

## THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

or whenever severe winter weather is past; by this time upper growth will usually have started. In exposed places protection from heavy, late frosts by a light mulch or mats is beneficial.

When the flowers have wilted they should be cut away, no seeds being allowed to ripen, so that all available strength may be used in developing the bulbs or bulblets. For the same reason leaves should not be removed until they begin to fade, after which the space occupied by spring flowering bulbs may be utilized by planting tender, shallow-rooting annuals, such as



FIG. 1447.—ASTER.

Portulacca, Dwarf Petunias, Asters, Verbenas, etc. Further treatment depends on the kinds grown, hence it will be necessary to consider their special requirements.

Spring Flowering Snowdrops are the earliest and among the most hardy. Their exact time of blooming, as with other plants, depends upon local climatic conditions. At the Missouri Botanical Garden, last winter, in a partially shaded situation, many were in blossom February 22. The flowers



FIG. 1448.—SNOWDROP.

are pure white, solitary, graceful, and possess an agreeable perfume. For delicacy of bloom the common single variety is, perhaps, best, and for size, the Giant Snowdrop (*Galanthus Elwesii*). For clumps plant about two inches deep, and the same distance apart. They propagate quite readily from offsets, forming a solid mass if left two or three years. No further care is necessary until the bed becomes overcrowded, when they should be taken up and re-set. These are sometimes planted in sod or wild portions of the garden.

Spring Crocuses appear a little later than snowdrops, and have larger and more conspicuous flowers, the numerous varieties giving many shades of white, blue and yellow. Plant one or two inches deeper than snowdrops, as bulblets are formed above the old bulb and will eventually work themselves above ground, when they should be taken up and replanted. Otherwise they are treated the same. Of the white varieties Mont Blanc and Caroline Crisholm are good; of the yellow, Large Yellow and