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THE CYCLAMEN.



HESE delightful winter and early spring flowering plants have of late years been so much improved that we shall scarcely recognize the small, comparatively insignificant blooms we used to meet with, in the splendid, large, broad petalled, distinctly-colored forms, and highly-scented types of this flower, now so plentiful. For this great change we are much indebted to such men as Mr. Warren, of Isleworth, also a Mr. May of the same place. Each of these growers have low spanned houses, graded in temperature, in St. Margarets, West Middlesex, in

which the culture is about the same, but there is a difference in the strain. The old type of the grandiflora family, with its long stems and large flower, has given place, in response to the persistent efforts of these and other London florists, to a dwarf stem of leaf and flower, without any diminution in size of bloom. They are now of a very robust constitution, remarkably free-blooming, and in every way well adapted to house cultivation, and as house plants have few equals, if any superior. Few flowers respond with such a generous profusion of bloom, to moderate care and cultivation, as does this plant. This fact is impressed upon me more every season as I look upon the magnificent array of color, smiling as they stand upon their benches, clean, bright and cheerful, like the refreshing greetings of the sunbeams after dark and dreary days. It gives a thrill of real delight, such as the millionaire cannot abstract from the intrinsic worth of his gold, as we approach them and count, as I did this morning, on one plant nearly 100 perfect blooms, and buds uncountable, nestling at the base of the leaf stems and on the crown. To the ladies, let me say