



Fig 1

CLOVES, CARNATIONS, AND PINKS.

THESE beautiful and fragrant plants belong to the order *Dianthus Caryophyllus*. There are many varieties, and they are propagated by cuttings, layering, and from seed.

In raising them it is necessary to get the best possible quality of seed. Some kinds are not prolific in seed-bearing, but most of the plants produce a large supply. The seed is to be sown in shallow pans or boxes filled with a light sandy soil. Cover the seed lightly, and keep the soil moist. If sown in the early spring, place the boxes in a heated greenhouse. In about a fortnight or three weeks the plants will be ready for pricking out into other boxes, and when strong enough transplant into the beds or pots where they are to remain.

Propagation from Cuttings. Choose for this purpose while the plants are in flower vigorous shoots, pick off the two lowermost leaves, and make a slit in the middle of the stalk *a* as shown in figure 1; plant under hand-glasses or in frames. The slit must be kept open by inserting a piece of the leaf. The soil should be of the same nature as for seed, and be kept moderately damp. When thoroughly rooted transplant into borders or otherwise as required. The cuttings which are chosen for striking should not have borne a bloom. This applies also to shoots for layering.

Propagation by Layering. Select shoots about eight or nine inches long, though shorter ones will suit. Having selected a shoot, *a* (see fig. 2), pick off all the leaves to about three inches from the top, *b*; then cut a slit at *c* in an upward direction. A

shallow hollow, *d*, having been prepared, bend down the shoot gently from the stem of the plant in the position shown, putting a small stone inside the tongue, *e*, to keep it open. Then peg the shoot down at *f*, to keep it firmly in its place. Having done so, fill up the hollow with light soil. Several layerings may be made from one plant. When rooted carefully cut off the shoot from the plant. What are termed pipings of pinks are shoots similar to cuttings of carnations.

The soil required for carnations and pinks should be of a moderately rich, loamy nature, and dressed on the top with rotted manure.

Great attention is paid to carnations for exhibition purposes, and in order to secure first-rate blooms extra care and treatment must be used in their culture.

M. BUCHANAN.

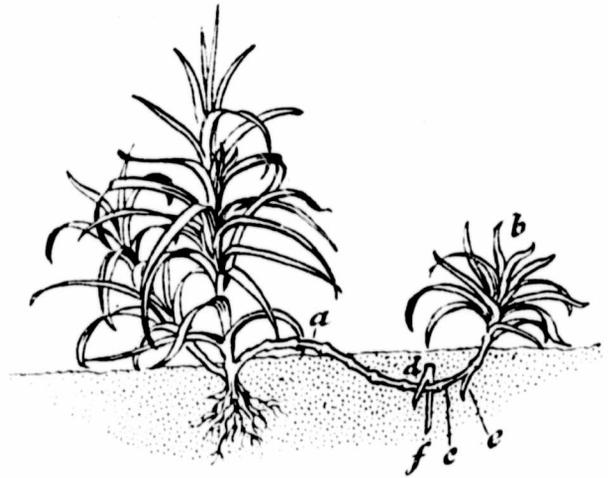


Fig 2

BANK HOLIDAY.

EASTER MONDAY will be the first Bank Holiday of the year. Let us all pray that the weather may be fine. A wet holiday drives thousands into the public-houses. A walk into the country, a trip into the town to stroll through a museum or picture gallery, a day by the sea for those who do not mind travelling in a crowded train, or a good game of cricket should afford pleasant holiday recreation to those who are privileged to enjoy the benefit of Sir John Lubbock's Bank Holiday Act. May those of our readers who happen to be of this happy company spend the day wisely and well!