



## A PAGE FOR MISSES



# Artistic Arranging of Flowers a Fashionable Accomplishment.



In every English home one of the chief duties devolving upon the daughters of the house is the arranging of the flowers which each morning are brought in fresh and fragrant from the garden, greenhouse or conservatory. Over here there is not so much of the real country life as is enjoyed by our English sisters, but it is certain that as each year more and more months are being spent out of town the American girl is coming to appreciate to the full the many charms of simple outdoor life and is quickly learning to derive as much pleasure from the gardens and hothouses on her father's country estate as she finds during the winter months in the less health giving pleasures afforded in a large city.

One is apt to hear it stated positively that flowers or plants can only be effectively arranged by a hand possessing an inherent talent for the work, yet no adage could be more incorrect. With a real love for flowers and perhaps a small degree of natural artistic sense any girl can with just a few plants and flowers transform the poorest room into a charming boudoir, while a veritable delight to the eyes is a simple drawing room decorated with numerous bowls and vases containing all kinds and varieties of sweet smelling roses, carnations or sweet peas, enhanced in charm by more striking but less fragrant chrysanthemums or dahlias. And fortunately a love for flowers does not have to be born in one, but can be quickly cultivated by mere intercourse. It is impossible to associate for long with any object innately beautiful without being imbued with a keen appreciation of and sympathy with the beautiful; and as in all art or nature nothing can ever equal the perfect loveliness of the tiniest flower, so a love for the beauty of flowers is soon acquired, and once the appreciation is there a girl can soon arrange them in ways ever varied and ever exquisite.

**E**XPERIENCE is another great aid in the artistic arrangement of flowers, for it takes a little time to learn that short stemmed flowers, as violets, gardenias, sweet peas and a few varieties of roses, require a short bowl shaped vase to be kept in graceful order, that such flowers as carnations should not be placed in a vase too spreading at the neck, and that long stemmed American beauties, chrysanthemums, lilies, &c., will be the more effective according to the length of the vase in which they are contained. About the arrangement of the vases in the room experience or perhaps intuition only will bring that sense of the artistic which places a bowl of sweet narcissus on some stand or table where its fragrance can be at once enjoyed, or puts a wide branch of vivid autumn leaves or wild flowers just where their brilliant color will give the best effect in the room. Only experience, too, can teach how to mass in one vase a bowl of a heterogeneous mixture of different kinds of fragrant or bright buds fresh from the garden and have them appear like anything but a miniature rainbow.

The girl who has grown to love flowers will be only too glad to do all in her power to give as long life as she can to the blooms and plants which can do so much to keep alive in a house throughout the longest and dreariest winter some of the happy spirit of summer. Even when fresh flowers are sent in several times in

a week she will change the water in all the vases each morning and cut off about an inch of the stems of all those which have not yet commenced to fade or drop. This last may be a somewhat tedious task when there are many vases to be attended to, but assuredly a few moments spent thus in prolonging life, even plant life, cannot be wasted time. A pinch of salt, also, sprinkled in the water will help to keep cut flowers from losing their fresh brilliant color.

**M**OST important is it, if the poor cut flower is to live long, to give forth its beauty to the world, that the vase should be wider at the top than at the base, and above all not of the goose-necked style, which squeezes in the stems in such a way that the water cannot soak through to the bloom nor air penetrate to keep the water sweet. Then, too, it is generally extremely difficult to arrange flowers attractively in a goose-necked vase, which clutches the flowers in tight together just before they need to spread out and allows the stems to spread uselessly below. For the very short stemmed flowers, as violets, sweet peas or more especially orchids, the stems of which are in comparison so tiny for the flower, a far more satisfactory receptacle than a cut glass or silver bowl is a low, wide vase covered with a wire screen, through which each individual flower or fern is



Victory Carnations and Asparagus Ferns in a Faience Vase.



Japanese Vase with White Chrysanthemums.

Dutch Copper Vase with Yellow Chrysanthemums and Autumn Oak Leaves.

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In the artistic arrangement of flowers on a dining or luncheon table the kind of vase used plays a most important part, and if economy is to be practised everything depends upon the size and shape of the vases. With only a small number of

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