

## HINTS ON THE EASTER LILY.

**B**ULBS potted in August may be expected to bloom at Christmas time. Planting of bulbs late in October or early in November allows plenty of time for slow growth and for flowering by Easter time. Pots should remain in the dark at least six weeks so that roots may grow plentifully from the base of the bulbs.

The Easter or Harris lily throws out a secondary group of roots a little above the bulb, soon after stem growth is properly begun. For this reason, more soil should be heaped above the bulb from time to time till the pot is full. The first planting should be deep in the pot to allow room for the additional soil added later.

Six months will be required for the complete development of the plant from the time of planting. When first brought from the cellar a group of tips will be seen protruding from the earth. Water moderately, and gradually expose to the light. When tips turn green, increase the light but not the temperature. Slow growth, in an atmosphere moist and having a temperature ranging from fifty-five to sixty-five degrees Fahrenheit, is advised. A dry, hot atmosphere is fatal to success.

To hasten the time of bloom bring into a warmer room, increase the sunlight, and keep the air moist by allowing

water to evaporate more or less constantly from a dish on the stove or register. To retard growth, when development appears too rapid and bloom probable before the desired time, set pot in cool dark room and water moderately.

If the soil is rich a profuse watering every third day will help the roots to abstract the nourishment it needs. If lacking nourishment, as may appear by weak growth, a half-pint of liquid manure should be given the plant each week or half-pint of water having in it ten drops of liquid ammonia. So large a bulb as the Easter lily is a gross feeder, and appreciates any extra care. After the plant has bloomed, it should be moderately watered till the foliage turns yellow. This indicates that the bulb is ripe and ready for a period of rest. Withhold water altogether, and set pot away in some cool cellar till the following October. It is then planted out of doors and treated as other lilies. Having bloomed once in the house, it is not fit for a second forcing, but out of doors it will renew itself so as to bloom in a year or two. In the open ground it is desirable that this lily should have some protection for winter, such as is afforded by two or three inches of coarse stable litter, or a thick covering of leaves.—J. F. B., *Vick's Floral Guide*.

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## CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

**T**HE chrysanthemum plants which have been wintered in the cellar should now be brought to the light and given plenty of air and water; and in a short time the light-colored shoots will take on a green

healthy appearance. After they have become well established they should be separated from the parent plant, each containing a portion of the fibrous roots which are supporting it, and potted into a small pot, where if