

FLORAL NOTES

BULBS FOR THE WINDOW.

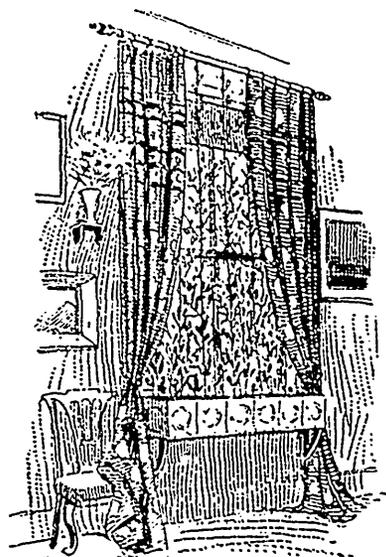


FIG. 2704. A WINDOW GARDEN.

VERY few homes in Ontario indulge in the luxury of a private greenhouse; it is therefore upon the window garden that most of our lady amateurs must depend for the practise of floriculture in winter. Many ladies, ambitious to excel, and fond of their floral treasures, attempt to grow too many varieties and find that they do not agree over temperature, or moisture, or sunlight, and in consequence that many of them look sickly and fail to bloom. Far better make a study of a few plants at a time, learn to know the conditions of their success, and then add by degrees to the collection.

Winter flowering bulbs are a very interesting class of window flowers for the beginner, and now is the time to make one's purchases.

"Last winter," says a writer in *Country Life in America*. "I learned for the first time how easily and cheaply one may have

flowers in the home throughout the winter months if the bulbs are secured in the early fall and planted at intervals.

"We purchased only five bulbs of choice varieties, and the cost did not exceed the expense of a blooming plant or two at Christmas or Easter time. Moreover, half the pleasure derived from plants and flowers comes from watching their wonderful growth and development.

"We procured a number of four, five and six-inch pots, some fine, clean sand, and a quantity of well-rotted manure. The kind of manure suitable is practically odorless and easy to handle, and should be chopped or crumbled fine. We next mix the sand, manure and dry garden soil, using equal parts of each, and after the bottom of the pots had been covered with pieces of coal or crockery for drainage, the bulbs were planted at a depth below the top varying from one-fourth of an inch to an inch, depending on the size. After the bulbs had been watered thoroughly they were placed in a dark, cool corner of the cellar, where they remained until the tops were well above the soil. When in the cellar we did not water them oftener than once in ten days, but when the pots were transferred to the sitting-room they were given moisture each day. In from three to twelve weeks the pots were full of roots, and as the tops appeared above the soil one could not help but wonder how they had managed to keep their faces so clean and white."

Among the bulbs which are easily grown, and which give much satisfaction, we may mention the *Narcissus*, which may now be had in a great number of interesting varieties.

After an experience with a dozen varie-