

## AUTUMN AND WINTER NOTES FOR THE AMATEUR.



FIG. 1691.—GERANIUM CUT BACK IN THE FALL.

special favorites particularly, dug up from the beds in their full vigor, potted with great care, with foliage and flowers complete; the result being, if they grow and survive the winter at all, that only tall, lanky, almost leafless specimens are secured, and which by bedding out time in May or June are such miserable looking objects that one feels tempted to throw them on the rubbish pile rather than plant them near nicely grown plants. The method I follow is to procure a flat wooden box without a cover, of the size required, and about three inches deep, with a few small holes bored through the bottom to secure drainage, dig the plants up from the beds before frost, and prune the tops back severely. The large roots also may be cut back, leaving all of the small fibry roots possible. The accompanying small photo of a plant cut back, ready to plant in the box, will give a good idea how to perform this operation. Place the plants rather deep and close together in the box without crowding too closely, filling the box nearly to the

top as you proceed with fine sand. Rinse sand from a stone road will answer, but lake or river sand is preferable. The plants should be a little deeper in the sand than they were in the soil in the garden. Water the plants once thoroughly, place the box near the window in a warm place, and water only when the sand shows signs of dryness, avoiding keeping the roots too wet. After the plants have started growth well, remove the box to a rather cool position near the window so as to avoid a rapid, sappy growth. The plants can remain in the box undisturbed until spring, except to pick out any decayed or too crowded foliage, when they can be taken out and potted singly into ordinary potting soil and grown on for use in beds or borders; they will produce nice stocky, dwarf plants that will reward their owner with a wealth of flowers that cannot be obtained from young plants, and will amply repay for the time and attention given them. A box twelve inches square of the depth mentioned will hold a dozen or more ordinary sized plants easily.



FIG. 1692.—SLIP.  
plant is shown in the photograph.

Cuttings of geraniums taken in August or early in September can be grown in a similar way to that recommended for the old plants except that a box two inches deep will be better for them than a deeper one. Cutting prepared ready to

W. HUNT.

*Hamilton.*