

## WORK AND PLAY SECTION

### SUGGESTIONS ON FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

By RUPERTO SARMIENTO \*

HAVE you ever picked a beautiful bunch of flowers and put them into a vase? Of course you have. How did you arrange them? Do you think you arranged them in the best possible manner?

What is the best possible manner? Well, let us see. Here are some simple rules to follow when arranging flowers; read them—study them—carefully, and if you follow them, you will arrange your flowers artistically.

In securing artistic flower arrangement, two things need to be considered: (1) the flowers and (2) the vase or container. First, let us consider the container.

In selecting the container, be sure it suits the flowers. Remember, you should choose a vase to suit the flowers; you should not choose flowers to suit a vase. To be able to do this one must have containers of different kinds, so that there is a suitable vase for whatever flowers are at hand.

Memorize the following suggestions for selecting a vase to match certain types of flowers:

(1) Cheap, dull-colored containers

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are more attractive than bright-colored ones.

(2) Vases should be deep enough to hold sufficient water.

(3) Tall, straight vases like bamboo tubes are suited to flowers on tall, stiff stems, such as the flowers of the canna (Spanish flag) or the gladiolus.

(4) High stands or hanging baskets are best for flowers with bending or drooping stems.

(5) Bowls or low containers are suitable for flowers of water plants such as the water lily.

(6) Vases for the dining table must be low in order to enable the guests to see each other while talking.

(7) Wall vases are pretty containers for vines.

(8) Vases may be of the same or of the opposite color of the flowers. For example, white flowers may be placed in

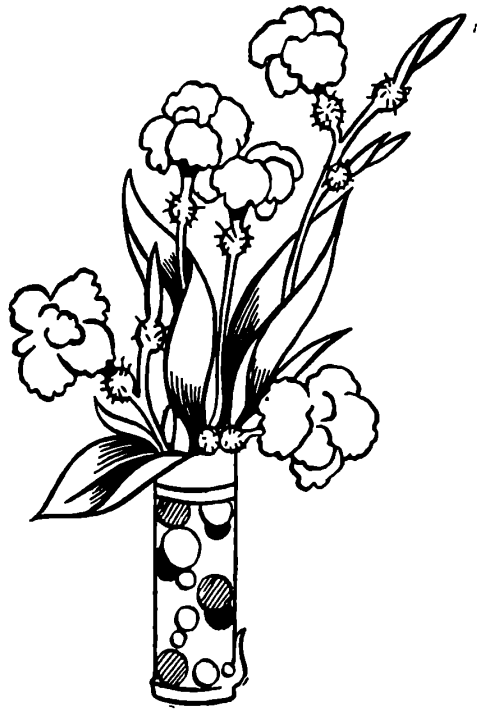
a white vase or a black vase.

(9) Blue vases are suitable for pink roses.

(10) Blue bowls are attractive vases for violets.

(11) Tall glass vases are good for *azucena* and for *cadena-de-amor*.

After a suitable container has been chosen, arranging the flowers comes



Use plenty of leaves.

next. The following are some simple rules to follow when doing this delightful task.

(1) Imitate the way the flowers grow. Look in the garden and notice how flowers grow on plants. Some of them are on long stems or branches, others on short stems or branches, while still others are on branches or stems which are not very long nor very short—just of medium length. Another thing to notice is that flowers are surrounded only by their own leaves. The flower of a canna (Spanish flag) is not surrounded by the leaves of a hibiscus (*gumamela*). Therefore, to arrange flowers properly, see that they are set among their own leaves and that there are plenty of leaves—some short, some long, and some of medium length. (See the illustration on page 122.

(2) Long - stemmed, erect flowers in tall vases are attractive at eye-level.

(3) Water plants in low containers should be placed below eye-level.

(4) Bright colored flowers are suited to the *sala* of one's home, for they add cheerfulness to the room.

(5) Large and bright flowers which are not too fragrant, and flowers not too small and delicate, are suitable for the bedroom or for a patient's room in a hospital.

(6) The three-line arrangement may be used. This is the Japanese style of arranging flowers. In this arrangement

flowers are placed in three heights. The tallest ones are called "heaven"; the lower ones "man"; the lowest are called "earth." When arranging flowers thus, the stems should be cut so they are of varying lengths. A few should be short, some long, and others longer. (See the illustration on this page.

(7) There should be color harmony in arranging flowers. Often people prefer to have flowers of different colors arranged together in a vase. When ar-

ranging flowers of different colors together be careful that the flowers chosen are of *related* colors. By related colors is meant colors which harmonize so that they look attractive when put together. To know whether certain colors are related or not, a color chart should be consulted.

Now you know something about the proper container to be chosen, and something about the best way of arranging the flowers. You should next learn about making color combinations. Under

the suggestions about color combinations, you read that *related* colors should be used in arranging flowers. Related colors may be grouped as (1) "neighbor" colors, (2) "brother" colors, (3) "friend" colors, and (4) "cousin-friend" colors. Let us explain further:

(1) "Neighbor" colors are the ones near each other, just like you and your neighbors. For example, yellow-green, and blue-green are "neighbor" hues be-

(Please turn to page 132.)



The Three-line Arrangement

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cause they live near each other in harmony—they do not clash with each other. Blue, blue-violet, and violet and many other combinations are “neighbor” colors.

(2) By “brother” colors we mean those colors which have the same name but are of different shades, as light red, bright red, and very bright red. They are just like brothers—big brother, little brother, and smallest brother. Have you

seen a light-red hibiscus (*yú mamela*), a pink one, and a bright-red one? They are examples of “brother” colors.

(3) Colors which stay on opposite sides of the color, like your friend who lives on the opposite side of the river, are “friend” colors. Yellow and blue-violet, for example, are opposite or “friend” colors.

(4) A color may be grouped with the “cousins” of its “friend” color or opposite color. Blue is the friend of orange, while

## WHY THE SALING . . .

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But in winning the contest the *saling* unluckily had lost his white crest of feathers. And so from that time his head has been bare.

blue-green and blue-violet are the “cousins” of blue. Therefore, orange may be grouped with blue-green and blue-violet. Other groups of this combination are (a) yellow-green, blue-violet, and red-violet; (b) blue-green, orange, and red-violet; *et cetera*.



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