

*Japanese Flower Arrangement*

generally : it is all-embracing. Keenly sentient he is and should be. He is a remarkable man and a remarkable artist. He will go far.

JAS. STANLEY LITTLE.

**J**APANESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT. BY JOSIAH CONDER, F.R.I.B.A. (FINAL ARTICLE.)

THE intimate relation maintained between the flower arrangement and the receptacle in which it is placed forms an important branch of the art. The flower vases are made of different materials, and in an endless variety of shapes. They may be broadly divided into standing vessels and suspended vessels, the former class corresponding to the general European idea of a flower vase or bowl, and the latter used in hanging positions, either suspended by a cord or chain from a lintel or ceiling, or hooked on to a nail against a wall or pillar.

vices being fixed across to hold together the numerous stems of the flower arrangement (see Fig. 5). Deep vases, more of the Western form, with wide mouths, and even bottle-shaped vases with narrow necks are not uncommon, but it is difficult to make an elaborate arrangement of flowers in the

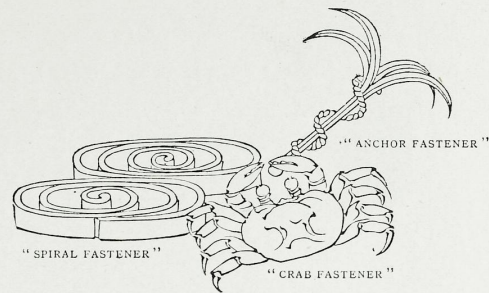


FIG. 6

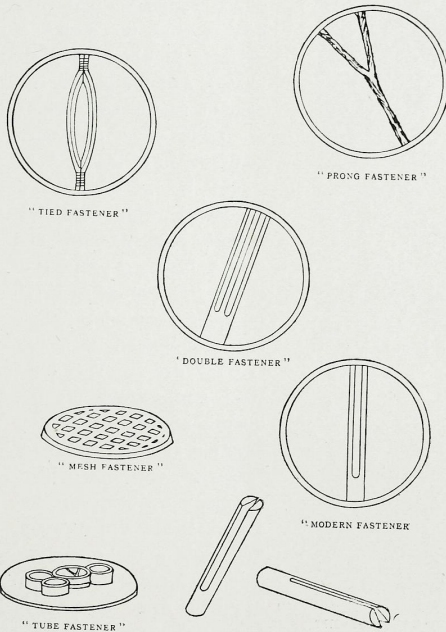


FIG. 5

Of standing vessels there are numerous shapes, in bamboo, bronze, or faience, but the favourite forms are those of bronze, having a saucer or trumpet-shaped bowl, some six or seven inches in diameter, carried upon some ornamental casting. The wide shallow opening admits of strong wooden

latter kind. For water-plant arrangements, very wide and shallow basins are employed, and the compositions they hold are spread out in two or three groups, often with the addition of stones and other ornaments, to convey the idea of a lacustrine scene. In such cases the cuttings are held in position by large pebbles, bronze crabs, dragons, tortoises, frogs, anchors, or other suitable objects, which form at the same time part of the design (see Fig. 6). A curious custom survives of employing what is called the horse-tub—a shallow tub such as horses drink from—together with a bronze horse's bit to hold the water plants in place; and this is said to have its origin in a flower arrangement extemporised by a famous general of old times, who employed these utensils as the only ones at hand during the leisure of a protracted campaign.

Thick tubes of bamboo are frequently fashioned into flower vases, both for standing and hanging purposes, and of these there are a multitude of orthodox shapes, some short like small buckets, and some of considerable height, with holes in the sides in addition to the top opening. In the latter, quaint arrangements of flowers in stages are made, each opening holding a separate composition.

Baskets made of willow, bamboo, wicker or rush work are also used for flower receptacles, a bamboo tube hidden within holding the water. This fashion was introduced from China, and the peony, known in Japan as the principal flower of China, is by preference arranged in such baskets.

A number of other fancy forms are given to