

SOME INTERESTING SPECIES OF CACTUS.

In a former number we called attention to the Cactus tribe as presenting some very remarkable forms of plant growth, such as were full of interest to every lover of nature, and at the same time yielding flowers, in many instances exceedingly beautiful in form and coloring, and often of most delightful perfume.

In this number our readers will be pleased to see a few more examples drawn from nature and engraved by Mr. Blanc, of Philadelphia, who has given much attention to the study and cultivation of this unique family.

Mamillaria decipiens—He has found to be very easy of cultivation, enduring rough usage, and yielding in abundance its very large yellow flowers, which last for several days.

Echinocactus horizonthalonius—Is a beautiful species found growing in strong soil at the summit of hills. The flowers are funnel shaped, of a purplish pink color, the sepals being tipped with a darker shade of purple, producing a very pretty effect. The stamens are very numerous, and the contrast between the yellow anthers and the white filaments which support them gives a very pleasing appearance to the flowers.

This variety is also very easy to grow and is one of the finest of this genus.

Epiphyllum truncatum—Is probably more frequently met with as a window plant than any other variety of Cactus. The plants of this genus are of a free, quick growth, hence they soon attain to a considerable size; being profuse flowering, and the flowers marked by many rich and bright shades of color, they are attractive objects for a considerable length of time.

Mr. Blanc gives the following directions for their cultivation. "The best system is to employ a small proportion of manure, say one fourth of the bulk of the soil, and to give what further assistance may be needed either in a liquid state or as a top dressing. The *Pereskia*, upon which *Epiphyllums* are usually grafted, is a strong rooting, and quick growing plant, absorbing moisture and nutriment from the soil very rapidly; therefore when it is bearing a large head of *Epiphyllum* the assistance afforded should be of a most liberal character, and it is only by such means that the finest and most abundant flowers can be produced. After flowering, the soil may be allowed to become partially dry