

in a temperature of fifty degrees at night. As they begin to get crowded pot them off into small pots, using a compost of loam with the addition of sufficient leaf mould and sand to make it light and porous. To this should be added a fair sprinkling of pulverized sheep manure. Continue to pot them on as the roots show around the side of the pots.

It is not advisable to sow seeds of the baby Primrose (*Primula Malacoides*) at this time. *P. Malacoides* is a very desirable plant which should have a place in every amateur's collection. It makes a better Easter plant than it does a Christmas plant and to start seeds now would result in many losses by damping off before the plants could be carried through to another Easter. Damping off is about the only thing that can be urged against this primula, and this to a large extent can be overcome by sowing the seeds later. June first is soon enough to start the seeds.

CANNAS
Cannas are very popular bedding plants and they are becoming more so each year as the new and improved varieties are being tried out. Where a large bed is to be planted nothing will give more satisfaction than these plants. They are showy and bloom throughout the summer until frost cuts them down.

To make the best showing the roots should be started early enough to produce good strong stock by bedding out time next June. They should be started as early in March as possible. If there are any varieties you wish to add to your collection now is the time to get them.

Remove the clumps from the place where they have stood all winter, shake off all the old soil, and cut away the dried up stalks and roots. They should then be cut into small pieces, and if stock is plentiful, left with two or three "eyes" to each piece. If, however, you are short of stock they may be cut to one "eye," although by so doing weak plants are often produced.

Have a few boxes ready such as you would use for sowing seeds in but preferably a little deeper. Place an inch of soil in the bottom of these, on which put the divisions of the cannas closely together, cover with light sifted soil and water thoroughly.

Very often some of the clumps are found to have started into growth before being taken from the winter quarter. Where this happens the eyes should be sorted and those with growths on them should be placed in a box by themselves, and all the dormant eyes together. Have but one variety in a box and mark the name plainly on it. When all the pieces are boxed up and watered they should be placed in a warm position where some "bottom heat" is to be obtained.

Cannas will grow and do well in a tem-

perature of from fifty to sixty degrees, after they are once started, but to get the dormant eyes into an active condition bottom heat is indispensable. This is where a great many amateurs fail when attempting to grow cannas with such conditions as generally obtain in the dwelling house.

Arrange matters so as to have the boxes elevated above the radiator, the kitchen range, or even an oil stove, as was suggested for starting warm blooded seeds last month. Don't have the boxes get real hot but maintain a steady

brisk heat and your cannas will respond handsomely. If such an arrangement is impossible indoors, make up a mild hot-bed out doors, and start them in a sandy soil. When they have made a few inches of growth they should be potted into three and a half or four inch pots, and grown along until bedding time in a temperature of fifty to sixty degrees. It should always be borne in mind that cannas are sub-tropical plants and are easily injured by frost, therefore planting out should be delayed until all chance of frost is over.

The Tuberous Bedding Begonia

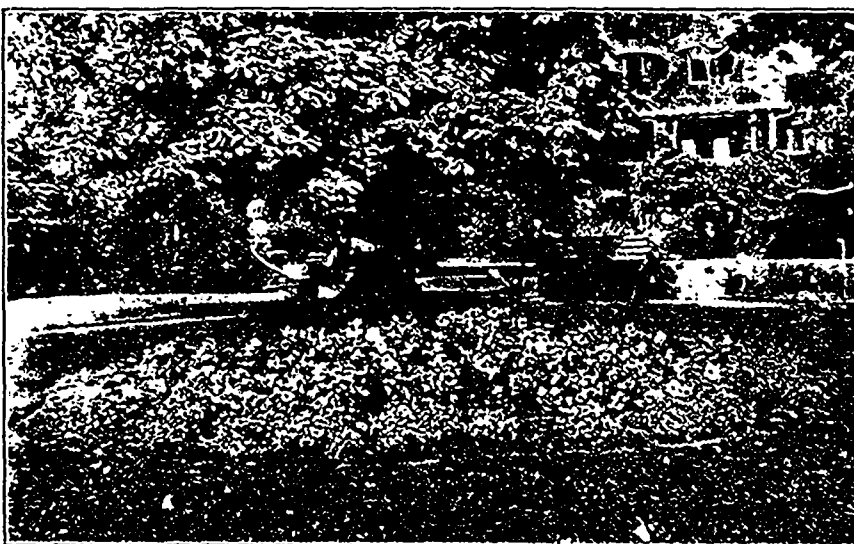
H. J. Moore, Queen Victoria Park, Niagara Falls, Ont.

WHERE the culture and requirements of the tuberous bedding begonia are understood the plant is very popular. The three outstanding essentials to successful cultivation are shade, moisture and a soil of light texture. These are as necessary as light and air to human beings. Who would not grow tuberous begonias, were such possible? Among the singles we find flowers five to seven inches in diameter, the colors ranging from pure white through all the shades to intense crimson, while the doubles, many of them resembling roses, are equally as varied in color, and as desirable. The frilled singles of recent introduction attract attention more quickly than the ordinary singles or doubles, and in many localities could be grown successfully. Less known, but equally beautiful, are the varieties Bertiniana, a tall vermilion single with pointed petals; Count Zeppelin, a dark orange double of dwarf habit; Lafayette, likewise of dwarf habit closely resembling Count Zeppelin; and Worthiana, a vermilion single, the

flowers somewhat resembling those of a fuschia.

For our beautiful tuberous bedding begonias, all of which are annual stemmed, we are indebted to the Andean species of South America, such as *B. Pearcei*, *Veitchii*, and probably *Davisii*, these being the first tuberous species introduced, and being readily crossed have proved worthy progenitors of our magnificent garden types.

It is not advisable to attempt to grow any tuberous variety on a large scale in localities where the temperature hovers around 85 or 90 degrees for weeks at a time, and foolish to attempt to grow any with a higher temperature, or where an abnormally dry atmosphere exists. If such be attempted doubles alone should be planted, as their closely arranged petals are more resistant to heat than the singles, whose petals do not afford protection to each other. An average summer temperature of 75, a humid atmosphere, and a light soil containing humus, retentive of moisture, are ideal conditions for promoting vigorous growth,



A Bed of Mixed Tuberous Begonias

These are not so effective as a bed of one variety.

—Photo by H. J. Moore.