

other litter of six, two of which are snow white, the others greyish white; a casual passer by, though close to them, would not discern them unless they were in motion.

HYACINTHS IN GLASSES.

The following mode of procedure may perhaps be only partially suitable to our keen Canadian winter climate, but the hint is worth noting for those who delight in these beautiful and fragrant substitutes for the summer Flora:—A correspondent of the *Field* says—"The following I have found to be an excellent way to start the roots of hyacinths for water (an uncertain process sometimes). I found it out by accident, and it may have been noticed by others before; but I have never seen it in print. I had potted 50 or 60, and placed them in a cool shade to plunge in saw-dust, but the weather being favorable for out door work they were left for a week or ten days. On looking at them, they had by rooting forced themselves out of the soil, and emitted a perfect circle of roots; this induced me to place all my roots intended for glasses this year, in small pots filled with light soil, just large enough to take the bulb (the motive for this was to keep the roots close, so that when they were about one inch long they would go into the neck of the glass without breaking). The roots soon filled the glasses, and this ensures a fine bloom; they were kept in a cool dark cupboard for a month, then gradually put into light and heat, the latter very moderate, the hyacinth being impatient of much and rapid heat."

ETHNOLOGY AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

INSCRIBED SIDONIAN SARCOPHAGUS.

At the November meeting of the Syro-Egyptian Society of London, Mr. Ainsworth gave some details of the discovery at Sidon of a Sarcophagus, with a Phœnician inscription on it. Dr. Benisch read a translation of the inscription by the Rabbi Isidor Kalisch, with remarks on the mode of decipherment. This translation was compared with others made by Dr. Dieterich, of Marburg; by the Duc de Luynes, in Paris, and by Mr. W. Turner, and a writer signing himself E. E. S., in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*. Only comparatively slight discrepancies distinguish these independent translations, made almost simultaneously on both sides of the Atlantic, thus leaving no room to question that here we have another of the fruits of the singular impetus given to philological and palæographical research by the successful labors of Young and Champoleon. The language of Phœnicia, after being lost for upwards of two thousand years, is thus being deciphered, and its secrets placed within our reach by living scholars.

SKULLS OF THE ANCIENT ROMANS.

At the recent meeting of the British Association at Glasgow, a paper was read before the Ethnological section by J. B. Davis, F. S. A., "On the Skulls of the Ancient Romans." Three skulls were exhibited to shew the high cerebral development. One of these skulls was found in a sarcophagus at York, and another under the Via Appia. The teeth of two of them were stained with verdigris, from contact with the copper coin placed in the mouth to pay Charon, the ferryman to Hades. In one case, the fare, an obolus, was found beside the skeleton.

Dr. Black made a few remarks upon the general characteristics of the Roman skull, an example of which, found in a Roman shaft at Newstead, Roxburghshire,