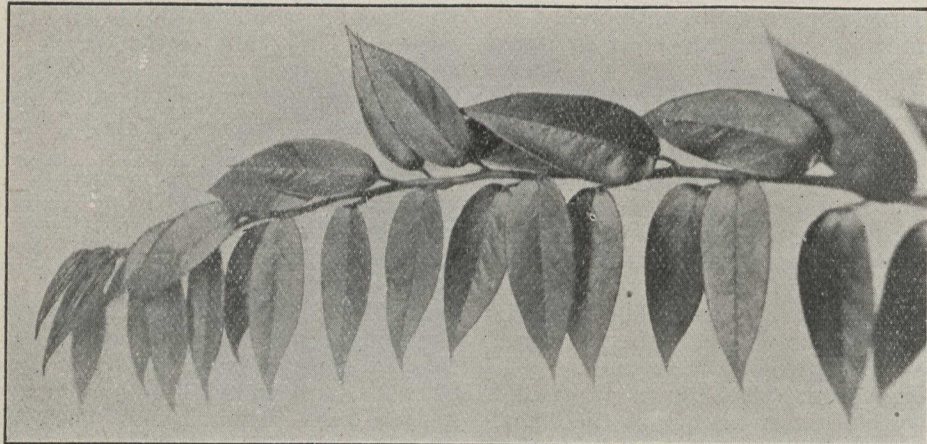


branches regularly whorled and leaves dark green and whitened on the under side.

In the associations and traditions of

that historic individual, coming from the snowy woods, bearing upon his genial shoulders the tree, laden with good things and glittering with lanterns,



A Spray of *Leucothoe*

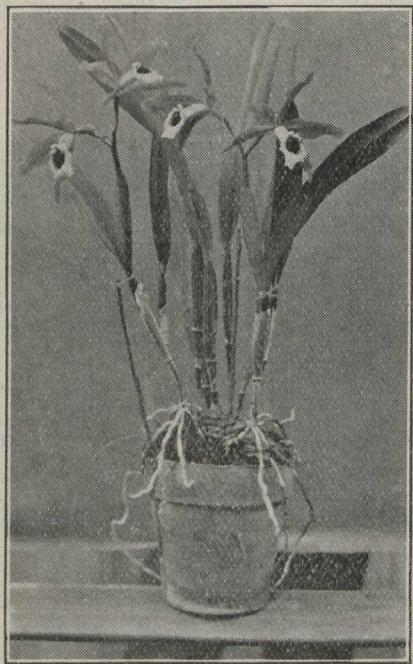
the Christmas tree are centred the cheery and buoyant side of the festive season. Prominent among these is that youthful antiquity, Santa Claus. The tales of

touches in the hearts of the children a note of Christmas sentiment that will never die out so long as this great annual festival is observed.

## Late Flowering Orchids

F. J. Goode, Toronto

**L**ÆLIA *purpurata* and *Lælia grandis*, the subjects of the accompanying illustrations, furnish us with two orchids of exceptional merit. The first



*Lælia Grandis*

mentioned is one of the grandest and most magnificent, while it is one of the most robust and easily grown. The bulbs are fusiform and furrowed, often

measuring 15 inches in length, and it has oblong, light green leaves. Strong, well-ripened bulbs will throw from three to five flowers, which, for form and coloring, are hard to beat. Sepals and petals, pure white; the lip has the base lobes folded over column; throat, yellow, striped with purple. Individual flowers are often five and six inches across. It is one of the latest flowering lælias.

*Lælia grandis*, white flowering, about the same time as the former, is more singular and distinct. The bulbs measure between eight and ten inches in length, surmounted by a single, oblong, acute, green leaf. It has free-flowering sepals and petals with a dark fawn throat. Magenta rose produces flowers four to five inches across. This variety will last in flower for three weeks, if kept free from damp; but, owing to its lack of white, it will never become a commercial rival to the Cattleyas. It is, however, deserving of a place in every collection. Both varieties thrive well in the Cattleya house, and are excellent for large specimens.

Good, fibrous peat, fresh sphagnum moss, charcoal and broken crocks, form the best potting material for these plants. After the plants have finished flowering, remove dead moss from among surface roots, fresh moss being pressed firmly wherever live roots are exposed. Syringe lightly night and morning during hot weather. This will

help the plant to start, and will also take away that shrivelled appearance caused by keeping the plants on the dry side till flowering is over. It is best to keep late flowering orchids as much to themselves as possible during early spring months, as too much water often causes the plant to start its new growth, which, in nine cases out of ten, prevents the plant flowering.

As soon as the new growths are about two inches long, water may be given more freely. It is generally conceded by orchid growers, that no fertilizer may be applied direct to the plants. Taking this for granted, the next best thing, and the one usually followed, is to throw liquid manure on the floors, or benches, amongst the plants. Cow or sheep manure will do. This should be done when closing the houses for the night, thus creating a moisture and retaining the strength of the fertilizer, which is essential to orchid life. If this treatment is followed for a few weeks, the difference in the appearance of the plants will be apparent.

These varieties, flowering so late, often the middle of June, leave only three or four months to make their new bulbs. The more attention you give to these plants during that time, the better you will be rewarded by having good, strong bulbs. These mean plenty of the most beautiful flowers grown the following



*Lælia Purpurata*

spring, which will recompense you for the extra trouble you have taken.

If you subscribe for THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST on the 13th of the month or on any other day, you will be lucky every day that it continues to come.