

ends of the barrel. The patent corrugated heads cannot be recommended. It is doubtful, too, whether there is any advantage in using fancy paper heads.

The exact pressure which must be given will depend somewhat upon the variety of the apple. If they are packed for storage or for a short trip, then the pressure need not be so heavy. If they are packed for export it will be better to press them heavily, but not so as to break the skin of any particular specimen. It has been the experience of the

fruit inspectors, who open a great many barrels during the season, that slackness in barrels is as often caused by over-pressure as by under-pressure. Overpressing will break the skin of the apple, or bruise it severely, inducing decay in one or more specimens, which very quickly cause slackness. Certain varieties, too, will require and stand more pressure than others. The Spy has to be pressed very moderately as the apple splits readily under pressure; russets, on the contrary, will stand much heavier

pressure to prevent slackness from evaporation.

In finishing the barrels, six nails in each head, if properly driven, are sufficient. Liners should be used invariably, and should always be kept damp. Few packers appreciate how much is added to the strength of the barrel by the use of the head liner properly placed. There is no excuse for nailing the second end hoops. It invariably spoils some of the apples and adds nothing whatever to the strength of the barrel.

The Hyacinth

H. F. East, North Toronto

THE most valuable of early flowering bulbs, the hyacinth, is so accommodating that it can be flowered in a variety of ways by very simple modes of treatment, and may be employed as a hardy, rough weather plant for the garden border, or as a grand exhibition and conservatory flower. The bulbs may be planted any time from September to the middle of December with the certainty of their blooming well if properly cared for; but the prudent cultivator will plant them as early as possible in the autumn, and so manage them afterwards as to secure the longest period of growth previous to their flowering. They may be forced to flower at Christmas but the more slowly the flowers are developed the finest in the end will they be.

To obtain good bulbs is a matter of the utmost importance. The mere size of a hyacinth bulb is no criterion of its value—nor, indeed, is its neatness of form or brightness of appearance. The two most important qualities are soundness and density. If the bulbs are hard and heavy in proportion to their size, they may be depended on to produce good flowers of their size and kind. The bulbs of some sorts are never large or handsome, while on the other hand many sorts partake of both these qualities in an eminent degree.

CULTURE IN POTS

It is not necessary to employ large pots of a peculiar shape for hyacinths. There is nothing better than common flower pots, and in those single bulbs may be flowered in a most satisfactory manner. The pots usually employed are four and one-half inch or five inch. I advise the use of smaller pots where hyacinths are grown in frames for decorative purposes, because they can be conveniently placed in ornamental stands or packed close together in baskets of moss when required for embellishment in the drawing-room. A rich, light soil is indispensable. It should consist chiefly of turfy loam, some leaf soil, and an addition of sharp sand. The mixture

should be in a moderately moist condition when ready for use.

Fill the pots full of soil, and then press the bulb into it and press the soil around the bulb to finish the operation. If potted loosely, they will not thrive. If potted too firmly, they will rise up as soon as they begin to grow, and be one-sided. In large pots the bulbs should be nearly covered with soil, but in small pots they must be only half covered in order to afford them the largest amount of root room.

When potted, the coolest place should be found for them; and unless they go absolutely dry, they should not have a drop of water until they begin to grow freely and are in the enjoyment of full daylight. The pots may be stored in a dark, cool pit, and it is advisable to cover them with a few inches of plunging material. As to their removal there

are two matters to consider—they must be taken out as wanted for forcing and certainly before they push their flower spikes through the material over them. The floor of a cool greenhouse is a good place for them when first taken out of the bed and cleaned up for forcing. Another matter of great importance is to place them near the glass immediately their green color is established, and to grow them as slowly as the requirements of the case will permit. If to be forced early, allow plenty of time to train them to bear a great heat. Those to bloom at Christmas should be potted in September. Those to follow may be potted a month later. If a long succession is required, a sufficient number should be potted every three or four weeks. Those potted last will flower in frames or pots without the aid of artificial heat. In any case, the highest temperature of the



Note the Floral Effect of This Modest Home

The front lawn and the garden in the rear of this home, that of Mr. Montrose, of Walkerville, are unusually fine. The window boxes are filled to overflowing with trailing vines, coleus, geraniums, petunias and hanging fuchsias, the whole making one mass of color from the ground half way up the windows.