

IRISH FLOWERS AND JAPANESE FERN BULBS.

We have not been favoured with many novelties in Flora's realm from the Emerald Isle, but are glad to see our Irish friends are now offering some. Irish Tulips and Anemones are catalogued by Messrs. Joseph Breck & Sons, of Boston. The Tulips are described by this most reliable firm as quite distinct, and in many ways superior to the Dutch sorts. They all bloom somewhat later. The flowers are exceedingly large, the colours unsurpassed for brilliancy and are delightful fragrant.

No other Tulips compare with them in grand colour and size.

The new Irish form of Anemone is infinitely superior to those hitherto offered.

The flowers are nearly all double and the colors range through all shades from pure white to deep maroon.

Another novelty is the Japanese Fern ball; the centre is most ingeniously covered with few roots, they are started into growth by being soaked in a pail of water, then hung in a window and watered two or three times a week, and the ball becomes a mass of beautiful green lace-like foliage.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT MUSHROOMS.

There are 150 species of eatable Mushrooms and Toadstools, and about 30 of these of popular utility in various parts of the world.

The flesh of the mushroom has been proved to be almost identical with meat and possesses the same nutritious properties.

The analogy is still further shown by the discrimination of the palate; many kinds of fungi, when cooked, are similar to meats in taste and consistency.

The meadow mushroom, (*Agaricus campestris*) is the one which is the most popular and, strange to say, the only one which can be cultivated artificially; the spores of other species have been frequently transplanted but without success.

The most poisonous Toadstool or mushroom is "*Amanita Veneris*," it is easily detected but fearfully poisonous, and is called by some the "deadly *Amanita*."

A most interesting and beautifully illustrated work is the one on edible and poisonous Toadstools and mushrooms written by Mr. W. Hamilton Gibson, and published by the Harper Brothers.

Mr. Gibson shows that 150 species can be eaten, but only speaks of 30 as being popular, and gives an awful account of the poisonous qualities of others. The question is whether it is wise to suggest the eating of any but the true meadow mushroom which everybody knows; the risk is too great to experiment upon such as there is no absolute certainty as to their identification which to the initiated is difficult.

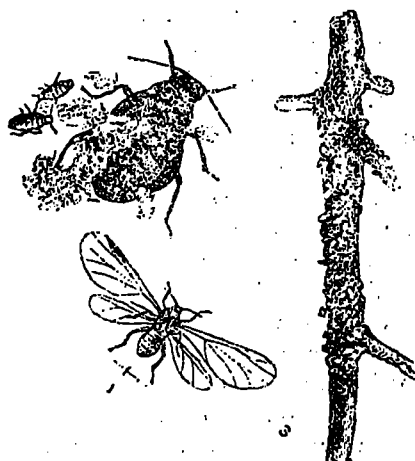
Note.—A peculiar property of some kinds of mushrooms is that they affect some people injuriously, while they are perfectly innocuous when eaten by others. Ed.

INSECTS INJURIOUS TO VEGETATION.

(Continued).

The Woolly Aphis, or American Blight.

(*Schizoneura lanigera*).



1. Winged female, magnified; and line showing natural size. 2. Wingless viviparous female, magnified. 3. Apple twig, covered by woolly aphides.

This insect has decidedly increased during the past few years, particularly in