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THE SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE IN PERSPECTIVE¹

By DR. C. STUART GAGER

DIRECTOR, BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE, British statesman and author, was born in 1628 and died in 1699. Soon after his marriage, at the age of 27, he took up his residence in Ireland, where he is said to have "read a good deal and acquired a taste for horticulture."

In 1692 appeared the second part of Sir William's essays—the "Miscellanea," which included his classical essay on gardening.

"As gardening has been the inclination of kings and the choice of philosophers," said Sir William, "so it has been the common favourite of public and private men; a pleasure of the greatest and the care of the meanest; and, indeed, an employment and a possession for which no man is too high nor too low."

When Sir William died he was buried by the side

of his wife in the south aisle of Westminster Abbey. But, by special instructions, his heart was buried, not by the side of his wife, but in a silver box under a sun-dial in his garden, opposite his favorite window seat. So much affection can one have for a garden!

Having learned, from this incidence, the relative regard in which Sir William held "ladies" and gardens, we may not, perhaps, be greatly surprised that he writes as follows:

"I will not enter upon any account of flowers, having only pleased myself with seeing or smelling them, and not troubled myself with the care, which is more the ladies' part than the men's." And then he concludes, "but the success is wholly in the gardiner"—who, of course, was a man. Perhaps if there had been a school of horticulture for women in Sir William's day this last disparaging sentence could, or perhaps would, not have been written.

¹ Address delivered at the twenty-fifth anniversary exercises of the School of Horticulture for Women, Ambler, Pa., May 20, 1936.

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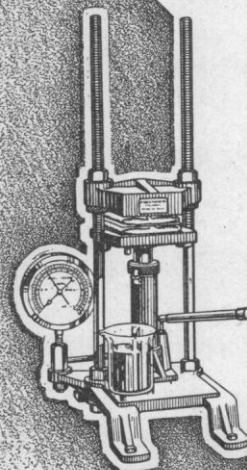
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