

## FLORAL HINTS.

planted in a rather shady place and receives a proper supply of moisture. The single varieties do better in the border than the double ones, but either kind will prove unexcelled as a pot plant.

The *Gloxinia* is the Tuberous Begonia's only rival, but, inasmuch as it is not so free-flowering as the Begonia it has not so many admirers. However, a well grown specimen in full bloom is something to be proud of.—*Parks' Floral Guide*.

LICE ON PLANTS.—Lousy plants should be laid on their sides in a sink and the foliage wet with tea made by steeping tobacco stems in water. The decoction should not be very strong. Repeat when necessary. Whale oil soapsuds may be used for the same purpose. Dissolve a piece of soap as big as your thumb in a gallon of water thoroughly. If the plants are in a conservatory or greenhouse, by all means fumigate with the tobacco stems. A moderate amount of smoke every other day until the enemy is routed will not injure the plants; then fumigate regularly twice a week.

ORNITHOGALUM ARAUCUM. - The Arabian Star of Bethlehem is without a rival for cultivation in the window garden or greenhouse, on account of the ease with which it can be grown, and the great length of time the flowers remain perfect when properly grown and

cared for. The bulbs can be potted at any time from September to January, and should be given a compost of two-thirds turfy loam and one-third well-decayed manure, well mixed. Use pots proportionate to the size of the bulb (a four inch or five-inch pot), and in planting set the bulbs just below the surface of the soil, so that they will be entirely covered. Water thoroughly, and place in a dark, cool cellar to make root. Then they may be removed to a light, sunny situation, where a temperature of 50 to 60 degrees is maintained, watering freely, and giving as much fresh air as is possible.—*Parks' Floral Guide*.

SHIRLEY POPPIES.—We shall ever owe a debt of gratitude to the Rev. W. Wilks for the glowing beauty of Shirley Poppies with their lovely white borders and splashings without the black spots.

They are so fair and bright, laughing in the morning sunshine, bowing so sweetly to the storm, growing without care. I always carry the seed with me and scatter beside the way, any and everywhere I think they are needed. Thin them, if they come up too thickly, and the flowers will be of finer quality, but not so abundant.

We all owe a double duty to mankind now such varieties of flowers are so abundant and so cheap. I buy flower seeds for gifts for little ones instead of sweet meats, and they are all delighted with their posy-beds.—M. A. HOSKINS.

