

English designer writes good book

Last week, your columnist reviewed books for holiday giving and here are three more not to be missed.

• "Kew Gardens for Science and Pleasure," edited by Nigel Hepper, Stemmer House, \$24.95, 188 pages, will not disappoint the reader. Kew Gardens is a mecca for scholars in fine horticulture. The ornamental value and history of the gardens are important, but the primary function of these gardens is to serve as scientific collections for what many consider to be the world's leading institution devoted to the study of plants. The book is lavishly illustrated.

• "Plant Portraits," Beth Chatto, David R. Godine, Boston, \$25, 109 pages discusses more than 100 plants in convincing prose. Each plant is illustrated by a professional botanical artist and labeled with the botanical names. Information on color, foliage, position and type of planting and groupings gives the gardener guidance. Total information for each

plant is included. Flowers are discussed in order of interest for specific seasons.

• "The Indoor Garden Book," John Brookes, Crown, \$24.95 is the second excellent book by this author we wish to share with you. He is one of the most original and emulated English garden designers. Brookes has won numerous awards and now runs his own school of design in West Sussex, England. He lectures regularly and has had articles in world-famous magazines. This is his sixth book.

This 280-page book has more than 850 drawings and illustrations and more than 600 color photos. More than 350 different plant species from ferns to dried and cut flowers and foliage — "mini-climate" requirements and how to care for them in instructions are included.

The author discusses plant form, leaf shape, matching plants to containers, lighting and training. Instructions for terrariums and even indoor window boxes are included.



down to earth

Alice Burlingame

There is even a chapter on cut-flower and dried flower arranging with excellent photos and drawings.

This is a well illustrated book, one of the best we have seen in a long time. All phases of indoor gardening are discussed.

Photographs of rooms and how to use flower arrangements and plants in them is a bonus. This houseplant manual and decorating with plants publication is like a course on all phases of indoor gardening and arranging.

THIS IS AN appropriate date to get out your outdoor, night lighting to beautify your home for the holiday season. Be sure and use only approved outdoor lighting equipment.

Many readers use their colored lights in creative ways. Lights strung among outdoor plantings is a traditional way to welcome guests.

A row of lights at ground level from the driveway to the front door makes a festive pathway.

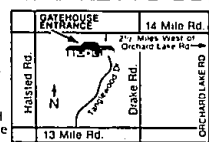
This year, a spotlight placed among plantings for dramatic, visual effect may be a new experience for our readers. Arrange spotlights behind shrubbery, rocks or in branches of trees, so that spectators will be conscious only of the beauty of the scene.

If you are entertaining at night during the holidays, you will enjoy having special lighting in the garden area, to be seen from inside.

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Gordon leads symphony

By Avigdor Zarom special writer

Nathan Gordon is one of those talented musicians in our area whose knowledge of and devotion to music defy ordinary limitations. Having retired from his position as principal viola with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, he has more time and determination to cultivate some of his other projects.

In addition to his qualifications as instrumentalist, Gordon has also been extensively engaged as a conductor. After years of conducting the Dearborn Symphony, he is now musical director and conductor of the Southfield Symphony, replacing Ervin Monroe, principal flute with the DSO, who held this post previously.

Last Friday, Gordon conducted his first program with the Southfield Symphony at Southfield Lathrup High School. The four works on the program alternated between light and heavy, the "Merry Wives of Windsor" Overture by Nicolai, Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony, the Pastoral Suite by Lars-Erik Larsson and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 ("Scottish"). Larsson, born in 1908, is Swedish.

CONSIDERING THAT many of the Southfield Symphony musicians are non-professionals and this was Gordon's first appearance with the orchestra, the results were promising.

On the critical side, there were the deficiencies one is likely to encounter in a community orchestra. The most glaring were occasional serious intonation problems with the strings.

In some instances, the balance left something to be desired. For example, the cymbals at the end of the "Merry Wives" Overture, in the front of the stage, sounded awkwardly placed and inconsistent with the sound level of the rest of the orchestra.

On the positive side was the discipline and

the attempt of a sound musical approach by the musicians. In the Schubert symphony, beneath the imperfect intonation, one could sense the dynamics and the somber character of the music.

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