; the latter is a taller grower than the others, but blooms profusely in April and May. The Aucuba-leaved Daisy is very pretty, but does not succeed well in some soils; it is also most desirable to have it under close inspection, as in vases, baskets, or corner beds near the walks.

In dark-red-coloured leaves we have, as yet, no match for the summer *Perilla*. There is a hardy Plantain (*Plantago major fol. purpureis*),

with a leaf as dark as the *Amaranthus melancholicus*, but not having seen it in quantity, we are unable, as yet, to describe its effect. Beet is objected to by many from its culinary associations; otherwise it is very useful, as it comes in by February. Other dark-leaved hardy plants will doubtless soon be found, if the demand increases for them at that season in a similar way to what it has done for the summer bedding.

A much more general use of BULBS has sprung up of late years; but although the taste is still increasing, I am afraid some sorts will always remain aristocratic flowers, from there being little chance of keeping up a stock from year to year without purchasing some additional bulbs. With *Crocus*, however, this is different; they are every one's flower, and of easy culture, the greatest difficulty being to leave them undisturbed in their places while digging the beds and borders. They are also within the reach of every one; and when the garden is required for February or March, are enough in themselves to make a good display, if properly managed, however large that garden may be.

Hyacinths are very beautiful in both beds and borders, from their clean, rich colours. They are, unfortunately, very delicate, and cannot withstand cold and wet. Where they are favourites, a covering of canvass, or other similar material, is an

advantage, and will keep them much longer in bloom. A greater use may perhaps be made of them in vases and baskets, with some chance of saving the bulbs for another season.

Bedding Tulips now form a distinct class from what was known formerly as florists' flowers. They form a good illustration of what we have been trying to prove with regard to many of the spring flowers mentioned—that public taste will soon improve and increase whatever comes into favour. Within a few years this class has, from a few varieties, increased in some of the catalogues of the London seedsmen to fifty or sixty single varieties, and between thirty and forty double. With these, as with all other classes overdone in number, it only adds confusion to the purchaser; the only safe rule is to purchase those that are lowest-priced for garden purposes, and we might add for other purposes also, if the selection is made judiciously. Many of both the single and double varieties are very beautiful, and make fine showy beds and ribbons, more especially if the ground is covered with some other plant, rising a little way up the stem, and reducing the length of the flower-stalk. For baskets and vases they are very useful, and also for in-door decoration. Like the Hyacinth, they are greatly improved, and their period of blooming is prolonged by protection.

We have also the *Polyanthus Narcissus*, with a great variety of early blooming *Narcissus*, as the Daffodil and Hoop-petticoat; perhaps we may add the Jonquil as one of the best in this class. Both the double and single, if planted a good depth, and undisturbed, will increase and bloom for several years. *Narcissus poeticus* has also similar properties, but does not come into bloom so soon. There is besides a great quantity of beautiful spring-flowering bulbs fully noticed elsewhere, as Winter Aconite, the Dog's-tooth Violet, Scillas, &c., &c.



CHAPTER II.

SPRING FLOWER GARDENS AT CLIVEDEN.

IN giving a brief explanation of how these different gardens were filled for the two spring seasons of 1862 and 1863, with a few remarks upon the different plants used, it may not be too much to say that the system can be made applicable to any other garden where decoration of this sort is required. The plants used in the largest quantities are both common and hardy, but not the less beautiful, when properly managed, for the spring months.

THE DUKE'S GARDEN.

The Duke's garden, the one which we will treat of first, is from the peculiarities of its position composed of miscellaneous groups of medium-sized beds, as being more suitable to accommodate the different favourite old trees, which, in high and prominent situations, are always objects of peculiar care, and among which geometrical designs are generally out of place. As for these reasons they acquire a different and more individual interest, each bed should be attractive in itself, and not

dependant upon the others, to bring out its colours. And as there is no harmony of design, there is also an opportunity of introducing a longer succession of bloom. As the very early plants go off, their places can be supplied by some of the hardy annuals, a few of which should always be sown early, or kept in pots for this purpose.

Many of the more hardy annuals, also, left from the autumn planting or from second sowings made for this purpose, will move up to the time of blooming without any check, so that all the beds may be kept full up to the time of the summer planting.

The garden consists of about forty beds. Out of these the following are all that are distinct, those not given being only repetitions:—

- One bed Anemone Azure Incomparable; edging, white Daisy.
 Cœlestina, blue; edging, white Crocus.
 Von Schiller, blue; edging, white Arabis.
 Superba, scarlet; edging, Arabis mollis variegata.
 Belleforme, scarlet; blue Pansy.
 Nemorosa flore pleno, white; edging, Scilla præcox.
- One bed Alyssum saxatile, yellow; edging, Dog's-tooth Violet.
 Cardamine flore pleno, light lilac; edging, blue
 Gentian.
- Several Cheiranthus Marshallii, warm orange; edging, Arabis
 lucida variegata.
 Dodecatheon meadia, light pink; edging red Daisy.
 Iberis sempervirens, white; edging Cliveden Dark
 Pansy.
- One bed Géant Polyanthus, mixed; edging, Cerastium tomentosum.

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Pansies, several beds of the best sorts of new mixed varieties—
Cliveden Blue, Dark, and Yellow; Great Eastern, white;
and Magpie, blotched; with edgings to match.

Several of Turban Ranunculus; edging of Crocus.

One bed *Saxifraga granulata*; edging, *Alyssum variegatum*.

One bed Tulip Tournesol, planted between with blue Pansy.

Duc Van Thol, scarlet; ground covered with Virginian
Stock.

Vermilion Brilliant, vermilion; ground covered with
blue *Nemophila*.

Queen Victoria, white; ground covered with *Myosotis*.

Canary Bird, yellow; ground covered with *Collinsia*
bicolor.

Gesneriana, pink; ground covered with white *Myo-*
sotis.

On three sides of this garden are borders, two with shrubs, the one with flowers edged next to the walk instead of grass, with a broad belt of *Aubrietia purpurea*, and behind it a mixture of Snowdrop, Crocus, Winter Aconite, and *Hepatica*, with Pansies, mixed Tulips, Jonquils, &c. Behind these a broad row of single Italian Wallflower. At the back in the other borders we have a good width of shrubs, with flowers in front. The first row *Arabis albida* (white), with in front a good row of Crocus; second, *Alyssum saxatile* (yellow). Among the shrubs at intervals red and white *Honesty* (*Lunaria biennis*); also between the rows of *Alyssum* are *Narcissus poeticus* and Jonquil. The shrubs are mixed for early-flowering, and consist of *Forsythia*, *Jasminum*, *Pyrus*, *Rhododendrons*, &c. Along the back row Lilac and *Ribes*.

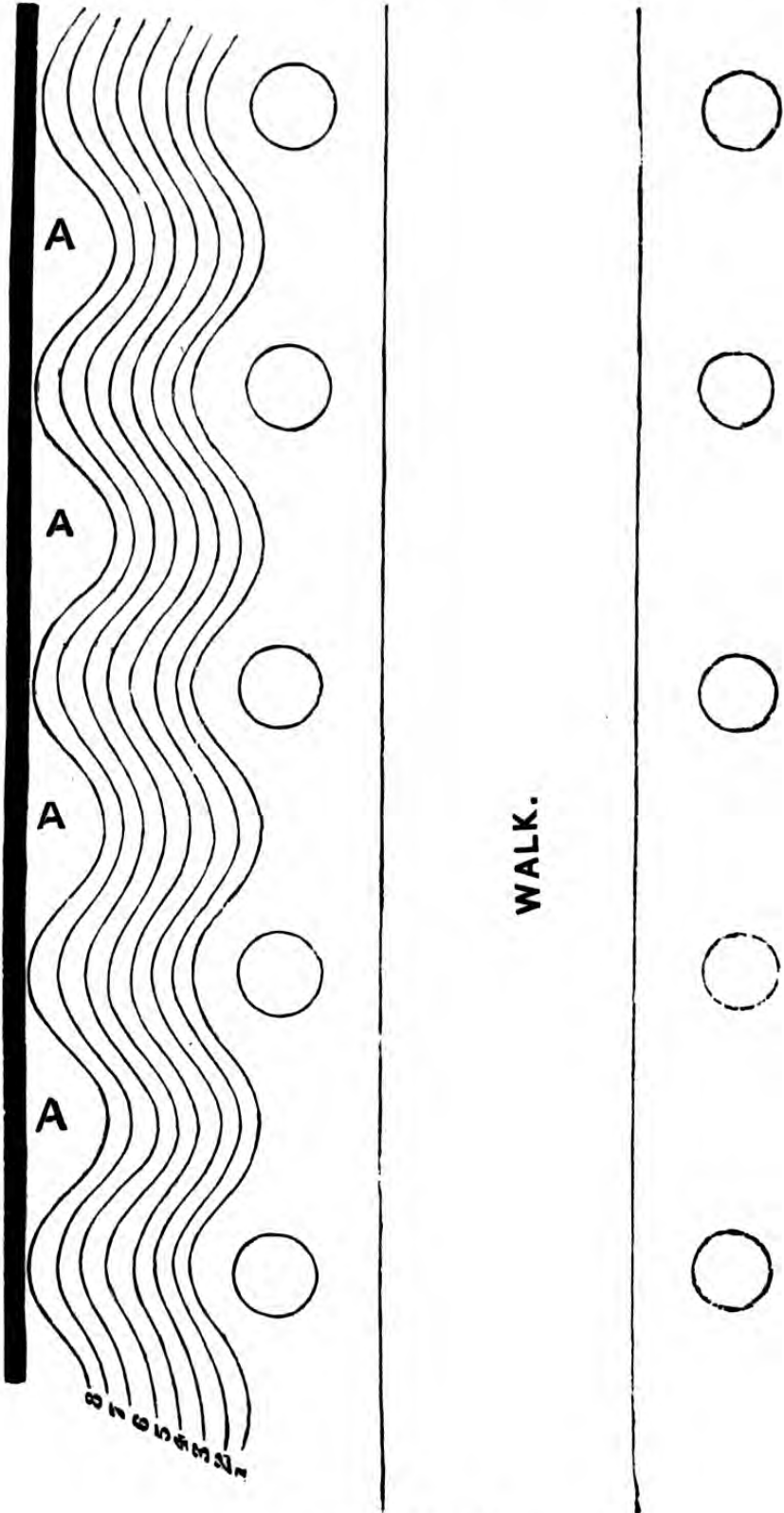
With few exceptions, the whole of the plants in the beds are taken clear out every season; the bulbs, too, are properly dried, and the Alyssum, Arabis, and Pansy are laid in behind a north wall, or under a tree, or any sort of shade that can be found. When we have no shady place left we cover them over for a time with branches, if the weather should be hot at the time of moving. A small space holds a good many, as they are only wanted to be kept, not to grow. To prevent these being dug up or injured, a plan of the garden is kept and each bed numbered. At the time of digging a label is put to the bed, with its edging, that the Crocus, &c., may not be dug up, and as a guide for planting the other edgings each season.

THE RIBBON BORDER.—PLAN NO. 1.

Plan No. 1 is a border under the terrace-wall, facing the south. On each side of a flight of steps both borders are seen the whole length from the landing and most of the way down the steps.

At one time these borders were straight, but when planted the different rows of flowers were not effective. It was, therefore, altered into the wavey lines shown in the plan, which has proved much better for displaying the different colours, and gives a more dressy ribbon appearance from all parts where it is seen. Each is 60 yards long

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Plan No. 1.

following the curves, and 6 yards in width. It is raised 18 inches above the level of the grass and walk, the slope being covered with Ivy and *Vinca elegantissima* kept close down to the slope.

The border for spring is generally planted in seven or eight rows, with a row of *Crocus* first, which is not numbered. It was planted in the spring of 1863 as follows :—

A row of white *Crocus* next the Ivy.

1st, White Daisy. .

2nd, Cliveden Yellow Pansy.

3rd, Cliveden Blue Pansy.

4th, Cliveden Dark Purple Pansy.

5th, White *Myosotis arvensis* and white *Silene pendula*, mixed.

6th, Tulip *Tournesol*.

7th, Pink *Silene pendula*.

8th, A double row of—first, dwarf Italian Wallflower; and, second, white Queen Stock. In the half-circles, finishing with the wall, red and white *Honesty* (*Lunaria biennis*).

It was frequently remarked in the end of February and beginning of March, that it was a mistake to put the white Daisy and white *Crocus* together in one row. This could not apply to April and May, as the *Crocus* is over, and the Daisy flowers are filling in, and extending over the *Crocus* leaves. The Cliveden Blue Pansy would be better next the white; but its habit has always been higher, and does not come in so well with the regular rise of the border. Each row is made

wider as it leaves the front of the border up to the back. The Pansy-rows are planted in a square of four, with one in the centre, so— each row requiring over one thousand plants. All the three are most abundant bloomers and with hardy dwarf habits.

In the spring of 1862 this border was filled differently, but not so effectively, there being no Daisy-row, but beginning after the Crocus with the—

- 1st, Cliveden Blue Pansy.
- 2nd, Cliveden Yellow Pansy.
- 3rd, Cliveden Dark Purple Pansy.
- 4th, *Arabis albida*, white, mixed with white *Myosotis*.
- 5th, Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari botryoides*).
- 6th, Single scarlet Anemone.
- 7th and 8th, German Wallflower and Brompton Stocks, with the ovals next the wall blue Lupins.

The *Arabis albida* is early in bloom, we might say always in the winter and spring months; but it wants filling up by the middle of April, which the *Myosotis* does most effectually.

The Grape Hyacinths are later in blooming than they ought to be for the general display and clearing the border for the summer plants. They also suffer much from shifting, which altogether renders them unfit for purposes of this sort, although very beautiful in mixed borders where they can be allowed to remain.

The circles shown in the plan are used in the

summer for standard Orange trees, and in spring they form two very pretty rows of flower-beds. Each is well kept up in the centre, and equally planted alike, with good edgings of Crocus, then *Cerastium tomentosum*, next to this a good ring of blue Pansy; the centre a mixture of Tulips, Anemone, Jonquil, and Polyanthus Narcissus.

The Anemone keeps the beds with a few blooms all the winter months, and good beds of themselves for spring. The others come in and add sweetness and a variety to the effect, leaving no blank when done blooming.

LARGE STONE BASKETS.

Between the flight of steps, on the gravel are two large Austin and Seeley's artificial stone baskets, 18 inches high from the gravel and 6 feet across. Round the edges of these are planted old trailing plants of the yellow Alyssum, Evergreen Candytuft, and a few variegated plants, as *Alyssum argenteum* and *saxatile variegatum*. All are planted close and allowed to fall down the sides of the basket curves. Next to these are planted a row of old blue Pansies and *Arabis albida* in a similar way; the centres, being raised up to a cone for winter, with a mixture of good manure, are planted with Anemone seedlings and filled in all over with the Hyacinth and Tulip roots of the

previous season's forcing, Polyanthus Narcissus, and Jonquils.

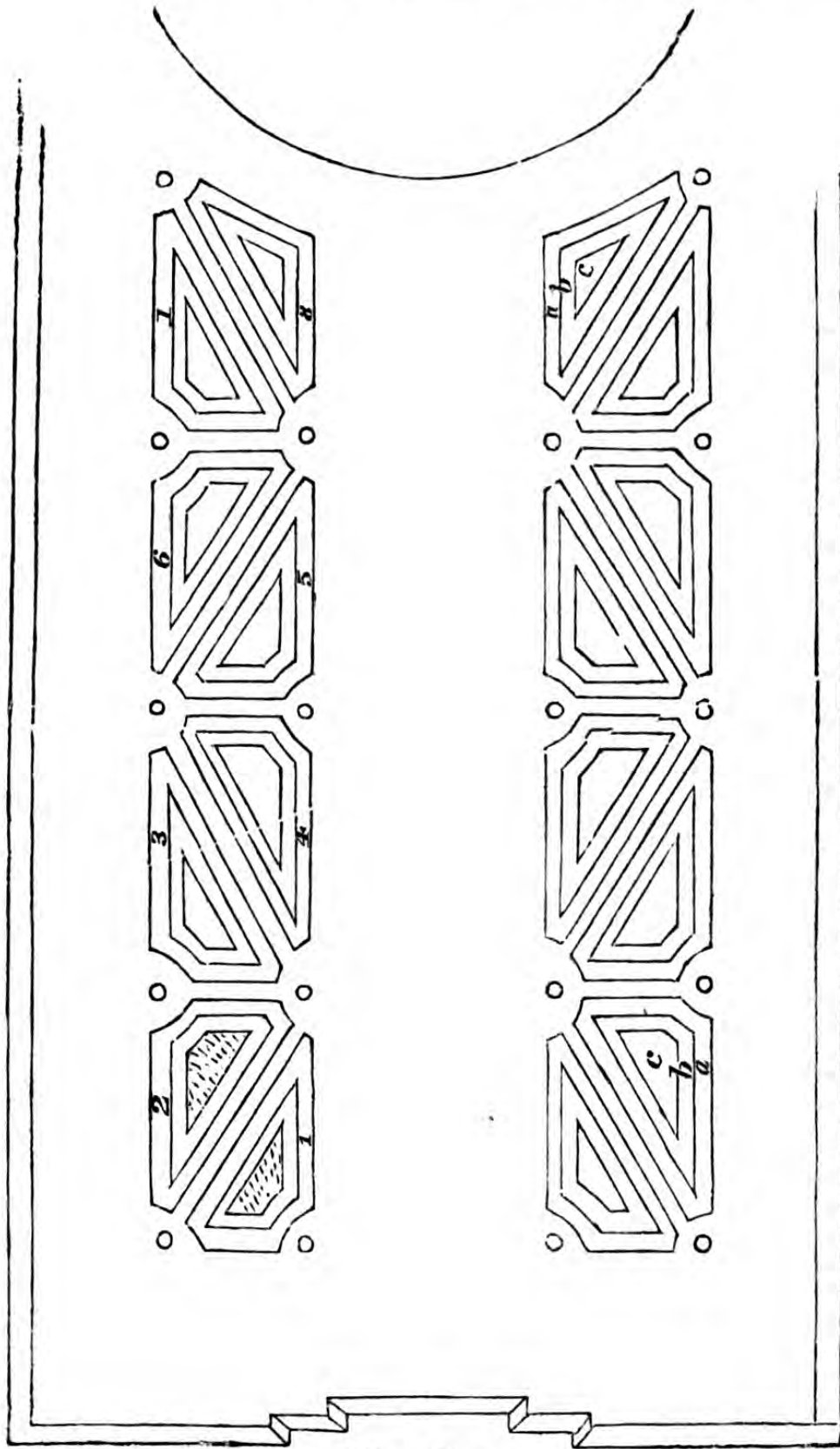
THE GREAT GARDEN.—PLAN NO. 2.

Plan No. 2, that accompanies this, is a part of the flower garden in front of the mansion, and contains 3 acres, 2 roods, and 10 poles. It was figured in a highly-coloured plate given in "The Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener" for July, 1862.

That season some of the beds were planted in chains of colour formed by the plant; others in a strip of colour taken down the bed in a separate form, dividing it into ovals, each of which was filled alternately with a different colour. The following is the planting for the season of 1862:—

- No. 1 bed, mixed Anemone and yellow Jonquil; centre chain,
Silene pendula and yellow Tulip.
- 2, blue Myosotis; chain, white Myosotis.
- 3, white Silene; chain, pink Silene, with Tournesol
Tulip.
- 4, blue Myosotis and La Candeur Tulip.
- 5, all pink Silene and Rex Rubrorum Tulip.
- 6, Limnanthes Douglassii; chain, blue and white
Myosotis and mixed Tulips.
- 7, mixed Anemone; chain, pink Silene.
- 8, blue Myosotis and yellow Rose Tulip; chain, white
Myosotis.

This arrangement, although very pretty and neat, was found to diminish the grand effect pro-



Plan No. 2.

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duced by separate and distinct colours in each bed. It was, therefore, arranged for the spring of 1863 as follows :—

- No. 1 bed, blue *Myosotis* and *La Candeur* Tulip.
- 2, *Anemone* and yellow *Jonquil*.
- 3, *Limnantes Douglassii* and *Tournesol* Tulip.
- 4, *Silene pendula*, pink, and *Rex Rubrorum* Tulip.
- 5, *Silene pendula*, white.
- 6, blue *Myosotis*, *Queen Victoria* Tulip.
- 7, mixed *Anemone* and *Narcissus poeticus*.
- 8, yellow *Alyssum saxatile* and yellow *Rose* Tulip.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BEDS.

The whole of these beds have edgings of Evergreen Privet, or common Spruce, 8 inches high and 9 broad. Each bed is over 80 yards round the outer edging, or the flower part of the beds, *a*, and 3 yards wide. Next to this, *b*, is the same width of grass; the centre, *c*, of each bed being planted with either *Rhododendrons* or *Azaleas*. To fill the beds moderately it requires two thousand plants, and from six to eight hundred Tulips when well filled; but a much less quantity of Tulips make a good display from the ground being covered with the other plants close to the grass. On each bed is a row of *Crocus* all round.

The *Rhododendrons* are principally of the early-blooming varieties, their high and beautiful colours showing out well from the mansion. The *Azaleas*

come into bloom at the same time, and continue up to June, according to the different periods of blooming of the separate varieties. All these are planted well apart to allow of Gladioli and Hollyhocks for the summer garden. We may remark in passing that the former of these is most useful and appropriate; but although we have planted the Hollyhocks largely in such places, they rob the Rhododendrons of the moisture at the time they are setting their bloom-buds, very frequently preventing a sufficient display in the following spring.

The round circles are cut out upon the grass without any edging of evergreen. Round each bed is planted a good row of Crocus, then *Cerasium tomentosum*; behind this a belt of blue *Myosotis* and Wallflowers, with a centre of *Honesty*.

GENERAL REMARKS UPON THE PLANTS USED.

It was desired in this part of the garden to have the main display in the months of April and May, to harmonise with the groups of Thorns and Lilacs that surround it, and form a belt of division from the woods which surround the garden. This will, to a certain extent, explain the reason for using a limited variety of plants so largely. Another consideration also was the great quantity of plants these beds require, which renders an

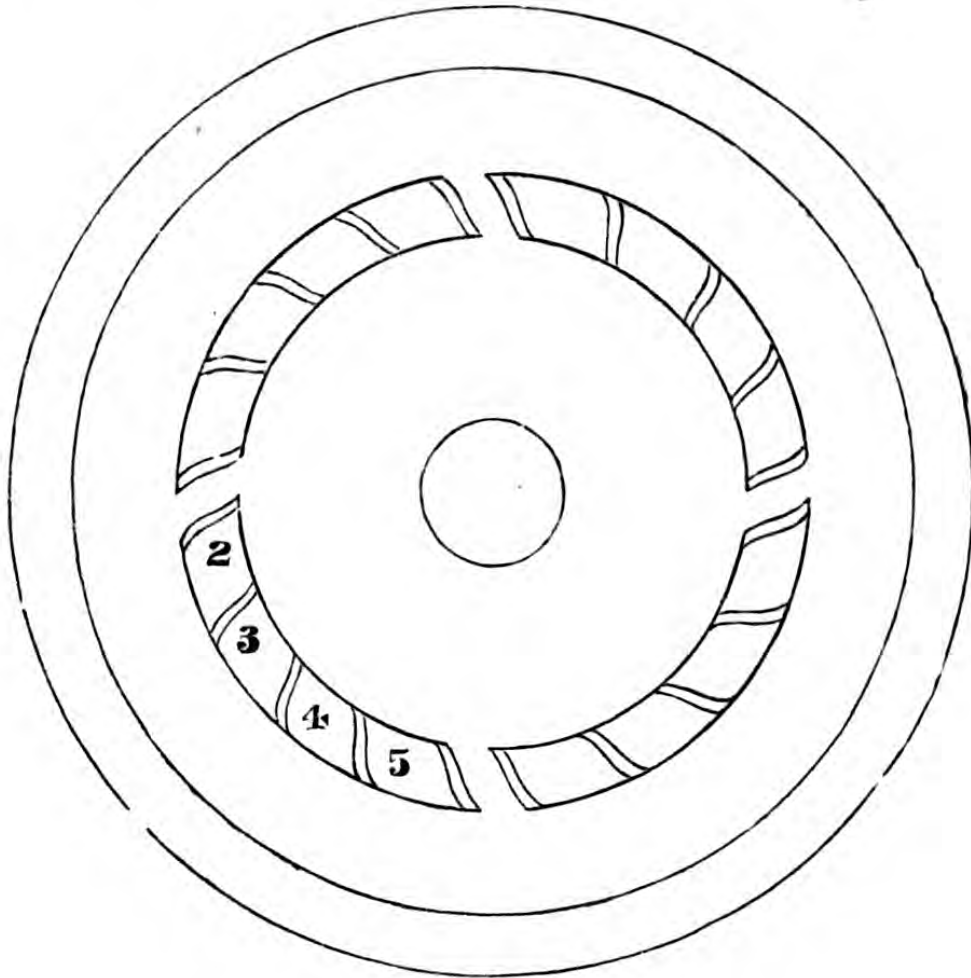
extensive use of those plants which practice has proved to be suitable and most easily got for that season absolutely a necessity. A great many other varieties have been tried from time to time, and weeded out, from causes of failure with us that may not exist elsewhere.

The Anemone and Tulip make the first effect, the former always showing a few blooms, except when the weather is very severe. Most of the plants covering the beds are partly in bloom at the same time as the Tulips, according to the season; but we never knew one when they were not well out in bloom before the Tulips finish, and nothing can be finer than the effect of the white Tulip *La Candeur* and blue *Myosotis*.

The Tulip is of erect habit, with large and beautiful white cup-looking blooms, that appear as if resting upon the soft level blue of the *Myosotis*; the latter completely covering the foot-stalks of the Tulip. None of the other varieties of double Tulips have the strong flower-stalk and strong habit of this variety. *Imperator Rubrorum* is the next best for effect, planted among the creamy *Silene*; both this, and the pink variety of *pendula*, make excellent spring beds, and, with the *Myosotis* easily got in great quantities.

If we add the yellow *Limnanthes* to the white and blue *Myosotis*, and the cream-coloured and pink *Silene*, we have almost enough colours to fill

a large garden ; and sufficient plants of all these could be got from a few yards of seed-bed to fill a larger than the plan given, or any public park.



Plan No. 3.

Plan No. 3 is the farther end of No. 2, as will be seen by the curved line, shown at the bottom of No. 2, and from which it is divided by a sloping bank of turf all round, and forms a separate garden, similar in shape to a soup-plate, with the same broad, green terrace-walk surrounding the

bottom part that comes all the way down above the slopes of the other garden plan No. 2, and forms the furthest point of the garden seen from the mansion.

The beds are formed by two lines of low Evergreen Privet hedges, with four divisions of 8 feet in width of grass, which form a ribbon. Between the outside edge and bottom of the slope is a grass walk 16 feet wide, the beds being 8 feet wide, and formed by planting into four divisions each. These division-rows are generally for spring; the centre row is Honesty pegged down, with on each side double rows of Wallflower laid down in a slanting position when planted. The beds were filled for the spring of 1863 as follows:—

No. 2 bed, pink Silene.

3, white Myosotis.

No. 4 bed, blue Myosotis.

5, yellow Alyssum.

For several seasons a mixture of Tulips was added to these, but the great distance from the mansion rendered them almost invisible. The Honesty is of free-blooming, strong habit, but when pegged down its side shoots throw up and make a good row of red. There are a great variety of shades, some very dark; but a light red shows best in the distance, and they can always be secured by saving seed from the proper plants.

The Wallflower is also a good row when laid down, all the side shoots blooming freely. Both

are easily got in quantities, and can be transplanted almost up to the time of blooming.

For the general effect of this garden as a whole, filled with the plants stated, it may be as well to quote a notice from the "Gardeners' Chronicle," which appeared in the Number for June 6th, 1863:—

"The garden in front, which is a sunk panel some 5 acres in extent, surrounded by a charming turf-covered promenade, whose slopes at certain distances apart are decorated with red and white Thorns, we find the masses planted as follows—viz., one with blue Forget-me-not and white Tulip (*La Candeur*), another with the Anemones and Tulips, a third with *Silene pendula*, a fourth with *Limnanthes Douglasii*, a fifth with red and white *Silene* (mixed), a sixth with Anemones, a seventh with red *Silene*, and an eighth with Forget-me-not. These occupy one side of the lawn, and those on the opposite side are exactly similar, the dense masses of soft rosy-coloured *Silene* now in perfection setting off the blue *Myosotis* and straw-coloured *Limnanthes* to excellent advantage. The connecting link between these two admirable series of beds at the point farthest from the mansion, is an immense circle with a grassy centre, encompassed with gay flowers, now broken here and there into masses by means of *Honesty* pegged down, and later in the season by *Perilla*, the intermediate colours during spring being blue, red, white, and yellow, and in summer scarlet, white, and blue; the whole, when viewed from a distance, looking not unlike a gigantic brooch of rich and varied colours set in a field of green."

THE LOVER'S KNOT.

In another part of the grounds is a ribbon made to wind round a group of Evergreen Oaks, with at

open places bows and ties, having the appearance of binding them together. It is 2 feet wide and upwards of 300 yards long. There is a difficulty at all times in getting this perfect, from a portion being under the drip of the trees and becoming patchy. It was filled for the spring of 1863 with white *Myosotis* in the centre and a row of Cliveden Blue Pansy on each side.

This proved very effective for a short time in the beginning of the season, but the *Myosotis* grows away and overtops the Pansies, and is altogether higher than a narrow ribbon plant should be. All Pansies would be more appropriate; or, from its woody surroundings, perhaps the single-coloured *Primula* would be most effective, but the difficulty in getting sufficient plants for so large a space will prevent a trial for a time. The white and pink *Saponaria* have been the most effective unless where the drip was, which caused them to damp-off.

PLANTING AND TREATMENT OF THE BEDS.

In the miscellaneous beds of the Duke's garden given first, where most variety is used, we have an opportunity of giving to such beds as Fancy Pansies, and the better varieties of double Anemones and *Ranunculus*, a good dressing of rotten dung and a little fresh soil; and also for such plants as *Dodeca-theon meadia* a little refuse peat; all are bene-

fited by a little dress of either dung or leaf mould dug into the beds in autumn. In the Pansy-border in autumn we add to the mixture a load or two of road-scrappings, shifting the soil about as much as possible. Where the Pansies were the season before, great care is also taken not to dig too much at once; a width of about 1 yard is carried all along the length of each, and this planted at once, keeping the planting close up to the fresh-turned soil, which should never be allowed to get wet before it is planted over, if it can by any means be avoided. A great amount of the success of some of the plants depends upon this, because the rain makes the ground cold, from which it seldom recovers at that late season, particularly if trodden about and puddled with the trowel.

In the Large Beds.—As soon as the summer flowers are over, which is generally about the first week in October, the beds are prepared for the spring plants; each bed is dressed over with something as it can be got—dung, leaf mould, or the sifting of the potting-bench—which is dug in, and every three seasons the bottom spit is brought up, or what is generally termed double-dug. These are also planted as close to the fresh-turned-up soil as circumstances will permit. The Tulips are first planted irregularly all over the bed, avoiding rows as much as possible; they are put in 6 or 7 inches deep, with a tool on purpose.

The other plants are then planted all over the surface as close as possible, both the *Myosotis* and *Silene*, as there may be a few damp-off in the winter from being a little run or an early plant. This only happens with the *Silene*, and we always have a few in the seed-beds to replace them at any time. The *Myosotis*-beds have seldom any blanks. When the time comes to remove these for the summer plants, the annuals are cleared away, and the Tulips taken out, as the footstalks will always show where the root is; the beds are then well hoed and raked over. A man commencing at one side with a Parkes' digging-fork, moves the soil up as far down as the fork will reach, loosening the surface at the same time, but the beds are not dug because of turning up the autumn dressing and moisture. The same is done with all the other beds and borders.



CHAPTER III.

DESIGNS FOR SPRING AND WINTER GARDENS,
AND HOW TO FILL THEM.

IN planning the design of a garden for any particular place, a good deal of consideration is required as to the season in which it may be most wanted. It is almost a general rule among the owners of large country seats to leave for town in the end of February or the beginning of March, where they mostly reside till the middle or end of July. On their return, if the season has been a good one, they will have the benefit of eight or nine weeks of fine bloom, and, following this, twenty weeks of very frequently nothing in the garden but the bare design; that being all that is under the eye, without anything to vary or relieve its monotony. A part of that time is in the dull months of winter, when nothing is expected in the way of flowers; but this is no reason why something more might not be done to add variety and interest more than we generally find in them at that season. The want of this, in most instances, rests with the designer, who—if I might presume to express an opinion—too often ignores

practice, or never inquires what that practice and our immense stores of beautiful berry-bearing and hardy-foliaged plants can supply for his assistance. Within the last few years this class of plants has nearly doubled in variety; but as yet their uses have not been taken advantage of, nor have they found any particular favour in our flower-garden arrangements, where they are so much wanted.

For Smaller Gardens.—If the above remarks are applicable to the large gardens referred to, they are much more so to the smaller and more numerous class, which form sources of pleasure all the year round. In designs for these, as many winter beds should be introduced as possible, without curtailing too much the space for the summer plants. Variety in them is the great object to be kept in view, giving something to interest and please for every season. In the dull months we must use berries and foliage, and with the first approach of spring a few sprigs of Heath, or a stray bloom or two of some other early-flowering plant, may be introduced. In January and February the spring-flowering plants commence, when the display can easily be kept up until the autumn. A great deal of this rests with the authorities who design these gardens, and they will not easily be improved while they make gardening plans subservient to their particular taste, instead of planning to enlarge the scope for variety.

There is no reason why the two seasons should not be combined in one, without in the least detracting from the summer display, or making any more confusion than spaces for dead material do.

Beds for polychromatic material were no doubt originally intended to relieve the winter season, and on paper, neatly painted, they are very beautiful. Perhaps the most elaborate and extensive example of this sort of designing is to be found in the large piece of garden forming the south parterre at Versailles. Its great extent prevents the eye at first from taking in all the detail, but when once this is accomplished there is nothing more to look for—the oftener it is seen the more dreary and uninteresting it is. It appears strange we should be going back to this system, while the French are everywhere eagerly adopting ours, both of the present and of former times, when large ovals and circles were everywhere to be found. In or close to large towns this sort of designing may be correct, where nothing will grow. I could fancy one of the little dirty square patches, so often seen in front of houses in some streets, with very scant signs of vegetation, greatly improved by introducing a neat design of this sort, and, instead of Box, wood or artificial stone edgings painted green. A good-sized vase in the centre, and one at each corner, might always be kept full, from the facility with which plants are purchased in such

places all the summer months. Surrounding these, a neat design for polychromatics would at least be kept clean by rain, and much more pleasant for persons passing in and out than the bare black soil, besides the improvement in the appearance from the windows. A first purchase of material would be the main cost, as the old could be washed at intervals, and a little fresh added. The rosettes and angles could also be made neat at first, when they would keep so as long as the edging endured, and if made high enough they would prevent the rain from mixing the material, as it generally does.

For gardens in the country we are sorry to see it adopted—it is certainly not progress; and, besides its great draw upon labour, is always the same, without change or growth, except when the edgings of Box move a little, and that only adds confusion to the intricate angles.

It might have been necessary to adorn a garden in this way, at one time when proper plants were scarce for purposes of this sort. Now, however, this does not exist; and it would be as easy, in arranging a new garden plan, to assign proper beds and places for these as for chromatic mixtures of any sort.

Plants for Winter Beds.—If, instead of spaces for red brickdust, we planted *Pernettya mucronata*, or *Skimmia japonica*, either of these in

winter would make an equally good red bed. They are both easy to keep down by pegging, and their clusters of beautiful scarlet and red berries or white flowers would always be more beautiful than the other. The Mahonia also makes a good blue, with its rich mealy-looking berries, against the dark green shining leaves. This is much improved by pegging down, and will remain in a dwarf state in a low bed, bearing berries plentifully for many years.

Fine-foliaged Plants.—These are now in abundance. It would be difficult to match the beautiful leaves of *Lonicera aureo-reticulata* with any sort of material; and how beautiful to fancy a winter bed of this joining a bed of blue *Myosotis* or Pansy. There is also a great variety of Ivies of nearly all shades, from small gold and silver-edged to large milky-streaked leaves as *latifolia maculata*. This sends up shoots quite white, and would be much more interesting as a bed than any sort of spar. *Aucuba*, Portugal Laurel, and Yew, both common and Golden, we know to be most useful, and can be cut to any shape. They are also, when dwarfed, of slow growth, and seldom rob anything near the roots.

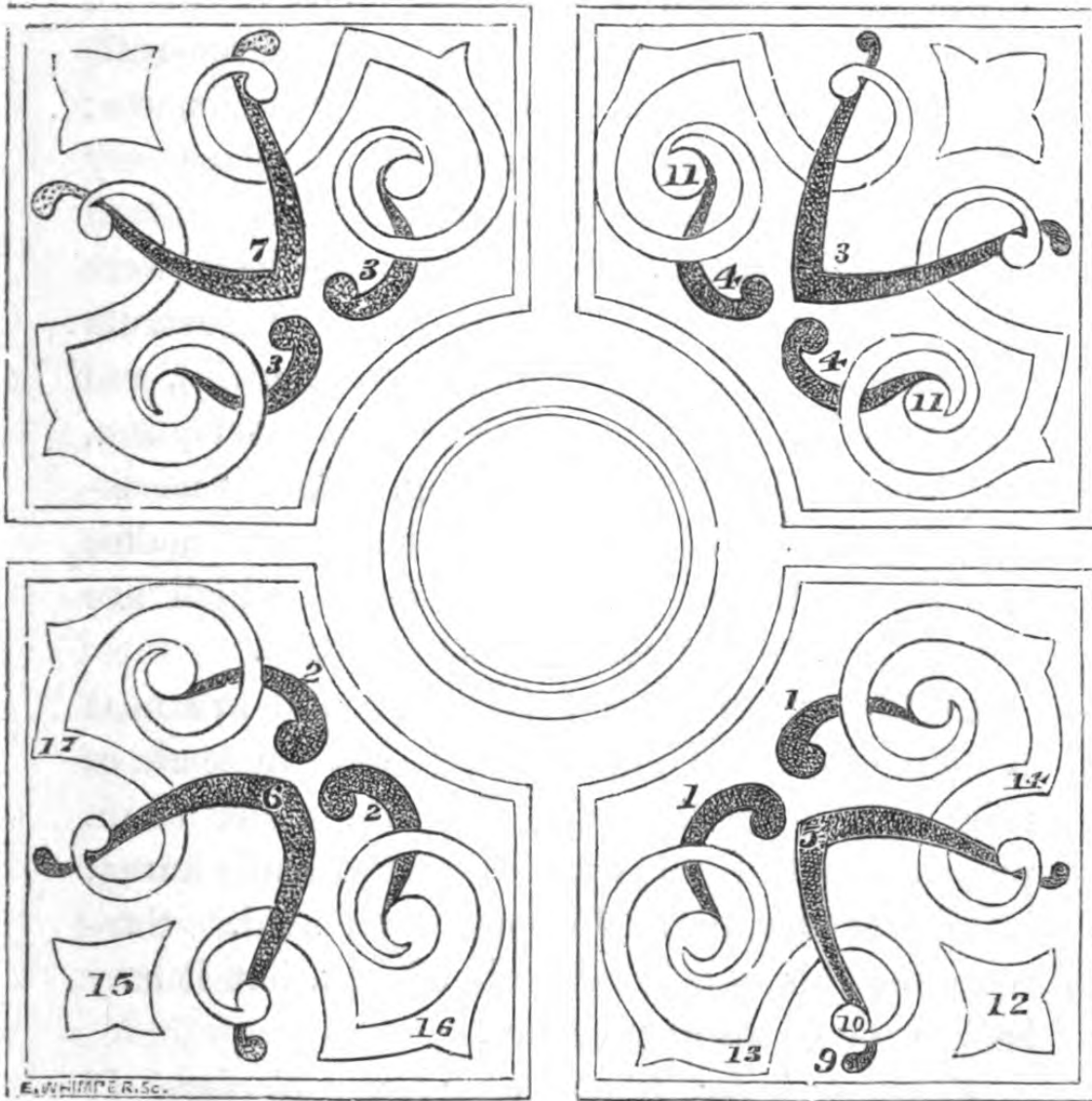
The Blooming Plants.—For similar beds of these there is great choice of beautiful winter and spring-blooming plants. *Jasminum nudiflorum* blooms at all times in winter, when the weather

will permit; and, with a little help to keep it up, will show its golden yellow blooms for a long distance off. Heaths, again, some of which come into bloom by the beginning of January, are most useful; they can also be cut to any shape every season after blooming.

WINTER GARDENS.—PLAN NO. 4.

Reference to Plan No. 4 will more fully explain my meaning. This is one of a great many I made and laid down over several acres, with this object in view—of combining the two seasons. Nothing can be easier than varying these to fill any space, and still keep clear of any confusion in the design. The winter beds were filled at the time they were made with *Erica herbacea* in the two beds marked No. 1, 1; *Pernettya mucronata* in No. 2, 2; *Erica carnea* in No. 3, 3; Variegated Ivy in No. 4, 4; Common Yew clipped to the festoon shape of the bed in No. 5; Variegated Yew cut similar in No. 6; Nos. 7 and 8 the same; No. 9, all Box cut to the shape of the bed, with a rise in the centre.

If we were going to fill this now from the many good plants introduced since that garden was made, it would be No. 1, 1, *Skimmia japonica*; No. 2, 2, *Jasminum nudiflorum*; No. 3, 3, *Pernettya mucronata*; No. 4, 4, *Erica herbacea*. The



Plan No. 4.

Jasminum nudiflorum and Erica are in bloom in January, and the Pernettya and Skimmia are in berry all the winter and spring. Or if leaves alone were wanted, it would be No. 1, 1, Hedera latifolia maculata; No. 2, 2, Lonicera aureo-reticulata; No. 3, 3, Euonymus radicans variegata; No. 4, 4, Vinca elegantissima. All these are very beautiful in the winter months, and would enliven the garden; particularly so if the beds were planted to match. The new Privet, Ligustrum japonicum aureo-variegatum, when plentiful, will be a useful addition to plants of this description, and would no doubt bear cutting. This is necessary with all when planted in beds, as it makes the plants throw out young shoots, which are generally more variegated than old ones.

In the centre of No. 10, all round are neat plants of the Thuja aurea; but instead of this, in the small circles I would plant Thuja pygmæa, and fill all No. 11 with the Thuja aurea, instead of the dwarf Junipers then used. Surrounding this is a broad belt of Box, but it may be Yew or Grass at pleasure.

Flower-beds for Winter and Early Spring.—If we fall back upon the first remarks upon these gardens, being required up to the end of January or beginning of March, we would plant lines of the different coloured Crocus round the inside of every row of Box; and, if we take the end of

February, we would fill the beds No. 12 with a good row of blue Crocus all round the inside of the Box, following the shape of the bed; in the centre of this a good compact bed of variegated Sage, or the *Diotis maritima*. In scroll No. 13 a good row of yellow Crocus similarly planted as the other, and fill the centre between with *Cerastium Biebersteinii*. In scroll No. 14, white Crocus round the edges, and the yellow-edged *Arabis alpina lucida variegata* in the centre, and the opposite corner the same. In No. 15 we would plant Scotch Crocus round the edges, in the middle *Cerastium grandiflorum*. In scroll No. 16, being next the yellow Crocus No. 13, we would plant blue Crocus round the edges, and in the centre yellow-edged *Alyssum saxatile variegatum*. In scroll No. 17 Cloth of Gold Crocus, and *Cerastium tomentosum* or *Stachys lanata* in the centre. This would complete the four divisions; and if flowers were preferred, they might be culled from such as the Christmas Rose (*Helleborus niger*), *Arabis albida*, *Iberis sempervirens* and *albida*, Winter Aconite, *Aubrietia purpurea*, *Bulbocodium vernum*, &c.

If this plan were required for the later months—as from the middle of March up to the end of May—we would fill No. 12 with single scarlet Anemone, and a few Rex Rubrorum Tulips; No. 13 scroll, with the white or creamy *Silene*

pendula, with a sprinkling of Duc Van Thol Tulip ; No. 14, blue Myosotis and white Queen Victoria Tulip or Pottebakker ; No. 15, *Caltha palustris* flore pleno, or single yellow Wallflower, and yellow Rose Tulip ; No. 16, pink *Silene pendula* or *Saponaria* and Tournesol Tulip ; No. 17, white Myosotis and Prince Charlie Tulip. This also would give the four divisions, and where they are preferred, Pansies for the scrolls, would give all these colours. The Tulips would come in by the end of March and beginning of April, if planted at the proper time ; but they are not a necessity, as the other plants begin to come in by April, The Crocus are left in the beds for three or four seasons, where they increase if the soil is suitable ; all the others are removed at the time of the summer planting.

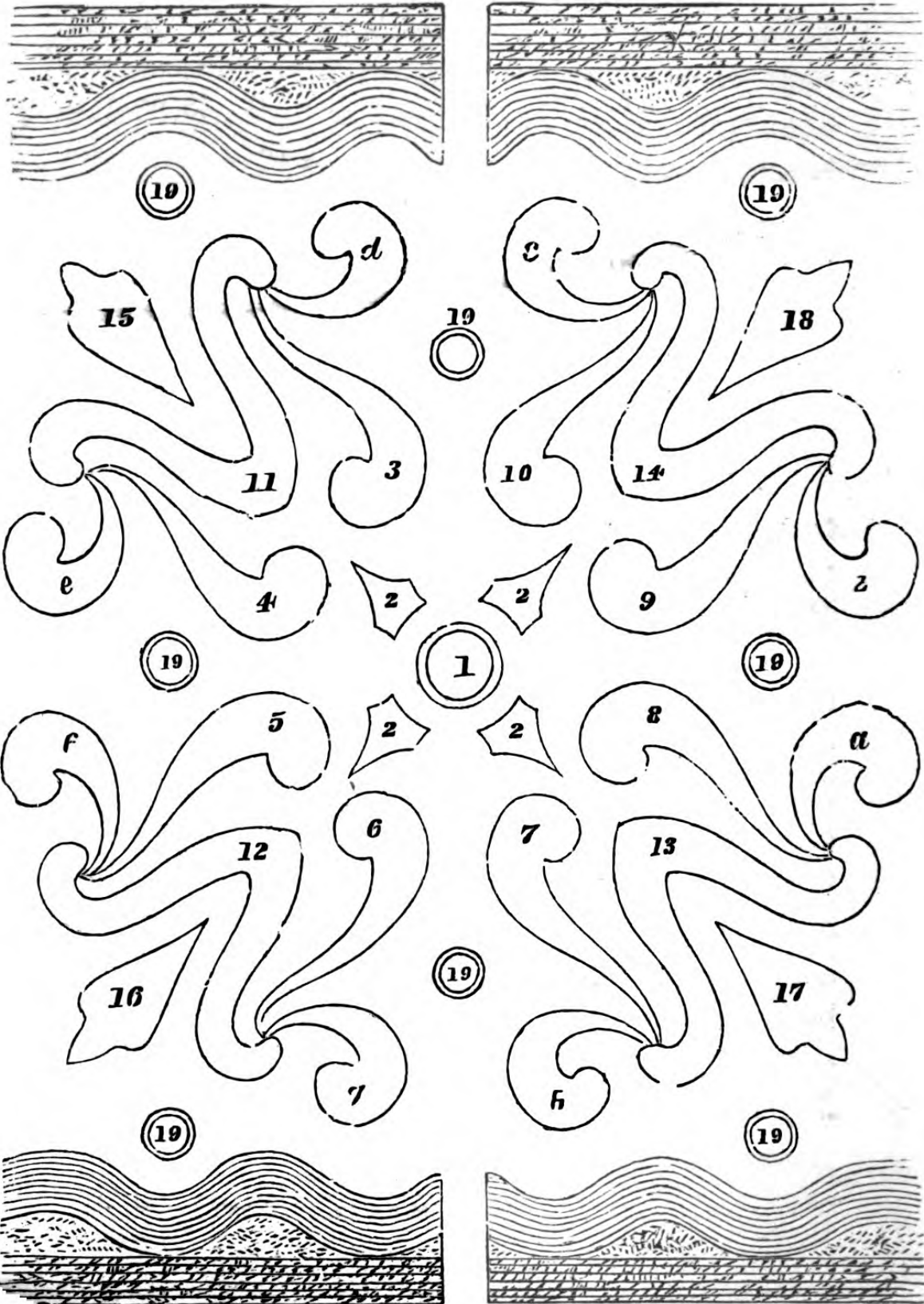
WINTER GARDENS.—PLAN NO. 5.

Plan No. 5 was designed with the object of combining as much as possible the two seasons. It was planned as the main flower garden in front of a large mansion, where it was wanted gay at all seasons, as the means and the weather would permit. By a reference to the plan it will be seen it is surrounded by broad borders ; two more being continued round the outsides, but which are not shown. On the outside of these borders are

broad gravel walks. The lines in the border next these walks are straight, and those on the side next the garden are curved to partly follow the outline of the beds, and to give less stiffness to the light design; it is, besides, the best form of showing all ribbon-border lines. These lines extend up to the centre at A, finishing with half-ovals of dwarf shrubs, and were planted last season with the edging row, *Gentiana acaulis*, instead of Box; behind, extending along each curb, one of the new sort of *Crocus*, with number to each, to preserve the names; then the first row was red Daisy; 2, white Daisy; 3, Cliveden Blue Pansy; 4, Cliveden Dark Purple Pansy; 5, yellow Alyssum, pegged; 6, white *Silene*; 7, dwarf mixed Wallflowers and *Honesty*, finishing against the half-ovals of shrubs. The outside borders are all mixed; the centre part composed of shrubs planted according to their height, and in front a mixture of early-blooming plants of all descriptions suitable, and named, both herbaceous and annuals, with bulbs and other plants likely to be interesting. Next the walk is a broad dwarf hedge of Yew, and then follow the mixed plants, sloping up to the centre of the border.

The plants consist of—

Names of plants.	Time of blooming.	Colour.	Height.
<i>Alyssum argenteum</i> . . .	Apr., May	Yellow	6 in.
<i>saxatile</i> . . .	Apr., May	Yellow	6 in.



Plan No. 5.

Names of plants.	Time of blooming.	Colour.	Height.
Anemone nemorosa flore pleno	April	White	8 in.
apennina	April	Blue	
pulsatilla	April	Violet	
and various garden hybrids	Feb., May	Various	9 in. to 1 ft.
Arabis alpina	Apr., May	White, yel.	9 in.
albida	Feb., May	White	6 in.
rosea	Feb., May	Rose	6 in.
lucida	Feb., May	White	4 in.
Cardamine flore pleno	April	Light	1 ft.
Cheiranthus Marshallii	Apr., May	Orange	6 in.
ochroleucus	April	Yellow	9 in.
Common garden Wallflower in variety		Various	
Cyclamen coum	Feb., Mar.	Red	3 in.
Corydalis nobilis	May	Light yel.	1 ft.
Crown Imperial	April	Pur., yellow	3 ft.
Dodecatheon elegans	April	Purple	1 ft.
Eranthis hyemalis	Feb.	Yellow	3 in.
Erythronium dens-canis	March	Red	3 in.
Fritillaria	Mar., Apr.	Various	1 ft.
Funkia variegata			6 in.
Galanthus (Snowdrop)	Feb., Mar.	White	6 in.
Gentiana verna	Apr., May	Blue	4 in.
Helleborus niger	Winter	White	6 in.
Hepatica triloba	April	Various	4 in.
Hesperis (Rocket)			
Iberis sempervirens	April	White	9 in.
Iris (various)	May		3 ft.
Jonquil (double and single)	Apr., May	Yellow	1 ft.
Lily of the Valley (variegated)			
Linum flavum	May	Yellow	8 in.
Mathiola (Brompton Stocks and White Queen)	May	Various	
Muscari moschatum	May	Blue	9 in.

Names of plants.	Time of blooming.	Colour.	Height.
<i>Muscari pallidum</i> . . .	April	Pur., blue	
<i>botryoides</i> . . .	April	Blue	
<i>Narcissus minus</i> . . .	Mar., Apr.	Yellow	6 in.
<i>poeticus</i> . . .	May	White	1 ft.
<i>pseudo-narcissus</i> . . .	Mar., Apr.	Yellow	1 ft.
<i>biflorus</i> . . .	Apr., May	White	1 ft.
<i>bulbocodium</i> . . .	April	Yellow	9 in.
<i>Polyanthus Narcissus</i> (with many varieties of the <i>tazetta</i>) . . .	Mar., Apr.	White, yel.	1 ft.
<i>Oxlip</i> (various) . . .	Mar., May	Various	1 ft.
<i>Omphalodes verna</i> . . .	Mar., May	Blue	6 in.
<i>Orobus vernus</i> . . .	Mar., Apr.	Pink	1 ft.
<i>Primrose</i> (various, single and double) . . .	Feb., May	Various	6 in.
<i>Pulmonaria virginica</i> . . .	Mar., May	Blue	1½ ft.
<i>Ranunculus</i> (various) . . .	May		
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i> . . .	March	White	8 in.
<i>Saxifraga umbrosa</i> . . .	May	Flesh	1 ft.
<i>granulata flore pleno</i> . . .	Apr., May	White	1 ft.
<i>Trollius europæus</i> . . .	May	Yellow	1 ft.
<i>Violets</i> of sorts . . .	Feb.	Various	6 in.

The above are only those planted for the early spring months; the mixture for summer being out of our province.

It may be remarked that the mixed borders are a great feature, and highly interesting; and by being placed behind the centre where the great display is required, they do not interfere with that in the least.

The shrubs are all dwarf and of the most choice sorts; the *Rhododendrons* being in bloom

at the same time as the spring display of the garden; they are planted with the dwarf-growing sorts to the front, and rising to the centre row.

Berberis Darwinii.	Peach, double-flowering varieties.
Ceanothus azureus.	
Chimonanthus grandiflora, dwarf.	Pyrus of sorts.
Daphne mezereum and varieties.	Prunus of sorts.
Deutzia gracilis.	Weigela rosea.
Ericas in varieties.	amabilis.
Forsythia viridissima.	Skimmia japonica.
Garrya elliptica.	Azalea Ghent in great varieties; Rhododendrons, the early-blooming varieties, and the best of Waterer's Hybrids.
Jasminum nudiflorum.	
Mahonia japonica.	
Laurustinus.	
Lonicera fragrantissima.	
Pernettya mucronata.	

These are planted a good width apart to allow room for the early and late mixture of blooming plants to be introduced between without crowding. This gives a variety of bloom at all times, and, from the plants being named, adds to the interest also.

The winter beds in this garden are eight in number, and are distinguished in the plan by letters in italics. They were filled with different varieties of Heath, it being a favourite—*a* and *b*, *Erica australis*; *c* and *d*, *Erica carnea*; *e* and *f*, *Erica cinerea*; *g* and *h*, *Erica herbacea*. All these would have been more effective if filled with *Erica herbacea* alone; it begins to bloom in January and continues up to June, when it can

be clipped over to produce wood for blooming another season. They could also, if fine-foliaged plants were preferred, be filled with any of the best given in the list.

No. 1 in the centre of this garden is an Austin and Seeley's basket, about 15 inches high. It is planted all round, first with long trailing plants similar to the baskets at Cliveden; and is, for the sake of variety in winter, planted at intervals all over with variegated plants in 32-sized pots. In autumn when the bulbs are potted a quantity of Hyacinths and Tulips are potted in the same sized pots, and put away for store among ashes in the usual way; and in spring when they are getting into bloom, the variegated pots are taken out, and the bulbs dropped in their places; the same with annuals that have been got on a little in the frames. All over the surface of the basket, between the pots, are planted a few Alyssum, Narcissus, and Jonquils. Nos. 2 are also of artificial stone, but lower; they are filled in a similar way to No. 1, except that the Tulips are confined to these, and the Hyacinths to No. 1. Nos. 19 are all stone curb with grass on top, and in the centre a *Thuja aurea*. The following eight beds which form the inner arrangement of the design all come into bloom first.

No. 3 white Daisy; edging, *Scilla sibirica*, azure blue.

4, Cliveden Blue Pansy; edging, *Hepatica alba*, white.

- No. 5, Cliveden Yellow Pansy ; edging, Dog's-tooth Violet
(*Erythronium dens-canis*).
6, white Pansy ; edging, *Scilla præcox*.
7, red Daisy ; edging, *Bulbocodium vernum*.
8, Magpie Pansy ; edging, Winter Aconite, yellow.
9, *Primula dentata* ; edging, *Erythronium albiflora*, white.
10, *Primula* (double pink) ; edging white Daisy.

The edgings of these come in early, all about one time. The centres have at the same time a few flowers as the weather will permit, and by April they come into full bloom, when a few of the edgings are a little over. None of the plants are strong growers, and may be planted pretty close up to the edging without any fear of infringing or keeping their leaves from ripening.

The following four beds have *Crocus* edging, and are filled with taller plants, and a few *Tulips* mixed or *Hyacinths* in each alternate bed,

- No. 11, *Silene pendula* against the white and blue.
12, blue *Myosotis* against the yellow and white.
13, white *Myosotis* against the purple and red.
14, yellow *Alyssum* against the double white and pink.

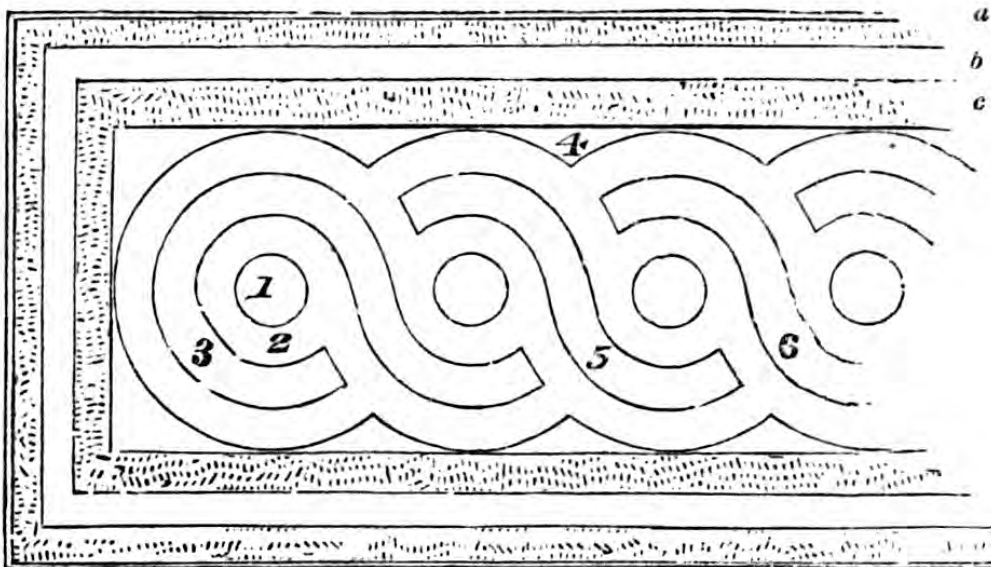
which are succeeded by—

- No. 15, single yellow *Wallflower*.
16, white *Arabis*.
17, double scarlet *Anemone*.
18, single dwarf red Italian *Wallflower*.

In the event of this plan being laid out upon a small scale, it might be necessary to substitute

some other plants in Nos. 11 to 14. Suppose the beds are smaller, they might be various dwarf hardy annuals, as *Nemophila*, both white and blue; *Saponaria calabrica*, the pink and white; *Virginian Stocks*, and *Limnanthes*.

No. 6.—BORDER PLAN.



The border plan, No. 6, is an example upon a similar principle as the two foregoing. It was made for a space between two walks, with a stone curb all round. The outside edging, *a*, is Yew, 13 inches wide; *b*, gravel material, 13 inch; *c*, Box a little wider.

This was filled with plants as follows:—

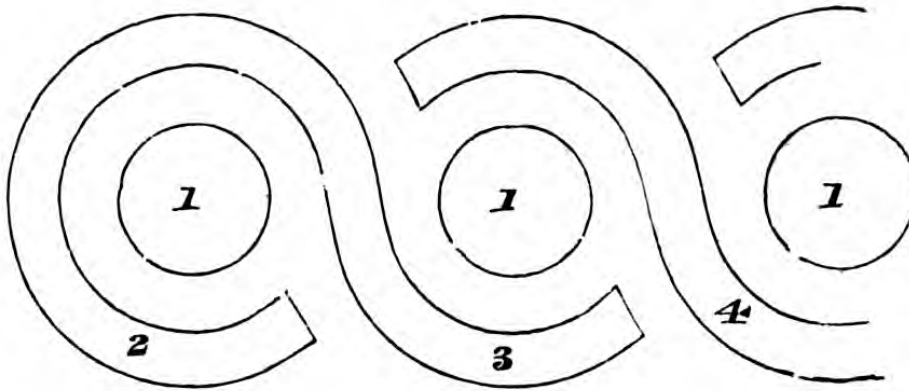
No. 1 beds are all *Silene pendula*, and red Tulips sprinkled about on each.

2, is coloured material.

- No. 3, beds the first scroll-bed, Cliveden Yellow Pansy.
 4, silver-edged Periwinkle.
 5, Cliveden Blue Pansy.
 6, Cliveden Dark Pansy.

To be repeated all the length of the border.

No. 7.—BORDER PLAN.

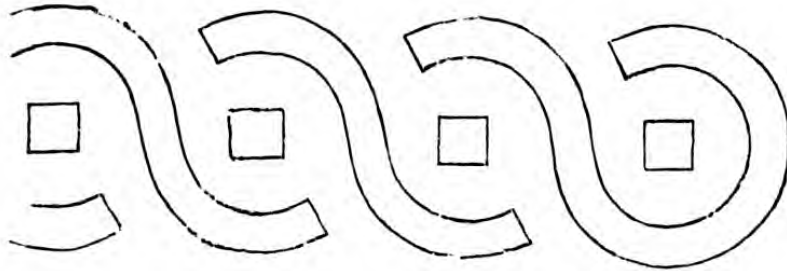


Plan No. 7 is the centre of No. 6, but is shown without the edgings. It makes a beautiful and simple design for Grass, when we should fill it with—

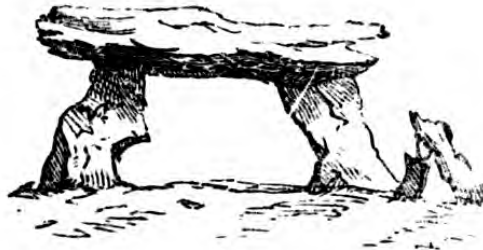
- No. 1 bed, centre, red Wallflower all the length, and for the scroll No. 2 creamy Silene.
 3, yellow Alyssum saxatile.
 4, blue Myosotis.

All these plants are easily got in any quantity without much labour.

No. 8.—BORDER PLAN.



No. 8 is the same—round vases, or small low plants holding baskets. When variety is wanted it can be made wider at pleasure, if the designs intended are larger than the proportion shown. For small places this might be the most useful.



CHAPTER IV.

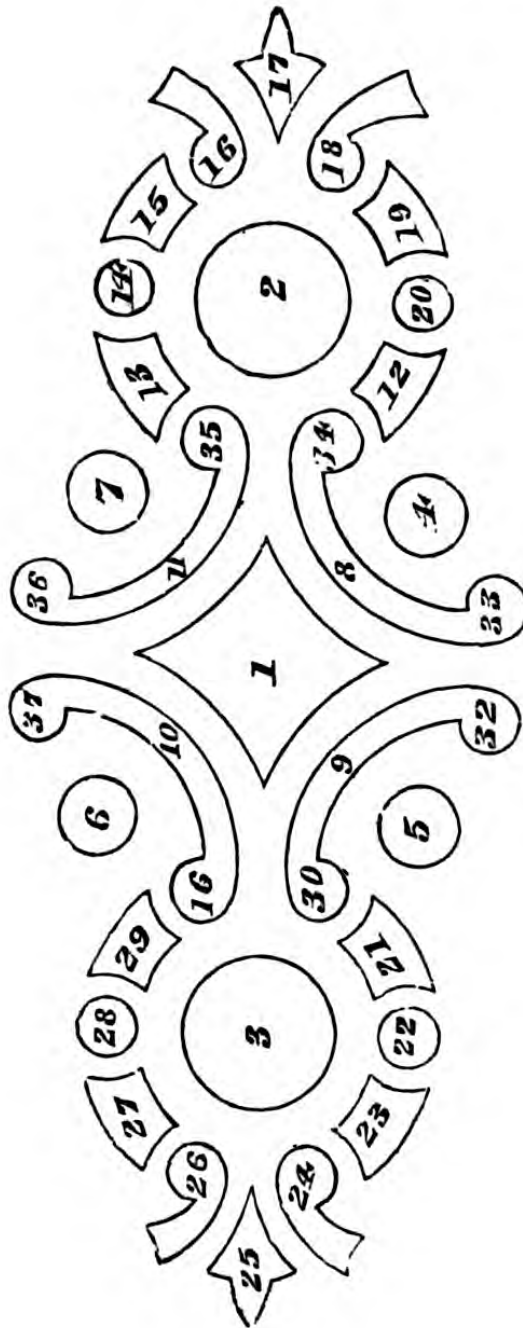
DROPMORE BULB GARDEN.

SINCE the introduction of the many new varieties of bedding Tulips, and the more general use of bulbs for spring decoration, there is no place we know where bulb gardening has been carried out so largely or with so much success as at Dropmore, the well-known seat of Lady Granville, where they are so managed as to keep the bulbs from year to year, in some instances increasing their size and also their number over those purchased.

By a reference to flower-garden plan No. 9 of the parterre in front of the house, it will be seen by the numbers how the different beds were filled last season, for which we are indebted to Mr. Frost.

No. 1 bed, Jonquil.	No. 13 bed, single mixed Tulip.
2, double red Tulip.	14, Clarimond Tulip.
3, Oculus Solis ditto.	15, copper-coloured late Tulip.
4, Hyacinths.	16, Yellow Prince ditto.
5, Hyacinths.	17, Emperor ditto.
6, double red Tulip.	18, Duc Van Thol ditto.
7, double red Tulip.	19, Rose (four seasons).
8, 9, 10, 11, herbaceous plants.	20, Hyacinths.
12, Rex Rubrorum Tulip.	21, Vermilion Brilliant Hyacinths.
	22, Hyacinths.

No. 9.—DROPMORE BULB GARDEN.

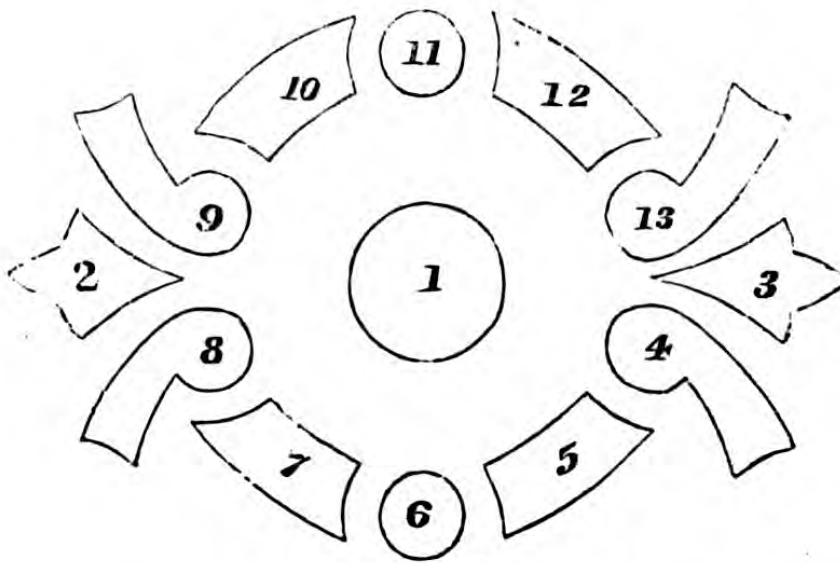


No. 23 bed,	Narcissus poeticus.	No. 32 bed,	Van Thol double
24,	single Van Thol		yellow.
	Tulip.	33,	Duc Van Thol,
25,	single yellow ditto.		scarlet.
26,	double Van Thol	34,	Oenothera macro-
	ditto.		carpa.
27,	Narcissus biflorus.	35,	Vermilion Brilliant
28,	mixed single Tulips		Tulip.
29,	Tournesol Tulips.	36,	Yellow Prince ditto
30,	Duc Van Thol.	37,	Couleur Cardinal,
31,	double yellow.		scarlet.

The beds for these are frequently trenched and always liberally manured, giving a good depth for the roots to run in. When the planting season is over, the Tulips are left in the ground until the leaves are quite yellow—clear signs that they have completed their functions, and that the roots may be taken up at once. They are then laid upon the common garden mats in the sun to dry, taking them under cover at night or when there is any appearance of wet; each sort is kept carefully by itself, and when a root gets misplaced it is marked and taken out at the lifting time. The Hyacinths in the beds are those used in boxes and vases round the mansion the previous year, the same care being exercised in attending to their ripening and drying before storing away as mentioned for the Tulips. With the utmost care there is a loss of a few roots every season, and some wet seasons certain sorts suffer more than others; but by keeping the beds clear of other

plants, and allowing time for the bulbs to get matured for another season, are the great points of success.

No. 10.—PARTERRE, ALTERED FROM NO. 9.



By the design No. 10, we get a good size to explain how they can be made interesting and furnished for the spring. We are considering this design with the thirteen beds as being one most suitable for places where there is no great extent of glass, if any, and where the gentleman or lady takes a great amount of interest in garden operations, and finds it a healthy pleasure to superintend or assist in the daily and monthly routine of sowing, propagating, or transplanting.

If we take No. 1 bed, we should plant it thus, beginning next the grass edging:—

One row of Crocus.

One row of white Daisy.

One row of Cliveden Blue Pansy.

One row of yellow *Alyssum argenteum* or saxatile, pegged.

One row of white *Silene*, and the remainder single yellow Wall-flower, with three plants of *Honesty*, pink or white, in the centre.

Beds 2 and 3:—

Anemone, mixed single, and single Jonquil.

No. 4, Tulip *La Candeur*, white.

13, *Imperator Rubrorum*.

9, *Peony Gold*.

8, *Rex Rubrorum*.

6, 11, mixed *Hyacinths*.

5, *Arabis rosea*; edging, *Scilla bifolia*.

7, *Myosotis arvensis alba* and yellow *Crocus*.

10, blue *Myosotis arvensis* and white *Crocus*.

12, yellow *Alyssum saxatile* and blue *Crocus*.

This way of filling is for those who are partial to bulbs, and wish to preserve them from year to year, with as much variety as possible, we would fill them—

No. 1, 2, 3 as before.

4, pink *Silene pendula*, and a few crimson and white *Tulips*; edging, yellow *Pansy* and *Crocus*.

5, *Iberis sempervirens*; edging, *Scilla arvensis*.

6, mixed single coloured *Primulas*; edging, *Eranthis hyemalis* and red *Daisy*.

7, *Alyssum argenteum* or saxatile; edging, *Pansy Magpie* and blue *Crocus*.

- No. 8, white *Silene* and a few *Imperator Tulips*; edging, *Dog's-tooth Violet* and light blue *Crocus* or *Scilla bifolia*.
9, blue *Myosotis* and a few white *La Candeur Tulips*; edging, white *Crocus* and *Bulbocodium vernum*.
10, white *Iberis sempervirens*; and edging, blue *Pansy*.
11, mixed *Oxlip* or double *Primula*; edging, *Aubrietia purpurea*.
12, red *Anemone hortensis*; edging, mixed *Fancy Pansies*.
13, white *Myosotis* and a few *Gloria Solis Tulips*; with edging, *Cliveden Dark Pansy* and yellow *Crocus*.

All the above plants, except the *Tulips*, can be reared upon any place however small. There are besides the plants put down for this, many others equally easily reared in the variegated class, and annuals which will be found in the list. There is often, besides such a garden, in smaller places a border or two to fill; and these can also be made very interesting by picking a few of the plants out as likely to be suitable, and giving them a little attention at the proper time. It also comes in for *Snowdrops*, many varieties of *Pansies* and *Crocus*, or the better sorts likely to be interesting.



PLANTS MOST USED FOR WINTER AND SPRING
 DECORATION,
 WITH THEIR GENERAL TREATMENT,
 CULTURE, AND PROPAGATION.

ALYSSUM (MADWORT).

THE Alyssum is one of the most useful. It begins to bloom as early as February if it has been properly cared for; and it continues less or more up to the end of May. April is perhaps the time it makes most display, when its golden yellow bloom comes out in great profusion, either as beds or ribbons, or as edgings to baskets, vases, &c., where something half-trailing is required. They can be lifted back and forward at any time. Some of our plants are several years old, and never fail in blooming; they are even now (end of August), so much in bloom as to make a good show in the back border where they are laid in.

Varieties.—There are a great many very beautiful varieties besides those mentioned in this work; but not having grown them we can only say, the early-blooming sorts can be used as

those given. Saxatile has a light leaf and bright yellow flowers. Saxatile variegata is a good edging plant, and blooms as the other, but if used for edging the bloom frequently takes away the effect of the variegation. Argenteum is a silvery-leaved variety, with yellow flowers. Calycinum is an annual, and for spring-blooming should be sown in August, and transplanted into the beds. It makes beautiful white edgings, and is very sweet.

Treatment and Culture.—They grow in any common garden soil, and, like many of the Cruciferæ, will keep alive for months without any roots whatever if kept from the hot sun. In planting them in the autumn in beds or rows, they are spread out and pegged into their proper places. When the beds are large a few *Lasthenia* seed are sprinkled over the surface, or a few plants put between, which being the same colour, lengthen the display. It is not necessary in small beds, as they can be moved out and replaced. In the last week in May they are taken up, and laid in some back border, where they lay up to the time they are planted again.

Propagation.—After they are done blooming and removed to the laying-in ground, as time will permit, a few of the bottom offsets are stripped off, taking care not to injure the plant: these are stuck in behind a north wall. When the bed is

prepared a hole is first made; the end of the cutting is laid across, and with the finger pressed in upon the double. No glass or covering is necessary, if the sun does not shine upon them after ten o'clock; after a stock of these is got very little propagation is required, as the same plant will do from year to year, and bloom better than the cuttings will, for at least one season after striking.

As they seed freely, this method can also be adopted until a sufficient stock is acquired.

We have not seen that they are liable to the attack of mildew or any insect.

ANEMONE (WIND-FLOWER).

None of the spring-flowering plants repay careful treatment more than this. Their great variety and richness of colour are not, perhaps, surpassed by any other early-flowering hardy plants; added to this its easy culture—and yet, with all this in its favour, how seldom we find it cultivated now in any garden. The ribbon-planting has completely appropriated it from the old mixed borders; and it has not been considered of sufficient importance to make trial of its suitability for any other decorative purposes. Many of its varieties are nevertheless well adapted for either ribbons or beds, and will keep up, with proper management, a

long succession of bloom in the early season, when few are to be found that can withstand the severity of the weather; the increasing heat of the sun being the change that affects its growth and vigour.

Varieties.—There are a good many very pretty and useful early species besides the garden hybrids of coronaria; but for bedding or ribbon purposes this is much the best. The single varieties sport into almost all shades of colours; they are also larger and more abundant bloomers than any other variety. The fine high-priced varieties of the seedsmen are hybrids of coronaria; some of these are rich and beautiful in colour beyond description, but they do not continue so long in bloom as the single. It would be impossible to give a list of these, as they are changing names every season, and we find they extend in some catalogues to between sixty and seventy named sorts, which must prove a puzzle to the purchaser to know which is best. Our rule is always with these, as with Tulips, to consider the lowest price the safest for the garden. We give a list of a few sorts we have grown as follows, viz :—

Azure Incomparable, blue.

Cœlestina, light, very fine.

Duchess of Lotharinge, rose, fine.

Duchess of Sutherland, crimson and rose.

Fire King, scarlet, neat compact bloom.

Scarlet superb, fine scarlet.

Von Schiller, Belleforme, Harold, Oracle du Siecle, &c., &c.

A. hortensis is another well-known variety, it grows more dwarf in the footstalk than the former, and generally with smaller blooms. The petals are also more pointed, the other being round. They are divided into different shades of colours—as purple, red, rose, &c. The red makes a good row. *A. apennina* is a beautiful blue, and makes a fine row or edging, but is better under trees or on shady pieces of grass, surrounded by the *A. nemorosa*. If the soil is good they will increase. *A. nemorosa* is the common well-known variety of the woods; the double variety of this is useful for edging, &c., but becomes quite a weed in the gardens. *A. pavonia*, or Peacock's-eye, is a taller-growing variety than any of the former, it is beautiful for mixed borders. *A. pulsatilla* is also pretty and forms useful edgings for borders.

Treatment and Culture.—Most of the varieties given above will grow in any common garden soil; but the double varieties, many of which are more florists' flowers than for the garden, should have a good mixture of loam, rotten dung, and sand, or road-scrapings, which we generally use. If we wanted a thousand or two of one colour, of any useful single variety, we would purchase a few roots of this in October, and plant them in beds by themselves, taking care in the spring to save all the seed possible, which we would dry

first, rubbing it gently in dry road-sand ; we would sow as we gather it, except for the little drying which is absolutely necessary. The last week in May or first in June, according to the appearance of the leaves, when they must be taken up for the other plants, they would either be laid in the ground for a short time, or to dry, according to the matured state the roots were in. After drying they should be stored away until the following September. In the second week they are brought out and divided. We then draw some drills about as deep as for peas on any common garden soil, and after planting the roots they are covered with road-sand. By the time for planting in the garden they will have a few fine leaves, some showing bloom, but all in a fine healthy state to withstand the cold, and more particularly the wet, which is their great enemy. If the seed was properly managed, by the month of October the plants will be strong and many in bloom. They are then taken up, and mixed with the old plants to fill the places they were intended for. A few plants give thousands of seeds in one season.

In purchasing the roots from the nurserymen it should be done as early as possible ; and in all instances in putting the roots in, cover them with dry sand or road-scrappings ; if late in the season the sand should be put upon some hot place to

dry. If the roots are put in immediate contact with the soil they swell up quickly, but there is not sufficient vigour left in the tuber to throw out either leaves or roots, and they rot immediately. *A. apennina* is perhaps most frequently lost in this way. It is evidently not necessary for the well-doing of the plant to take its tubers up: hence we find they soon become weak; and upon planting them in this state seldom any of them grow. We have found it better to put them in pots in dry soil, and store them with the other bulbs in ashes, planting them out in the end of February.

Propagation.—By seed as above, and also by division of the roots.

ARABIS (WALL CRESS).

All the early varieties of this are useful from their blooming at that period of the year when few can withstand the cold and wet, and continuing up to May and June. They are mostly of dwarf habits and easy culture. The variegated varieties are useful for rows or winter beds. Perhaps they are more effective as edgings to parterre beds on grass, where their beautiful white-and-yellow-striped leaves form a good division between the green of the grass and the colour of the beds. They are also very useful for

baskets and vases ; and in pots, they can be taken out and replaced by flowers in the same size of pot at any time.

Varieties.—*A. albida*, *A. mollis*, *A. mollis variegata*, *A. lucida*, *A. lucida variegata*, *A. rosea*.

Albida is the earliest to bloom, producing fine white tufts in January and continuing on to June. It makes a better bed or row if some other plant is put with it, as white *Myosotis*. It also makes a good edging for many places where grass will not grow. *Verna* and *alpina* are also very pretty for edgings or rockwork. Both the variegated varieties are among our most beautiful of the variegated class.

Culture and Propagation.—Their culture and propagation are most easy. They will grow in any common garden soil. Perhaps for summer a little mixture of better soil and manure might bring out the variegation more ; but for winter the soil is better poor, or otherwise shift the plants as a check to prevent the severe weather affecting the foliage in winter.

Great care is required to prevent the slugs getting at the leaves of the variegated species. They will very soon clear all the leaves, and spoil the effect they are planted for. Cabbage or green tender turnip leaves scattered about, or a heap or two of grains, will draw them to one place, when they can be picked up and cleared away.

BELLIS (THE DAISY).

This old-fashioned favourite is well worth careful treatment, and a more prominent place in gardens. Its long period of blooming, and the various places its dwarf habit is suitable for, should not be overlooked by any one who wants a spring display. The reason that has ignored it a place in the garden of late would soon vanish when once its properties are seen in ribbons, edgings, or small beds. When planted full, and under proper culture, it is seldom without a few blooms; but from February to the end of May there is a continuous succession of sufficient bloom to cover the entire foliage.

Varieties.—The large double quilled white, and hortensis, double red, are the sorts we have used most largely. Prolifera, or Hen-and-Chickens, with fistulosa, are equally good for certain places; but where a thousand or two are required, the variety easiest got in quantity becomes a consideration. This was found to be the case with the two first-named, and they, besides, gave the two necessary colours for rows and ribbons more distinct than prolifera, which gives a confused effect on a row. It is at the same time a very interesting variety for small gardens.

Culture and Propagation.—No plant can be easier to grow and increase than these. They

grow luxuriantly in every common garden soil, and can be shifted about at all times. The white is stronger in habit than the red, and a more continuous bloomer. If kept in good health, it is seldom without a bloom at all seasons; but from March to the end of May there is seldom any foliage to be seen for the mass of large white flowers. The red is not so free in bloom, but still makes fine rows or edgings for April and May.

Although they do not require a rich soil for blooming, they are sooner increased by using a mixture of good rotten manure or cowdung for propagation. If we had in the autumn, say, one dozen plants, and required by the autumn following a hundred or two, we would plant the old plants in good soil, and the April following prepare a piece with manure and road-scrappings or sand. We would then take the old roots, and pull them into the smallest pieces likely to grow, which every little side-shoot will do readily. A light shading of branches, or what is at hand, will be necessary for a day or two after they are first put in. In six weeks they will be ready to take up and divide into a double quantity, and so on up to October, the time of planting, when there should be sufficient for a large garden. By the same process we increase our own to thousands. A great many purchase the German seed, and

raise their plants in that way; but the colours are more various than effective. When it is done the seeds should be sown in pans in a cool frame in autumn or February, and pricked out as soon as high enough for this purpose. By autumn they will be fine robust plants.

They are liable to the attack of wireworms if left long in one place; but this seldom occurs where they are shifted back and forward to the garden in so short a time.

BULBOCODIUM VERNUM

Is very useful as edgings, and, like the Crocus, will increase if left in the ground.

CALTHA (MARSH MARIGOLD).

C. palustris flore pleno is properly an aquatic, and is a double variety of the common British species; its large yellow flowers and shining glossy foliage are exceedingly ornamental as a bed or mixed-border plant. To have it vigorous and healthy it requires plenty of water, and care should be taken to mark the place where the roots are laid in, otherwise they may be lost when the stalks die down. It is easily increased by division at the roots.

CARDAMINE (LADIES' SMOCK).

All the early varieties of this are pretty, and useful as beds.

C. trifolia throws up its fine white blooms in March and April, and so does *pratensis flore pleno*. They continue for most of the two months in bloom. All are of easy culture, and can be increased by dividing the roots in June and July, when a large quantity is required. This can be done two or three times before removing to the garden in autumn. A shady place is best for this purpose, and also for laying in the plants for summer.

CHEIRANTHUS (COMMON WALLFLOWER).

The *C. cheiri*, or common Wallflower, is known in every garden as a general favourite. Where these are planted largely for spring, at least for two months they may be said to load the air with their delightful odour. For purposes of bedding or rows, we have always found the dwarf single Italian and single yellow the most useful and effective; but for mixed borders the double varieties are generally preferred.

It is surprising more of both is not found in large gardens or parks. Those we have seen used are mostly the dull German varieties, with a few

flowers of a yellow hue on the top of each shoot, and worthless for any effect. They are, besides, not so sweet as the common old-fashioned single English varieties, with their yellow tinge or strip.

Varieties.—Although we prefer the variety of the Italian dwarf, from having the seed from that country, many of the common single have nearly the same qualities. It is dwarf and free in blooming, when laid down or the top pinched off early in the season.

The best double varieties are the blood-red, double dark red, double striped, and German double purple, with the large-flowering double yellow Polish.

C. alpinus is a pretty little plant for edgings, and *C. Marshallii* makes very pretty rich yellow beds; its compact upright habit, when planted close with a good edging, is most effective for at least six weeks. It should be kept well watered if the weather is hot.

Culture and Propagation.—The common single will grow freely in common garden soil. They are seldom injured by transplanting. We have seen old plants bloom freely without the least root before the sun became hot enough to affect them.

To grow the double fine they should have a good addition of road-scrappings, or sand with a

little rotten dung. A little fresh yellow loam when it can be got gives the plant great vigour.

They are all easily increased by cuttings, which is the only method for the double varieties. An old frame or hand-glass, with a mixture of sand and leaf mould, will be found sufficient; but if there is neither at hand, they will root under a north wall, taking a little more time.

The end of May or beginning of June is a good time to put them in. Some do this by stripping the shoots off, and putting them in on the double, similar to *Alyssum*; but we have always found them strike more readily by cuttings in the usual way, at a joint not too hard or overgrown. They will not root all at once, but when part is rooted they should all be lifted, planting the struck plants out, and putting those not struck back, after moving the soil about to bring the ends of the cuttings in contact with fresh material. This also applies to *Marshallii* and *alpinus* seedlings.

The best method to increase the single varieties is by sowing beds of seed in April according to the demand. We leave them in these seed-beds frequently up to the time of autumn planting, only pinching the tops, and thinning a little; but they are much benefited by being planted-out in July or beginning of August, singly on any sort of ground. If the tops are pinched at planting, by

October or November they will be fine little stocky plants, full of growth, which are better able to withstand the winter by being transplanted and pegged a little. Thousands of these may be raised every season, and what is left from the garden put among the shrubs, or on rockwork. They all add beauty and sweetness to the spring months.

CERASTIUM (MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED).

These have now become well-known edging plants to be found in almost every parterre, their hardy habits rendering them as useful for winter and spring as for summer. They also make good front rows for ribbon borders, particularly if they are upon the grass. In spring they bloom freely, their beautiful white blooms being most effective near blue Pansies or as division-lines in beds of blue Myosotis, also as a cover for the ground in Tulip-beds.

The varieties mostly used are *C. tomentosum*, *C. Biebersteinii*, and *C. grandiflorum*; the latter is a stronger grower, getting as high as 1 foot if not cut. This in winter makes a good fine bed, and in spring becomes one sheet of beautiful white bloom. For winter they cut into neat rows, and if found necessary to remove them to other beds or rows they lift in good-sized pieces, and are clipped when planted.

Biebersteinii and *tomentosa* are both trailing in habit; the first-named being a stronger grower than the other. They are of easy culture, and can be divided at the roots or struck by cuttings in the shade, without any trouble beyond putting in. *Grandiflorum* is, perhaps, a little different from its upright habit, but this also strikes root freely with a little care.

COLLINSIA.

Bicolor, *grandiflora*, and *verna* are both well-known annuals, of easy culture and great beauty. *Verna* makes fine blue and white beds in April and May. They grow about 15 inches high, and are much improved by an edging to the bed that will come up as high as to cover the stalk to where the bloom-spikes commence.

They can be sown in August and September, and transplanted to the bed in November; but we prefer sowing a few in 60-size pots in January or February, and planting out when sufficiently up and hardened.

CONVALLARIA MAJALIS (LILY OF THE VALLEY).

The new variegated varieties of this are pretty for edgings, but they are more appropriate for in-door decoration.

CORYDALIS.

Nobilis and tuberosa are both useful as early-blooming plants. They are better suited for mixed borders or rustic baskets, from their neat pendulous habits. They are easily propagated by cuttings and dividing the roots.

CROCUS.

This is one of the most beautiful and early-blooming of our common spring flowers. Although well known, and a general favourite, it is seldom we find it planted to that extent its early culture and great effect entitle it to. It is better adapted for edgings or rows than for beds; but, besides this, there are a great many places in every garden it could be used with additional interest. Many of the scroll patterns now so common, by planting double rows and allowing them to increase, would, by careful planting and arrangement of the different colours, be made gay from the middle of February to the middle or end of March. Where the soil of the lawn is suitable, beautiful arabesque patterns may be planted upon the grass; where they in many instances increase and spread about for years after planting, care being taken not to cut the leaves off before they become yellow. They are also pretty on the grass, in front of evergreen

shrub lines, or in corners, or turnings of walks, or in rustic contrivances about the grounds. In small gardens they are frequently lost from want of a mark to show where the roots are after the leaves have died off.

Varieties.—They are numerous, both in distinct species and hybrids, but the useful sorts for garden decoration can be summed up to a limited number. Some of the newest hybrids are extremely large and handsome, but more for the amateur than for large gardens; many of them besides that we have tried diminish in size every season they are left in the ground, until they become very much like one of the ordinary varieties.

For common garden purposes, Cloth of Silver, Cloth of Gold, David Rizzio, Ne Plus Ultra, Prince Albert, Queen Victoria, Scotch, versicolor, with common large Dutch Yellow ditto, blue and white.

Culture and Treatment.—Any one intending planting cannot have the roots in the ground too soon. After September it gives them the chance of pushing roots and withstanding the wet of the latter months; we have frequently planted as late as December, and even January, but not with satisfactory results. In planting them late a good way to preserve the bulbs from wet is to fill the hole up with sand.

It will be found that upon the corms that have not grown from late planting, that the shoots or buds are damped-off at the junction of the bulb or root, and the shell full of small corms. The sand in some measure prevents this when they are in beds or edgings, and when three or four years come round they require moving. Any stray varieties that may have got in the rows should be marked while they are in bloom. In the last week of May they should be taken up and divided, the ground at the same time well trenched or turned over a good depth, changing it about as much as possible, and adding a little fresh, with some good rotten manure, planting the roots immediately about 6 or 7 inches deep, and with what is over making new plantations. The leaves, being attached to the roots, keep the small corms together.

Enemies.—There are few flowers with more enemies than the Crocus. Pheasants are particularly troublesome, also sparrows and mice. Planting deep is a good preventive for the two former; but there are only careful watching and trapping for the latter, as they burrow down to the row, and frequently follow it all the length, but in most instances this can soon be detected by the little mound ejected from the holes. Slugs are also very destructive when the roots are near the surface, as they work down and from close to

the crowns, which they frequently clear out and take possession of the roots. Stirring the soil and laying grain in heaps or cabbage leaves as traps, and clearing them off every morning. Sometimes a little lime is useful when the ground is dry.

CYCLAMEN.

These are dwarf-growing plants, and come in very useful for small beds or edgings. *C. europæum*, *C. coum*, and *C. vernalis* are all hardy, the first very sweet. *C. coum* begins to bloom in January, and continues up to May. They are partial to a light loamy soil. Great care is necessary in the course of the summer to prevent the roots being lost. A good plan in lifting is to lay them all in at one place, properly marked, or grow them always in pots, plunging them in the baskets or beds when in bloom. They can be easily increased by seed, and will bloom the second year after sowing if properly treated.

DIOTIS MARITIMA.

A hardy British plant, with white foliage and upright habit. It will make a most useful winter bed, and is easily increased by cuttings.

DIELYTRA SPECTABILIS.

This plant is best known as one of our most

useful for forcing for house in-door decoration, and the conservatory, for which it is very useful, particularly if grown in the sized pots to drop into baskets in the drawing-room, or corridors, or in large vases. Out of doors, sometimes, if the season proves mild, it begins to grow early, and the blooms are cut off. It is not satisfactory as a bed, but for vases or rustic baskets, where the flowers are raised, no plant is more handsome. It is easily increased by cuttings or division at the roots.

DODECATHEON (AMERICAN COWSLIP).

The two varieties of this, *D. meadia* and *D. elegans*, are both hardy plants of great beauty. They make good beds, but are more intermediate in their blooming. They answer well for the summer bedding. We have, therefore, not encouraged either of the varieties; but we may add, where this is not an objection, that they will repay a little extra care, either in beds or mixed borders. The roots must be kept from getting too dry; but when this occurs, they must not be watered, but lifted and laid in a damp place until they begin to swell. Both are better in mixture of a little peat and sand.

ERANTHIS (WINTER ACONITE).

This is one of the first flowers to appear with the January month. It is very pretty, but not to be trusted at all times for a good edging. It generally does better in borders, where it is not disturbed every year, but allowed to spread its fleshy roots and mature flower-buds for the following season. If removed at the time of summer planting, the roots can be partially divided, and put in little shallow rows, with plenty of road-scrappings. In autumn they can be removed to the borders or beds. They are soon lost if allowed to be shaded by other plants at any time. They are also easily got from seed. If sown in good soil the roots will bloom the second year.

ERYSIMUM (HEDGE MUSTARD).

We have tried the *E. Peroffskianum* in both beds and rows pegged down, but in neither is it very effective, although of a desirable orange colour; it is, perhaps, best suited for shrubbery borders. It grows 2 feet high, and is sown for the spring garden in the middle of August. If a little drawn at the time of planting it is benefited by pinching the top off.

ERYTHRONIUM (DOG'S-TOOTH VIOLET).

All the varieties of this are pretty low-growing bulbous plants, blooming freely and early. They make good edgings, or patches in mixed borders. After the flowers are over the pretty blotched leaves are sufficiently interesting to make a good edging for a time.

Varieties. — *E. dens-canis*, pink; *albiflora*, white; and *americana*, yellow.

They grow freely in any garden soil, and if left in the ground will increase; but their places must be marked on a plan for the beds, and with strong wooden or iron pegs in mixed borders.

ESCHSCHOLTZIA (CALIFORNIAN POPPY).

The best variety of this for spring is *E. crocea*; but, although a good orange, its great defect in spring is the short time its bloom is open. Sow in June and transplant into the beds in October.

FRITILLARIA (CROWN IMPERIAL).

These very showy bulbous-rooted, Lily-looking plants are most useful for mixed borders. Both *rubra* and *flava* are quite hardy, coming into bloom in March and April. Both will increase if left in the ground. They generally grow as

high as from 3 to 4 feet. *Fritillaria meleagris* are hardy bulbs, growing from 18 inches to 2 feet high. From their blooming in April and May, they are useful for early borders and places under trees. If left in the ground they will increase at the roots.

GALANTHUS (SNOWDROP).

This is so common and well known as to require little beyond our experience in explaining where it is most effective. In large gardens, where there is plenty choice of places, perhaps the best is dotting it in front of evergreens on the grass, or under trees in retired nooks, or rustic baskets, and scattered about by the side of woodland walks. In gardens of this sort it is not possible to make it effective in beds or rows. It is always most pretty upon grass, where its pure white blooms are set off to advantage, which the bare soil does not give. In small gardens they can be planted between patches of *Crocus* in the borders or round the beds. They are also pretty in small pots, placed in the baskets in the rooms. The *G. nivalis*, or common single, is the best and most showy; *G. plicatus* is smaller. Both are easily increased by dividing the patches or taking the offsets.

GENTIANA (GENTIAN).

Acaulis and verna are well-known spring plants, generally used for edgings, where they are allowed to remain for several years without moving. We have tried lifting and transplanting them at the same time as the other spring plants; but, although done with great care, they never bloom successfully. When left in the beds after the spring display is over, the plants that succeed for summer must not be allowed to grow over them, otherwise this appears to the same effect of keeping them blooming the following season. They must have plenty of air at all times. A light loam or a mixture of peat is what they grow and spread vigorously in. They are easily increased by carefully dividing the patches, and they lift well in the spring after blooming.

GLECHOMA HEDERACEA VARIEGATA.

(See Basket Plants).

A pretty trailing-plant, easily increased by cuttings.

HELLEBORUS NIGER (CHRISTMAS ROSE),

Is perhaps our prettiest hardy winter-blooming plant, throwing up its large pinky-white blooms

in the dead part of the winter. It is of easy culture, and can be moved out of the beds when done blooming without the least injury. It is easily increased by division at the roots.

HELIANTHEMUM VARIEGATUM (SUN ROSE).

Pretty for the sides of baskets in winter and spring.

HEPATICA TRILOBA.

All the varieties of this beautiful little ever-green plant are early-blooming, opening in February. They continue in good health less or more up to May. They are useful for edgings, and for small vases. Care should be taken in lifting them back and forward to keep as much ball as possible, which can be more easily done if a little turfy loam is put into the trenches where they are laid-in for the summer. There is no chance of leaving them in the flower-borders under the present system. They also grow well in peaty soil.

All the varieties have the same habit, and are about 6 inches high. They are single and double pink; single and double, red; red and white, and never pure white.

HESPERIS (ROCKET),

Is more an intermediate between the season we are attempting to furnish and the summer; but as it begins to bloom in May it comes in useful for a mixed border. It is also very useful in reserve for cutting for in-door decoration. Both the white and pink will succeed better if grown in fresh soil, or at least a little added. Where there is glass the best method of increasing them is to lift a few roots and pot them in January or February, putting in such places as Verbenas to grow a little. As soon as the shoots are pushed sufficiently they must be put in as cuttings in small thumb-pots or otherwise, and in this way by March or April the number can be increased to hundreds; all of them will bloom in May if properly treated.

Where there is no glass they should be taken up when done blooming, and planted in fresh soil to form divisions or cuttings.

HYACINTHUS (THE HYACINTH).

This is one of the most beautiful of our spring bulbs, and in one way or another can be had by almost any one. Its easy culture makes it as much within the reach of the amateur as the possessor of the greatest facilities.

The encouragement of exhibitions has also brought its cultivation of late years to a high state of perfection. Although the bulbs must be good in the first instance to produce the large and beautiful blooms we now so generally see by certain growers, there is also a great deal depending upon their treatment previous to the bloom expanding, and, by a little more of this care, we might arrive at better results with those forced for decoration. For beds and ribbons they are very effective, from the great delicacy of their colours. A good example of this is to be found in most seasons at the Regent's Park, where the beds are covered to protect the blooms from cold and wet, from which their fleshy bells soon suffer, and become brown.

We have always found them most useful in baskets and vases, or small circular beds, with neat edgings planted wide apart to allow some low annual or other plant to cover the surface, and continue the bloom in the beds after they are over. In planting beds all rows are avoided as much as possible, from their nursery appearance when in bloom. For the same reasons we have discontinued using them in ribbons, confining them to mixed baskets and cases, with each four or five bulbs, or to the proper sized pots for hanging-baskets, and the different in-door purposes.

The beds for Hyacinths should be got ready as soon after the summer flowers are removed as possible. Each bed should be well dressed with leaf mould or rotten dung, and with a proper tool (see Tulip). A good hole is made, 6 inches deep, and the bulb dropped in; as this is done a handful of sand is dropped into the hole over the bulb, and the bed raked over for planting the other plants. Where no plants are used, a good protection in keeping off the wet in the cold months, is to put a slight covering of fern or straw where it is not objected to. When done blooming and the leaves become yellow, they are taken up and dried similar to Tulips.

The pots and cases for vases and baskets are potted in October, and put away under ashes, with a slight covering to keep the wet off. Those for in-door decoration are taken out as wanted and forced on for succession. The others are left until the blooms have pushed a little, when they are taken into a cold frame for a time, until a little hardened, when part are put out in a sheltered place, and then brought on in the frame. These are carefully dried when done blooming, and used for the beds the following season. We have tried to renew the old bulbs, and also by well-prepared beds to grow the offsets, but in both cases they are more expensive than purchasing fresh bulbs.

IBERIS (CANDYTUFT).

The early varieties of this are all white and low-growing. *I. sempervirens*, from being evergreen, is useful when old plants for the sides of baskets; and smaller plants make good white beds for April and May. *I. saxatilis* is also useful, and blooms earlier than the former. They lift without difficulty when done blooming, and are laid in behind a north wall or in the shade of a hedge, until the following autumn; they are easily propagated from cuttings; but they should be got in early to have fine plants by the same autumn.

LASTHENIA CALIFORNICA.

This is a most useful bright yellow annual for large beds, when the winter is not too wet. It should be sown for spring decoration about the last week in August, and transplanted in October.

LIMNANTHES DOUGLASII

Is the best of the Californian annuals for spring purposes. We have never known it fail from frost or wet; its beautiful clusters of straw-coloured bloom come in great abundance in April, and continue up to the end of May. *L. grandiflora* is also useful, but we have never

grown this variety so largely as the other. The first week in September is the proper time to sow in beds or under trees. It will grow up to the time of transplanting almost anywhere, in many instances proving almost a weed.

LUPINUS (LUPIN).

These are beautiful annuals for spring-blooming. The great difficulty is to keep them from growing grossly in the autumn before the cold weather sets in. If the shoots are in a soft vigorous state, the frost frequently kills them. Where they are favourites the most certain way to success is to sow them in pots in the middle of September, and if the garden is sheltered plant them out in November and December. Where stocks are grown largely a few might be stored away in the temporary coverings generally used for these until February. *L. nanus*, white and blue, are pretty dwarf varieties. *L. affinis*, *L. Hartwegii*, and *L. tricolor* are taller growers.

MUSCARI (GRAPE HYACINTH).

All the varieties of this are beautiful for spring, but the mixed border is perhaps the proper place to grow them successfully. The bulbs become weak if lifted every season to follow

out the present system of bedding, and, consequently, fail to make a good display. *M. moschatum*, *M. monstrosum*, *M. botryoides* are the best.

MYOSOTIS (FORGET-ME-NOT).

This is one of the best and most hardy of the many plants we have tried for spring. Its easy culture, and the facility with which great quantities can be got, particularly recommend it. But it is, besides, of good habit, and from the distinct colour of each variety they make beautiful beds and ribbons. They may also be transplanted up to the time of blooming.

M. arvensis (blue), and *M. arvensis alba*, we sow in any spare piece of ground in June; but more generally in clearing the beds for summer flowers, we cut the seed-tops off, and lay them over the ground, keeping each sort distinct. This keeps a little shade until the seed vegetates. They prove in different borders almost a weed.

NARCISSUS.

This is a very extensive spring-flowering genus, mostly of great beauty, and from being perfectly hardy are useful in many ways for spring gardening.

The common garden varieties, as *N. biflorus*, *N. poeticus*, *N. bulbocodium* or Hoop-petticoat,

N. pseudo-narcissus or Daffodil. All well-known varieties, with the double and many other equally good varieties.

The well-known Jonquil, double and single, grows in any common garden soil; and if planted deep enough to allow of the summer plants to be planted over them in the beds, will bloom and increase for several years if care is used with the leaves, which should always be left until they become yellow; or if the beds were dug in the autumn, the summer plants can be planted between the leaves. The tazetta or *Polyanthus Narcissus* class, are now much too numerous to introduce here, but the best can always be seen by consulting the nurserymen's or seedsmen's lists.

NEMOPHILA.

These well-known annuals are sown in beds at the end of August, and transplanted in October or November.

PRIMULA (PRIMROSE).

This is another genus of beautiful early spring-flowering plants, ignored of late years for flower-garden purposes. There are at the same time few plants of more easy culture, or more suitable from habit and their free-blooming properties either for beds or borders, or for patches among

trees and shrubberies. The double varieties—*P. carnea*, *P. alba*, *P. sulphurea*, *P. rubra*, *P. cuprea*, *P. atro-purpurea*, *P. Webbiana*—are pretty, but they are much excelled for purposes of flower-garden decoration by the same varieties of colour in single-blooming sorts, which continue much longer in bloom, and, the individual flowers being lighter, they bear them up more against wet and cold. The dwarf Polyanthus is also useful; the large varieties named Giant, now so common, are best adapted for shrubbery borders. The *P. auricula*, or common variety known as Dusty Miller, is excellent, from its white leaves, for edgings.

Both double and single are easily propagated by offsets. Suppose them done blooming about the middle or end of May, the plants would be taken up and divided into the smallest offsets. If it has sufficient crown to hold together, they would then be put in a prepared piece of ground in the shade; they must not have the least sun. In three weeks they will be struck. The small offsets are then transplanted, and the old divided again, and so on up to autumn. It is not possible to make the preparation of soil for this purpose over-rich and retentive. The same may be said of the soil they are nursed on up to the time of planting in the garden, when we shake it clear

off, and plant them in the poorer soil of the beds or shrubberies for blooming, the rich soil making growth and leaf, but not bloom.

The single varieties are also got from seed sown as soon as gathered; but there is great difficulty in saving any seed from the mice, which are very partial to this, and must be carefully trapped, as they will draw to a Primula-bed from a great distance round.

RANUNCULUS.

All the garden varieties of this are most beautiful when in bloom, but there are none sufficiently hardy to stand the winter without protection. Those known as the Dutch varieties are the most hardy. Where they are favourites, a good covering of fern is the best protection, or the beds hooped over to keep any other covering from pressing on the leaves of the early-planted beds. They must have plenty of water in spring, or the leaves go off yellow. To grow them well, a good mixture of fresh horse-droppings and loam we have found the best. They can be planted at any time, according as the bloom is wanted; but February may be considered the best time, as they are not liable to be injured by frost after that time.

SAXIFRAGA (SAXIFRAGE).

Some of the varieties of this are well-known plants, to be found in many cottagers' gardens. *S. umbrosa*, or better known as London Pride, is useful for lines in a ribbon border. It comes in early, and its fleshy colour makes a good contrast behind a row of white Candytuft or Myosotis. It is easily got in quantities by dividing the roots. *S. granulata flore pleno* makes one of the best spring beds. From its heavy double blooms the rain frequently lays half the bed down, but care must be taken to plant in as poor soil as possible, or to prop the flowers.

The roots are composed of small corns, resembling grains—hence its name. When done blooming these are taken up if they have been in the summer beds. They are then laid in, and the bloom-stalks will die down. About August a great quantity of small leaves make their appearance, which in November can be divided and planted in the beds.

SALVIA (SAGE).

Useful for a variegated winter bed. Its strong habit and effective leaves will be found useful in central beds. Where high plants are required it is easily increased by cuttings, which will strike in the open air, and the old plants will move about for several seasons.

SAPONARIA (SOAPWORT).

S. calabrica, and *S. calabrica alba*, are well-known annuals of easy culture, and perfectly hardy. Sow the seeds in beds in August, and transplant into the beds in October. A small piece of seed-bed will plant a large space. Both are excellent for ribbons or chain-beds. *S. ocymoides* is most useful for hanging over the sides of baskets or rockwork.

SCILLA (SQUILL).

No spring garden can be complete without these lovely little blue flowers, very often to be found in beautiful contrast with the pure white snow. The dwarf varieties, as *S. amœna*, *S. sibirica*, *S. bifolia*, are the earliest to bloom. *Amœna* is the most beautiful blue to be found in any plant; *sibirica* is darker and not so effective. Of late-blooming varieties *S. præcox* is the best. *S. peruviana* is a taller grower than the other, but very beautiful. *S. nonscripta* is the well-known Blue Bell. They grow 1 foot high. All gardens should have this planted about in suitable places on the lawn or borders, in a little shade, taking care not to cut the leaves before they are a little yellow, and they will spread under trees or in patches on the grass, and form beautiful masses of bloom in the spring. The two other varieties of this—

S. nonscripta carnea and *alba*, are best kept in separate patches; when mixed the one colour spoils the effect of the other.

The first-named dwarf varieties are best for edging small beds of white and red Daisy, and the different Pansies. They can be left in the ground, if their success proves the soil suitable, for four or five years. A light sandy loam is what they thrive best in.

SCROPHULARIA NODOSA VARIEGATA (VARIEGATED FIGWORT).

A perennial British plant of easy culture, and chiefly useful for winter beds. From its high growth—generally 1 or 2 feet—it makes a good centre for large clumps. It strikes readily from cuttings.

SILENE (CATCHFLY).

This is one of the annuals we use extensively with great success, both in ribbons and all sorts of beds or baskets. *S. pendula* is a rich pink, forming a smooth glowing surface when in bloom. *S. pendula alba* is a sport from the other, of a creamy colour, more than white, but equally good for all purposes of spring decoration. Both are quite hardy, and only require care not to have the plants too forward for the autumn transplanting.

The seed should be sown in August, in beds or rows, in the common garden soil. Sometimes the plants come up thick in the beds. They are apt to throw out side-shoots, which should be stopped and the forward plants thinned out and transplanted. This would benefit all the plants if labour permits it to be done. They are planted in the flower garden, as the beds can be got ready sometimes up to January. Sometimes when we have failed with the out-door sowing, a box or two have been sown in a pit and pricked out, which answers very well.

TULIPA (THE TULIP).

Of late years the varieties of Tulips known as the bedding class have greatly increased from a few varieties. There are now a hundred or more to be found in the various seedmens' catalogues. Many of these are not distinct or different, except in the name; others again are most beautiful, and for a grand spring display there is no rival to the Tulip. For beds, baskets, or ribbons, it is equally suitable, if properly managed in planting.

To any one wishing to try these in beds for the first time, we should advise to purchase the bulbs as early as possible. As soon as the summer flowers are out of the beds, where the bulbs are intended to be planted, each bed should have a

good covering of rotten dung and sand, or leaf mould and road-grit. They should then be dug

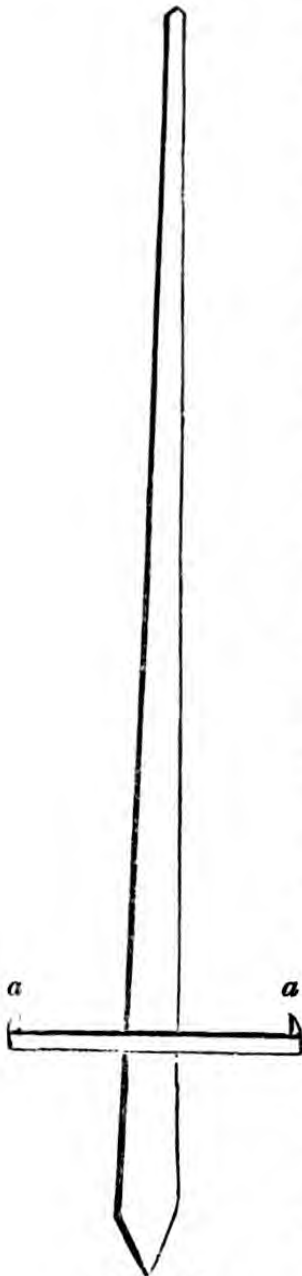


Fig. 11.

a good depth or trenched, and holes made about 6 or 7 inches deep. We generally use a certain tool made on purpose (*fig. 11*) for this and Hyacinths. When *a a* reaches the soil it prevents the dibber from going any deeper for one root than another; and when the soil is stiff it allows the workmen to assist in getting it down with their feet. When the holes are made all over the bed, the bulbs are dropped in by taking the top side of the bulb between the finger and thumb, and having a small rod in the other hand to move any bulb that might be caught by the sides of the hole in falling, and so lay in an angular position at the bottom: this is easily put right with the rod. The beds are then raked over. If the bulbs are valuable, or new varieties, a

good plan is to drop a handful of sand above the bulb before raking. Where the beds are large, the bulbs should be put in

as the holes are made. A very few bulbs make a good bed if the ground is covered with annuals, as noticed elsewhere. Wherever a bed is to be planted with a certain number of roots, small pegs should be provided to the same number, and stuck all over the bed, so that the bulbs may be properly distributed. All rows or pairs in beds should be avoided as much as possible. Many of the common bedding sorts have stately upright habits, and when planted in straight rows, instead of effect they give the garden a nursery appearance. In ribbons and wavy lines it is not possible for this to occur. We have also found that a ribbon may be made very interesting by mixing the different coloured Tulips, but keeping the classes together—as, for example, the single varieties bloom earlier than the double. A little consideration therefore is necessary to determine the time they are likely to be wanted. Their short duration of bloom is to be regretted, and makes another succession necessary. Their foliage is also upright; and the other plants covering the ground, or partially in bloom at the same time, add greater richness, and prolong the bloom. When lifted out of the ground they should be laid on garden mats in the sun, and well dried before storing away. Offsets may be brought to a blooming size by good soil and careful nursing; but they are more expense than

purchasing newly imported bulbs. For varieties and colours see seedmens' catalogues.

TUSSILAGO (COLTSFOOT).

The variety of this, *T. fragrans*, is one of our earliest-blooming plants; and although a bad weed in habit, it should be found some place, as a patch among trees, in odd places and corners, where it is not likely to spread among the borders or beds. It is remarkably sweet when cut and put in the rooms. The new broad-leaved variegated variety, lately introduced from Japan, when plentiful, will prove a most useful addition to winter variegated beds, and in the summer to the margins of water, &c.

VIOLA ODORATA (SWEET-SCENTED VIOLET).

In most gardens a space may be found, where effect is not an object, to plant the single white and blue varieties of Violets. Many ladies are partial to gathering these themselves, and if they are kept in good patches can always be lifted early in the autumn, and planted in convenient places for this purpose. They will generally have a few flowers as weather will permit, and for several months in spring fill the air with their sweetness.

VIOLA TRICOLOR (THE PANSY).

The Pansy is the most useful of spring flowers for the present system of changing the beds completely at the different seasons. Its dwarf neat habit makes it very appropriate for ribbons, small beds, or baskets. In vases, where they are under the eye or a long early bloom is required, it will be found particularly suitable. There is also now a great variety of colours in the new Fancy class, almost approaching a good red. No doubt that colour will be got distinct with many more in time.

The chief cause of their not being hitherto so extensively used may, perhaps, be traced to a want of trying them in masses of one distinct colour, or from many of the old varieties being shy growers, and difficult to keep or increase; but by selecting those of a robust habit this will not be found to be the case.

Varieties.—Those that we have most extensively used are generally known in the neighbourhood as Cliveden Blue, Cliveden Yellow, Cliveden Purple, and Cliveden White. These are free growers, and easily increased. They are also distinct and clear in their colours. Many of the new Fancy class are equally good, or perhaps better; but we have only used them as yet in mixed beds, where they are very effective. We have also seen several varieties of this colour from the Shipley Nursery

very beautiful, and will, no doubt, when they become plentiful, be most useful for ribbons, &c. They are free bloomers and strong in habit, and with us early in bloom and quite hardy. They have also proved equally good for summer beds.

It would be useless to give a list of these varieties, as they are constantly changing names, but the best can easily be found by consulting the catalogues of Mr. Dean, or Downie, Laird, and Laing. Among the blotched class we have found such as Magpie most useful, but care should be taken when they bloom in summer they are not thrown away, from the poor appearance of the flowers and the absence of the blotch. They are frequently not larger than the common tri-color. The blotch does not appear before the first week in September, when it is most interesting to watch from day to day how the white spot enlarges on the dark purple flowers.

Double varieties are more curious than useful, and seldom make any show. The blooms are too heavy for the footstalk, and fall upon the ground with the first shower of rain.

Propagation.—If we wanted a large stock of any particular sort, in the month of June, if the plant was strong, it would be pulled into as many pieces as had a little root, and the top pinched off. The pieces with roots would be planted upon a garden border, with a little addition of road-

scrapings, or sand and rotten manure, or leaf mould. We would then prepare a piece of ground with the same mixture, in the shade for cuttings, covering them with tiffany, a hand-glass, or an old light, three or four days after they are put in. This is taken off every night, and put on in the morning. Tiffany is the best, but a common garden mat will answer equally well if kept far enough off the cuttings. In a month these cuttings will be ready to take out, and their tops again put in and so on, up to the time of planting. A very small plant will grow on through the winter, and bloom well in spring. They are also easy to raise from seed, which can now be purchased as readily as any common annual, and for an amateur this is the most interesting, as there is certain to be one or two good sorts in every sowing, if the seed has been purchased from a proper source. For large flower-garden purposes seedlings are not effective.

In or about the middle of August prepare a bed, a little shaded if possible, with a mixture of light loam, or road-grit. Sow the seed the same as any common annual; prick the plants off into other beds as they come up; by November they will be in bloom, and ready to transplant into the flower garden, or wherever they may be wanted.

Culture and Treatment.—The planting of these generally commences as soon as the borders and

beds are clear of the summer plants. They will grow in any common garden soil, but for winter they appear to thrive and bloom best in a free calcareous loam. Where the soil is retentive a mixture of common sand or road-scrapings is useful. In planting, care should be taken to let them into the ground as much as possible; all the side-shoots will then root readily, and make fine plants for another season. When the time comes to remove these, generally the last week in May, or the first in June, they are laid in the ground, in a shady place if possible, until time can be found to divide the old roots, and propagate the tops if required. Some of the varieties are subject to mildew, which can easily be stopped by a little dusting over with sulphur. The mice are also troublesome, particularly with such as Magpie, which they will soon clear off unless well watched.

THE END.

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