

## QUESTION DRAWER.

### Palms.

**1085.** SIR,—What is the best time to shift palms, and the best soil to pot them in.

Referred to paper on Palm Culture in February issue of the C. HORTICULTURIST.

### Clematis.

**1086.** SIR,—What is the best time to plant clematis, spring or fall? Should clematis be pruned, and if so, at what time?

Plant as early as possible in spring. The Clematis, as a rule, requires very little pruning; cutting out the dead portions, or shortening back the growth to strong vigorous buds, is all that is generally necessary. If the growth is too dense, thin out the weaker growth altogether as required. The best time to do this is in spring, just as the buds are showing growth.

### Budding Roses.

**1087.** SIR,—What would you advise, budded roses, or roses on their own roots, for the amateur.

Roses on their own roots are decidedly the best, whether Hybrid Perpetuals or the more tender classes of Tea and Noisette roses.

Hardy roses when budded or grafted, require to be heavily mulched with manure, or sufficient soil thrown around them to cover the junction of the graft or bud with the stock so as to protect them in severe weather; they are also very liable to canker at the point where grafted. Another objection to budded or grafted stock is the worthless growth from below the graft, which has to be kept constantly cut off, or it would soon smother and eventually kill the rest of the plant. Tea and Noisette roses are also best on their own roots, with possibly a few exceptions, one of

which is the well known and ever blooming white tea rose, Niphetos, which in a greenhouse gives the best results when budded or grafted on a strong growing, climbing rose, such as Lamarque or Cloth of Gold.

### Hyacinths and Narcissi.

**1088.** SIR,—Will hyacinths and Roman Narcissi flower as early potted in the soil as in water?

There would be very little difference in time of flowering these bulbs, whether grown in soil or water; condition of bulbs and temperature affect both methods at different seasons very materially.

### Cyclamen.

**1089.** SIR,—What is the best soil in which to grow Cyclamen, and how should they be treated in the summer?

The best soil for Cyclamens is light, fibrous loam, enriched with dry cow manure; use plenty of drainage in the pots. For summer treatment keep the plants growing for a short time after flowering, then withhold water gradually, giving sufficient at intervals to keep the plants fairly moist, without drying off altogether. The plants should be kept as cool as possible. A cold frame and sash in a shaded position out of doors, is a good place for them. Seedling Cyclamens should be kept growing steadily the first summer.

### Azaleas.

**1090.** SIR,—How should these be treated after flowering?

Azaleas should be repotted, if necessary, immediately after flowering, and kept in a temperature of about 65 degrees to complete their growth; remove