

## A PLEA FOR THE CYCLAMEN.



**C**YCLAMEN Persicum and *C. giganteum* are very desirable plants for pot culture, especially for winter blooming. They are universal favorites, still they are not cultivated to the extent that they should be. No window garden is complete without one or more of these bulbs. They are very easy to raise, both from bulb and seed, and repay you tenfold for the care you give them, in the long continuous bloom throughout the winter months when flowers are scarce.

I have a cyclamen, deepest rose in color, that I have grown in a pot the last year, for house decoration, that is very beautiful; some of the leaves are immense, drooping gracefully over the jar and nearly hiding it from view; the flowers and buds over fifty in number run up strong stems far above the leaves. These added to the exquisite markings of its foliage make a most beautiful bouquet for parlor or dining room.

In raising cyclamens in the house give them a cool place, a north window is best, where they can have plenty of light and air. Keep them from the hot rays of the sun and where there is stove or furnace heat, keep a wet sponge under the leaves. When in bloom it is a great help in making a beautiful plant. After the blooming season is past, gradually withhold water till the bulb is dry, when it should be left to rest till October, when you re-pot it in rich, sandy loam, encasing the bulb over two-thirds in the soil, leaving the top entirely exposed. Have good drainage at the bottom, water well, place in a cool, shady place till it show signs of growth; then water freely till flower buds appear, when plant food should be given once a week. On approach of cold weather remove to parlor or window garden. The secret in growing cyclamens is low temperature, light and air.



FIG. 960.—CYCLAMEN.

A friend traveling through Northern Italy was greatly pleased with the beautiful flowers of the cyclamen which grow there in great abundance. She had often admired the cyclamen bloom in my window garden in my Northern home, so while basking under the warm sunny skies of Italy, with its beautiful wild flowers at her feet, her thoughts flew back to her friends on this side of the Atlantic, wishing they too could enjoy with her these lovely flowers grown in the home nature had prepared for them.—Out of Doors for Women.