

CLIMBING.

Did you ever try to climb a round higher on the ladder of success without a dozen or more busy hands ready to hang stones to your heels?

Few people have the privilege of climbing with both hands and both feet.

"I told you so" is on the round above piling stones before you.

If the weights hanging to your heels chance to make you slip, do not get discouraged, don't mind "I told you so's" cobblestones she has laid in your

way and is trying hard to cement together.

Push on with one hand and hold tight with the other as you draw your feet to the next notch or step, then getting your poise, break right through the cement before it dries.

Begin to plan next year's garden now before this year's experience is forgotten.

THE FLOWER GARDEN

Edited by MAGGIE DOWNING BRAINARD.

CARNATIONS.

Their Origin and Development.

(Maggie Downing Brainard).

HUNDREDS of years ago, the *Dianthus caryophyllus*, original clove pink and the parent of all the various sorts of carnations, was known and appreciated.

Known and appreciated, not in the way its fashionable children of the present day, are, (for beauty of form and color) but, for spicy aroma, a fragrance as indescribable as the incense from the Biblical "Frankincense and myrrh."

Pliny calls the *Dianthus*, the "flower of spicy flavor," and tells us how in the sensual days of Augustus Caesar, it was used to impart a most delicate bouquet or flavor to favorite wines.

No age of vintage, no special grapes from the rarest vineyards could give the *Dianthus* bouquet, in consequence, no great feast was complete without this specially flavored beverage.

While Pliny named the *Dianthus caryophyllus*, "the flower of spicy flavor," botanists called it the wonderful "flower of civilization."

In connection with the latter comes this unexplained fact: in its wild growth, it appeared generally (some claim always) near the haunts of man. To bread producing cereals is ascribed the same mysterious fact.

Years Passed.

And with the passing, higher civilization took the place of sensual pleasures, and with it, the little *Bacchus* blossom was raised to a more elevated position than that of delighting the coarser senses.

Gardeners and botanists recognized a deeper worth. They took her in hand and spent years and years in feeding and working with and cultivating and coaxing the little body until gradually her form changed, then her habits and with that her dress until today, we have the incomparable carnation, the little wild *Dianthus* peasant made over into the favorite princess.

More Than.

Half a century ago, Mr. Hog, an expert "carnationist" issued a catalogue of 350 varieties of carnations. This is but a decimal of the present number. Two years later began the wave of popularity in the United States. This fact we learned from a florist.

At First.

That is, when carnations had attracted scientific men and were attracting the attention of flowerlovers for their unfolding beauties, they were reduced to pot culture, trained to sticks and never pruned.

A careful study of the plant's life and habits taught the cultivator, that the carnation loves best the outdoor freedom of the garden, a soil rich and deep with plenty of well-decayed manure to feed upon.

Pinch Back

The leading shoots of the young plants. Make them stocky from the ground. The more of bush form the better. Plenty of water, lots of fresh air and moderate sunshine.

Monsieur Paermentier,

An expert hybridizer from the southern part of France, had this to say to us one day this week:

"The cultivation of carnations is in its infancy.

"When I left France some few years ago they were cultivated but not to the extent that they were in the United States.

When the carnation first began to be used commercially, the fashion was for stiff bouquets. Long stems did not count, fine flowers did. We had not learned to make long stems and good flowers too. Our flowers had short stems, so we wired our fine flowers with short stems to tooth picks which served the purpose of stems.

"The fashion changed. Bouquets were made with the flowers and ferns to fall loosely apart. This required long natural willowy stems, and this demand as much as anything else changed the cultivation. The market demand must be met.

"The climate and soil of southern France is the same as here.

"In southern France carnations are seldom grown under glass. Put when they are, they are given plenty of ventilation both day and night; temperature kept even, standing from 48 to 49 degrees."

For the Propagation

Of new stock take from the outdoor stock, as I have done for these it's best." (And right here, let me tell you, we never saw such fine young plants, growing in one inch pots, as he transferred the potted plants to the bench setting them in rows on the top of the

damp coarse sand). "Although," he went on, "cuttings from inside stock root much easier."

"For instance, 90 per cent of the cuttings from inside stock will root to 75 to 80 per cent of outside. But, there is no comparison between the two for health and strength, the outdoor quality being so much superior."

"How soon does a specimen run out? Sometimes in two years, sometimes, not for ten or more.

"Depends on the treatment given. You can make of a strong healthy child a poor, weak, sickly thing by over-feeding, poor ventilation, etc. Same rule works with the treatment of plants.

"There is the Lawson. Today, it is worthless; spent itself, been forced to death.

Some of Our Best Varieties

For this season? Can hardly tell you. White perfection and white Lawson are prime favorites.

In pink, Washington, Mrs. Allen Ward, Dorothy Gordon and ping Enchantress, are leading the way.

In crimson, nothing can beat, Harlowarden, Edna Brown, and the bright red are topped by O. P. Passet, Lorraine, Estelle—but, as for that matter, all I have are good; 60 varieties and not one a back number."

WHEN TO PLANT SEEDS.

By Maggie Downing, Brainard.

IN California this is almost a useless subject to discuss, for here hardy annuals can be planted at any time, provided plenty of water is obtainable; half-hardy annuals as soon as a fear of frost passes.

Pansies, allyssum, poppies, all kinds of pinks and Sweet Williams do best when planted in the fall for early spring blooming, and in the spring for mid-summer blooming, and in mid-summer for fall purposes.

The cinerarias from Teneriffe, embracing many of the hothouse varieties flowers, purple, crimson, blue, white, etc., are believed to belong to that class of plants whose seeds must be germinated under glass.

In many parts of the Santa Clara valley we see at this writing, in private grounds, fine, vigorous cineraria plants in full bloom.

At the City Hall park of San Jose Mr. Snitzler, the gardener, has just bedded for winter blooming a magnificent collection.

He tells me the plants (finest I ever saw) are from self-sown seed in the open grounds; the parent plants he set out in the open park early in March of this year.

The little plants first appeared in October. When they were ready for transplanting he carefully prepared the ground, enriching it with manure, adding a small quantity of rotted sawdust to prevent the ground from packing.

When the plants were well set in the bed and beginning to grow he covered the ground with a good dressing of manure. This top dressing of fresh manure keeps the roots of the plants warm. As a matter of course, using the fresh manure, he never lets the plants dry for fear of a warm day, when they would be likely to burn.

OLD TIN CANS.

By Maggie Downing Brainard.

THE southern farmer knows full well the use of old tin cans, especially the quart and pint sizes, in the truck business.

In these homely receptacles he plants the seeds of early vegetables, such as tomatoes, peppers, even beans and melons, setting them in rows in propagating beds.

Plants Ready.

For planting after the frost fear has passed he cuts out the bottom of the can, rips open the side, peels off the can from the dirt and sets the plant, undisturbed, in the ground. By this method the plant never feels any disturbance of roots, so never stops growing.

Do not forget, where hardy or half hardy plants grow, December is the month to plant cauliflower, carrots, parsnips, onions, radishes and turnips. In the frostless belt beans, peas, lettuce and spinach will flourish.

Mustard greens are among the most healthy and palatable salads. Nothing better to stir a torpid liver.

A grape arbor, wherever it is placed about the home, makes a beautiful out-of-doors retreat for the family and their friends.

At the time of potting, give plants a good watering after which do not water until plants really need it.

Children and flowers in the home go well together. Every family can certainly have a flower of some kind, and the more the better.

Morses Sweet Peas

Send for Our Book
"Sweet Pea Culture"

It is free for the asking. It contains valuable information on the Sweet Pea, gives carefully prepared directions for sowing the seed, and contains full descriptions of some of the newer and better known Spencer and Grandiflora varieties. This book is one of the most authoritative works on the Sweet Pea in existence.

Call, Write or Phone for Free Copy

Our Fall Bulb Catalogue

is now ready for delivery and contains a list of our new bulb stock. Sent to any address free of charge.

We are booking orders now for plants and trees. A special list of nursery stock will be mailed on request.

C. C. MORSE & CO.

Largest Seed House on the Coast

129 Jackson St. San Francisco

WHEN YOU TRAVEL

YOU want to use the Best Trains, the Most Direct Routes, Faultless Dining Car Service, Through Cars and Modern Equipment.

YOU

also desire the satisfaction and comfort of knowing that your train is protected by block signals, heavy rails, rock ballasted roads and efficient men.

YOU

also want your itinerary so made that you can make the points you desire to visit with the least exertion and with the greatest comfort.

TO

get the above results write or inquire of any agent.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC