



The Home Department

Conducted by
Helen Watts McKee

The Departed Friend

Though he that ever kind and true
Kept stoutly step by step with you,
Your whole, long, gusty lifetime
through,

Be gone a while before—
Be now a moment gone before,
Yet doubt not; anon the seasons
shall restore
Your friend to you.

He has but turned a corner—still
He pushes on with right good will
Through mire and marsh, by heugh
and hill,

That self-same arduous way—
That self-same upland, hopeful way
That you and he through many a
doubtful day
Attempted still.

He is not dead, this friend—not
dead.

But in the path we mortals tread
Got some few, trifling steps ahead
And nearer to the end.
So that you, too, once past the bend
Shall meet again, as face to face, this
friend
You fancy dead.

Push gayly on, strong heart; the
while

You travel forward, mile by mile,
He loiters with a backward smile

Till you can overtake,
And strains his eyes to search his
wake,

Or, whistling, as he sees you through
the break,

Waits on a stile.
—Robert Louis Stevenson.

Your Premium Roses

If you have not received them, do not delay sending in your order, for they should be getting themselves established before hot months come. Have your rose-beds spaded deeply, and the soil well pulverized and enriched. The rose plant is a gross feeder, and worth all it asks for. When the plants arrive, on unpacking, do not pull them apart until they have stood in tepid water, moss and all, for an hour or two, or until the foliage brightens. Then set them out in your rose bed in the late afternoon, or in the evening, watering the ground thoroughly, so they will have the cool night and moisture to revive them. If the following day should be cloudy, or even rainy, so much the better; but if it is sunny, the plants may be shaded from the heat by little paper tents, or by having plenty of sticks or little stakes, stuck about in the soil, and a newspaper laid over the tops, fastening so it will not blow off. This will keep off the heat, and at the same time let the air circulate about the plants next to the ground. This "tent" should be removed when the sun goes down, so the dews may fall on the plants, and the tenting should be kept up for several days, or until the little plants do not wilt under the sun's rays. The roses offered in the premium list are all excellent; some of them especially desirable. The climbing rose, the Rambler, is fine either as a porch or pillar plant, or trained on a trellis. You won't be sorry, if you get the premium roses, and if you will give the plants care when they come, as well as after, you will get a great deal of comfort out of your rose collection. There are few things more beautiful than the everblooming roses, and when established, the second year, they

will rival anything else in the garden. When the frost menaces them, late this autumn, I will tell you how to guard them through the winter. They should be in the ground now, as soon as possible.

The Flower Garden

After the tulips have done blooming in the spring, and the foliage has faded, the bed may be used for other plants, such as verbenas, geraniums, petunias, and others having fine, short roots, as the bulbs are some distance below the surface, and will not be damaged by the roots of the other plants. When planting bulbs in the fall, it is a good idea to scatter seeds of such plants over the beds, and in the spring they will be getting started while the bulbs are blooming.

A reader asks how long she must wait for her magnolia seeds to germinate. The seeds will often remain dormant for two years before starting, and it requires ten years to reach the blooming stage, depending however on situation and soil, and the care taken of the plants. The plants are mostly started in pots, as they bear transplanting badly. Even the hardiest of the kind should be well sheltered in the middle and northern states. The tulip tree, which is often called the magnolia, is hardy in many sections, and grows to a large tree.

The perennial pea is claimed to be one of the best vines for covering fence or trellis, perfectly hardy, withstands drouth or deluge, and blooms from early spring until frost. Once the vines get established, they are little further trouble.

A correspondent wishes to know more about the abutilon, or flowering maple. It is easy to grow, and is one of the best plants for the window collection. The bushy sorts get quite large, if properly cared for. Any florist can supply them, and will give directions for growing them. Many of them have beautiful blossoms in profusion.

When it is desired to set hyacinths, lift the bulbs after the foliage has died down in the spring, and keep them in a cool place until fall, when they should be bedded again. They must not be lifted in the fall, as it will injure their roots which start early in the border.

Winter-Blooming Roses

Mrs. A. M. asks for information on the growing of rose plants for blooming in the house in winter. We copy the following from Park's Floral Magazine:

To have roses in the house during the winter, it is necessary to have sunny windows and plants of good blooming varieties, specially grown during the summer months. Start early in the summer by potting young plants in three-inch pots of rich, rather tenacious soil, well drained; plunge the pots in a sunny border out of doors, and keep watering during dry weather. As soon as the pots fill with roots, take them up and shift into four inch pots, then re-plunge again. Pinch off any buds that may appear, and cut back any shoots that threaten to make the plant unshapely. To keep earthworms out of the pots, put a handful of cinders under each pot. Keep shifting, as the plants grow, until they are well established in five inch pots, which will be about the time you must protect them from frost.

Remove early to a sunny window with a southern exposure, but avoid sunshine on the sides of the pot, by encasing the pot in some wrapping, or setting in a suitable jardiniere. Place tobacco stems, or crushed tobacco leaves on the surface of the soil to prevent aphids from attacking the plant. A little lime and sulphur should be mixed with the soil in the pots to ward off mildew and fungus. Before the fires are lighted, there should be a vessel of water, or a wet sponge placed among the plants, to supply moisture to the atmosphere; after fires are lighted in furnace or heater, a shallow pan of water should be kept on the stove or register for the same purpose. The foliage and stems should be syringed or sprayed every day with clear water, slightly salted, to keep off the dust. After bringing indoors, let the buds develop and as the flowers fade, they must be cut off, and if the branch bearing the bloom appears dormant, cut off a portion with the faded flower. A temperature of 50 to 75 degrees should be maintained.

Insect Pests in the Garden

Green lice and mildew are two of the enemies of the rose plant. For the green lice, a sure cure is to dip the plant in the suds on washday; dip the worst infested parts in the suds, and sprinkle freely the parts and plants that cannot be so handled. One good dose generally does the business for that time, but another colony is apt to take possession, and the dose is to be repeated. Suds, unless some very strong chemicals or soap powders are used as detergents, is always beneficial as a fertilizer for rose plants. Any good washing soap will do the work for the insects. Mildew may be treated in the same manner, but a good sprinkling of flour of sulphur over and under the leaves after a shower, or while the heavy dew is on the foliage, is generally advised.

For the mealy bug which sometimes troubles certain plants outside though not to the same extent that they do indoor plants, they are to be touched with alcohol; dip a tooth pick into alcohol and touch the bug with this; then rub off the plant, and wash the plant with soap suds, rinsing well with clear water.

For snails or gophers, take cabbage or cauliflower leaves, sprinkle a little "rough on rats" poison on them, and lay where the pests travel. Lay the leaves on the ground, the poison on the under side next the soil. When watering the ground, take up the leaves, and after watering, return. For the gophers (not the little striped ground squirrel, so called), push a few moth balls in the runs wherever found.

For scale on Asparagus Sprengeri, cut off the fronds, or branches, near the roots, being careful that no scale is left on the portion not removed; shake the soil from the roots and re-pot in good, fresh soil in a new, clean pot, pressing the soil down firmly about the roots. New branches will start up, and the scale will not trouble you again, unless a fresh supply finds the plant.

Seasonable Work for the Winter Garden

The poet tells us that "We scarce break our fast ere we plan how to dine", and it is the same with everything we do — one thing over and

over, season after season, and for the one who wishes to be of service, it is "line upon line", week after week.

So, though we are not yet really through with the spring planting we must cast our eyes ahead, and in June begin to plan for the winter garden, and not only to plan, but to work. New plants must be started from seeds, slips, roots, or layers or grafting, and kept growing with certain attentions until the time for taking them into the house. The plants must be well grown, most of them from the first in pots, plunged in the soil out doors, but many of them may be started in the border and later lifted into pots, plunged in the soil, and kept growing steadily to get established for removal later on to the house.

Many of us who love flowers and plants, deprive ourselves of the delights of their companionship because we think we can not give them the necessary conditions; but there are plants so obliging that they will adjust themselves to any reasonable conditions, and do for us the very best they can. So, it depends much upon the choice of plants which we make, and in this the florist will aid us; but much more depends upon the care we give them. We must study their wants and needs, their likes and dislikes, and give them intelligent care, or we shall have a household of pitiful invalids instead of the bright healthy growth we so love.

Quite a large lot of our house plants are better bedded out during the summer—some of them left in pots, and others being turned into the soil; but there are some things which grow too fast if given the freedom of the garden, and they must be kept in the pots, tubs, or boxes throughout the season. Many plants take their "rest cure" during the summer months, and begin growth again as soon as the cool autumn days come in. Begin the window garden in June.

Flavoring Extracts

These recipes are taken from the American Journal of Pharmacy, and are recommended to be excellent:

Extract of Bitter Almonds—Mix together four ounces of oil of bitter almonds, one ounce of tincture of tumeric and one quart of 95 per cent grain alcohol. Use as flavoring.

Extract of Vanilla—Cut one ounce of vanilla bean in small pieces and triturate with two ounces of sugar to a coarse powder; put into a percolator and pour on it diluted alcohol until one pint has run through; then mix with one pint of syrup.

Extract of Lemon—Expose four ounces of the yellow rind of lemons in the air until partially dried; then bruise in a wedgewood mortar; add to it two quarts of deodorized (not denatured) alcohol, of 95 per cent, and agitate until the color is extracted; then add six ounces of recent oil of lemon. If it does not become clear immediately, let it stand for a day or two, agitating occasionally. Then filter.

Eugenics

Owing to the interest aroused in the subject of better children, many ministers are now deciding, or their churches are deciding for them, to require a certificate guaranteeing good health of both parties to any marriage that may be performed by them. This is surely of much more importance than new and stricter laws regarding divorce. If a child has a right to be well born, it also has a right to prenatal safeguards which make for better conditions to that end. There is still much to be done before our interest in the matter is allowed to die out. Many who are in good health, physically, are fearfully lacking in mental and spiritual health, and the children