

THE ZINNIA.



THE Zinnias are a very showy garden flower, so named in honor of J. G. Zinn, Professor of Botany at Gothingen. There are about half a dozen known species, mostly from Mexico. The best known species are annuals, and from one of these, *Zinnia elegans*, most of the garden varieties have descended, some of them single and some of them double, *e.g.*, *coceinea*, *Darwini*, *violacea*, etc.

Zinnia's should be sown in gentle heat, two or three months before time



FIG. 682.

for transplanting into the garden, and great care should be taken to prevent stunting at any stage of growth.

Cook Potatoes in Their Jackets.—Dr. Letheby, an English physician, who has given much attention to the analysis of foods, says that potatoes cooked in their skins contain a much larger amount of nutriment than if peeled before cooking. He says that baked potatoes are not only more delicious, but that they contain eleven per cent. more nutritious material than boiled potatoes.—*Literary Digest*.

Apple Trees of unfertile varieties, separated from other trees and that do not bear should be grafted with a fertile variety. To stimulate growth where the orchard has been in sod and cropped annually, plow three to four in deep in the spring, put on a liberal application of ashes and bone dust, and cultivate every fortnight during the season until Aug. or Sept.