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A WINTER GARDEN
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Retiring W. Matron

By Pearle Seitter, Past Matron,
Hamilton Chapter, No. 275,
Hamilton, Missouri.

May be given in Chapter room or banquet hall.

Speech by Presiding Officer:

All seasons of the year have their beauty, their attractiveness, and their worth. Spring comes with it's showers, it's flowers, and it's sign of ever increasing ideals. Summer gives us the roses, the fruited fields, and the fragrance of new mown hay. Autumn has a touch of color that no artist can equal or surpass; then the winter comes when the harvest is in, and we enjoy the fruits of our toil. It is an ingathering of our work of the year. In the Order of the Eastern Star, we can enjoy our winter garden when we profit by the labor of hands which have worked untiringly through the year to reap a harvest at it's close. Sister -----, you have cared for our garden during the past year, and tonight we pluck the blossoms and the fruit from the seed which you have sown. You could not do this alone, but you have had helpers throughout the year who have found great joy in assisting you in this garden of love, and tonight they bring to you the reward of your labors and the reaping of the goodly things which you have so ably planned.

Officers in turn, stand and pay tribute to retiring Matron.

① Secretary:

My records show a gleanings of the wealth of golden grain,
And on the pages of our books we write success again;
And we are pleased to give account of all our work this year,
And write your name with other names upon a record clear.

② Associate Conductress:

We know your garden was prepared with best and greatest care,
So only seeds of loyalty would be found growing there;
And every day you watched them from the morn 'til set of sun,
And now your work is finished, we have found it all well done.

③ Conductress:

Your garden you have tended each day with greatest care,
So weeds and harmful undergrowth would never be found there;
And you have been kept busy, and have by your labors shown,
That by planting seeds of kindness only kindly things have grown.

④ Adah:

You have been true as Adah was, as true as Heaven's blue,
So in this winter garden we find this lovely hue;
We watered all the flowers, and we tended them with care,
Because we know you wanted the blue of Heaven there.

⑤ Ruth:

In our flower garden we know that we shall find
So many things to help us that you have left behind;
For we shall reap a harvest of grain of priceless gold,
Because your year has been so filled with constancy untold.

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⑥ Esther:

The flowers of white we always find where lovely flowers grow,
Because of loyalty and light, they're always there you know;
For like our Esther, true to friends we've found you every day,
And so the light of love must shine for you along the way.

⑦ Martha:

In every winter garden, we find the leafy green,
And in among the flowers it's loveliness is seen;
And it will give you Martha's faith as you go on your way,
Rewarding you with endless peace when comes the close of day.

⑧ Electa:

The red of love will always shine through each and every year,
Because Electa was so true, with charity sincere;
And we must give the red to you because you've been so true,
And winter gardens have a way of showing love to you.

If ceremony is given in Chapter room, flowers may be collected from the officers and presented to retiring Matron. If given in banquet room, officers rise in turn to give tributes. Flowers used on table may be given with or without gift. If gift only is given, it may be tied with ribbons in Star point colors.

⑨ Associate Matron presents gift as follows:

At the close of your year we bring you this gift,
With our thanks that in words are untold,
For we cannot pay you in dollars and cents,
And neither in silver nor gold;
For all of the work which you've done through the year,
Our gift may seem small it is true,
For the greatest of gifts which we can now give
Is our love, and our "Thank you" to you.