

GREENHOUSE AND WINDOW.

THE increasing power of the sun's rays as the end of January approaches will brighten up the outlook for a better supply of blossom than has existed during the early part of the winter. From now until spring there should be a succession of the showy, welcome, and one might almost say "anticipating blossoms" of the natural spring flowering bulbs, such as daffodils, narcissi, hyacinths, etc., as these always seem by their bright attractive blossoms to bring prospective spring nearer to us than it would otherwise seem to be without them. Bulbs are indispensable for greenhouse and window effect in winter. Stevias, Eupatoriums, Epiphyllum truncatum (lobster cactus), and similar plants will also make a variety of blossom at this season of the year. The last named plant, of which there are several varieties, makes a grand addition to a few greenhouse or window plants in winter. The Epiphyllums succeed best when grafted on the Pereskia stock. The grafting process is not a difficult operation to accomplish, the best time to secure cuttings or growth with which to propagate being probably after the plants are out of flower in spring. A small piece of the cactus can be broken off at a joint, inserted in a cleft made in the stock, and secured there by a sharp piece of stick being run through the stock and graft. If the atmosphere is at all moist, nothing further will be needed to ensure success. Tying with a piece of string will answer the same purpose as the small pointed piece of stick, to secure the graft in position. Cuttings of these plants will also root readily in sand, but are better suited to furnish hanging pots, brackets, etc., than for growing in the ordinary way. A light sandy loam, not very rich, with plenty of drainage, and not too much water at the roots, are conditions that

suit Epiphyllums the best. The bright colored, odd looking flowers of these plants, protruding as they do from the extreme tips of their peculiar flat, crenate growth, give them a unique appearance, and making a plant or two of them a striking feature amongst a general collection of greenhouse plants. In summer plants of the Epiphyllum can be stood outside in partial shade until early autumn, and require very little care and attention. The Epiphyllums make good plants also for the window. Calla lilies will require plenty of water at the roots and an occasional syringing of the foliage. These plants are very subject to aphid or green fly, and sponging the parts affected with weak tobacco water, or a light fumigation from burning damp tobacco stems, will keep down these little pests that multiply so fast on greenhouse plants generally.

Amaryllis bulbs that have been dormant or semi-dormant during winter, will soon show signs of active growth. These should be potted at once on showing signs of growth. A fairly rich loamy soil, and about an inch of broken pots for drainage, suits most of the numerous varieties and types of the Amaryllis family.

Late flowering cinerarias must be repotted into large pots before the pots they are in are filled with roots. The earlier sown Cinerarias will soon be showing flower, and a little weak liquid cow manure once a week will help to produce large flowers. Overhead syringing, almost daily, helps these plants and also assists in keeping down green fly; the latter are very partial to cinerarias. Tepid, clear water, should be used for the latter purpose.

All autumn struck geranium cuttings should be potted into small pots. Any old plants of these that were cut back, and have been kept in sand, can be potted into as