

chemical action on the mass. Mr. William has rendered this latter fact evident in his admirably arranged nursery at Waltham, where the soil being a rather heavy loam have seen these Gladioli in a most thriving and whence have been derived the specimens which, though as yet but a limited set of these flowers, Mr. Paul has won a respectable position on the exhibition table, place in the prize lists. No one, therefore, hesitate to plant them from any difficulty to soil.

The question how these Gladioli can be made to lend their beauties in aid of the general effect at our autumnal flower shows, is one which begins to require consideration and discussion now that the growers and exhibitors are increasing in number. They do not seem to be quite suitable for pot culture: at least when exhibited in this form they have a rather too lanky, and the plants have not sufficiently furnished appearance. They are suitable flowers for cutting, and in this form doubtless they will be found best suited for exhibition tables. But then how are they to be shown? Are some exhibitors to show single spikes and others bouquets of each kind, or are all to be required to the exclusion of single spikes? We should say decidedly not, for this would be to give an undue advantage to quantity over quality. Besides, the managers of horticultural exhibitions, besides catering to please the exhibitors, should at least take care that the management of the institution entrusted to them should tend to improvement in cultivation, and how can this be the case, if bouquets of several varieties be permitted to compete for pre-eminence by mere bulk the single spikes of others who are probably more careful and skilful cultivators, but who possess less means or less comprehensive collection? Like a Hyacinth, the beauty of a Gladiolus depends in great measure on its well furnished spike, and the size and perfect form of its leaves; but how can these points be expected when a bunch is shown? Nothing, in fact brought out that way but colour, and the effect made by bunch showing in respect to the qualities referred to is much greater than compensated for by any gain in respect to display of colour. Therefore, we say single spikes should be shown in competitive exhibition.

Now should they be set up? To begin with, they don't look well to our eyes in ordinary boxes, which do well enough for Dahlias, but don't seem to suit the Gladiolus. We infinitely prefer the truss set up in one of Tye's dwarf Hyacinth bottles, or if he had plain or ornamented, as may be; though we imagine those of plain glass would be most appropriate. Then again a single spike of a Gladiolus, which, be it remembered, looks better of moderate than of ex-

cessive length, provided it is well bloomed, is bare and wanting in relieving foliage. Several attempts have been made to supply this deficiency: the group as a whole has been bordered by various broad-leaved plants to form a background and margin, but broad-leaved plants don't associate well with grassy leaved monocotyledonous like the Gladiolus; they look foreign to it, and seem out of place; a few of its own leaves have been sometimes used, as well as sprigs of some of the larger leaved Grasses such as *Poa aquatica*, *Phragmites communis* and the common striped ribbon grass of the gardens; of the Grasses, the best is the *Poa*, but none of them produce so good an effect, at least in our opinion as the natural foliage of the Gladiolus itself.

The result of our own observation and consideration of this subject then is this:—That for exhibition purposes, Gladioluses should be shown in the form of cut spikes; that the spikes should be of moderate and tolerably proportionate length, but above all well bloomed, not with two-thirds or more of their length undeveloped; that they should be set up singly, one spike of each variety; that they should be placed separately in Tye's Hyacinth glass; and that each spike should be accompanied only by a dressing of three or four natural Gladiolus leaves nearly as long as itself.—*Gardeners' Chronicle*.

Veterinary Department.

(Conducted by A. Smith, V. S.)

How is the Horse to be put in Condition.

Country gentlemen of humane feelings still fondly cling to the old plan of giving their horses an occasional run at grass. It is so natural, they argue, for the poor things to enjoy a few months of unrestricted liberty to graze on their native prairies, and take such exercise as they please. But, besides such poetical and sentimental recommendations, the run at grass is also supposed to "fine down" and strengthen the limbs, and invigorate the constitution. But to the correctness of these conclusions we seriously demur. Such management may answer well enough as a rest for the over-worked draught horse, but is unsuitable for hunters and well-bred hacks. They gorge themselves with bulky food, get gross and fat, and thus overweight their legs; full of spirit and courage, they gallop and play, running imminent risk of sprains and other lameness, and often come up with kicks and blemishes, and even with damaged wind, from undue exertion taken whilst the stomach has been overloaded. They lose, moreover, their hard condition and their ability to go, and proper feeding and well-regulated exercise must be continued for several months to recover the lost muscle and strength of wind and limb.