

back of the side fins, take out the entrails and put the fish in a pan and pour boiling water over them; stir them until the yellow scum slips easily; scrape them clean and rinse them well, salt, and you have them ready to fry. No matter how large your fish is, never cut it lengthwise, but cut square in two if too large to fry whole. Roll the prepared fish in corn meal or flour, have your skillet with plenty of boiling grease and fry until tender, but not until they fall to pieces. Remember to have plenty of boiling fat—not merely a little grease in the pan that is simply "hot;" the fat must be boiling briskly when the fish is put into it, in order to crisp the outside and keep the juices in and the grease out. Try it.

Keeping Insects off of Lawn Trees

A new device for the prevention of the destruction of tree foliage by insects consists of a strip of sheet metal about two inches wide; half of its width is cut into fringe, and this fringe is bent outward, with an effect like a ruff. Tack the metal strip around the tree, the fringed side downward, sufficient cotton wool being introduced underneath it to fill up the crevices in the bark, and thus to prevent the attacks of very small insects. Larger ones, it is claimed, have never been known to pass this formidable barrier. It is inexpensive, and would be well worth trying.

Pansies

Pansies started early in September will often come into bloom before winter sets in; if they do not, the plants will be strong and sturdy, able to endure the winter and ready to bloom the following spring. In the middle and southern states autumn is the proper time for sowing pansy seeds, and more than likely the plants will come into bloom during the cool days of November, and in the warm latitudes, will keep up a display of flowers throughout the winter.

Layering Roses

This is the time of year when propagating the rose plant is done by layering the young, tender shoots, which should be six or more inches in length. The soil about the parent rosebush should at all times be in fine, mellow condition, but particularly so at the time the layering is to be done. Make an opening in the soil to receive the layer about midway of its length. With a good sharp knife, cut upward, just below a bud about midway of the branch, and let the cut reach a little past the bud, forming a lip. Give the branch a gentle half-twist while turning the top end up at right angles, the lip being parallel with it, and push same down into the opening. Fill with moist earth and press firmly, and the job is completed. Layers thus put down generally become nicely rooted the first season, but not always. If the season is a dry one, the rooting may be slight, in which case they should be allowed to remain undisturbed for another season. Many trees, plants, vines, shrubs may be propagated in this way, thus securing plants that are difficult to propagate in any other way. Very early in the spring, old dormant wood may be used in the same way.—Colman's Rural World.

For Winter Bloomers

Now is the time to think about the window garden, if you have not done a good deal of thinking before this. Many plants may yet be rooted and others potted and prepared for the house, while it is full time to put the lilies in the ground and the freesias

to bed in their pots. Next month, the florist's catalogues will be flying about, and they will be blazing with bright pictures of full-blooming potted plants and beds of out-door bulbs. As soon as these catalogues come to you, try to make out your lists and send them in early, that your order may be one of the first filled, thus receiving choice of stock and better attention than if sent to the florist during the "rush" season, which will come a little later. Do not despise the dear old geraniums; now is the time to get them in shape to give you the best results during the dark months.

Lily Planting

Early autumn is the time to plant

lily bulbs. The beautiful lillium candidum should be planted in August, as it gets a growth of leaves at that time, and is ready to grow and bloom thrifflily in the spring. If planted in the spring it will not bloom.

Lillium auratum is a hardy bulb, and if planted out eight inches deep in rich, porous, well-drained soil, it should bloom for several years. It should be planted in the early autumn. Give it a partial shade, as the north side of a picket fence; if you cannot do this, mulch the ground heavily as hot weather approaches; if potted, the pots should be plunged in a partially shaded place; the sun should not be allowed to fall across the sides of the pot, as this will injure the roots.

Something About Antwerp

Having promised to write an occasional letter to the women who read The Commoner, I will begin by telling of the city which, until now, has interested me most.

Antwerp, as you know, is an important seaport, serving as an outlet for German commerce, as well as for that of Belgium.

He who comes to see old things needs only to look about him in Antwerp. The city dates back to the Seventh century and our old friend, Julius Caesar, made here an invasion in 57 B. C. In one of the parks stands a very large statue of Boduognatus, chief of the Nervii, who headed the Belgic opposition to the said Julius. As I looked at the monument I could but mourn that this brave chief had not politely killed Caesar before he wrote his Commentaries. What a relief to the school boys and girls of all generations!

While the site of the city is old, it has been burnt and re-built until the newer part is quite modern. Electric cars, electric lights, bicycles and automobiles show the people in touch with the times. The older life shows itself in many customs.

One notices at once the industry of Belgium dogs. They pull the vegetable carts to market. The dogs pull, the good wife pushes and the husband does not appear. He may be at home dressing the children for school, but I have no positive proof. Dogs have a monopoly, too, on the milk trade. They trot along very business-like and waste no time. When a stop is made, they crawl under the cart to rest in the shade.

Much moving of baggage, lumber, fuel, and furniture is done in hand carts. Horses are comparatively scarce and out of the reach of many working people. The wagons for heavy hauling are built very low, which seems to me more sensible than our high wagons, so much less strength being needed for loading.

The horses used for heavy hauling are splendid looking animals—sleek, well fed, heavy draft horses, very slow and dignified, but full of strength. I do not remember to have seen one poor, ill-kept horse in Belgium. One is disappointed to see so few wooden shoes, the carpet slipper being much more popular.

The air is full of tobacco smoke and music, and the whole population seems to eat outdoors at innumerable restaurants whose little round tables stand on the walks and often in the streets and whose musicians play lustily to drown out neighboring bands.

In the hotels the door knobs are in the middle of the door and the key turns around twice before the door will open. The windows are hinged and open like shutters. The beds are high and mighty. Great pillows, corpulent bolsters and ponderous mattresses confront one, not to mention the quilted comfortables and the feather bed under which one is supposed to sleep. The American usually re-builds his bed before retiring, and then sleeps in perfect comfort.

One might enumerate many small points of difference, but on the whole, people look and dress quite like our own people.

Antwerp is especially noted for her art gallery and for her zoological garden. The latter belongs to the government and is most beautifully arranged. So much money and care are used in providing a home for the animals—nearly as possible like their native haunts. The birds have cages so large that trees are included and they fly among the branches as if they were free. For birds which live near water, rocky ledges have been built on which to roost and build their nests. Quail and pheasant have thick low growing bushes in which to hide and the mountain goats have rocky heights which are quite surprising where they may climb and below are little caves for shelter. They rear their young here and seem very contented. There is no restlessness among the animals, as there is so often in our gardens. The collection is very complete, being regarded as one of the best in the world.

Antwerp was the home of Rubens and Van Dyke and her people take great pride in her art collection. I tremble to confess that I saw none of Rubens' or Van Dyke's, as we happened to first enter the rooms filled with sculpture and bronze and spent so much time there we could see very little of the pictures.

Among the statuary, "The Finding of Moses" gave me great pleasure. The princess, so thoroughly Egyptian and full of beauty, kneels on the brink of the stream, while before her in his bulrush cradle lies the infant, strong of limb and perfect in form. Lotus flowers bloom upon the water. I do not know who has carved this piece, but he has made the marble live.

In the gallery we found much to delight us. I remember best "The Raising of Jarius' Daughter," by J. de Vriendt. Upon a mosaic floor lies an oriental rug upon which the body of the daughter rests. Death is in every limb and in the pallor of the face. The mother lies upon the floor with her face buried in the robe of her child—a picture of despairing grief. Hired mourners wall in the background, while near the body the film of burning incense rises.

Christ with His disciples about him stands near the door and listens with gentle pity to the father who tells his story. He speaks with eagerness and with hope. The picture is very large and so full of life one forgets he sees only flat canvas, and feels that he stands in the presence of the lowly Nazarene.

MARY BAIRD BRYAN.

Lilies like a cool soil, and if given an exposed position, it is not uncommon for the buds to blast. In potting the bulb, always place it two or more inches beneath the surface, as annual rootlets are developed by the stalk above the bulb.

The Bermuda Easter lily should be purchased and planted in the early autumn—the earlier the better; if not purchased until spring, the bulbs are not likely to bloom. Set the bulb from eight to ten inches deep, if planted out doors, as it is hardy if deeply planted, and will grow in the border. If planted shallow, the cold of winter and the heat of summer affects them disastrously. If wanted for the house, get large bulbs as early as possible in the autumn and pot in well-drained, rich compost composed of equal parts of sand, leaf-mold and rich garden loam, in eight to ten inch pots if the bulb be very large, or in six inch pots if ordinary size is used. Set them an inch or two below the soil. Press the earth firmly around the bulb, water thoroughly and set in a rather cool room, keeping just moist, and not allowing the soil to dry out. About five months intervene from the time of potting until the plants are in full bloom.

To have "good luck" with freesias, the bulbs should be planted in August.

For Teething Children

Dried flour is excellent for teething children. Take one cupful of flour and tie it in a stout muslin bag, dropping into cold water; then set over the fire and boil slowly and steadily for three hours. Turn out the flour ball and dry it in the hot sun all day, or, if needed at once, dry in a moderate oven without shutting the door. In using it, grate a tablespoonful for a cupful of boiling milk or water (equal parts); wet up the flour with a very little cold water, stir in the boiling milk and water and let boil for five minutes, putting in a tiny pinch of salt. Do not let the milk scorch.

EVER TREAT YOU SO?

Coffee Acts the Jonah and Will Come Up

A clergyman who pursues his noble calling in a country parish in Iowa, tells of his coffee experience:

"My wife and I used coffee regularly for breakfast, frequently for dinner and occasionally for supper—always the very best quality—package coffee never could find a place on our table."

"In the spring of 1896 my wife was taken with violent vomiting which we had great difficulty in stopping.

"It seemed to come from coffee drinking but we could not decide.

"In the following July, however, she was attacked a second time by the vomiting. I was away from home filling an appointment, at the time, and on my return I found her very low; she had literally vomited herself almost to death, and it took some days to quiet the trouble and restore her stomach.

"I had also experienced the same trouble, but not so violently, and had relieved it, each time, by a resort to medicine.

"But my wife's second attack satisfied me that the use of coffee was at the bottom of our troubles, and so we stopped it forthwith and took our Postum Food Coffee. The old symptoms of disease disappeared and during the 9 years that we have been using Postum instead of coffee we have never had a recurrence of the vomiting. We never weary of Postum, to which we know we owe our good health. This is a simple statement of facts." Name given by Postum Company, Battle Creek, Mich.

Read the little book "The Road to Wellville," in each pkg.

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething should always be used for children while teething. It softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.