

## The Flower Garden.

## Bauhinia.

This interesting genus of leguminous plants was named by Plumier, in honor of the brothers, John and Casper Bauhin (two celebrated botanists of the sixteenth century), in consequence of most of the species having their leaves composed of two lobes, which are either quite separate, or, more frequently, joined together by a portion of their inner margins, and which Plumier thought symbolic of the united labors of the two Bauhins in the cause of science. The numerous species are extensively diffused throughout the tropics, particularly in Brazil and India. They are generally climbers, frequently attaining a gigantic size; some few, however, form trees or large shrubs. Their flowers are produced either singly or in racemes opposite the leaves, and have a calyx with a cylindrical tube split on one side, or rarely five parted, making five unequal spreading petals.

*B. tomentosa* is a native of Ceylon, where it forms a small tree, growing about fifteen feet high, and having pale-yellow flowers spotted with crimson, which has given rise to the superstitious idea that they are sprinkled with the blood of St. Thomas, hence the tree is called St. Thomas' tree.

*B. Vahlia* is the Malvo climber of India, a plant whose gigantic shrubby stems often attain a length of 300 feet, and climb over the tops of the highest trees of the forest, twisting so tightly round their stems that they not unfrequently strangle and cause death, the stems ultimately decaying and leaving a sheath of climbers standing in their place. The young leaves and shoots are covered with a rust colored scurf, and are furnished with tendrils. The leaves are very large, often more than a foot in diameter, composed of two oval-shaped lobes, joined together for about half their length and heart-shaped at their base. The flowers are snowy-white, and arranged in racemes. The exceedingly tough fibrous bark of this species is employed in India for making ropes, which, from their great strength, are used in the construction of the suspension bridges across the river Jumna.

*B. Corymbosa*, the subject of our illustration, is comparatively an unknown plant, although one of very great interest. It is a woody climber of free growth, with bifid leaves, accompanied with short tendrils, producing terminal corymbs of beautiful flowers of a warm rosy-pink color, which is also the color of the stamens in the expanded rosy flowers. It is found in Hong Kong, but whether it is indigenous to that island is a question with those who have made that plant a study.

## Spring Bulbs.

After our long winter, when, for four or six months, according to the season, no vegetation has shown life, save the Pines and the Spruces and their congeners, we hail with delight the first green blades that shoot through the soil. On this account some of our little, hardy, native plants that give their blossoms as soon as we have a few warm days, deserve careful culture, and it is a pleasure to know that in many places they are garden treasures. The Snowdrop, and the Crocus, and the blue Periwinkle, how quickly they rejoice in the returning warmth! For a mass of bright, rich color in the garden in early spring the Tulip is our main dependence, and it is worthy of all the attention its culture demands. For the best results annual replanting is necessary. To leave the bulbs in the ground in the same place from year to year

is sure to result in diminished blooms until the semblance to their former selves is lost. The Tulip is best suited with a spot that is well drained and fully exposed to the sun, and a soil that is a fresh, substantial, friable mold containing some sand. It should be enriched by the addition of plenty of old cow manure well dug in. In forming a bed the surface should be raised several inches in the central part in order to prevent water standing on it in the winter season. The bulbs can be set about three inches in depth and from four to six inches apart, giving the taller varieties the greater distance. The latter part of September and through the month of October is the best time for planting. Before hard freezing occurs it is best to give the bed a light covering of litter or evergreen boughs, or leaves, which are better than anything else. The question arises, how shall we manage with the Tulips? The best to be done in these circumstances is to set plants in the spaces between the bulbs, which are allowed to remain until ripe, and are then lifted and placed in a dry, shady, airy corner until they have

The general treatment of the Narcissus in the open ground is about the same as that of the Tulip. By reason of its fragrance, as well as its many beautiful varieties, and its free-blooming, it is quite desirable for house culture. The Jonquils are the most sweet-scented, and are favorites for potting on that account.

In potting Narcissus bulbs it is best to keep the neck or top of the bulb even with the surface of the soil; three or four bulbs can occupy a five or six inch pot. With proper management the flowers can be had by the winter holidays. To do this the bulbs should be potted about the first of October, the pots set away in a cold frame, or in some snug corner, and covered at least a foot deep with leaves, and be left for five or six weeks, when some of them will be started, and they can be removed to the house, but not into a strong heat; a temperature of 60° will produce better flowers than a higher one. The Roman and the Paper White Narcissus, and the Jonquils should be selected for forcing. Narcissus bulbs flower quite freely in vases of water.

The varieties of *Ixia* are very beautiful and interesting. The bulbs are called half-hardy, and in this climate are only raised in the house, treating them the same as Narcissus. The flowers are from one to two inches in diameter and of many colors.—[Vick's Magazine.]

## Propagation of Cuttings.

A simple method of starting cuttings of Geraniums and Fuchsias. Common saucers or plates can be used to hold the sand in which the cuttings are placed. The sand is put in to the depth of an inch or so, and the cuttings inserted in it close enough to touch each other. The sand is then watered until it becomes in the condition of mud, and placed on a shelf in the green-house, or on the window-sill of the sitting-room or parlor, fully exposed to the sun and never shaded. But one condition is essential to success: until the cuttings become rooted the sand must be kept continually saturated, and kept in the condition of mud; if once allowed to dry up, exposed to the sun as they are, the cuttings will quickly wilt, and the whole operation will be defeated. By the saucer system, a higher temperature can be maintained without injury, as the cuttings are in reality placed in water, and will not droop at the same temperature as if the sand was kept in the regular condition of moisture maintained in the propagating bench. When the cuttings are rooted, they should be potted in small pots, and treated carefully by shading and watering for a few days, as previously directed.

LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY cannot be planted in a place where it will not grow; in sun or shade, in rich or poor soil, it will thrive. There is no flowering plant that will do as well under a tree as the Lily-of-the Valley, and none that will more liberally reward generous treatment. The best time to plant is in October; plant the pips singly, about three inches apart each way.

THE CARNATION AS A WINDOW PLANT.—A plant will not bloom continuously. If a Carnation which has been planted in the open border has flowered freely all summer, it is unfair to expect it to bloom through the winter. It should be prepared for winter blooming by depriving it of its buds during summer. If this has not been done, it will be well to cut off all the buds now visible upon the plants needed for winter blooming, and take them up before cool nights check their growth. Give the plants, after they have been taken up and potted, shade for several days.



BAUHINIA CORYMBOSA.

parted with some of their moisture, then they can have the dirt and the old skin removed from them, and be placed in paper bags, or in dry sand on a shelf in the cellar, to remain until planting time in autumn.

For winter and early spring flowering in pots in the house, what are known as the Duc Van Thol and Single Early varieties are employed. These come into bloom in the shortest time, and are of a great variety of bright colors. Three or four bulbs should be placed in a six-inch pot, covering them with two or three inches of soil. As soon as potted, water and then set the pots away in the cellar, and cover them by throwing three or four inches of soil over them in order to prevent their drying out rapidly. After six or eight weeks they will have probably made plenty of roots, and then can be taken up and exposed to the light.

The Duc Van Thol, Tournesol and Single Early varieties are best to plant in beds, as they soonest mature.

The Late Show Tulips require a season somewhat longer, but they are of great beauty, both in form and colors, and are most prized by Tulip fanciers.