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## Floral decoration

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## FLORAL DECORATION BY

## GERTRUDE M．White



## MASSACHUSETTS AGRICUITURAL COL工FGE

## Amherst, Mass.

## June 12, 1915.

## FIORAL DECORATION

by

GERTRUDE M. WHITE

THESIS
FLORICUITURE 8

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The love of 1 lowers does not belong to the cultured races alone. Savage and semi-civilized tribes have always used then for personal adornment and as tokens of love, regarding them as symbols of meaning. Roman history probably records the first use of cultivated flowers in wreaths and garlands as well as the most levish use of them the world has know when they were strown inhalls and through the streets on festal occasions. In our own country the love of lowers existed before us among the Indians, but it has come to us through our New England ancestors who brought their flowers and their love for them When they came to this country, as their old lashioned gardens of which we read give plenty of evidence. Wherever llowers and a love for them exist, probably some form of floral decoration is found, but undoubtedly nothing like floral decoration as we understand it wes general in those old Now England days. It is difficult to know just when it did begin - material at hand upon the subject takes us back to 1885 at which time floral decoration seems to be a weil established"fashion". The Tirst greenhouse was probably built in America in New York in 1764, but there were fow greenhouses until after 1850. Just the connection between greenhouses and faral decoration is conjectiveal but two factors point to a probable connection - irst, it is largely greenhouse flowers that are used in the work, and, second, it seems probable that floral decoration as such, developed from the desire of the people to have flowers about them in seasons when they could not enjoy them out of doors. This, of course, was impossible until the greenhouse put flowers within reach of the people at all times of the year. The forms of present day floral decoration are many and varied, and too familiar to every one to require enumeration.
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Floral decoration, like other things, has passed through varying phases of development. In certain stages probebly eartior O- When hothouse flowers were newer and more of a novelty than at the present time, there were fashions in flowers as well as in clothes. A column was devoted each month in the floral magazine to "Ploral Styles" and one turns there to ind whether cypripediums or violets should form the table decorations and what llower milady should send In her boutonnier gift - for at one time large boutonnieres costing two or three dollars were especially fashionable gifts for a lady to make to a gentleman. "These colums read not unlike fashion papers and the changes in floral fashions are quite as interesting and amusing as those in clothes. One winter (1887) there is a run on yellow, every decoration must be of yellow - of daffodils if possible not to have yellow is to be decidedly out of fashion. Thenext yar yellow is "out", it has had its season andis gone and every decoration must be pink. In February the French fish basket is the most popular german favor, in June it is the Marie Antoinette basket, and in December the "dude's collar basket", a high-handled low basket turned back after tho manner of the extremely stylish men's collars. At this time green hand bouquets especially of mignonette and cyprim pediums are extremely fashionable for opora and toas andnothing is as chnice as cypripodium for table decorations. Corsages are small, of one or two roses only, boutonnieres large, the choicest of Roman Hyacinths with center of violets, and bridal bouquots are huge with many as six hundred sprays of lily-of-the-valley while one hundred roses make up the bridesmaid's bouquet. German favors are $l$ argely of flowers made up into dainty fichus, sashes, scarfs, violet balls which hang on the arm, and lans decorated
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with flowers. Fresh flowers are used extenoively on evening gows catching up drapery, in the place of trimming, and even forming entire portions of the gown. Wedding gowns may have the entire train or froit panel of flowers of any description from violets and lilymof-thewall ey to tulips. 0 flowers way be usedinctead of pearl parementorie. Bribsmaids'/ hats are trinmed th fresh flowers, while the extreme use of flowers for costumes is in a Nower girl costume for a fancy dress ball composod entirely of flowers. This is the dainty and attractive side, but there flourzahed with fomal and ugly that one wonders how the mind that could enjoy the tolerate - re could ppreciate the other. Floral rugs of pansies, tulips, roses, etc, are hung over malls and bannisters or spread upon the floor, and the prize cup design at the Now fork flower show is a table decoration with a cover made entirely of pansies, a large, tall vase covered with pansies and filled with flowers! And a new "elegant design" of a wedding veil canopy is created with a high panel with gothic top of roses and maidenhair, projecting frow wich like a bracket is a tiara or crown of orange ol ossoms with a flowing voil vorked out with orange blossoms, lily-of-thopvalley, and bouvardia in lace pattern. And of the stiffness anduglinoss of funeral dosigns there have been too many relics in recent years for any one to need description. We find so much of the stiff and conventional with Slowers of all kinde combined with little regard for color hameny or beauty of ef foct that it is a surprise to read (in 1889) that

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different. Consequently we have valued decorations too ofton for the quantity of material they displayed and for the boldness and oddnese of the material or combination rather than for its beauty. perhaps ruch of this sort of decoration may be likened to the gew-gatr, gingerbread kind of architecture which followed the introduction of machinery. Just as every kind of wooden cortrivance which the machine was capable of turning out was applied as ornament to buildings by way of seeing what could be dones so the array of Nowers has been put together in every conceivable manner to see what new things could be contrived. But as we outgrew that architecture and regained our sense of the beautiful we shall in timeoutgrow this confused and complex floral art and find that the simpler arrangements and combinations are re beautitil and more satisfying. That time is dawing $n o m$, and prosent day floral work is infinitely aore natural, simple, and beautiful than ever before. It is still in a stage of development in which it must discard those defects things which stand out as its giaring before it can over become an art.

Floral deoration at its best is an art - "it is a picturein which living line and living color form the artist's medium, and as such it is entitied tothe same sort of consideration that the artist gives when he creates other pictures." Now the 11 nal test of any art is that of beauty and its suprome test that of full beauty to which nothirg can be added andnothing taken away to iroprove the offect. How many floral decorations can withstand that test How many works of any art can withstand it! Perhaps as many of one as of the other. But this must remain the ideal, which, the seldom attai red, must be striven for, and in the pursuit of which we may fird much bsauty and enjoyment on the way.

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The first problea which confronts the docarator is that of
color. The striking feature of most flowers and meabably that (2ve wich most arouses our adniration is color. And since in handifng llowers we are dealing with color to a greater oxtent than *5 in any other art, it is obvious that a knowiedge or understandirg of coler is of the greatest importance, what to ne harmony is to the musician color hancony is to the floral artist and
 arrange the colors by matching them up to certain arbitrarily numbered Lines upon the spectrum which represen the wave lengthe of the respoctive hues. For our practical purposes this is of little value. for siaple color in flowers are lew - fow of them are on the firum and the colors ascribed to them are largely determined by consensus of opinion, the inaccuracy of which leads to cansiderable confusion The simple culors - red, oraze, yellow, blue, purple and green, may be arranged in a circle or thaybe separated by intarmediate hues between ach color. In the first arrangement the colors lying opposite each other harronize by contrast - they are complementary colors, each possessing all the elements of color the other lacks, will be
co that if combined the result white rather than a color. In the second arrangement there is a rainbow effect illustrating the principles of color harmony and discord. Any four or five colors lying side by side harmonize by analogy - there is a cummon element present bindirg them together - but skip five and try a combiration of 0 and six. The result is a discord oecause the comron element is not present: the harmony is broken and is not again restored until we pasa far enough around the circle to reach the complementary or contrasting color. Inthe same way colors lying near each other on


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| Old Gold | Yellow | Sulphur |
| Ochre | Gold Yellow | Straw Yellow |
| Burnt Orange | Orange | Salmon |
| Terra-Cotta | Scarlet | Shrimp Pink |
| Cardinal | Red | Pink |
| Maroon | Crimson | Crimson Pink |
| Plum | Magenta | Purple Lilac |
| Dark Plum | Purple | Lilac |
| Logwood Violet | Violet | Blue Lilac |
| Indigo | Ultramarine | Violet Blue |

the spectrum harmonize by analogy wile those at a distance are inharmeious.

The practical application of these rules requires some modification, for often the intensity of certain colors prevents their blending with any color though the color chart indicates that they Blue and orange are not alwge pleasing because the orange is so vivid that to be used satisfactorily it must have a colorless environment but reduce one or both of these colors to a tint and the result will be quite different - the trouble is with the brilliancy of the tone rather than with the color itself. (In speaking of tiats and shades of a color, "tint" means a color to which wite has been added making it lighter, and "shade" a color to which black has been added aking it darker). Analogous colors may for the same reason sometimes be offensive. This is more often the case when the deep shades like red and purple are forced into combination. But so soon as white is introduced into these colors they become more pleasing, and the more White, or in other words the lighter the tint, the more gatisfactorily do colors combine which used in deeper hues are continually warring against each other. White has been found so universally to serve as a softener that it has been called the peacamaer anong lowers. If one imagines a bouquet of red, purple, orange and blue, and the same bouquet of light pink, blue, violet and yellow, the part it plays is quite evident.

While colors in slowers are $n$ ot simple, the majority of them are probably simpler than those of the gows and furnishings with which floral decorations are associated. Thet the understanding of combination the relation of colors in and the effect upon


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colors of the introduction of black and white become oven more necossary,
 spend much valuable time in experimenting before he can attack his problem directly. Ho must also train his eye to see colors as they really exist and as poent hues are so complex this requires study and training.

A few general remarks should be added in regard to the uso of color. All colors are harmonized by gray, hite and neutral tones, green is an invaluable qediator, easy transitions of color are more restful than contrasts, combinations of tints are generally more pleasing than combinations of shades, similar colore are generally more satisfactory than complementary - and then all the rules are told. They are really guiding principles rather than rules to be applied when they may eard discarded when necessary, for the decorator will soon find exceptions in abundance. Red and yellow and red and blue, both inharmonious combinations are separated by the same number of spaces in the color wheel, yet no color wheel or cotor foole tells why pink and blue whatever their tints are more pleasing than pink and yellow. And no rule will tell him just which tint of red (or pink) vill combino woll with a given shade of red nor when ghades of red and purple may clash or be harmonious. There are no hard and fast rules and the individual's artigtic sense must serve hin as in al judge and critic. als.
He must study the offect of artificial light upon colors, for while it weakens some, it intensilies others and changes yet others so asto beinging out certain shades that were subduedin daylight. Mr. Felton would add that a very true guide in color combination is one's first impression - "if doubt is felt about any combination, it is best to

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give it up, as one's first impressions are invariably the nost reliable." But it seems as if the isdom of following such advice would depend so what upon the typo of mind of the individual. To the florist or decorator starting upon a study of lloral decorationf the learning of the color language may seem to be as fraught with rules and exceptions as any tongue language ever attompted, but after so me experience and study, if he have artistic feeling for his work, it vill become familiar and easy. The whole field is left open to hia who can see and feel color and boaty, offering him unlimited combinations and opportunity for creative work and enjoyment.

This matter of color upon wich so much stress has been laid is of peculiar importance just now. We are living in the midst of a color revival which in its brilliancy and gaiety rivals that of the 15th and 16 th centuries. Instead of its being fashionable to ignore color we demand it in all our life from our automobiles to our paintinge. Thetemible period of so-called high art ithits sickly colors and stillmore sickly worshippers has happily passed from us." Some one, Mr. Schuyter Mathews I think, thinks much of this retum to what he calls polychromatic instead of monochromatic art is due to the influence of brilliant llower colorings. If this be true it prompts one to ask where the llowers have been in the intervening centuries - did the people whilst living among them lose a fondness for them which they are but now regaining! But to whatever cause it may be attributed, color certainly is a much more dominating feature in our lives than it as ten years ago. Ihis being true he $i$, -urrounded aloo oy greater opportunities are offered the artist but more pitfalls *ett, as one realizes when one sees some of the atrocious combinaof the present day
tions And when one surveys the galaxy of colors of the horticultural world which are creations of the hybridi-


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zer's skill one realizes that soathing aore than a haphazard use of Whatever we may lay our hands upon is a fundamental necessity for successful work in lloral arrangement. It is even more true for the decorator than the landscape artist for in the outdoors the quantities of green, the greater distance and the atmosphere are everpresent and valuablemediators, whereas in floral decoration all of these aids are lacking.

Combinations are so innuserable that it is folly to suggeat more than few, but after such a lengthened discussion of col or it seems almost necessary to cite fow good combinations:

Lavendar rhodedendrons and white lilac
English ivy and snowdrops
American Beauty Rose and lilacs
Cecile Brunner roses and violets
Mrs. Ward roses and cypripediums
(analogous harmony)
" " " "yellow snapdragonis
Chrysanthemums and autumn foliage
(contrast harmony)

Myosotis and yellow tulips
Lavendar und purple asters
Pink and lavendar sweet poas
Pink and blue hyacinths
(contrast harmony)
(dominant harmony)
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Floral Decoration has been spoken of as an art and as such is based upon the general principles of any art - namely, unity, design, propriety and purpose. Of these unity is probably the most important and the on $\theta$, therefore, to which the artist must give considerable thought. It demands that the various parts of a composition bear some rolation to each othor, that something mast




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hind them together so that "out of many parts there shall be one whole." When the parts are too many and varied it is difiicult to find any common element which oerso fords the whole together and unity is cunsem quently lacking. Complexity and unity are incoapatible and unless some parts are aacrificed making the composition moro simple, unity Will netes be gained. Simplicity is efundamental feceotify for the securing of unity. The sehemo may be simplified by reducing the quantity of material which in itself is sufficient sometimes to complex destroy the effect, or by reducing tho kinds of flowors or the number of colors. Combinations of two kinds of flowers are alvays simple and pleqsing - they may be of different tones of the same color, of different but harmonious colors, or of different but contrasting olorsused.Combinations of contrasting colors may be extremoly eflective, but to make them requires some study and thought, for the contrast must be great enough to have character at the same time that it is not too prominent. It muat always be used sparingly, the weaker colored 10 wers prodominating while the vivid, contrasting lowers are few in number. If the numbers of the contrasting flowers are increased. the offectiveness of the result is not only lossened but discord may be set up because of tho very intensity of the color. When darker colors are used contrast ay be secured by the use of white but the same general rule as to the quantity holds.

In general, in all combinations of color one color should dominate while the others are subordinute - it helps to secure unity; med much moneeffectisa; it makes a certain theme or motif, and if lends charactor. In a large decoration thisprominanticcolor should be repeated in masses at intervals rether than used in one larger mass.
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idea of a
This dominant color is very effective in what is called a dominant harmony - in which several tones of the abe color are combined, one shading into another. The flowers in a single family are likely to show one color predominating and can usually be combined effectively in this way - eng. lilac predominates ami the hyacinths and orange groups
among the nasturtium, and bunches of reties in these families are seldom displeasing.

The simplest of all harmonies and one which is becoming increasingly popular is the use of one color only - of course it is possible to combine two flowers of the same color but usually the limitation to one color carries with it the limitation to one lower. It is peculiarly artistic for reasons which will be more apparent later, and is destined to be used more and more. In landscape of gardening this principle "monotony" and is used a great deal for simplifying and unifying. It can be overdone and when this happens the whole scheme is as uninteresting as anything which we usually call monotonous - even as this paper itself. If unity is secured only by the sacrifice of interest it cannot be a success and the extreme on the one hand of excessive monotony and on the other of too much variety must be avoided. That middle course - tho problem of securing both unity and variety - remains theproblem of all the arts.

While harmony of color and unity are of prime importance, they are not the only guiding principles for attaining that full beauty to which nothing can be added and nothing taken ave to improve the effect. Ruskin says "there are all kinds of harmonies in a picture" and so in flower pictures there is not only harmony of color, but harmony of

form and growth, and, we might ada, harmony of season. In too many floral arrangements 1 lowers are massed and conbined in such a way that the beauty of the individual flower is lost. A great deal of the value of an arrangement should come from the form of the llowers but when they are massed and combined with too many other things it is impossible. should We learn to appreciate plants in the manner of the Japanese who value not a portion the plent but the entire plant. Thereas the western amatour devotes his attention mainly to the blossomp, the Japanese lover of flowers bestows his adisiration on the whole character of the plant or tree producing them. The rugged nature of the plum trunk, with its stiff, straight shoots, or the graceful aweep of the branches of the weeping cherry are to him inseparably associated with any boauty which the blossoms themselves possess. The lines of branch and stem, the form and surfaces of leaves, and the distribution of buds and blossoms, all receive their fulf share of attention. The loveliest buas and blossoms torn from their stems and crushed together in a aiss, \%ith ferns or other greenery between them convey to the dapanese mind no idea of floral art or beauty.' We have much to leurn from them about the appreciation of Nature probably much of our fuilure to observe these less obvious beauties can be laid at the door of Rush and Speed which permit only a superficial attitude toward so many things, for while we are tearingabout only thosestriking things which rise up and smite us in the face can make an impression. fnd because form is not thus striking save in a few instances wo have passed it by, so much the losers for never having found how much there was to enjoy. Flowers are of gratly varying formof some of which will combine no more harmoniously






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than will certain colors. Similarity and contrast foriaguing prínciples, but it is difficult to say just what degrees of each shall be present - one's artistic sense must feel it. In general regularity and irregularity are not reconcilable and any attempt to combine auch 1lowers as calondulas and swot poas or carnations and swoet peas must fail, the one being rogular, the other irregular in all its parts. Both violets and lily of the valley are irregular in all their parts anc everyone knows hov woll they combine. Double and single flovere also do not usually go together wall. And the question of size has its influence also.

Somewhat dependent upon form, color and growth, and yet
infused through them is the subtle spiritusl appeal of the flower flowers are as different as people and each has its own personality it is an individuality which we can feel but not describe. There are flo er aristocrats, ilower middlemen and flower plebians and no power can make the aristocrats mingle sympathetically with any of the others, elesses, Roses, orchids, Easter lilies, riododendrons, and lily-of-the-valley are aristocrats whatever their environment, and they are at their best only among those of their own class; nor are carnations, asters, marigolds, etc., living companions of the orchids and rases.

It is this opiritual harmany that is tho osence of the matter of tratmony of sodsom.

For this reason some people say flowers should never be coubined - that in every arrangement one kind of flower only should be used for only by itself and froe from associations with other forms can the individuality of the flower be preserved. 'fo many this point of view will seem extreme, while others would not
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agree with it at all - probably it is not necescary to go sc fer as to say flowers should never be combined, but it is coubtiess true that the morepne loves 8 lowers or trees, the more one comes to love the form and subtle charm of the entire growth, and dislikes any arrangement wich tends to destroy the plant's individuality. We are coming to realize its oxistence and importance more than formerly, and must think of it much more yet if floral decoretions are to be truly artistic. For tho se arrangements which seek primarily to proserve the individuality of the flowers are without doubt the most artistic - it is to considerable extent one of the secrets of the Japanese flower arrangements, for while their stems are sonetines bent to form lines of symbolic meaning, in every case the effect must be that of a living, growing plant or the result is a failure. And the more we make this our aim, the more we shall come to u*e fow flowers rather than many for it is only in this way that the Japanese are able to secure their effects. But we shall thoroughly enjoy these arrangements of afe flowers only when we appreciate, more than color, eize and quantity, and love equelly well, the form and entire habit of growth.

This appreciation can coine only through a closef observance of Wature - which demands more time than have been willing to give tito als.

- ane ang in speed, and it demand loisure and inclination, If we have the desire for greater appraciation it seems as if there were no better place to begin than in our own houses. If we have any leisure at all, more of it is probebly spent in our homes than elsowhere, and there we may be surrounded with

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flowers or their kin at all times of the year. Some one will cry at once that this is such on expensive schere! Not at all: No more expensive than our present method of buying a quantity of flowers occasionelly. For we are learning to use them in smallerquantities that simale and find ${ }_{\wedge}{ }_{\wedge}$ iftecn cent rose, in the right vase, makes as attractive a decoration as six fifteen cent roses in onecluster. wer And when we have begun to see the beauty in the leaf and bud and stem of the rlant, wo shall soe how much beauty there is * In Nature to wich we have beon blind bofore. Branches without a 6100 m
singla fler may be as decorative as flowers, and whall bring them into our houses even in their leafless condition in winter and enjoy the more than wo knew wo could. There are so many graceful branches thoroughly suitable for this kind of simple arrangement all the evergreens, in winter, the colored leaves of sassafras, oak and mapbe in the fall, the flowering maple, and, thelm (which is very beautiful) and evergreens with thoir now groth in the spring, and innumerable flowering trees and shrubs. All of these may be had for a little effort and now when automobiles are so comon it is an easy matter for most people to get into the country for such material. The pereon of appreciation will soon see for himself the value of many things which cannot be enumerated here, and of many perhaps of which $\overrightarrow{t h}_{4}$ even corator has not learned. It will not mean less any love of flowers, but the broadening of our appreciation and the opening of our eyes.

It is possible, and earnestly to be desired, that if wo surround ourselves with more of Nature in $h e r$ varying stages we may regain some of appreciation of the seasons which we have lost. We live in a climate of four seasons, each different and each with
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its own characteristics, but botwecn our striving for the unusual and the flurist'g striving for increasod incomo, every fifort is mude to rake us forget theasons to make spring and sumest bloom for us during the entire your. The forcing of plants out of season has Ueen carried to an extreme but no less in the flower than in the garaz*
market industry - spring flowers, asaleas, mignonette, forget-me-not, otc., bloon all winter, pussy willows come in at Christmas and applo blossoms in february, until we have no seasonsteyt. Things that were once a luxury and a treat out of season have come to be so ruch the expected that we have spring llowers in bloom everywhere two or three months before spjing comes. Some one will ask, "⿴囗yy shoulun't we!" to which wo mayk reply, "Thereis no reason why we shouldn't excopt that our minds are so conotituted ihat we like changes and tire a sit of $30 m e$ things when we have had them in sufficient abunBut dance for time. So when the flowers are blooming out of doors in the spring wo have livod through soring in our minds and want late spring and early sumaer wo are ready for poonios (in mement a. month hefore their time, and we wish for gummer when it is spring. Te live out of season, and all thoso associations which should belong Natore's changes ourflowers only with theqaagats are destroyed while we enjoy hothouse at hothouse seasons. The trouble is ith our attitude, not with the greenhouse which has boen a boon in raking it possible for us to enjoy flomers during all the year. But we need to return to a better balance Where the greenhouse fialfils its function in giving us flowerg, Which, would not thrive in our climatic conditions carrations, chrysanthemums, poinsettias, etc., and roses and lily-of-the-valley all winter, and in oxtending certain seasons so that wo may enjoy spring infonrs as well as out, so fitting the one season into the other. We need to find the balance baveen the extreme

Japanese viewpoint which values no flower in bloom out of its seacon, and our own present seasonless attitude.

Whon we adopt this more extended use of flowers and branches in our houses the question of vases or receptacles becomes important. Having chosen fow choice specimens the recoptacle becomes an important part of the composition, if a subordinate one. For the wrong kind of vase may ruin all the beauty the 10 wers possess. If a subordinate part of the whole, its color must not be conspicuous or the vase will be as much the conter of attraction as the flowers neutral tones are generally best, tho there are times when a colored vase $n f$ either a dominant or contrasting harmony is very effective these $t$ ines are few, however, in comparison to the total number of times we arrange flowers. While the beauty of a flower depends upon the beauty of color and line, the beauty of the vase depends primarily upon the beauty of line - so long as its color is unobtrusive its shape is the more important factor. Continuous unbroken lines are better than broken, so we should discourage the use of cut glass vases which in their broken, uneven surfaces are less simple and less beautiful. And we should likewise discourage the use of articles not meant for flower receptacles - pitchersetc., show so plainly that they were intended for other purposes that they do not make good flower receptacles. Plain vases are preferable but simpe conventional designs are not objectionable and are often ormamental. Vases are of all kinds, materials and sizes, and our choice of a vase must be guided by the flower for which it is to be used. The conformity of the lines of the vase with those of the flower is important - obiiously a slender vase is bettor for the delicate, graceful cosmos than lower rounded bowl-shaped affair - as vell as the
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question of the balance of mass, or the relative appearance of the solidity of the recoptacle and the llowers. The tall, somewhat heavy gladiolus requires a slender but substantial vase rather than the sort of vase suitable for cosmos or we shall create a top-heavy effect top heaviness is not pleasing but no more is bottom heaviness and the vase suitable for swect peas must be delicate rather than heavy such as might be appropriate for short stemmed laurel. etc. In vertical arrangements the relative reight of the receptacle and the flowers arising froi it should be oce to two - the height of the vase being one third the height of the whole. If this proportion cannot be secured the vase should be taller rather then shnrter. In broader arrangements the receptacle may have a greater proportional height than in the vertical. The balance of mass in the flowers is an important consideration in arranging them in the vase, and it is an aid to arrange thom on each side of an imaginary vertical line running through the midde of the vase. This does not mean we are striving for bilateral symmetry - far from it; balance rather than symmetry is the ideal of art - in the words of Mr. Felton "in all Noral art it is well-balanced zigzag lines and gently undulating heights that should be aimed at" and we merely want one side to balance the other while both are some what irregular. An essential rule is this type of arrangement is the one that sys that the farther a thing is from the center, the smaler it may be and yet balance a larger thing nearer the conter. Plants in Nature are seldom symetrical but usually are well balanced and we may get many suggestions by obsorving ther.

After all these various factors have been considered and worked out. there still remains the important one of environment - needless to say the background must not be of a clashing color. The ideal
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background is of courso a plain neutral one which like the vase serves to set the flower off, but this is not always to be found and we must do the best we can. Too many accessories in the way of bric-a-brac and furnishings mar the effect when they are present creating a confused and restless atmosphere. The uses and furnishings of the room do to some extent determine the flovers to be most used but in general flovers may be used everywhere. The reception hall is in most houses, probably the best place for striking effects, while only the more delicate and dainty llowers are appropriate for a bedroom. Aside from this there can be no sugestions save perhaps for the dining table which should be made as restful as possible.

A unique but siaple idea which will appeal to the flower lover who believes in everyday home decoration is the flower holder for the frontdoor. The prettiest and most inexpensive are of course straw or basketry in various tones to harmonize or contrast with the design and material of the door. Hung from the knocker or suspended from underneath the doorbell by a green or red ill Seasonal silk cord or slender iron chain, and filled with a fewfegh flowers or twigs or branches, are somat, it is very effective and creates a cordial and hospitable stmosphero.

A good deal has been said about simplifying to the extent of using a very fev pieces of the material at handfor the decoration of our homes at all times. For a long time the expression "floral decoration" has carried with it the idea of elaborate decorations for festal occasions. But as most of our days are spent in quiet everyday affairs it seems fitting that watever we consider beautiful should be a part of our lives then rather than saved only for
special occasions. The festal times remain and will cose in their round in due time and then way decorate more elaborately *- our levecs. Most of us will want to use flowers that are choicer and use them in greater quantities. We can very vell have the two types of decoration, but of course the more one comes to value the entire beauty of a flower, the rore natural and eimple and artistic we shall wish our choicest decorations to be. However much we may try to learn from the Japanese in these thirgs it will be long before our spirit is in accord with theirs and very long before we shall adopt the exclusive decoration of the few flowers. The Japanese set before their guests their very nost artistic arrangements which are never composed of more than three or five flowers, wile we set before them quantities of flowers. our scheme is surely true to our ideas and spirit and so long as artistic skill and simplicity govern it, it may be as well in its way as theirs. And perhaps our use of the more is partly because our idea is to develop a color effect that is fresh and beatiful as well.

When we begin to dress our homes as well as ourselves there are as few restrictions as to the ways and means as there are to the terials and colorsof dress materials. Years ago the idea of house decoration was to conceal practically all of the interior of the house with 110 wer and greens and we find pictures that do not make us wonder wen we read the following advice: "Let us remember what we are here for - to decorate. We are not spposed to create a tropical jungle or turn the rooms into mi niature rlower gardens. Our object should be to add to the beauty of the surroundinge and not detract from them by an obtrusive display." Of course, greater simplicity has cropt into this phase as well as others of sloral art, but any one who saw the overloaded and flowerburdened mantles at the Boston Flower Show

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realizes that we have yet to learn that "decoration exists only through Puvis
sacrifice," (pierre de Chavannes) that the elimination of the quantity must be the rule not for one form of lloral art but every form. Flowers and flowering plants are used extensively and for larger affairs palms, etc., for background effects. Vases of flowers may be set around in difierent ons or some more pretentious schemes way be worked out - certain architectural features of the house are troated as accent points, and some wall spaces may lend themselves well to a panal treatment in which adjustable glasses attached to a rad form the foundation for the flowers and greens or barabo panel effects may be simply fillod with flowers. The ways are many and attractiy. The achome most often followed is that of using difierent color and flower in each room - each room then becomes unit in itself. It is attractive but perhaps a plan of using the same flower in every room may be equally attractive. If the fowor is boautiful *e sho ld not tire of seeing it in on short reception, tea or which
whatever the function may accur. And the use of one flower would make one unity of the whole instead of anity of each room and the guest right carry away a more lasting and definite impression rat her than a number of lesser andmore confused ones. It is merely a suggestion which the writer would like to see carried out. In all indoor decorations and espocially those in small rooms, flowers -ith strong fragrance, - e.g. paper white narcissus, lilac, etc., must not be used both because their odor ay be annoying to so me of the guests and because they make the atmoshere oppressive and heavy. It is sometimes necessary to choose flowers for decoration with some regard to their keeping qualities if they must be used in such a

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Wey that sufficient mator cannot be supplied. Chrysanthemums and carnations are both good for such times. In England carnations are used much more for decorations than here - especially in large country houses and mansions of London where thousands of these flowers with stems two and three feet long have sometimes been used in one order. It is often used in combination with gypsophila, their
valley or daisies, because of the nakedness of stems, but a plenty of green would probably do as well.

Home wedding decorations should be governed by the same principles we have applied to all floral work, while they range from very simple schemes to elaborate representations of rose gardens, conservatories and even orange groves. There is perhaps more excuse for what some might call overdocorating hore for sometimes the idea seems to be to give the offect of an outdoor vedding tho the season forces us within. Abundance of meterial is absolutely necessary then, but there must nevertholess be some restraint in its use. An altar or bower at vhich the ceremony is performed is generally made by a background of greens interspersed vith llowers, green and White being probably the combination most used. Large or small taste
flowers according to the xxak of the individual may be made effective, the small ones woven in with the green, the large ones making more striking effects in tall vases or clustars. In smaller homes the aisle is more often formed by ribbon but in larger ones flower stands connected by ribbone are very effectivo - they are usually of the more striking llowers like Baster liliss, long stemmed rnses and chrysanthemums. The hall may be decorated with such standards and the staircase is always trimaed, wore often with smilax and small lowers woven in and out with a bunch tied at the post. Green and white, while the combinatinn most often used perhaps, need not be
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used continuously. The use of colors is bocoraing more general and much more beautiful offocts can be secured with thom. The various rooms of the house nay be decorated in any way desired, with a difforont flower in each room or with the sare gen oral scheme throughout. Festooning of greens are less popular than fomerly and the idea of the wedding bell has gone "out" ith them.

Church decorations are more el aborate usuelly and aro often very beatiful, especially when the decorations conform with the architectural features of the building. The first consideration in church decoration iz more often one of line rather than color, and a Cothic interior must obviously be treated quite differently from \& Colonial. Simplicity should have a controlling influence even in such a large and elaborate scheme. Of course the altar is the center of attraction, one might say; it is the point to which all turn their attention and the decorstion must lead up to it. It is usually banked with green and a fev plants or flowers. The more striking flowers are especially fitted for church decorations because of the gize of the building - small flowers unless used in groat quantities are not effective. The treatment of the main aisle is important and in most cases is docorated with banches of flowers tied to the pews with ribbons at intervals or with standards of cut flowers such as roses, sometines made up to represent rose trees. In soe docorations flowers are tied to every pew, but that invariably gives the effect of being overione. In many churches there are columns and balconies to be reckoned with - there is no better way of treating them than by winding or garlanding the colums and drapint the balconies. It may be done with greenvines or smilax, either ho thouse or southern, or with greens and clusters of flowers giving something

the effect of a climbing rose vine. The cbur ch wedding is usually foll ered by a recoption at the frouse where the decorations may follow the same schome used at the church or be entirely difforent. And while elaborate decorations for weddings are often used and we bay there may
iustification be more for them, the simpler ones are sually more beautiful and therefore to be preferred.

Whatever the social function we are wont to feed our friends and consequently the dining table is called into eervice, and of course it requires decorating. Then we entertain so much at dinners and luncheons when we wish the table to be attractive that table decoration has come to be an important phase of floral decoration, demanding considerable study and thought. These table decoration vary from those for the simple luncheon for a few persons to those required for formal and lerge dimers where at many as one hundred people may be seated at one huge table pretentiously decorated in the form of a miniature city park th ${ }^{\text {its }}$ pond, with fountain andliliesitsotreets and street lamps, flower bede and even autorobile race tracks! of course this marks the extreme and the majority of table decorations are for smaller affairs. When people are to be seated at the table the decorations
nust be low enough to permit of one's seeing over them, or high enough to see under them. The size of vases used must be governed somewhat by the size and form of the table; if the vases are too small the decoration appears small and lacking incharacter no matter how well the Nowers are arranged, while if too large the offect will be dense and heavy. There is as great a danger of overdoing this form of decoration as any other and the decorator needs to remember that dishes and accessories must have their chare of space and the table must not be
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crowded or loaded. The low decorations are becoming more and more popular and they are undoubtedly the most attractive for smaller tables; but it is not so nev a form of decoration as we are wont to think. It was used. tho not commony, as far back as 1891. Low baskets, vases and plaques make simple and beautiful foundations for a considerable variety of flowers. Large heavy flowers like large chrysanthemumare less suitable because too large and heavy, but small chrysanthemum are very affective and there is wealth of small material. Considerable green helps to lighten the effect, and so far as possible it should be the foliage which belongs ith the flower. Nothing is so good with roses as sprays of their own foliage. Green sprays laid upon the tarle should be light; delicate and clear cut - too often heavy sprays of smilax are used which are less pleasing. Sprays of Wichuriana rosee can be used with other roses very vell. Daffodils also are best when used with a profusion of their own leaves and the same is true of many flowers. Maidenhair is themost dolicate green when the flower neither has foliage nor foliage that is attractive onough to use. More general use can well be made of other foliage than is usually done - such foliage as Euonymus, Mahonia, Japanese maple, and autum leaves. Flowers of strong iragrance should especially be avoided in table decoration unless the gathering is small and the hostess is assured that they are not distasteful to any of her guests. Brilliantly colored flowers are generally to be avoided for they are annoying to some and are very likely to clash with some of the gowns. The question of color especially of the offect of artificial light upon it is of more importance in this phase of floral work than in any other, for so often the dining room is darkened and lighted by candles or electricity even when no lights are used in the other roome. it may be done for luncheons at midday. Artificial light weakens some colors while it intensifies others and changes yet others considerably
bringing out certain qualities which were not conspicuous in the daylight. Shades of blue, mauve and violet are not good in artificial light, some shades showing a decidediy reddish tinge, and yellow fades almost to White. This offect of artificial light becomes a particularly troublesowe problem when colors are coubined, the decorator gitcanoider turge Myosotis and yellow tulips or freesias which make a charming combination by daylight become wolly ineffective and characterless by evening light. Some tones - especially those of pink and bronze - are made more beautiful, that there otiti reans an andonce of When the plaques are used for the centerpiece theyusually constitutel the entire decoration, save for the boutonnieres and corsages laid at the places which serve a decorative function for a time - but often a vase of basket placed in the center is accompanied with a few smaller baskets or vases. Years ago such a scheme was placed upon the table with mathematical precision adhering strictly to oome geometrical pattern, but now we arrange them more simply and naturally though usually we think it must be symmetrical. But as we strive more for the natural effoct and for balance rather than sym cotry we shall come to follow the advice of $M r$. Folton never to place two vases opposite each other either on a table of in roow. We shall arrange them irregularly with equally ploasing results. It requires cansiderably more skill to perfect an irregular grouping but it can be done. Accessories in various forms ofton accompany a table decoration - candes, silver, glass, favors, etc.. - and thoy may be used as desired so long as they fit in harmoniously with the entire scheme and add to the effoct of the whole. The aim, for a table at which guests are to be seated, should be to make it as restful as possible, and therefore the arrangement must be simple and not confused. The lighter, more delicate flowers probably






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give such an offect better than the more brilliantly colored ones, but no rules can be laid down as to the material to be used. In sumer it is advisable to avoid the use of those llowers which remind one of the heat without, and warm flowers in reds andpurples can be employed to greater advantage at other seasons. White is especially cool and restful for sumer, and no more refreshing table can be arranged than one ith pond lilies and water. We should probably use white more than we do both indnors and out.

Ond large tables when the low decorations would not be effective higher arrangements are necessary. Heqed. Whenever there is to be a speaker these vases must be so arranged that the guests have an unobstructed line of vision to the speaker both when sitting and standing, or the annoying portinns of the scheme stand in danger of being romoved from the table. This has been known to happen more than a few times even with expensive decorations. The Ellen Terry stand is the vase most used for high effects. It is a tall slender vese which gradually broadens out at the top. It may be of any height desired so long as it is tall enough to give cloar line of vision benoath the flowers with which it is filled. When filled with long stemmed graceful flowers, such as roses, with a few flowers laid on the table around the base it is a graceful and beautiful arrangement. One larger vase in the center may have smaller ones of the same style on either side or the small or ones nay be used on smaller tables in which case one vase is sufficient.

For teas and receptions the dining table is usually a serving table only about wich the guests gather but do not seat thomselves, and the question of line of vision is not a consideration. The decorations may be of any desired size and height that is appropriate for the table, and it becomes mre important that the decoration be of such

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a kind that it is beautiful to look down upon, for one seldon soes it on a line with the eye. Broader vases or baskets may be used, and a larger basket artistically and daintily arranged may be very effoctive. Sometimes a basket in the center ith smaller baskets more like favors scattered about the table are very attractive. Or the decoration may be of a kind suitable for a dinner table - no different decoration is required though an opportunity for it is given if one desires to have something different.

Perhaps there is no phase of floral art that is more interesting or offers so many opportunities for dolicate and beautiful arrangements in great variety as this of tabledecoration, yot it is a difficilt one to write abot - perhaps because it is sovaried. It offers ondless opportunities for originality, but it, like other forms, must be seen to be appreciated - neither photographs nor words can convey any adequate idea of its beauty.

Undoubtedly the most lascinating and dainty of all the forms of floral decoration are the bouquets and baskets, Varying in sire from boutonniores to large showers and from tiny baskets to very large presentation affairs, they offer opportunity for a considerable varisty and for the exenting of charming effects. Fashion has at times decreed changes in their size and shape, but has never robbod them of their attractiveness, except occasionally when creating grossly exaggerated forms. Iventy years ago the wearor of a corsage bouquet gave the appearance of a walking flower garden, for no fower than two dozen roses wont into her adornment. Beautiful as the flowors may have boen and beautiful a that same bunch of flowers might have been serving another function, it could have boen nothing but ludicrous for such a purpose. Boutonnieres increased in sizo as corsages cocreased, but finally some


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sense of propriety prevailed and now in the in both forms have reached a desirable mean - occasionally a corsage errs on the side of too great size, and also occasionally on the side of too great setness or stifiness but in gen aral mediu size and a loose, natural effect are characteristics. And certainly the loose natural effect determines to a considerable extent the beauty of the bouquet even in this more crowded form of decoration. An abundance - but not too much - of green helps to give this effect and serves also as a background for setting off the flovers. Probably the only form of bouquet in which the lack of looseness and naturalness is not a defect is the colonial bouquet which has been revived in the pagt iow years - but evon here its charm is limited by its size because of this very thing. When small, many kinds of flowers of as many colors may be crowded together and finished with a lace paper frill to make quaint and attractive bouquet, but arger band bouquet made in the same fashion is pronounced unspeakable ugly. Corsage bo uquets are made of one kind of flower or of combirations of flowers - those of one kind are very attractive but not necessarily more pleasing than the combinod of iocts. When flowers are brought so closely together, the question of color combination becomes one of very great importance, but nothing more can be said in regard to it than has already beon said - and nothing more regarding the various kinds of harmonies all of which onter into this phase of the work. Harmony of form or at least not a striking lack of harmony is necessary in the most artistic bouquets, with the exception of few Nowers wich for sone reason fit in anywhere and overywhere. Lily-of-the-valley combines well with everything and is especially useful for breaking up a tendency to roundness and stiffness. It combines beautifully with violets not only because of the color contrast but because it breaks up the regular line of the violet bunch making it more loose and natural.
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Harmony of season may well be considered to a greater extent in corsages it is more pleasing to see llowers combined which we more naturally associatedtogether. Of course sotne flowers have no scason und may be used uppropriately at all times - roses, carnations, lily-of-the-valloy, etc. But not infrequently flowers are put togethor that have no ussociations vith each other - the color scheme may be perfect, the arrangeraent good and yet we do not cars for the combination. A case in point is a combiration of apple blossoms and roses, which were recently used in a bridesmaid bo uquet - the one is distinctly a greenhouse flower, except in the month of June, while the other we asociate only with the out of donra and then at a season not coincident with the rose season. Cne place in which these harmonies of form and spirit and soason may be disregarded With impunity is in the combination of several flowers of soveral colors. Then, they are looked upon purely as a color schome in which the lightnoss, daintiness and charm of the effect is all thatis desired. Corsages are generally finished with b bow of ribbon which may add very much to the whole offect. But it can add to it only when its color is harmonious, - this may seem too obvious rifact to be antioned - but to any on who visited the recent Flower Show in Boston the necessity of emphasi:ing this point will be cluar. In probably the rajority of corsages in the table decorations which werc ontored in competition for a prize the ribbon was "off" color enough to spoil the offoct. of course every decorator knows ribbons should harmonize or contrast, but ap parently he sometimes lets his dosire of creating an odd of foct overrule his better artistic jucgeent. Fibbon in gencral should bo usec to lighten up a design, not to tone it $d o w n$, and it is therefore best to have it correspond with the brightest and most cheerful color usod.


The bridal bouquets form an important part of the florists' work, and while we are vont to think of the shower bouquet as the conventional bridal form we are surprised to find its varieties of shape. It is small or large with light or havy showers, it is a shower alone, or the shower falls from the hand or over the arm, or it may even become a floral muff. The Empire Shower is carried in the hollow of the arm rather than in the hand and the shower which is hoavy, falling over the arm comes from all parts of the bouquets. In the Alice Roosevelt Shower the shower likewise falls over the arm but comes only from the outside of the bouquet. This form of bouquet used for the first time, as its name implies, at the wodding of Alice Roosevelt. popular forms for has remained one of the bridal bouquets. Showers until that time had been round but this was more of sheaf offect, wich spread over the arm tapering at the end. The round hand bouquets with showers are still used for probably the majority of bridal bouquets and are very attractive. A medium size is again themost desirable. Some bouquets have no bouquet for the hand and are made with the shower alone falling from a large well arranged knot of silk gauze ribbon which fills the position generally occupied by the flowers. This silk gauze ribbon or maline is an important part of any shower bouquet as it constitutes the most of the shower, and much of the daintiness of the whole depends upon it. SOne bride, wishing for a new creation, conceived the idea of a bridal ring to be carried on the arm instead of a bo quet. It resembles a crescent wreath to which a shower is tied, but seems very inappropriate for the occasion. And muff of flowers are even used at times with a showeffect falling from them, $0 f$ course white flowers are the conventional ones for this purpose, but sometimes a touch of a delicate color is used in

Cecile Brunner roses, orchids, etc. Roses, lily-kf-thervalley, orchids,



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sweet peas, gardenias, all make up well in any of these forms oither singly or combined with some one other.

Shower bouquets are used for other occasions than the bridal bouquet - but we mey extend the term "bridal bouquet" to include all those bouquets wich are carried at a wedding. The bridesmaids' bouquets, always of color, are generally in the round, head shower form, and may bo made of a great variety of material. This form is sometimes changed to the Shepherd's Crook or Directoire stick which are especially suitable for church veddings, but much of their effectivness depends uponthe grace ith which they are carried. The crook or stick is wound with satin ribbon to match the flowers, a bunch of light and lightly arranged flowers is tied to the stick just below the crook while from it falls a large bow and streamers of the ribbon. A small knot or bow of ribbon finishes off the end of the crook, and the whole is a very pleasing arrangement in which the entire spirit is one uf simplicity. The Directoirs stick differs only in being straight with a knot at the ond instead of a crook. At times there are attempts made to revive the curtom of trimaing bridesmaids' hats with iresh flowers, but it does not seem to come into general use. They are ospecially appropriate for outdoor country weddings and are used for thom to soise extent. Flower girls may carry bunches of flovers; the large hats tied up with satin ribbon and loosely filled with flowers are more attractive and more often carried. Probably the present way of arranging bouquets represents one of the most satisfactory phases of our flower decoration. In general that is simpler, more natural and more boautiful and'pleasing than any other form.

But one phase of which so much can ot be said is that of baskets - perhaps because the use of baskets is so much more recent.


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But nowhere else with equal emphasis should we cry out "simplify, simplify." A basket filled with as many varieties of plants as possible and topped of $f$ ith one or several bows of ribbon - that is, in general, the style of basket arrangement in vogue. It is a confused mixture that is not artistic - but it can be oasily made entirely pleasing when the same general principles upon which we have dwelt so much at length are applied to it. Baskets are of varying materials, sizes, and shapes adapted to various methods of treatment - in general they are and should be of neutral tones and also like vases, of good lines. Then if the decorator will limit himself to a small variety of material in each basket with an eye to its real harmony in color, form, etc., the result will be ploasing.

Baskets are used now especially at the Christmas and Easter seasons, less at other times but still to a considerable extent. Instead of making a fift of a plant alone, a plant in a basket or a "made-up" basket is more often sent. Whether it is a custom which will is meraly become permenent or a passing fashion we cannot judge. Thematerials with which they may be filled must vary with the season but there is never any lack. At Christmas time red and green are of course the prevailing colors and at that $t$ ime no basket is prettier than one containing Ardisia or Jerusabn Cherry. Cyrtonium falcatus or Rochefordianum and Holly vith red ribbon to finish it off. If we depart from this red and green color scheve we find a variety of flowering plants, but less to differentiate the season fromeaster. For now we have azaleas, Easter lilies, etc., at Chrimemas time suggesting the cming of spring before the heaviest of snows have fallen and nothig distinctly "Dastery", unless it be the lilies, is left. An abundance of spring flowers from bulbs and rambler roses and apple blossoms
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suggest rather that gaster be merked as the real beginning of spring. While Christmas giving has always been general the custom of Easter giving $h a s$ been genoral for not more than thirty years and has grown out of the use of plants and flowers in the decorations of Catholic and Episcopal churches for Easteratine. robably the use of baskets is more general at this season than at Christmas and some florists estimate that the easter business in baskets is four times as great as that in cut llowers. Swoet peas, pansies, myosotis, viodets, antirrhinum, roses, lilies, bulbs, heathers, primroses, cyclamen, spirea, azaleas, hydrangea, genesta, bouganvillea, rhododendron, lilac - there is no end to the flowers which fill the flower shops at this spring season!

At Christmas time the use of baskets constitutes a much maller part of the decorations than at easter. For happily we still cling to our castom of using Christmas greans in the form of roping and wreaths and sprays. Ground pine which was so much used for years is being replaced by laurel for roping, and by laurel, holly, boxwood and evergreen for reaths. Evergreens might perhaps be used much more than they are, and it seems probable that at the rate at which laurel is now used, the bushes are being robbed so that we may be forced to find a substitute. Southern smilax and evergreen trees are appropriately used for decorating churches and large halls, but are less fitted for the home excopt the more pretentious ones.

Memorial Day is another time of year demanding its own appropriate floral designs - largely in the nature of funeral work of which we have spoken elsewhere.

Hany florists are making feature of Valentinc's Day, with red flowers and unique favors, some of St. Patrick's Day, somof Wothers' Day in May when carnations, especially white ones are in demand. And it seems as if we might revive the custorin of May baskets - not in an

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[^1]expensive way as there are many seasons of giving and May day follows rather closely upon Easter - but small, inexpensive baskets could be filled with slowors, often with wild flowers, making charming littlo gifts and keeping alive a pretty custom.

Ferhaps the arrangement of windowand porch boxes does not come directly within the field of the floral decorator, but if mot, it aight. Their use should be oncouraged for our houses might be made wuch more attractive with them - but before they are used to a greater extont they must be mace more attractive. For some reason they have lagged far behind the advance in other forms of decoration, remaining stersotyped and not usually beatiful. When there is much available material, why should they be restricted to dracaena, geraniums, vinca and senecio scandens? One sebdom sees boxes illed vith other material.

Perhaps the first things which come to the minds of some people when one mentions floral decoration are funeral designs - and from the viewpoint of the florist it is one of the most important forms of work that comes to him. It is always present in rush times and in dull, and it constitutes a remunerative work for him. probably the most atrocious and inappropriate things over perpetrated in the namep of floral decoration have been done for funeral purposes. There was a time when it was doemed appropriate that the $f$ uneral design show the intereste or vocation of the deceased, and accordingly we find a floral piano designed for the funeral of the president of a piano factory, a floral pilloy worked out carefully to represent a letter, the staiap, post-mark, address and all boing carefully worked out, for the funeral of a postman - to say nothing of a flor al spinning wheel and a floral candelabra, with a standard of small roses, the shades of pansies edged with a fine white daisy, the significance


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of which is not apparent. Neediess to say, that was the time of sot dosignt when anything approaching naturalness was not even dreamed of. The floral broken column, "gates ajar", the broken wheel, harp and stiff designs of all kinds were in vogue. Happily wo are getting avay from that sort of thing, though wo still have them with us; and only a few yoars ago a lloral aeroplane was made for the funeral of ur. Wilbur Wright. In 1894 we read of the $100 s$ oly and tastefully arranged wreaths and bouquets as "anong the most popular arrangoments for funeral purposes, there having beon a decided falling off in the call for set dosigns." That probably marked the beginning of botter fun oral work which was not to become general for ten or fifteen years yet. But at the present time the vast amount of funeral work is of this simpler, more natural and tasteful type, the large cunbersome pieces measuring six feet and more in height being used only by the fraternal orders and for the funerals of prominent persons. Some of it is simple and unprotentious while some is extravagantly costly, but wo can ind nothing to excel the extravagance of customs existing about 1887. Then, occasionally the casket was made entirely of flowers as many as 27000 violets being usod in one casket: Or the church pew of the deceased was decorated with upholsteries and cushions of 110 rers and renowed for a time frequently enough to keep fresh:

The forms of the present day funeral designs are sprays. pillows. wreaths, casket covers and cornors and loose bunches of which the wroaths and sprays are most in demand. Wreaths are of all sizes and either round or crescent-shaped, the crescont shapo being somewhat more in favor at the present time. It is less monotonous than the round one and gives more opportunity for a variety of treatment. at-the tie the the it preserves tho thityo Tho broadest portion of the wreath is of ten treated as an accont or inishing point which is very
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offoctive. Materials for wreaths are almost unlimited for there is not only the greenhouse group of flowers but all those which grow outdoors in the summer and the leaves of various trees woll. Gypsophila, asters, pansies, achillea, candytuft, mignongtte all work up quite as well in wreaths as rnses, lily-of-the-valley, sweet peas and orchids, There are nomore attractive wreaths than combinations of swoet peas and a liberal quantity of maiconhair forn, lily-of-the-valley and orchids, Taster lilies and maidenhair, and roses with lily-of-the valley or gypsophila. Sweet peas may be combined with other flowers but Easter lilies are best when made up alone with groen and finished Wth porhaps a bos of white chiffon or ribbon. Formerly only white flowers were used for funeral work but now there is nocolor which is not used, so the llorist is not restricted in his work. The greenery is quite an important part of the wreath for by it more than anything el sethemore natural and 100 se effect is gained. A fow yoars ago wreaths vere made lat and stiff with the flowers pressed closely togenaturalistic
ther, but when the more fore desired flowers vere set into the frame standing up. This, too, was carried sometimes to an extreme when they were made to stand up six and oven oight inches. Midway between the two extrenes the effect is more pleasing. Leaves of magnolia, leucothoe, ivy and galax are frequently used for wreaths
wres - they always give a stiffer and less beautiful effect, but they are often pleasing. Much use of flowers combined with them is to be discotraged for frash living llowers dn not combine well with etiff, lifeless and treatod leaves. The advice to simplify is especially applicable in the चork of making up wreaths for there seems to be no other plee in floral work when one may lind such varieties of indiscriminate combinations.

Noxt to the wreath the spray is probably the most in demand. It is essentially a $l 00$ and natural arrangement - a "bupich" it is

sonotimes called. Long stemmed flowers are best adapted to this form roses, carnations, gladioli, etc., and some of the heavier flowers which will not work in to other forme of work - such as callas and chrysanthemums - may be ffectively tied together in a spray. The spray may be long and narrow or oval as may be desired. The ond may be finished with green orabowa of ribbon, and frequently sore flower other than that used for the spray makes an attractive finish close to the bow or green for oxample, lilies to finish a spray of American Beauty roses, violets with narcissus, and a fow pansies in a spray of white carnationso Tho saaller llowers like pansies, violets, and valley are less often used in - sprays, but with a little more work they can be made into most attractive sprays. The simplification of material should apply to greens as well as flowers, for of ten several kinds of greens are used in one design but not with pleasing effects. Only recently a seet pea spray sent out by one of the leading florists of one of our big cities contained four kinds of greens - polqytichum, whitmanni, adiantum, and asparagus and wen it was finished off with a bunch of forced lily of the valley with its yellow green foliage, there was a mixture of color and form which was not harmonious. There was a quantity of beautiful material combined
in the spray but it was so indiscriminately that the result was not artistic - chiefly because it lacked unity.

Sprays of this kind made sorewhat longer are used as casket sprays and sometimes a double casket spray is made from two sprays placed end to end, andtied with a bow of ribbon; the whole being of any length dosired up to six feet. Occasionally the casket spray is made of foliago - leaves of cocos, cycas, areca, etc.. tied with ribbons. These sprays are offoctive, and are especially satisfactory in extreme heat aspthey wilt much less readily. Casket corners made onctoss frames with ono arm and the upper portion cut off aro effective when


























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well arranged. As they are used in conspicuous positions lovers which do not ilt quickly should be used if possible. Casket covers are usod occasionally - such a blanket of flowors of course is expensive so that its cost prevents itsfrecoming into general use. When softly and loosely arranged it is exceedingly beautiful. As it must drape over the edges of the casket the smaller or more flexibla flowers only are adapted to this type of work. Sweet peas, violets, orchids, lily-of-the-valley. otc. are very appropriate. The casket cover may be mado of one kind of flower only with a plenty of green or two flowers may be combined, when one is frequontly used in a sort of panel effect.

Floral plllows have been used for funeral designs ever sinco funeral decoration began. It is a less popular form at the present time, but ten years ago it was most popular next to the wreath. While its form is conventional considerable variation can bo mado in the making, सp so that it need not be stiff. $16 \times 24$ inches is the size most frequently used. Years ago these pillows were always lettered "mother," "Iather," "brother," or "sister," but it is only done now when the customer insists upon it.

The floral cross is still frequently used and may be made looso and attractive. Smaller llowers only fit into its design but larger ones may be used for accont points - for example a calla may be placed at the point of crossing of the arms ith the post or frequontizy the lour onds may betreoted

The florigt is frequently callad upon to make a crepe spray to attach at the तoor. Such spray should be about $4^{\prime} 10 n g$ and $8^{\prime \prime}-12^{\prime \prime}$ wide. Cycas or other foliage tied with purple ribbon with a bow ard long streamers not too wide are effective, or it may be of flowers and foliage, the flowers pointing downward except at the top where it is finished with a Iev fowers which point upward. Carnations, roses.
and violets or galax leaves in oval or crescont wreaths are also usod for this purpose occasionally. For a child soustimes a number of nar row ribbon streamers to which are tied with bows a lew buds or lily-of-thevalley are appropriately and attractively arranged.

It would seor strange to write at such length upon the subject of floral dacusation with no more than casual mention of tha floral art of tho se people with whom more than any other in the world it is a real art, practised not by the fuw but the many. Flomers are a greater iacto: in the life of the Japanese than in the life of any other people and years of study and training in their arrangement constitute as much a part of a girl' education - andmore - as cooking and serving in our western countries. It has been practised by men and women alike and soro of Japan's moot fasous generals have, fooling its boneficent and calming influence, made themsolves mastors of tho art. Developing slowly out of their Buddhistic faith with its desire with to preserve all forms of life, ita first rules formulated around the custom of offering plants and flowers to their gods, it has become so thoroughly imbued ith symbolic meaning that no westerner or pergon of other faith can approach it with a thoroughly sympathetic attitudo. But appreciating at least a portion of its artistic beauty we may 0 to it to leann any of the principles of artistic work adopting from it anly so much as is in accord with our spirit and taste - which "much" we may apply to the beautifying of our own iloral arrangemonts.

Ike-bana, the most beautiful in line of all the many schcols of floral arrangement, signifies living ilowers. The ain in all arrangements is to give the effect of a living flower or plant, and consequently not only the flower but the growth of the antire plant is studiod with care and its arrangement must reproduce these conditions as closely as
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possible. For this reason rare flowers with whose habit of gro with the artist cannot familiarize himself are never used. Te are all more or loss familiar with their simple arrangements of a few flowers but probably for of uscerstand that each flower, (or leaf in foliage arrangements) has its own distinctive name, meaning and line from which to depart would be to render it non-Japenese. Three main branches Heaven, the longest, Mankind, enc Earth, the shortest, arranged in a triangular form, with Heaven, Mankind or Earth and the base of the plant as it rises from the water marking the corners of the triangle, form the basis of all the flower compositions. Maven is always placed in the center with Earth and Mankind one on each side, the side being determined by the style in whichitis arranged - whether Ib (female, with Earth to the right) or Yo (male, Earth at the left). Heaven is al mays the longest, and Earth the shortest of the three.


The tips of all branches turn up to suggest aspiration, but no two branches are of the same height, no two point in the same direction and no two cross each other. Five and seven flowers are frequently used, the added ones serving as attributes of these three principles. But the flowers used are always of an uneven number, partly because even numbers are considered unlucky and partly because an uneven number




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pormits an arrangement without repetition - a matter of great importance. For the whole conception of art to the Japanese is one of balance rather than symmetry - an art in which beauty of $l$ ins and proportion is secured without repetition. Every arrangement, should have buds, half-open and opon flowers, the bud foraing the Earth principle, tho half-open flower Heaven, and the open flower Han. Every flower and leaf must show plainly and hide no other - detail requiring considerable thought and skill in the cutting off of superfluous flowers. The surface of the water represents the soil fromwich the plant springs and at this point the arrangement must suggest strength and stability. It is true of growing plants, and, as the aim sought in flower arrangements is naturalness, the composition must reproduce this same effect. Any composition spreading at the base is therefore defective, however beautiful its upper leaves and $1 l o w e r s$ may be, and it is not Japanese.

The Japanese never uso flowers out of season. Being close observers, and therefore lovers of Nat ure, they find so much of beauty at all seasons of the year that they attach no value to a flower forced into bloo at a time other than that at wich it naturally blooms out-of-doors. And unlikeourselves they look upon branchos as flowers and equally beautiful parts of the tree and use themextensively-often for thoir most important decorations, as they outlast any floral decoratinns and in large rooms are more striking than flowers. May the time cone whon we westerners cease long enough from our rush and tension to learn something of this spirit of apreciation and to attach more value to Nature's changing moods and seasons! To tie Japanese, the growth of the plant from flower to fruit signifies the moving of the plant soul frois the flower to the leaf, to thefruit and then to the branches. and flower arrangements vary with the season to reflect Nature's







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prevailing mood. In the spring, when the sodl is in the floviors, the floyers are 10039 and spreadire and the vass is filled to the brim with water to suggest the abundance of water at that seasom. The seul is in the leaves in summer, and young groan leaves are used iti abundance in full and sproading arrangoments and in low broad roceotacles, wich, showing more water fate a coolar effect. In autumb the soul still remains in the leaves but they are less abundant and the branches are more is apparent, so the arrangement simpler giving moro attention to beauty of line than to foliage or llowers. When winter arrives the soul has passed into the branches, the compositions are simple with fow curves and each line stands out clear cut. In March when high ainds unusual prevail the branches are bent into curves which suggest the blowing of the winds. Furthor then this cortain flowers are used for certain occasions, some colors being unlucky while others are lucky, some expressinpeace, $\quad$ ome hostile feeling, etc. The Japanese imag in at ive mind has woven much of guperstition and symbolism oven into their use of flowers all of wich is rathor meaningless to us, and into which we cennt go for lack of time.

The Japanese desire to preserve life in any formhas influenced theirflower receptacles as well - probably because of this, rather than for any other reason, their vases are generally wide and openmouthod. The greater the surface exposed to the air, the moro oxygen the weter contains and thelonger tho flowers remain fresh. This kean appreciation of line andform has led them in many cases to design vasee for individual llowars thet the entire coupositin might possoss true artistic harmony. Hanging receptacles are used as well, usually for vines and plants whose gronth is not upright, though their use originated in their delicacy of feeling which fancied a lack of

gratitude was shown in placing flowers wich were gifts in positions where they were looked down upon - they should be looked up to and accordingly some other means of arrangement must be dovised. The same dolicacy of fooling for poople prompts them, in making gifts of flowers, to send buds only that the recipient may have the pleasure of watching the flowers dovelop. Bronze is a popular material for vases, resembling, to their minds, Mother Earthmore closely than anything else. But other materials are used though the colors are nearly all pastel tones.

Quite definite rules are laid down for the relative proportions of vase and flowers - one may discover perhaps the source from which rules already mentioned have doubtless been derived. In vertical arrangements the flover - measured from the top of Heaven to the water - is one and one half times the height of the vase. In low. flat vases the highest flower is one and one half times the diameter of the vase. If the vase is set on stand the highest llower is one andone half times the height, including the stand. Heaven, as has been said, is one and one half times the height of the vase, Man one half the height of Heaven and Earth one half the hoight of Man.

While there are my schools of flower arrangement these-
principles remain the same, and form the foundation of their art. So many rules would seem to us to make it too sixed and set, but each one of these has been worked out after years of experimenting and searching for the beautiful - for it all has been a pursuit of beauty for itself alone. Therefore it reingins the most thoroughly beautiful and artistic Ploral art of the world.

Japanese flower arrangement has had an undoubted inflauce upon some of our own flover compositions which show that we are already




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beginning to leamthe value of a fow flowors well arranged. It io equ ally important that we learn from it also the value and beauty of Line and form and grouth, a groater appreciation of the value of simplicity, the most fundamental principle of all arts, - and ve might add the value of the seasons. We may not care for it in its entirety, and it is neither oxpected nor desired that we adopt the Japanese style of arrangement it is tho far removed from our own thought and spirit for it to be expressive of our life. But it is to be hoped that from it we may learn sornethirg of the principles which we may adapt to our own wethods, thereby making our own floral decoratian more beautiful and bringing it noore nearly to the level of an art.

In this long discussion both defocts and virtues of modern floral decoration hate been pointed out, but it is hoped that the ideals and principlee which must guide it if it is to contime to progress, have been dvelt upon at greater length. While there are glaring defects in some of its present phases, it has beenproceoding slowly but gradually from stiff and set and overdone creations to increasingly sirapler, more natural and more beautiful arrangenents. That it is still in a transitional stage seems probable. But because of our own thought and spirit, this transitional stage is full of dangers - some of them have al ready beenfpoken of. Besides these, the florist decorator is oftener a comercial and business man first and a decorator second - the question he ads hinself seven or eight times out of ten is "will this selli" or "vill this take?" rather than "is this bosutiful?" But it is $n$ ot for on who has no knowledge of the business vorld to judge him - he has gore into the florist busi ress to make a livelihood and the keon cumpetition of the present day probably forces him to put this question before all others. But this being true, it is, nevertheless, a hindrance to novertheless, a hinarance the development of the work as an art,
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for the first question every artist asks is "Is this beautiful!" "If not we will have nothing of it." But if the florist has this artistic purpose and conditions permit his giving more thought and time to this side of his profession, he can do a great doal in educating the public to a greater appreciation of these bottor arrangements. We know that some florists are trying to do this very thing. Annthor hindrance In this floral art development lies in the very nature of the art itself. Every other art - music, painting, decorating, etc., has a certain permanoncy which is completely lacking in anything concerned with flowers. At the best one floral picture lasts only a few days and whatever of permanency there can be is only in the mental picture in the mind of the individual. Every other artist puts unlimited time and thought into the creating of his pictures, which, considering the ephemergl character of floral work, would be quite out of proportion to the results obtained. On the other hand the decorator $h$ as the advantage of having his materials presented to him half-made, as it were, - the flower, leaf, stem and plant is formed and he deals with it as hefinds it. No material is given to the painter or
musician in any such combined form - every identical note must be corabined and recombined into phrases and the phrases into the bigger composition. We might liken the flower with its foliage to the musical phrases of the musician. But in spite of these obstacles in its path floral decoration is undoubtedly tending in the right direction, and we may be optimistic in regard to its future development. An additional encouraging feature may be the fact that the subject is being considered important enough to include in-the curriculum where floriculture is talaght, so that some of those who go into the






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work may commence wh the right fundamental principles wich have been carefully worked out during comparatively recent years. But the rapidity with which the more artistic arrangements become general will depend to considerable extent upon the open-mindedness of the individual and his desire for true appreciation of Nature.


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