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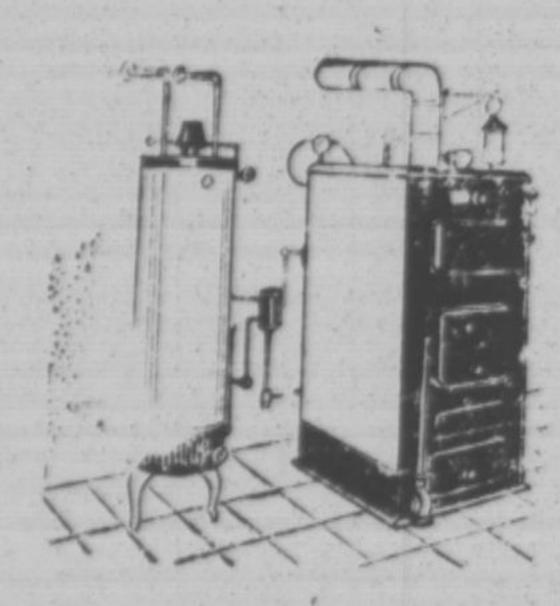
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PERENNIAL PLANTS OF THE NORTH SHORE

Another Interesting Paper from the Writings of the Late W. C. Egan Reprinted

Following is another excerpt from the writings of the late W. C. Egan of Highland Park, entitled "Perennial Plants of the North Shore Region":

A no more typical representation of the meeting of the prairies and the woods can be found than in that tract known as the north shore, where forked tongues of high prairie land invade the precincts of the forest. The Prairie Lily and its moisture loving sister, the Turk's Cap Lily, nod in sets off the building and gives it a friendly companionship to their sylmake and repair cornices, lay roofs, Shooting Star and the Hepatica al-

> Blest are they who possess a heavily wooded ravine, for in its deep recesses are found a host of early bloomers which revel while they can in the sunshine that fliters through the leafless branches overhead, and then sink into slumber under the shadowy blanket of a summer's verque; but ere the memory of their charms has faded they appear again, forerunners of our summer, treasures.

This commingling by nature of the flora of the fields and woods says to us, "Go thou and do likewise." In the cialists will gladly recommend a com- planting of our grounds there are two plete, new heating system that will methods to be considered,-one, the he especially adapted to your partic- wild planting, in which additions are made to the plants already existing, either of the same kind or other natives, or even exotics, provided they are robust enough to maintain their part in the battle of life, and are of such character that they look as if they belonged there. The other method is that of our flower borders and formal beds.

> One of the most charming, and at the same time satisfactory, plants I know of for massing and naturalizing on the borders of our ravines, in open woodland, glades, or even under large groups of shrubs or low-branched trees, is the spring blooming Virginian Blue-bell (Mertensia pulmonarioides, syr. M. Virginica) which should be planted any time between August and November. This plant loses its foliage soon after blooming, but reappears the following spring. If planted under trees or old shrubs whose roots seem to be almost at the surface, it is well to place five or six inches of good soil on the surface before planting. Plant 10 to 12 inches apart. The rains have carried the seed of my plants down the ravine bank and created new colonies. As this plant blooms before the foliage of the branches overhead are out, their delicate blue bells and pink buds are readily seen.

Where ravine banks or open woods are absent, a planting under the broadly spreading pendant branches of the Golden Bell (Forsythia intermedia) has a pretty effect for the beauty of the robin's-egg blue of the Mertensia is enhanced when seen through the veil of the Forsythia's yellow bells, and the fresh foliage of the shrubs afterwards hides the fading garments of the Miss Mertensia.

I have a group planted in this way

which has been there some eight years and is still happy.

The next "wild plant" in the chain of my affections, whose charms are in harmony with the surroundings we have to offer them, is the biennial Thinleaved Coneflower (Rudbeckia triloba) a native of Northern Illinois and generally found in dry open woods. While it is a true biennial, dying after it has bloomed, it reproduces itself so freely when once established that it remains forevermore. If plants should come up where not wanted, they are readily transplanted. It is not found in our clay loam, as it likes an open, free soil. Where seedlings appear in our unworked soil, they have a stunted dwarf growth and then resemble somewhat our native "Black-eyed Susan," (Rudbeckia hirta), but if given the ordinary cultvated garden soil, they finished, artistic appearance. We van neighbor, the Wood Lily, and the become stately plants to some three -in fact, a glorified "Black-eye Su-

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