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Something bresh in the Air

Continued from page 18

you can get your materials from the dealers in herbs who do business all over the country. Their chief concern is supplying herbs for medicines but they carry fragrant herbs too. They have dried rose leaves and verbena and lavender, cloves and orris and mint and rose geranium and vetiver, to list the ones most used, and they report an increasing demand for sweet herbs for home use. Your druggist can give you the name of a dealer in herbs; sometimes he can place the order for you.

Dry Potpourri

Here is a good standard formula for potpourri, made of fra-grant herbs which could come out of a garden, but are also easily ordered:

DRY POTPOURRI

- lb.-dried-lavender-flowers 1 lb dried rose leaves
- 1/2 oz. orrisroot or musk,
- crushed

oz. each of broken cloves, cinnamon, allspice, salt

Mix well together, then fortify your mixture with the addition of an ounce of essential oil-oil of lavender or lemon or patof lavender or lemon or pat-chouli, as you prefer. The oil should be mixed with an equal quantity of unscented rubbing alcohol and sprayed on with an atomizer for thorough distribution. In drying, herbs lose much of their own essential oil which is the element that gives them. their fragrance; when they are sprayed with essential oil the dried leaves and blossoms again become the ideal vehicle for gi"ing off fragrance. The common essential oils sell at about two dollars an ounce and up, but an ounce goes a long way and lasts



a long time, and it is easy to see why the price is high when you consider that it takes four thousand pounds of roses to produce one pint of oil of rose. Some druggists stock essential oils; if yours does not he can order itfor you. The sweet spice of potpourri-

will be most effective if you use it in a variety of ways-tuck a few small bags of it behind cushions and in drawers and closets; and keep a bowl, a pretty one, on the table filled with the mixture. Until it is used the pot-pourri should be stored in a jar with a tight-fitting cover.

Tussie Mussies are bouquets of fragrant herbs tied together with ribbon. They are pleasant to have in drawers and linen closets; tucked between the blankets and behind the pillows in a guest room, they leave a fra-grance that gives an extra touch of welcome. Especially good for tussic mussics are the vetiver roots from Louisiana; they smell like a combination of the bloom on peaches and the woods after a rain.

Burning Bush

Burning Bush is a charm as old as Circe; you start by burn-ing dried herbs in the fire, or you kindle tiny twigs in an old ash tray and throw on crumbled cinnamon sticks or slivers of dried orange peel stuck with cloves. A curl of blue smoke rises and disappears leaving a warm fragrance behind - one more way of releasing the sweet-airs preserved in plants to make a room more beautiful.



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