

Life in the Garden

Practical Advice for Amateurs

GARDEN NOTES.

Caterpillars are again in evidence. They are a plague to gardeners, and those requiring perfect flowers or a good tomato, must make war on these pests. Picking the grubs is perhaps the most certain plan, but it is tedious. Spraying every few days with McDougall's wash or weak sheep dip are fairly successful. A large tablespoonful of the wash diluted with 2½ gallons of water will be about the proportions.

Land intended for planting winter greens should be got ready and the plants set out without delay when rain falls. A sowing of French beans may still be put in.

Dahlias and chrysanthemums will require attention—tying to stakes as they advance in growth, and water freely. Evergreen hedges should be trimmed, beds

A Chat About Anemones.

I daresay there are few gardeners—I use the word "gardener" in its broadest sense, of course—who are not enamoured of one or more of the anemones or windflowers. Nay, there are some who are such ardent lovers of the genus that they can hardly tell upon which of the fair damosels which constitute the family their affections rest. There are, it is true, a few of the family which even the anemone lover cannot embrace in his affections, but they are few indeed, and, as a whole, the sweet sisterhood is fascinating enough to excite the ire of the lover of the windflower.

And what a varied family are they! We have the "fair and frail anemone," *anemone nemorosa*, which appears to shrink from the public gaze and seeks its home amid the woods, each flower seeming to think that in these solitudes the many sister flowers will take the attention away from its own beauties. Then there



St. Bridget Anemones
(*Anemone coronaria*).

intended for anemones should be got ready and the first lot of roots planted. The St. Bridget anemone is now the most popular variety, and those who buy roots of this kind should not trouble about the size, as we generally find that though more single blooms are produced by the large roots, the very smallest root will grow and flower well.

are the blue-eyed hepaticas, such charming things, and so beautiful in their colouring and form.

There are many more of simple taste and simple beauty, but there are also flowers of almost opulent charms. Such are the Japan anemones, *anemone japonica*, now so varied in colour and shape, and so valuable, and valued in the late autumn time, when days grow short and flowers



A PARTICULARLY GOOD STUDY OF A VERY POPULAR FLOWER—THE MINIATURE SUNFLOWER.

grow few. Rich, also, in their beauty, albeit quiet in their colouring, are the tall Alpine windflowers, such as the *anemone alpina* and *A. sulphurea*, so noble in their season, and so fascinating to all who love beautiful flowers.

Then we have all the brilliances of the crown or poppy anemones, and the glowing colour of the flowers of *anemone fulgens*, and the graceful form and bright colouring of the star anemone, *A. hortensis*.

Among anemones of low growth we must begin with *anemone nemorosa*, the wood anemone, which has so many beautiful varieties. We all know the common white one—common in nothing save its abundance, and so beautiful that it seems as if it were really what the poet pictured it—molten snow formed into a flower.

Think of the little golden stars of *anemone ranunculoides*, gauding some bank in the garden; or, choicer still, its variety *Pallida*, with sulphur-yellow blossoms, little gems, indeed, and quite at home on some shaded and moist bank.

These things remind us of the early Greek windflower, *anemone blanda*, and

its close ally, albeit from the Italian peninsula. This is *A. apennina*; both are dwarf plants, and both give flowers varying from blue to almost rose and white.

Then we think of the anemones of the *Hepatica* section, in blue and white and rose, and in various intermediate shades. Lovely things are these, much of their welfare depending upon the preservation of their leaves from the sun in summer time.

These do not exhaust the dwarf-growing anemones of the lower parts of the grounds or the rock garden, but we have others which are in a sense intermediate between these and the taller ones.

Thus there is that lovely flower, the narcissus-flowered windflower, *anemone narcissiflora*, with all its grace and its lovely flowers of white. It, again, reminds us of the white anemone polyanthes, whose interest to us is even enhanced by our knowing that it comes from the Himalayas.

Then there are the Japanese anemones. What a host are these now, and bearing all manner of names, from the plum japonica, elegans, rosea, and alba, to the



A SPLENDID DISPLAY OF VEGETABLES GROWN BY MR. WALTER STRANG, OF PALMERSTON NORTH.



DECORATED TABLES, THE WINNER OF THE FIRST PRIZE BEING THE TABLE IN THE FOREGROUND.

SOME EXHIBITS AT THE MANAWATU HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW AT PALMERSTON NORTH.