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Lilies.

CONSIDER THE LILIES

By L. M. BENNINGTON.

The time has come for the annual shipments of Japanese and European lilies to reach America, and some thought must be given by prospective producers to the things that must be done in order to get results from these pretty and valuable plants.

In the first place, the amateur should be reminded—it is not necessary to tell the trained professional—that this big country has many degrees of climate. In many sections of the land the ground will be frozen before the bulbs can be received, much less planted.

A little forehanded precaution will serve to avoid the trouble that the cold brings. Manure, old bagging, or any other sort of recognized covering which will protect the ground where the bulbs are to be planted, will act as a reception committee and keep the ground ready to receive the bulbs.

After December 1 it is generally customary to defer the planting until spring, but there are many sections where such delay is not at all necessary.

Among the beautiful types that are listed among the late importations are the white lily of Japan, or *Lilium Auratum Virginate Album*. It has exquisitely pure white flowers, which assume very large proportions and display a sulphur-yellow band through each petal. The *Lilium Auratum Witell* also has immense flowers, and is very tall and free of bloom. The color is creamy white, with a yellow band to afford relief.

The variety listed for this season is so great that it would take a wealth of detail to tell all about the beautiful flowers. And while speaking of lilies, I am reminded of the value of the Chinese type. From a couple of plain little cuttings that were picked up in a dingy little store in New York's Chinatown, a New York woman has a most attractive house ornament.

The sprouts were simply put in a jar of water and placed over the mantle and nature did the rest. The lilies have sprouted and flourished indoors without the slightest care, save for the occasional renewal of the water, and their long, green shoots give a refreshing relief to the room where they are now persistently adding to their beauty.

MAKING THE STONES COUNT

By L. M. BENNINGTON.

There is no place where the taste and originality of the garden worker can be shown to better advantage than



Milan Hat Basket Centerpiece With Metal Container Filled With Cactus Dahlias.

BILL'S MOTHER

By ALICIA RANN.

"The worst of it is—the secret that I have dreaded so to tell you—the secret is that I am not Margaret Barchester. I am just Orphan Maggie."

The girl sat very erect among the cushions of the window seat in the sun parlor of Eagle's Nest, the newly-built abode of Mr. Barchester, head of the gigantic business corporation of which Bill Pogue was proud to be considered one of the promising younger members.

"That's why I didn't want to say that I would marry you; because you couldn't marry me, of course, when you knew that I was just an orphan. The Barchesters adopted me."

"Bill, please don't hate me for being ashamed of it, for it wasn't quite that. But Mr. and Mrs. Barchester have been so good to me, and they made me promise never to tell anyone that I was not their truly really daughter. When you began to come to see me and when you told me that you wanted me to marry you I knew that Daddy Barchester wanted me to like you. For he is very proud of you, Bill, and always calls you his boy."

"Oh, I have tried so hard to tell you, Bill, but I just couldn't. Bill, your mother would hate me if she thought I had made you think I was really and truly Mr. Barchester's daughter."

For the first time, Margaret paused in her talk, but Bill forgot all the comforting and reassuring things he had intended to say.

She held out two imploring hands and, now that her little speech was over, her eyes were filled with the tears that she had been keeping back so bravely.

But Bill did not yield to the temptation to comfort her.

"I'm glad you have told me, Margaret. Of course, it was the only thing to do," he said, still avoiding her entreating eyes. "I'm glad, too, to know your reason for not giving me your answer." He paused again as if thinking deeply and then turned and faced the girl, watch in hand. His voice was entirely changed when he said, "Well, let's start now for that long-promised visit to my old home. It's in the other end of town."

Once or twice as Bill's car bore them swiftly onward, Margaret tried to get back to the question uppermost in her mind. Why didn't he tell her that the fact of her humble origin made no difference to him?

They moved less rapidly through the outskirts of the city, dropped down through the crowded streets and on beyond to the older section, where sagging pavements and ill-kept green squares proclaimed the neighborhood to have outlived a once-fashionable era.

At one such corner Bill signaled for the car to stop.

"We'll get out here and walk to the house," he said.

"Perhaps," she thought, "the street where Bill's mother lives is being repaired."

But in a minute more she found this conjecture to be wrong. It was an unusually large and imposing mansion, out of date and in not too good repair, to which Bill turned their steps.

"What a perfectly lovely old home," she said as they neared the massive back walnut entrance door. Secretly she felt disappointed. If Bill had led her to some simple little cottage or even up flights of stairs to a humble flat she would have felt that the little Maggie she had confessed herself to be would find a warmer welcome.

"It is a fine old home, isn't it?" answered Bill, with evident satisfaction. "And some twenty-five years ago it was the scene of great festivities. Pretty good times still go on within its walls."

Just then a stout, middle-aged woman came to the door.

"The mother, please," said Tom, and then: "She expects us. Shall we go straight to her study?"

He turned to the little room on the right of the imposing though meagerly furnished hall and entered, unannounced, what was apparently his mother's study. Margaret first caught the brilliance of the stand of red geraniums that stood in the sunlight of the window to the south, then the impression of immaculate cleanliness and then the little mother came toward them from her low rocking chair with two outstretched hands. Margaret took one and Bill the other.

"So you have brought her!" smiled the mother, with a tone that gave Margaret all the reassurance she had longed for. And then she found herself seated cozily in a low rush-bottom chair at the mother's side and Bill in another.

"It is a wonderful thing to me," the mother was saying in her kind voice, "that not one boy who has left us and made good has been ashamed when the time came, to bring the girl he has chosen for his wife back to the old home. And not one has been ashamed to introduce me as his mother." The old lady paused and laughed and then wiped a tear from her kindly old eyes. "And some twenty of them have made good and married. But Bill was always my boy especially. How well do I remember the day I started him off on his first day's work at Barchester's. He was such a shy, comical, lovable little chap in those days."

Margaret looked at the man she loved in open-eyed amazement. "Orphan Maggie and Orphan Bill," he said, rather sheepishly. (Copyright, 1916, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

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