

A LIVING PLANT ALWAYS ACCEPTABLE GIFT

Their Care Intrigues Invalid

By BERT SCHILLER M'DONALD
Central Press Flower Stylist

Mother or the sweetheart will, of course, love a corsage of gardenias or roses, but mothers, especially, say: "I like my flowers and plants living and breathing." That is, they like them potted. They enjoy caring for them and fussing over them as they would a baby.

Invalids, chronic or temporary, also like plants for gifts that they can watch develop.

A clever offering is a container covered with tree bark, which is filled with hardy house plants that thrive on a minimum of care. As a thoughtful personal touch, there's a corsage of calendula and freesia tucked in at the side, of the one shown top, right, which will surely delight the recipient.

Log Container

Another attractive gift, which anyone will enjoy for a long time, is in the form of a small hollowed-out log, lower left. This contains a wealth of flowering plants in all the colors of the rainbow. Later this clever log container will be just the thing for decorating the porch, or it can be used as a window box.

Ferns are forms of plant life that most people like to care for. There's a large urn-shaped jardiniere filled with several types of ferns, shown top, left. A small bird perched on a spike of pussy willow stuck in among the ferns adds an amusing touch. Attached to one handle of this urn is a large bow of colored ribbon, and to this is attached the card of greeting.

For the person who goes in for the unusual and modern, there's a white glazed pot, quite modernistic in its treatment, right. It contains a succulent plant, a native of Africa and Australia, which bears thick clusters of colorful, wax-like flowers. This plant is called Kalanchoe.

They Should Harmonize

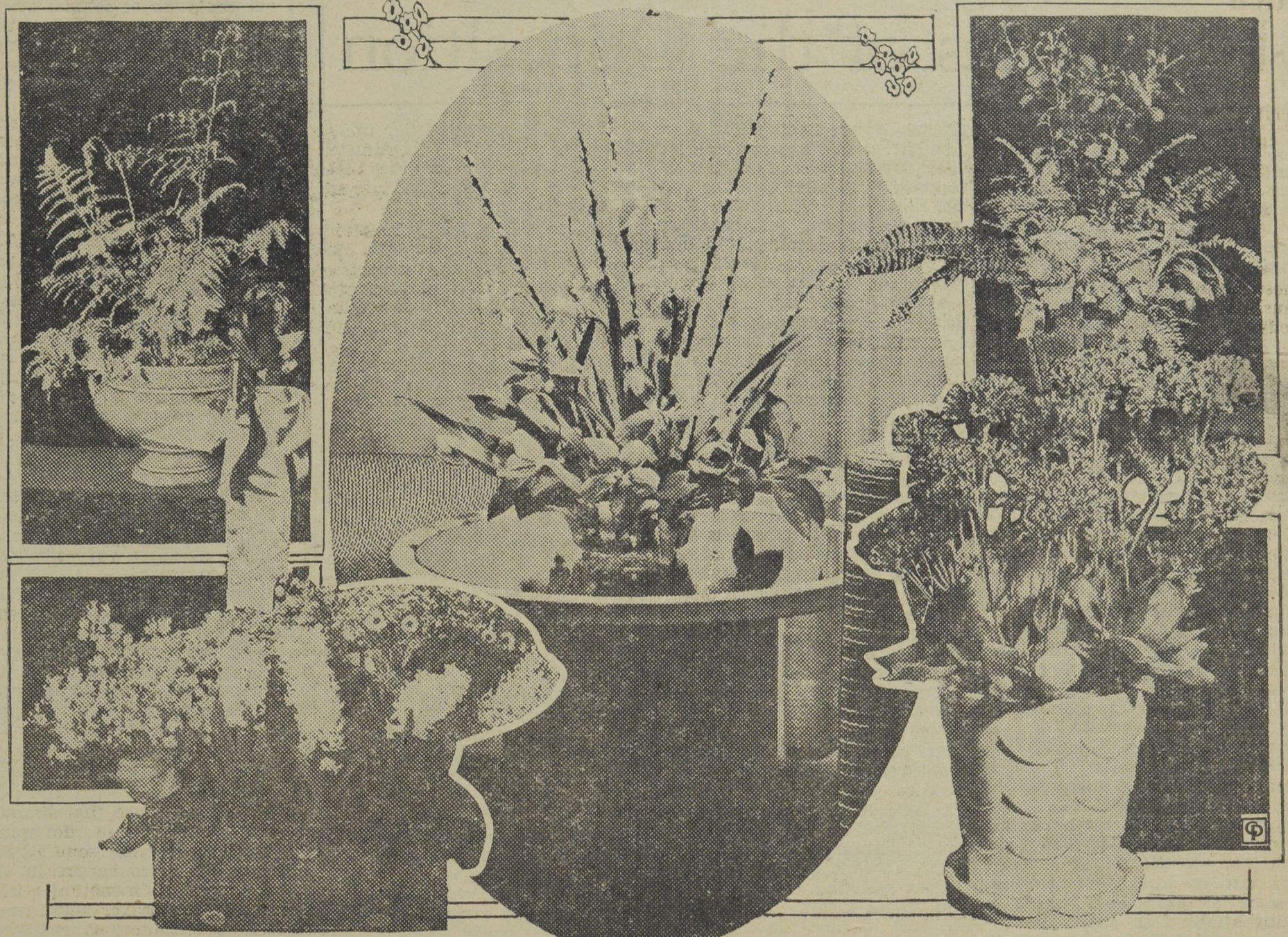
Rooms treated in a modernistic manner need flowers and plants to relieve their rigid simplicity. But the flowers and plants, and the containers that hold them, should never sound a false note; they should be in complete harmony—both as to color and form—with their sophisticated surroundings.

For instance, one wouldn't think of placing a large Victorian, rococo vase, holding a profusion of varied garden flowers, in an ultra-modern room. Neither would one think of putting a prosaic Boston fern, in its traditional garish grass jardiniere, in such surroundings.

There are certain types of flowers and plants which seem to have an affinity for modern decorating. Strange as it may seem, plants and flowers considered "old-fashioned" during the past decade are the very ones that have thrown off their former stodginess and are now hobnobbing with stream-lined furniture.

Prominent among the flowers that have "gone modernistic" with a vengeance are the carnation, the gladioli, the calla lily and the tulip. And, among sophisticated plants we can now count the varied types of rubber plant, the sansaevera and the cacti in its infinite varieties. The

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CENTRE—MODERN ARRANGEMENT OF FLOWERS; TOP LEFT—FERNS IN URN; BELOW—FLOWERS IN HOLLOWED-OUT LOG; RIGHT, TOP—HARDY PLANTS IN BARK CONTAINER; BELOW—KALANCHOE IN UNUSUAL POT.

HEALTH

by
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A HEALTH SERVICE OF THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN CANADA

Questions concerning health, addressed to the Canadian Medical Association, 184 College Street, Toronto, will be answered personally by letter.

ITCH

Of all the parasites which seem to exist solely for the annoyance of mankind, none is more widespread than the one known as "itch-mite," which is responsible for that common affliction, called "the itch," or scabies, which is familiar to both sexes and all ages.

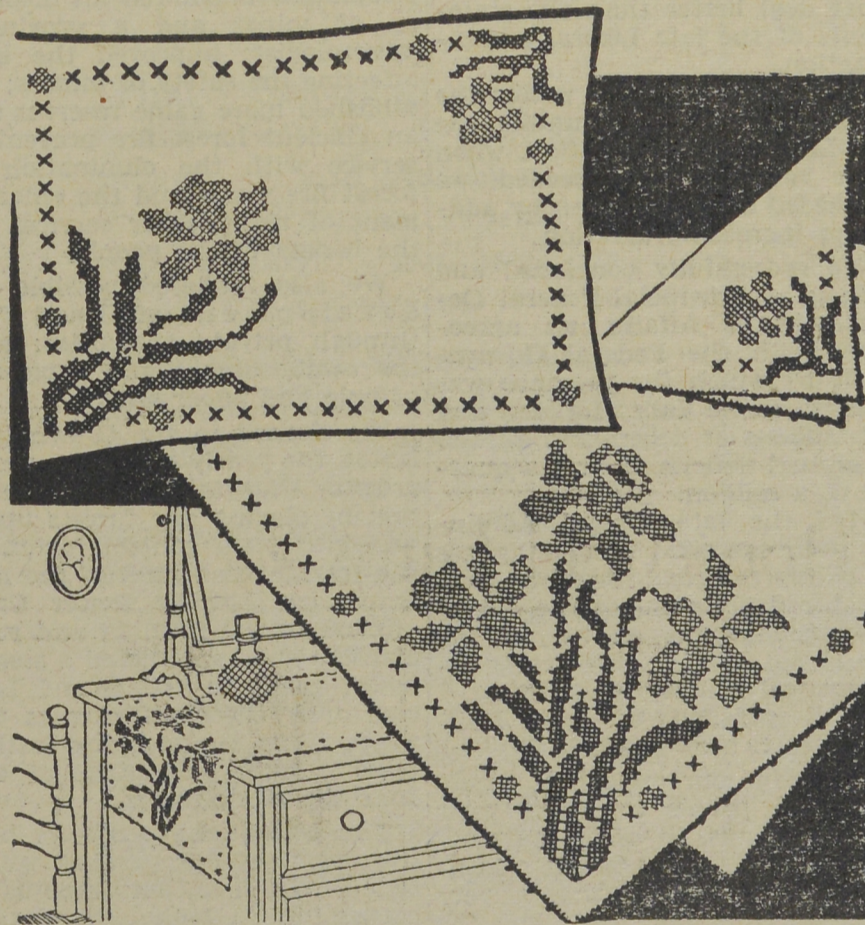
The itch-mite can be seen without the aid of the microscope. It is round and whitish, with four pairs of legs. The trouble arises from the fertilized female burrowing into the skin. She cannot turn around in the burrow, so must continue to go ahead, laying an egg or two a day until she dies. These eggs are hatched, and the adult is developed in about two weeks, the female being large and the male small.

The disease is spread by contact with the infested person or with his clothing or bed-clothing. It is most common where more than one individual uses the same bed-clothing, under conditions of overcrowding and low standards of personal cleanliness.

The burrowing of the female itch-mite sets up the skin irritation which causes the itch. The itch-mite prefers thin, folded and moist skin. The disease commonly begins on the front of the wrists and elbows and between the fingers, but it may spread all over the body. The itch is experienced chiefly at night. At this time, in the warmth of the bed-clothes, the itch-mite becomes active and does most of her burrowing.

Once the condition is recognized, it can be corrected by the

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proper use of such an itch-mite poison as sulphur. The first step in the treatment is a hot bath with the free use of soap and a soft nail-brush. This exposes the tunnels or burrows, so that the

sulphur which is later applied may reach and destroy the itch parasite.

Sulphur, prepared as an ointment, is applied night and morning.

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