

often prevails during March and early April.

A portion of the covering on beds of Dutch and other bulbs may be removed toward the end of the month, if the weather is favorable. Put the lightest portion of the covering back on the bulbs for a short

time, this can be removed when all danger of frost is over. This allows the tips of the growth that are often peeping above the ground, to harden gradually, so as to be able to resist any light frost that may come later on.

Hamilton.

W. HUNT.

FLOWERS FOR ENTHUSIASTS.



FEW flowers always awaken my enthusiasm. Among them are hollyhocks. So capable is this flower of improvement and endless variety, that it pays us for every effort at careful culture. But it is sure to run back if neglected. I find it essential to select seed of the best varieties, and plant them when ready in beds somewhat closer than needed; then I dig out the poorer sorts when they come to bloom. Better yet, when you get a fine strain, divide the roots and so multiply it. I grow this flower along my fences, and border my fields with it. It is grand at a distance, running from purest white to nearly black. One strain of white hangs down its semi-double flowers like lilies. Sow in September or October for next year's planting; but if sown late it had best be in a cold frame. No flowers should be grown without special attention be paid to improvement. If we are slovenly enough to allow the fruits or flowers to retrograde on our hands, we are retrograding also.

Another flower that I am never tired of is the lily. It is a constant wonder that, cheap as these bulbs now are, they are not more generally in cultivation. I find hyacinths everywhere, but not lilies, except coarser sorts. I expect that one reason is that the very soil and richness that suits a Hyacinth kills a lily. Manure is death to most of them. The Longiflorum or Easter sorts are generally classed as hardy, but are not abso-

lutely so. An open winter generally puts an end to them.

It is best to cover all lilies with some coarse litter, leaves or evergreen boughs. The Candidum is so superb that it should be grown in masses everywhere. The fragrance is superb. I have had Auratums in bloom for nearly three months. I think this fine lily is sporting in its habit. The early flowering have shorter stalks and smaller flowers but richer colors. The Speciosm is for general planting about as valuable as Candidum, being quite hardy and noble in colors and fragrance. I hope thousands will invest this fall in a bed of lilies. Select Candidum, Speciosum, Auratum, and the little Siberian lily, with a plenty of native meadow lilies.

I heartily recommend still more attention to gladioli. The flower is magnificent in coloring, and of endless variation in flakes and stripes and selfs. The Gandavensis stock offers us thousands of truly fine varieties, and any one can with attention raise for himself choice seedlings as good as the best. For five years past these have been rivalled by a strain of *Gladiolus Lemoinei*. Now we have a very fine set of crosses from *Purpurea*, *Auratus* and *Gandavensis*. These will stand a good deal of attention. So far these flowers are scentless. This is a great drawback. It may be in time remedied by farther efforts in the way of selection and crossing. *Turicensis* is a new cross offered this spring. -- *Popular Gardening*.