satisfactory it can easily be retinted with these new fast, mortar tints. Colored stain is sometimes applied to mortar joints to break up the monotonous masses of brick, stone or tile wall. Garden walls, walls, pavements, ceilings and walls of houses are often vastly improved in beauty by staining with some of the sun and water proof stains, but the subject of paint and stains for interior and exterior use in home building is too complicated, boundless and important to be justly handled in this article. So much depends upon quality of paint or stain, kind of wood, style of treatment, color harmony, wise balance in its use, that it would be impossible to cover it helpfully even in one separate article. There is so much to be said about the practical wood preserving quality of paint, stain and varnishes and more yet about their decorative work. We need more color in our architecture, but it must be introduced with judgment and good taste.

Whether wood is given a coat of paint, oil or left in its natural state, there is something extremely sympathetic and satisfying about it. Metals and plaster, though most excellent and invaluable materials, are cold and lifeless compared with it. Wood once stood out against storms and grew in stature as the years passed over it, but metals never seem to have had conscious life.

**SPRINGTIME AND TULIP BORDERS**

(Continued from page 83.)

edge of the border by the path to vary the line and plant between them larger groups of two or three dozen each, of “Muscaria, heavenly blue” (grape hyacinth), Scilla Siberica, Chionodoxa Luciliae (Glory of the Snow), snowdrops and their larger cousins, Leucojums vernum (Spring Snowflake), and by all means crocuses blue, yellow and white, and clumps of lily-of-the-valley.

Apples and apricots trained against the wall, and standard rose trees along the path, will add much to the quaint atmosphere of the “garden plot.”

An adaptation of this kind of garden could be used as an entrance court to a house whose main gardens are back of the living rooms facing south. The walls and prim lines would give the dignified effect that is best around one’s front door. White petunias or coral geraniums could fill the beds after the bulbs have bloomed and would give color until hard frost.