

fore the insects come and apply it at least twice a week until the insect season is past. Be sure to get it to all parts of the plant, especially the under side of the leaves.

Shiocton, Wis.

THE POINSETTIA.

Frederic Cranefield.

[For the Wisconsin Horticulturist.]

The crimson bracts of the Poinsettia, fairly glowing in bright sunlight, never fail to attract attention. A group of these plants in the Station greenhouse has attracted very general attention this winter. The plants have been grown mainly for instructional uses, to illustrate one modification of leaves, for the so-called flowers of the Poinsettia are merely brightly colored leaves, different from the other leaves of the plant in color only. The true flowers are small and inconspicuous.

The Poinsettia succeeds fairly well as a house plant if one or two important points are observed. The plants must never be permitted to suffer for want of water, and sudden and violent changes of temperature must be avoided. Commonly the plants drop all of their leaves when removed from the greenhouse to the dwelling and this is usually attributed to a lack of heat; in fact the average florist will say that the Poinsettia is a tropical plant and that it requires a high temperature. This is wrong, as it thrives in a moderate temperature, from 60 to 65 degrees, but will not endure a change from 80 to 70 degrees in a few hours, without injury. Watering is also of the highest importance. While it does not require as much water as many other plants, the soil must always be kept moist.

The Poinsettia may be grown readily from cuttings at any time of the year. Bottom heat, that is, the soil warmer than the air above it, is not essential. After the plants

have done "flowering," allow them to rest by withholding water gradually until the plants have become wholly dormant and shed all of their leaves, when the stems should be cut back severely, the dirt removed from the roots and the plants repotted into SMALLER pots. The parts cut off, if cut into sections 2 to 3 inches in length and placed in wet sand in a sunny window, will soon be well rooted. Green "slips" or cuttings, taken at any time during the growing season, root readily and, if started at any time previous to Sept. 1st, will usually form bracts. By rooting cuttings at intervals during the spring and summer we have succeeded in producing plants of various sizes, from the tiny one, in a 2-inch pot, with a 3-inch bract, to the towering plants 4 and 5 feet high, in 8-inch pots, each with several 12 and 14-inch bracts.

Wisconsin Experiment Station.

THE DOGWOOD DOING DUTY AS EBONY.

A Chester (Ct.) correspondent of the Hartford Courant says that owing to the high price of ebony, manufacturers of piano keyboards have been searching for a substitute, but could not find one with a grain close enough for the necessary polish until our native dogwood was tried and found to equal ebony in appearance and utility. Dogwood is scattered through nearly every forest, and occasionally a number of trees are found in a group. It grows as a large bush or small tree, requiring 25 or 30 years to gain a diameter of 5 or 6 inches. Owing to the small amount of wood in a tree, it is rarely cut, unless to clear up a piece. When a contract was lately made with mills at Deep River and Ivoryton to saw up 800 cords of dogwood in strips an inch square and 8 to 20 inches long, it was necessary to ask farmers to get it out, offering \$4.50 to \$5 per cord. In a short time it came in so fast that nine mills were kept busy until May 1