



Fine Flowers: Fine Tree

AS A RULE, we think of spring flowers in terms of tininess and delicacy, and modest hiding among last year's leaves or under the ferns. This concept is well enough for the chilly North, where the air three feet above the ground may drop to freezing point without warning almost any night until the middle or latter part of April; but down in Dixie even early spring is sure enough of itself to command bright flowers on the trees.

And there are some big trees in the South, that bear big flowers in the mild early warmth. Most conspicuous are the magnolias; no city in the wide reach of territory between Washington and Corpus Christi is doing itself justice unless it has plenty of them in its parks and on the lawns of citizens prosperous enough to give magnolia trees the space they deserve.

Washington certainly appreciates them. Even before the famous display of the Japanese cherry trees, Capitol Hill and many of the parks shine in white and glow in pink magnolia trees and bushes in a whole series of species. The earliest-flowering are exotics, from China, but perhaps the handsomest in common cultivation is the native *Magnolia grandiflora*.

But the delight of seeing a magnolia in bloom need not be denied to dwellers in the North. There are a few species that are fairly hardy well above the Mason and Dixon line, and at least one native magnolia, the so-called cucumber tree, will thrive and blossom at least as far north as Minnesota and west to the Kansas hills. It seems to be satisfactorily resistant to winter colds and drought, but it should be planted where it has some shelter from the prevailing winds, for its wood is not very strong.

Science News Letter, March 26, 1932

ARCHAEOLOGY

"Modern" Bath Towels Used In Egypt 4,000 Years Ago

EGYPT'S TOMBS are again proving that there is nothing new under the sun. Now it is our modern bath towels which are found to be an idea 4,000 years old.

Three linen towels used in Egyptian homes in 2000 B. C. have been discovered in tombs at Thebes by the Egyptian Expedition of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Towels used then were extraordinarily like our modern bath towels of today, says H. E. Winlock, director of the Museum, in reporting latest discoveries of the expedition.

One of the towels has an allover pattern of knots. Another has the knots in alternating bands of zigzags and straight lines. The towels appear to have been made about 20 inches long and about 17 inches wide, but Mr. Winlock states that when the linen wore out along the edges the Egyptian housewife cut off the frayed selvages and hemmed them.

Describing other finds in tombs of the same period, Mr. Winlock says, "We got more than one peep into the dressing rooms of those days. The dead usually took with them a mirror—we found parts of the handles, but the copper mirrors themselves had usually been stolen for the metal. And we have often found boxes for little alabaster perfume bottles or pots for eye paint."

Several bundles of false hair, buried

with some beauty-seeker of the Pharaoh's court, were found by the excavators near the entrance of a plundered tomb. Bits of knotty wood found with toilet articles in several tombs puzzled the archaeologists at first. The conclusion now is that ladies of the eleventh dynasty bought these little sticks of aromatic wood for perfumes. They ground off the ends of the wood and collected the powder to sprinkle on clothes or hair.

Science News Letter, March 26, 1932

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Publications

THE PLANT WORLD. By C. Stuart Gager

A popular survey of botanical problems and results. 136 pages, 79 illustrations. Bound in stiff paper. .75 cents

POPULAR GUIDE BOOKS

No. 3. *The Story of Our Metate: A chronicle of Corn.* By Dr. F. W. Hodge, Curator, Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. 25 pages, 14 illustrations25 cents

No. 5. *The Rock Garden of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.* By Montague Free. 55 pages, 28 illustrations40 cents

No. 6. *Japanese Potted Trees (Hachinoki).* By Bunkio Matsuki. 11 pages, 11 illustrations. .40 cents

Remittance should accompany orders

Address

THE SECRETARY, BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S.A.

CONVENIENCE COUPON

for New or Renewal Subscription to Science News Letter

Send this coupon to Washington while you are thinking of it.

Science News Letter,
21st and Constitution Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

Please { start
renew } my subscription to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER. I am enclosing
remittance as checked below:

- 2 years, \$7
 1 year, \$5

Name _____

Street
Address _____

City and
State _____

If this subscription is a renewal, check here