

## THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

The *Pandanus Veitchii* is another very attractive variegated plant that can be highly recommended; easy of cultivation, graceful in appearance, it is one of the best we have.

I might go on and enumerate a large number of decorative plants, but I do not consider it necessary. In the care of what decorative plants you have, let me impress upon you the importance of care and judgment in watering, as the all important secret in growing plants. It is hard to learn and harder to teach; it is an art in itself. You must be in touch with your subject, then by diligent practice and close observation it becomes as it were a second nature. See that the drainage is perfect. Sponging off the foliage once in a while is a benefit, but do not make the mistake of putting them out in the rain to get a good wash; while it may not hurt them in the summer, it is death to them in cold weather. Decorative plants require all the light you can give them, but not the direct sunlight, it is apt to burn and disfigure them.

### FLOWERING PLANTS.

Azaleas are amongst the most easily managed flowering plants we have; they are imported from Belgium, and are now sold at very nominal prices. Considering their beauty and the length of flowering season, they should be in every collection. Great care should be taken to see that they are thoroughly watered, for on this depends your success or failure. Placed in a moderately cool room they will last in bloom from six to ten weeks.

The Chinese Primrose is perhaps the most popular and altogether the most satisfactory of all the flowering house plants we grow, beginning to bloom as it does in early fall and continuing all winter. In its freedom it has few equals

and no superiors; its only requirements is a cool light room and ordinary treatment. Cyclamen, with the wonderful improvement that has been made within the last few years, has brought forth such noteworthy praise that it is considered as indispensable to every collection. It is raised from seed which give by all odds the best results. It can be grown on from year to year; but I do not recommend that, as it will seldom do as well after the first year. In its early stages it requires the skill of an expert, so that here again I would recommend that you buy the plants just as they are coming into bloom, which will be in November. If they have been properly grown they will give you a profusion of bloom nearly all winter.

There is perhaps no class of plants that give more universal satisfaction than the Begonia. Whether it be flowering or ornamental, the tuberous rooted begonia with its enormous and gorgeous flowers, its wide range of colour, commends itself to all. The new flowering varieties which have been introduced within the last few years are such an acquisition and improvement over the older ones that no lover of flowers can afford to be without them; their ease of culture, and profuse blooming qualities, are found in no other class of plants. They require a light rich fibrous soil, firm potting and a sunny situation.

Now I have mentioned a few of the standard commercial plants, but the list that may be selected from is almost unlimited, e.g.—Fuchsia, Heliotrope, Hydrangea, Cineraria, etc., all of which do equally as well and give good satisfaction. Then if you so desire you may have a succession of the softer growing plants, such as Ageratum, Mignonette, Petunia, Wallflower, Candytuft, Sweet Alyssum, etc. These can all be raised from seed in late autumn or early winter