THE TWELVE BEST PERENNIALS

The kitchen, which in a house of this kind is one of the most important rooms, is designed with the special idea of minimizing the housework. The sink and drainboard take up one entire end of the room, and along this side are four sliding windows. Opening from the kitchen is a large pantry with a sliding door, and in this pantry are the necessary cupboards, shelves, flour bins, work boards and cold closet, so that all the work of cooking can be done in this room. The outer door of the kitchen leads to a small screened porch on which are two set tubs. Under the kitchen is a large cemented cellar with a hatch from the outside. The cold closet in the pantry is connected by a dumbwaiter with a like closet in the cellar. A room for the servant and a storeroom for wood are provided in a separate building just back of the house.

The floors are all made of selected Oregon pine, filled, shellacked and waxed. All other woodwork in the living room and dining room is stained dark and waxed, but the woodwork in the kitchen is left in the natural color and finished with spar varnish so that it can be washed.

The exterior of the bungalow is sided with wide redwood boards, split and lapped like clapboards. A heavy building paper was put under the siding and between the double floors, so that the walls are sufficiently thick and warm. The exterior of the building is stained a dark brown, and the shingled roof is mossy green. The bungalow is wired throughout for electric lights, and the sewage is taken care of in a septic tank. The patio and back porch are both floored with red brick, and the pergola is made of rough redwood logs.

This bungalow, of course, was specially planned for the requirements of California ranch life, and some changes would have to be made if the idea were used either in a town or in the East. As it is, the cellar is large enough to permit the installation of a hot water heater, and a concrete foundation is built under the entire house so that the mud sills rest on this, leaving a space of eighteen inches or more under the building.

THE TWELVE BEST PERENNIALS FOR THE MODEST HOME: BY ADELINE THAYER THOMSON

The many advantages of hardy plants over the more tender annual varieties have been so fully and convincingly set forth by our leading floral magazines and papers that perennials are recognized today as being the most satisfactory for the permanent home. So much has been said in regard to "massed planting," "naturalizing by the thousands," "stocking the yard with hardy plants," "harmonious
color combinations," etc., that the modest property owner is apt to gather the impression that perennials must be planted in quantities to be satisfactory, and because but a few varieties can be afforded, defers planting them from year to year. A great deal of satisfaction, however, may be had from a dozen well-chosen hardy plants, and delayed planting means only wasting precious time, for within two years these same perennials may be divided, and one’s stock increased at least fourfold.

Long printed lists of plants are always confusing to the amateur, and if one is limited to the choosing of but a few varieties, unless there is perfect familiarity with the different perennials, it is a difficult matter to know which are best adapted for the home yard.

As an aid to the amateur, the following hardy plants have been carefully selected from the host of varieties as the twelve best perennials for general use,—the choice being based upon a standard of extreme hardiness, beauty of form and color, adaptability to different soils and locations, and varying seasons of bloom that will insure a continued floral display from spring until fall.

The hepatica is the best hardy variety for early spring blooming. At the very threshold of April, when the other perennials are only beginning to push their way through the dry leaves of winter, this plant unfolds its harvest of delicate blossoms, and for three weeks or more it is easily queen of the garden. The hepatica thrives luxuriantly in sun or shade, and increases rapidly by self sowing. Its height is six inches.

The columbine,—that old, old favorite,—still possesses the characteristics that make it invaluable. This plant is among the hardiest in cultivation, thrives in sun or shade, and is entirely free from insect pests. The nodding, bell-shaped blossoms are very attractive and appear generously throughout the month of May. It grows one foot high.

The German iris is a highly decorative variety that grows two feet high and adapts itself readily to all planting effects. The flowers unfold in May and are large and exquisitely formed. Varieties may be had in colors shading from the purest of white through many different tints of yellow, brown and purple. The iris increases rapidly, but resents disturbance to its roots any time but in the fall.

The delphinium is the most conspicuous plant among all June-blooming varieties. The azure blue flower spikes are borne from four to six feet high, and one can scarcely imagine a more brilliant effect than this plant presents when in flower. It will blossom again in the fall if the flowering stalk is cut down immediately after its beauty has faded—an advantage which few perennials possess.

The soft, silvery foliage of the hardy pink, which grows one foot high, makes it an effective plant at all times. It blooms profusely, however, and during the month of June is loaded with a mass of attractive flowers that fill the air with a rich, spicy perfume. Stock is readily multiplied by cuttings made in the early spring, for at this time they root most easily if planted in a shady location and carefully watered.

The Oriental poppy is the most gorgeous plant among the perennials. The flowers are unusually large and glowing red in color, while the petals are fantastically blotched with markings of black. The plant flowers in June and always attracts great admiration. The stock may be increased quickly by cutting the root into pieces, and each part will form a new plant. This work should be done immediately after flowering, and the new plants rooted in the shade. It grows two feet high.

Pyrethrum is another perennial which flowers in June. The blossoms are daisy-like in form, but they possess a range of color unknown to that variety. The unusually graceful foliage makes the plant attractive during the growing season.

Coreopsis (lanceolata) scatters cheer and brightness throughout the months of July and August with a host of orange-colored blossoms. It is a thrifty variety, multiplies amazingly, and reaches a height of two feet.

Platyodon flowers in July, and it is an invaluable plant. The blossoms are bell-shaped, white or blue in color, and are borne profusely.

Lobelia is a close rival of the Oriental poppy in brilliancy of color and decorative effect. In August the flowers form dense heads of bloom from eight to ten inches long, and are a rich, glowing crimson. A single plant will often send up six or eight stalks of these brilliant spikes.

The Japanese anemone is an exquisite variety, and its delicate pink and white flowers are among the most beautiful in cultivation. This plant blossoms in Sep-
tember, and flourishes until frost. Height, one foot.

The pompon chrysanthemum braves the cold, chilling winds of November, and thrives until severe freezing weather. No collection of perennials would be complete without this variety, which reaches only two feet in height.

The foregoing collection of perennials means an outlay of about a dollar and a half. No other investment could give more real pleasure, or pay a higher rate of interest, for once planted perennials thrive a lifetime, and with the passing years they increase in numbers and in added charm.

SOME PRIMITIVE CRAFTSMEN IN MEXICO: BY VERONA GRANVILLE

SILVER has been the favorite metal of nearly all primitive craftsmen who work for beauty’s sake. This is especially true of the Latin races, and their descendants in Mexico of today are among the most skilled workmen in the world. It is most interesting to watch a native *platero* at work in his quiet little shop in some of the larger cities where few strangers penetrate, and away from the tourists’ demand for the gaudy cut-out jewelry made from Mexican coins; the hideous belts, bracelets and watch fobs, and cheap brooches of butterfly and lizard designs, much of the latter coming from Italian and German factories.

I have in mind a little old half-Mexican, half-Indian, and his tiny shop in a side street in Guanajuato, where more than ten years ago there was only a local supply for silver ornaments, and the primitive workers depicted with an astonishing grasp of intimate detail only such objects and scenes as they were familiar with in daily life.

One day while sitting on a rickety bench by the side of the patient old man, he told me his story with much naïveté and charm.

"I was born," he said, "in the great patio of the Valenciana mine, the greatest but one in the world, only the Potosí mine of Bolivia showing a greater record in adding to the world’s supply of silver. My father was killed when the great octagonal shaft of the Valenciana was flooded. My mother worked as an ore sorter in the patio. She was of pure Indian blood. I suppose that I inherited my love for silver ornaments from her. She always wore beautifully chased silver earrings and bracelets, and she constantly bought more, although we were very poor, and often there was a lack of tortillas and frijoles. When my mother died, her little store of jewelry was mine. Here they are. I will never part with them. They are a source of constant inspiration."

He showed me a little carved cedar box, full of silver trinkets, among them an especially beautiful little figure of an ore carrier, with a basket held by a leather strap from his forehead. "I made it," the old man said. "You may see the same young peon at the Cardones mine."

A few days later I photographed the Indian model for the little ornament, as well as an old water carrier, of whom the *platero* had a statuette in clay.

"I was employed for several years about the assay office of the great mine," the *platero* went on; and, quite unblushingly, he said: "I stole many of the beads as they came from the cupels, and often bits of silver wire. I learned assaying, and when my knowledge of an-