

value. Then, when there is good light, growth can readily be seen and water gradually given until in a surprisingly short time the plant has swelled to its former size, assumed a fine healthy appearance and a vigorous growth set in.

or even at any time if drainage is not perfect.

But there are exceptions to this rule, for some cacti are very fine winter bloomers. Among these are the *Epiphyllum Ruspelianum* (crab cactus), called by some Christ-

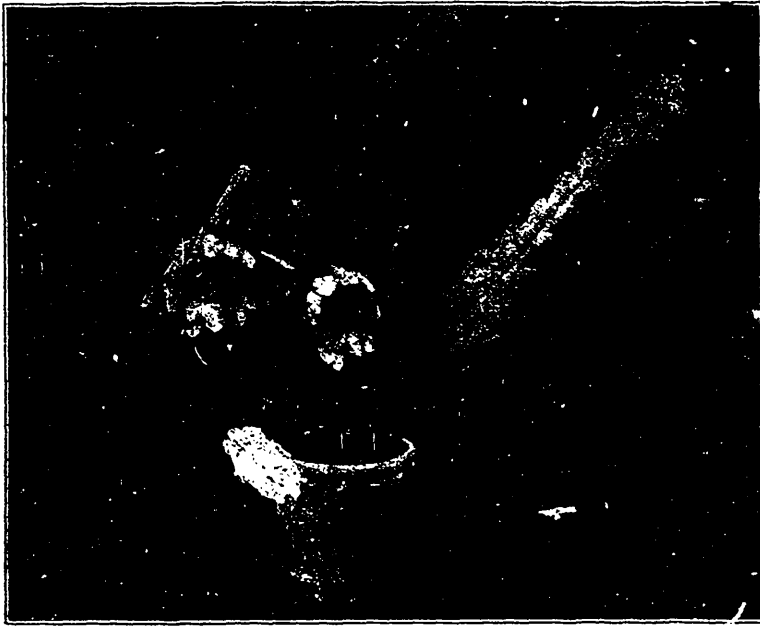


FIG. 1984. PHYLLOCACTUS.

This is when blooming commences, and what cactus fancier is not proud to display to a friend the beautiful flowers, as if by magic from the sides, ridges or centers of of these the oddest plants in nature?

The penalty for disregarding the plants' demand for rest is very suddenly discovered some day, and the surprise is great. The centre of the plant will send out a new and splendid appearance of young growth; and all will look well for a time. Then it will take a change of color, perhaps slight, and an examination will reveal the fact that there is nothing left but a shell, covering a rotten mass of jelly. This is what so often follows when too much water is given at this season,

mas cactus, also *Phyllocactus Anguliger*, one of the flat leaved varieties which is a grand winter bloomer, bearing on its heavy stems, magnificent white flowers which have the advantage over so many other white flowered varieties, of being day bloomers, and lasting several days. The crab cactus is well known and its fine drooping habit and generous quantity of crimson flowers, open at Christmas time, are much appreciated. The *Phyllocactus Anguliger* is not so generally known, but where its beauties are once shown, it is ever after, a much valued specimen in any collection.

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