



FIG. 1986. FLOWERS ON SIDEBOARD.

one of the most enthusiastic and energetic florists of this continent up to the time of his demise a few years since. The flower of the geranium noticed is of a bright cerise-scarlet color. Its robust habit of growth, together with its free-flowering propensities, and its adaptability as a bedding variety in summer, or as a forcing variety in winter, have tended to make it a general favorite, especially with amateurs. There are several more varieties of geraniums of various colors, suited particularly for winter flowering, that were noticed in the article referred to previously, besides others of more recent introduction that can be easily obtained.

Plants are very susceptible to cold draughts of zero weather, and these must be prevented from striking directly on the plants by placing sheets of newspaper, or something similar, between them and the window on very cold nights.

If the plants are standing on a table it is easy to remove table and all a foot or two into the room from the window on very cold nights. This will often prevent a collection of window plants from being frozen and irretrievably ruined.

I have had handed to me a photo of a

small collection of plants that are evidently ready for an extra severe visit of winter weather. They also make a very pretty floral display on the sideboard for evening visitors to admire. It is to be hoped the plants as shown were removed back to the window as soon as possible, so as to give them the light and sun so necessary for the well-being of plant life in general. Those who succeed best with window-plants are those who endeavor to give them as nearly as possible the same surroundings that are supplied them naturally in their native haunts.

In the centre of the photograph at the back is seen a fine plant of *begonia sanguinea* with the last of several fine cymes of its delicate pale pink blossoms still showing. This is one of the most satisfactory varieties of the many numerous and beautiful types of begonias, specially adapted for window culture. Its thick heavy leaves, the upper surface of which is of a bright glossy olive green color, while the underneath side of the leaf is of a bright blood-red color,—hence its specific name “*sanguinea*”—seem able to withstand the dry heated atmosphere of a dwelling house, better perhaps than any of the begonia family, although there are several kinds, such as *B. manicata* and *B. manicata aurea*, that are good varieties for house or window (besides others of more recent introduction).

The cyclamen in the centre, and the pot of Von Sion and Orange Phoenix narcissi on either side, and the small plants at the extreme ends of the side-board had a very pretty effect altogether when the room was lighted up for the evening. A hanging pot or two of tradescantia or a trailing plant of German ivy or smilax would have completed a very pretty picture.

With increased fire-heat, insect pests will develop quickly. Green fly and red spider are the foes most to be dreaded. Sponging