



Flower Garden and Lawn. K

THE FREESIA.

(Part III. of a paper read before the Hamilton Horticultural Society, by Mr. Wm. Hunt.)



FIG. 1610.—THE FREESIA.

AND now we come to the last of my three subjects, the Freesia, that beautiful little bulb which produces those deliciously scented, tube-like flowers, so popular with every one for button-holes, sprays, or table decoration, and which are to be seen in every florist's window in early spring. We are also indebted to the Cape of Good Hope for this little gem in the bulb line. It is of recent intro-

duction, not having been brought prominently into notice until about twenty-five years ago. There are two varieties of the Freesia, they both belong to the natural order of Irids, which include several numerous classes of plants. The *Freesia refracta alba* is as its name implies, nearly white in color; the other variety, *Freesia leitchlinii* being very similar to *refracta alba*, of a somewhat stronger growth than the latter, a creamy yellow tinge running through the flower with a deep blotch of orange color on one or more of the petals, giving it rather a pretty appearance.

With the Freesias, as with most other classes of plants increased from seed, we have already variations from the original; in some flowers a bluish tinge may be noticed, but not of sufficient importance to produce any material difference, either in growth, or color of flower. By sowing the seed early in the spring and growing on in pots or frames they can be flowered the same year. The best way to raise them from seed is to sow a few seeds in two and a half inch pots, thin the plants when about one and a half inches high to five or six, or more in a pot, and grow on into five or six inch pots. To flower in this method prevents any check when