

The LANDSCAPE DEPARTMENT BY CUSHING SMITH, M.E.A.

THE WILD FLOWER AND FERN GARDEN

John Fiske in "Through Nature to God" has wisely written, "I often think, when working over my plants, of what Linnaeus once said of the unfolding of a blossom: 'I saw God in His glory passing near me, and bowed my head in worship.'" The scientific aspect of the same thought has been put in words by Tennyson,—

'Flower in the crannied wall
I pluck you out of the crannies,
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand.

Little flower,—but if I could understand
What you are, root and all, and all in all,

I should know what God and man is.'

Our Native Wild-flowers. We have heard many times in our child-hood days, in our visits into the realms of botany, our excursions in search of herbarium material which must be carefully pres-

erved with me among the great group of wild-flowers. Some seem to delight in hiding beneath the dogwood, or hawthorn thicket, others to seek the cool dampness of the marsh and wet meadow, where the cowslips blink brightly at you.

Plants which we find. Have you seen a meadow of wild native hyacinth or scilla with its pale blue heads obliquely stretching upwards from slender stems among the lush grass. Its flowers attract ants, bees, wasps, flies and butterflies, and it is thus that our blossoms are cross-pollinated as these insects fly from flower to flower.

In the moist, rich woods in May and early June we see the nodding heads of the trillium, and along the streams the blue iris or fleur-de-lis with its large showy blossoms which calls the passing bee to its favorite color. The wind-flower or anemone, the wild columbine, the hepatica or liverwort so eagerly sought in the early warm days of May, the many varieties of violets, the wild

der with me among the great group of wild-flowers.

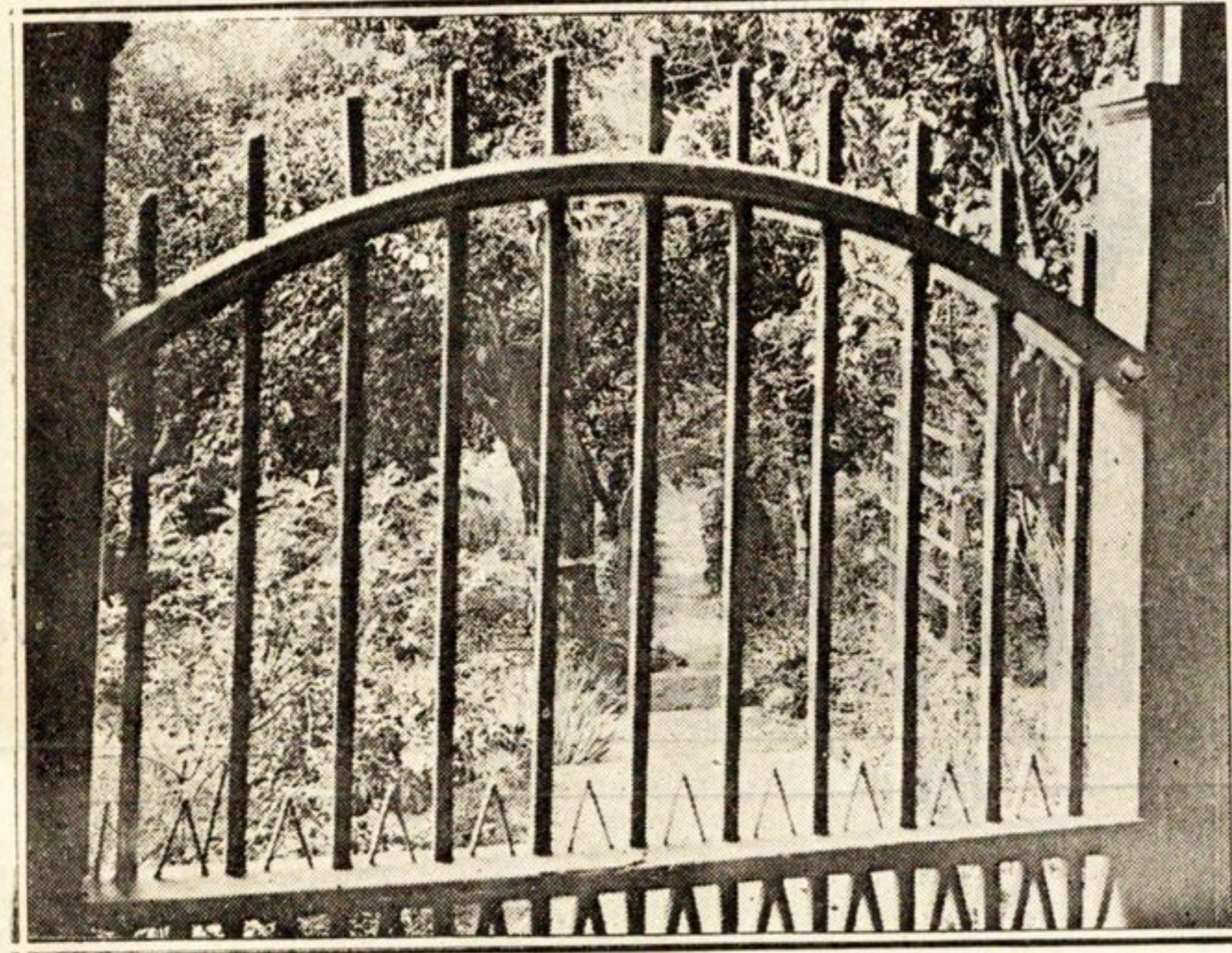
Preserve the Native Plants. Picking the flowers only, does but little harm, so long as the plant itself is not wantonly torn out by the roots in great areas for no apparent reason. The actual extermination of some species in large tracts of land has actually occurred in this way, and the writer cannot add too strongly his word of protest against such spoilage of our native plants.

Ferns to Grow. In the growth of ferns,—and their collection is one of the fascinating phases of naturalistic gardening,—we find that most of them require a soil rich in leaf-mould, well-drained and usually semi-shady conditions. The soil particles should be very fine, and enough leaf mould added to make the soil very light and porous, with the level of the beds raised two to three inches above the surrounding level. Take care not to plant the roots too deeply, in most cases keeping the crown above the level of the ground. Of the varieties the Maidenhair Fern or Adiantum, the Aspidium family among which are the Christmas Fern, and the various Wood Ferns, the Asplenium family with the Spleenwort and Lady Fern among its members, the Osmunda family including the Claytons Fern, and the Polypody group especially adapted to rock work with the Woodsia ferns are the varieties best adapted to this section. Take the advice of the man who specializes in the growing of ferns or that of the landscape architect for the best varieties for open sunny conditions, for dry, shady places, and for the moist, shady conditions which are sometimes found.

Bobbing Barbers Boom Curling-iron Business

Bobbing barbers standing knee deep in feminine hair are keeping the electric curling iron salesmen overworked, says the Public Utility News Bulletin. In 1923 it was estimated that \$1,250,000 was spent for electric curling irons, but according to the estimate, this was a small item in the total sales of electrical merchandise, the gross for last year being \$2,003,745,000.

Residential fixtures showed the largest expenditures with more than a half billion dollars spent for home improvements such as lamps, switches, plugs and wire. Amateur radio equipment sales amounted to \$120,000,000 and the remainder was spent for labor-saving and convenience devices such as washing machines, vacuum cleaners, fans, irons and cooking utensils.



The Entrance to the Wild-Flower Garden

ed, and more painstakingly mounted, of the many native plants and wild-flowers which abound in this section of the country. The Wild Flower Preservation Society has done much to familiarize the public with the native plants, and to admonish and advise them against a wanton destruction of these our original flora.

Place of an Arboretum. Perhaps no more worthy task could be undertaken than the plans of the Forest Preserve Commission in their work of retaining for future generations the natural stands of timber, and the native woodland conditions. The North Shore towns could carry this thought somewhat further in establishing for their children and for the general education of the public an Arboretum which shall contain, properly labeled, plant specimens of the native wild-flowers, ferns, shrubs and trees carefully arranged under conditions best reproducing their natural habitat.

Habitat of Native Plants. Would you know the native wild-flowers and ferns,—then walk with me to the woodland, along the shaded path, and beside the sun-flecked tumbling stream. Not all of our woodland friends will be found along the edge of the woods, nor all of them

phlox, blue bells, and Spring beauty or Claytonia vie with one another in their trumpeting of Spring. Is there one of us who has not with a shout of joy discovered the quaint little blossoms of the Dutchman's breeches, or picked a nodding bouquet of the shooting-star, as it rises gracefully between the broad green leaves at its base. Similar to it in some ways are the bright yellow lily-like flowers about an inch broad, of the dog's tooth violet or adder's tongue.

Solomon's seal, the blood-root with its white flowers and reddish stem juices, the rarer orchids among whom the lady-slipper and the showy orchis are perhaps the most unusual, the bell-worts nodding yellow blooms and the fall blossoms of the wild asters which in August and September abound in sunny meadows and along the country roadside even in the poorest soil conditions are but a few of the joys sure to greet those who want-

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