

## HOW TO GROW THE TUBEROUS BEGONIA.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE LINDSAY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

By W. H. STEVENS, B. A.

IT may be of interest to know that the whole order of plants called Begonia was named after a French botanist Begon, and their introduction to European floriculture took place about a century ago, there being at that time only a few discovered.

The tuberous begonia was introduced into England early in the present century (1810) from South America. Peru, Brazil and Mexico are the native places of the plant. A few originated in Africa, the West Indies, and other warm countries.

The plant may be secured from most Canadian and American florists and seedsmen. The special features that recommend them are the foliage and the various colors of the flowers, shading from pure white to pink and deep crimson; from pale yellow to orange, and from almost brown to bronze.

There are two varieties of tuberous begonias, the erect and the drooping. The latter are especially adapted for window boxes and hanging baskets placed in partially-shaded places, protected from strong winds.

The easiest way to secure a plant is by join-

ing the Lindsay Horticultural society, the next easiest way is to buy the tubers from some reliable florist.

The plants should be secured early in March, and if you can command a temperature from 60 to 70 degrees, start the growth at once. Secure a flat box, say 2½ to 3 inches in depth, with holes bored in the bottom for drainage. Put about half an inch of sand in the box first, so as to cover the bottom evenly. Then place in the bulbs, and sift in dry sand to almost cover the bulbs, water well, and even up any holes

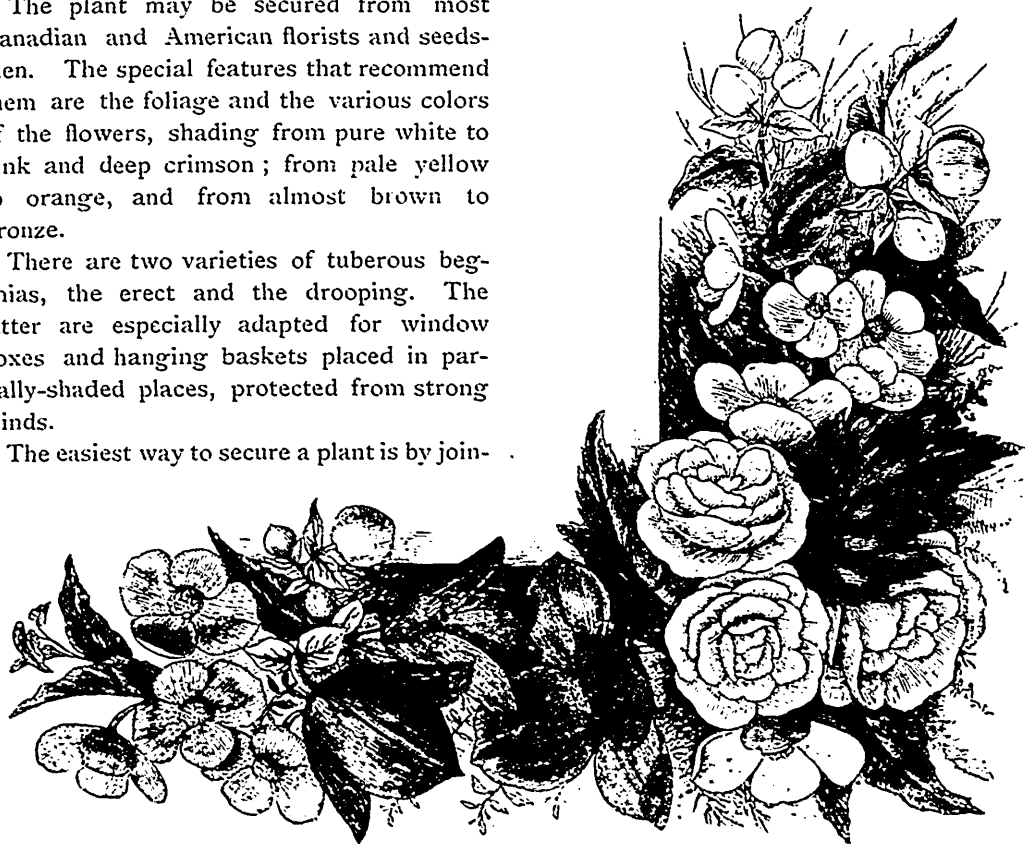


FIG. 2155.