

## WINTER FLOWERING BULBS.

BY HERMANN SIMMERS, TORONTO.

## THE EASTER LILY.

Among the varieties most suited for indoor culture, we may class the Easter Lily (*Lilium longiflorum*, *Harrisii*). This variety, on account of its easy culture, has of late years been given a prominent place by all amateurs; but there may be some readers of the *Horticulturist* who are not aware of its remarkably easy culture, and who would give it a trial if they only had some thoroughly explicit directions. We will endeavour to give some directions based upon a thorough practical experience in the cultivation of the Easter Lily.

Take a sufficient quantity of good rich loam to fill an ordinary pint pot



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about three-quarters full, add the remaining quarter, of ordinary sand, in order to prevent the earth from souring;

then place the bulb in the centre of the pot, care being taken not to press the earth under the bulb at all, so that the roots of the bulb will have easy growth. Press the earth firmly around the bulb, after which water thoroughly; then place the pot in a totally dark portion of a moderately warm cellar, temperature not to be lower than 40°, or in a box, which would require to be covered. Watering the pot would be necessary about once a week, or, if the mould is moderately damp, it could be left for about ten days.

After treating the bulb in this form for about eight weeks, it could be brought to the light, care being used not to bring it to the light suddenly, or else the stem will be forced too quickly, and not be able to hold the large truss of white flowers which would appear in about five weeks after the above treatment.

We might add that it is necessary to water it at regular intervals, at the same time that the other plants in the house, or conservatory, are watered; but not too much at a time, as the bulb is liable to rot with too much watering.

If, at times, the bulb does not show as quick a growth as is desirable, an application of some prepared plant food may be given it, when the difference will at once be noted.

The directions, as given above, may appear somewhat lengthy to the readers of the *Horticulturist*, but the actual cultivation of the Easter Lily will not be found greater trouble than that of other plants in general.

Toronto, 8th Nov., 1886.