

though weakly, whereas they perish after flowering in water.

October and November are the months for potting bulbous roots, and procuring a supply of house-plants. Of the former, the Hyacinth, the Crocus, the Polyanthus-Narcissus, and the Jonquil, are the surest, not being infected with the green aphid. Tulips, especially the early kinds, are exceedingly gay and beautiful, and one kind is very sweet-scented, but they are apt to be attacked by the green aphid or plant-louse. This can be destroyed, however, by putting the plant into a closet, and burning tobacco leaves beside them, as the poison of tobacco-smoke kills all small creatures. Watering with soap and water is also a good remedy.

The order in which flowers potted in October are likely to come into bloom, will be as follows: Snowdrops, December; Crocus, January; Hyacinths and Vanthol Tulips, February; Narcissus, Jonquils, and late Tulips, March, or thereabouts.

The process of potting is very simple. Fill a fourth of the pot with broken flower-pots, or, what is better with small lumps of charcoal, for drainage, and the other three-fourths with rich garden mould mixed with coarse sand. The mould will do without the sand, or the sand without the mould, but both are best. Set the bulb in the earth, barely covering it, and keep it regularly watered. Bulbs in flower-glasses should be kept in the dark till their roots are pretty well grown, when they should be brought into the light,—with those in pots it does not matter so much, but they should be rather dark for a while, to let the roots grow before the stem.

Of herbaceous and shrubby house-plants, the most common and easily cultivated are happily also some of the most beautiful and long-flowering. Among these are the Monthly Rose, Geranium (not the Pelargonium), Fuchsia, Chinese Primrose, Wall-flower, Lobelia, Hyderangea, etc. There are many others of great beauty, which only bloom at a particular season, such as the Pelargonium, Auricula, Cinneraria, Calceolaria, Azelia, etc. The Pansey, Ver-

bona, Heliotrope, and Petunia are perhaps the most constant bloomers of all, but they are shy of flowering in the house in winter. Of these last-named flowers, the Rose is the only one attacked by the aphid; and it can be cleared, as before mentioned, by tobacco-smoke or soap-suds.

Flower-pots should be provided with saucers, to prevent the water which filters through the pots from dropping on the floor. Or, what is much better, the pots should be placed in boxes, with moss round them, which should be kept always moist. The evaporation from the sides of the common porous pot is far too rapid in a warm, dry room, and glazed pots do not suit for plants at all. Once a week or so, plants should be placed in a tub and watered copiously, to refresh the leaves and branches. The water used for flowers should on no account be cold. If it has not stood for a good while in a warm room, it should have sufficient hot water mixed with it to bring the whole to the heat of new milk. More disappointments have resulted from using cold water for house-plants, and those which are planted out in gardens in spring, than, perhaps, from all other causes put together.

In purchasing plants in pots for winter and spring flowering in the house, those that are low-growing and well covered with leaves are the best. Tall, spindly stalks; with few leaves,—even though they have some flowers or flower-buds on them,—are to be avoided, as also old, scrubby plants. Those that have rested in summer, or vigorous young plants, are the only ones that are in a condition to blossom in winter; and much of the amateur's success in winter gardening will depend on the reliableness of the nurseryman who furnishes the plants. Bulbous Roots, as we have said before, are very easily managed. They have all the necessary strength stored up in themselves, and only require moisture, light, and moderate heat to flower magnificently.

The green leaves of house-plants are beautiful and cheerful in winter, and it is delightful to watch the development of the flowers.