

and packed between layers of moist sharp sand in boxes. The boxes are then buried in the ground on some knoll or dry place, until planting time in spring, when they are sown in drills in the open ground, covering them about two inches deep with soil. When these stocks have reached a diameter of about half an inch, three or four feet from the ground, they may be grafted early in the spring.

Questions 1065 to 1071 are answered by Mr. A. Alexander President of the Hamilton Horticultural Society.

Tuberous Begonia.

1065. SIR,—I have a tuberous begonia which has been in leaf all winter, it is rotting at the root. What is the cause?

The tuberous begonia as soon as finished blooming should have been allowed to dry off and be kept in sand until about March, when it should again be started into growth. Throw it away and start again

Nitrate of Soda.

1066 SIR,—How would you apply nitrate of soda to house plants?

Nitrate of soda is very soluble in water, and the best way to apply it is to put about a table-spoonful in a pail of water, or about a large teaspoonful in a gallon, and water with this once a week. Only plants in a growing state should have this treatment.

Calla Lily.

1067. SIR,—I have a calla lily, and the pot is quite full of shoots. Should these be removed from the parent bulb?

The shoots spoken of are the leaves of young callas which are produced around the parent bulb or tuber and should be allowed to grow where they are until after the season of rest which

all callas should have during the summer. Before starting into growth next fall turn the whole out of the pot and take away these young callas and repot the large bulb. The small ones if desired may be potted separately thus multiplying the number of lilies.

Charcoal as Drainage.

1068. SIR,—Is charcoal, alone, good drainage for flower pots?

Yes, if broken into small pieces about the size of peas. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of this material placed over the crock covering the hole in the bottom of the pot with a little rough leaf mould or moss over it would make an ideal drainage for pot plants.

Cannas.

1069. SIR,—How should dormant canna roots be started?—Most of us failed with ours last year.

Canna roots suffer from two main evils when being kept over the winter in a dormant condition. First by being allowed to get too dry, and second by being exposed to too low a temperature. The least frost destroys their vitality. In taking them out of the ground in the fall, as much soil as will adhere should be taken with them and set on the floor of a cellar or in boxes about six inches deep set close together, any place where the temperature never gets below 40 or 35 degrees will do. They will only require looking to once or twice during the winter just to see that the rhizomes are plump and fresh. All they require to start every bud into growth is increased heat and moisture. Small roots of one or two buds or bulbs, if fresh, should be potted in the usual way and placed in a warm place. As soon as growth begins they take plenty of water.