BRIEF FLORAL CEREMONY

Instead of presenting flowers during the initiation ceremony, one Worthy Matron is using the following brief addendum, which she terms My Garden

WORTHY MATRON —

I have a garden tilled with many flowers
The fern, the violet and the rose,
Lilies, and daffodils, whose colors grow
The fairer for the verdure which embowers
Their beauty, and sets forth their hidden powers.

ADAH—

Some plants, in gardens only
Are raised with pain and care
God scatters violets all around,
They blossom everywhere.
Some scentless flowers stand straight and high.
With pride and haughtiness,
But violets perfume land and sky,
Although they promise less.

RUTH—

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils,
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

ESTHER—

The virgin lilies in their white,
Clad but with the dawn of almost naked white,
Stand fair in the silvery light,
Like saintly vestals, pale in prayer;
Their pure breath sanctifies the air,
As their fragrance fills the night.

MARTHA—

Where the copse-wood is the greenest,
Where the fountain glistens sheenest,
Where the morning dew lies longest,
There the lady fern grows strongest.
ELECTA—

Did Jove a queen of flowers decree,
The rose, the queen of flowers should be—
Of flowers, the eye; of plants, the gem,
The meadow's blush; earth's diadem?

WORTHY MATRON—

Thus, Sister, do I keep a place apart,
Wherein my love for you cloistered shall be,
Far from the rattle of the city's mart,
E'en as my garden, where daily I may see
The flowers of your love, and none from me
May win the hidden secret of my heart.

The candidate is reconducted through the labyrinth, when flowers are presented and the verses recited.—Eastern Star News, Charlotte, North Carolina.