

RICHARDIAS.

growing season. They will succeed best in a rich soil, made of a compost of good loam and cow manure in equal parts.

Richardia Africana is the proper name of the variety above referred to as most grown by amateurs. It is a winter and spring bloomer, and is usually allowed to rest in the summer months, by turning down the pot on its edge and leaving the plant without water ; or it may be

planted out and left without care until early fall, and then potted.

R. albo-maculata, or the white spotted Calla, is by far the best of the other three for amateur cultivation. This one is highly prized for its foliage, which has a variegated appearance, while its greenish-white spathe, though smaller than that of *R. Africana*, is still very interesting.

HYACINTHS.

HYACINTHS to bloom for Easter should be planted early this month (January). For successful blooming of the bulbs planted in pots there are two things absolutely essential, and one is that until the shoots are two inches long about the same proportion of water should be kept around them and the bulb, keeping them from the light and air. The other requirement is that the soil in which the bulb is planted should be well mixed with sand. As soon as the bulb is planted it should be placed in a cool place and watered sparingly until it begins to shoot up its leaves, when it may be more freely supplied. After it has fairly started in a cool place it may be transferred to the sitting-room window, and in a few weeks its beauty and fragrance will fully compensate for the care bestowed upon it. The hyacinth is a native of the Levant, and was introduced into Germany early in the fifteenth century. So popular did it become that in 1700 over 2000 varieties had been propagated. It is named after Hyacinthus, whom the gods, unable to save, changed into a flower. The Greeks fancied they could perceive on the petals of this flower the notes of grief.—Detroit Tribune.

BEGONIAS FOR THE WINDOW.

IT is safe, I think, to say that Begonias are only second to Geraniums in popularity for window gardening. They are the most interesting of all easily grown plants because of the diversity of their foliage and the difference in their habit of growth, and are great favorites with the average plant lover. One of the most beautiful is *B. manicata aurea*. Its principal charm lies in its handsomely variegated foliage, but its delicate, lace-like blossoms are not to be despised, and altogether, with its beauty and ease of culture it is a most satisfactory plant. Another favorite is *B. semperflorens gigantea rosea*. It is a strong grower, and a wonderfully free bloomer ; it is besides very handsome, having a vivid scarlet spot in the center of each leaf. The bright, long-stemmed blossoms harmonize admirably with the polished foliage. *B. Bruanti*, though seldom mentioned, and not always catalogued, is another excellent sort, thriving all winter long with little or no care and blossoming with admirable persistency. *B. Thurstonii* is beautiful in leaf, and makes a most shapely plant. Its coloring is very pleasing and it makes a welcome addition to the winter window garden. These are to be depended upon for the ordinary sitting-room window.—[Farm and Home.