

been ascertained satisfactorily what can be done in our town for the promotion of a taste for horticulture; and we anticipate next year, an augmented subscription list, greater competition, and even more attractive shows."

Hardy Bulbs.

The time has nearly arrived for planting hardy bulbs, as Tulips, Hyacinths, Narcissus, Crocus, &c. October is the best month for planting them, but any time before the ground is frozen will answer, although it is preferable to have them in the ground a few weeks before extreme cold weather sets in, so that they may have a little start which will make them flower earlier and stronger in the spring. They may be planted either in beds by themselves or in groups in the borders. If the grounds are extensive and the number of bulbs large, a bed in the shape of a parallelogram four feet in width and of any length will be found the most convenient perhaps. An oval bed, where the number of bulbs is not great, will be found as good a shape as any other. The bulbs should be planted with great regularity, the use of a line in planting being quite necessary. A tulip bed where the bulbs have been planted without any regard to this rule, has a careless and slovenly appearance, quite displeasing to the eye.

The soil for bulbs should be a good loam, rather light, and enriched with a little old, well rotted manure, cow manure being preferable. The soil should be fifteen inches deep and thoroughly prepared by digging and pulverizing with care. In planting, a handful of sharp sand should be put in each hole before the bulb is placed in it. Hyacinths and tulips should be planted about three inches from the top of the bulb to the surface of the ground, and about six to eight inches from each other. A little protection by means of litter, is of service in very severe winters, but must be removed early in the spring. Small bulbs, such as Snowdrops, Crocuses, &c., may be planted as a border to the tulip bed, or will form very pretty small beds by themselves. Plant them about an inch and a half deep. It is well to cover them slightly during the winter, although they are perfectly hardy, yet when the ground is bare in the spring, the frost is apt to throw them out when unprotected.

It is usual to take up the bulbs of Tulips and Hyacinths every year after they have done blooming, as they do better than if allowed to remain in the ground, but it is not absolutely necessary. A very good bloom may be obtained for two or three years without removal, but as the foliage of the spring bulb soon decays after the flowering is over, the bed will be bare during the greater part of the summer. For this reason it is well to have a provision of bedding plants or asters to set between the bulbous plants in May or June, which will keep the bed covered and beautiful after the bulbs have been removed.

—Country Gentleman.

Soldiers' Gardens.

The Emperor of the French, ever mindful of the comforts of his fine army, has not let them escape his watchful attention. By a graph which appeared in a late number it has been seen that his Imperial Majesty established a soldiers' gardens all round his camp at Chalons, and that the experiment has been attended with the most complete success. Plots have been marked off for the soldiers' gardens, tools and seeds have been provided, and a market has been set up in the camp, where the products are all purchased by the martial gardeners. We are told, further, that the men have all taken to these novel suits with the greatest delight, and that, as the numerous busy hands, the dusty plain of Chalons is likely soon to be transferred into a vast kitchen garden. We do not see why such an experiment should not be tried at Aldershot. It is true that the soil there is not of the most fertile description; but human skill and patience would do a great deal to warm it into fertility. The Chinese do wonders in producing fertility in the desert; and in Malta groves of orange-trees have been raised by means of artificial soil on the barren rock. The thousands of pairs of sturdy hands at Aldershot would soon turn up and render friable the hard-born clay, and there is manure enough at hand to raise anything. There is nothing that an Englishman likes so well as a garden—not in which he takes so much pride or works at with so much pleasure; and if, as in the case of Chalons, he were furnished with the additional incentive of a market, there is no doubt but that the soldier would take to it with a will which would banish all dread of his greater ennui, whilst it would keep him out of debt and health-destroying amusements. Government would furnish to our soldiers healthful occupation for their leisure time: they would be civilized and their tastes; they would encourage them to make some slight addition to their scanty pay: and they would aid the hygienic arrangements of the camp by furnishing a constant supply of fresh vegetables. If the latter should cost a little more than could be purchased for in the market, money would be well laid out, and there would be this advance, that, being grown on the spot, they would be always on hand, fresh, and ready for use. Turning from the useful to the ornamental, abundance of flowers might be cultivated; and we see no reason why an occasional flower show should not enliven the monotony of the camp. We see by the daily papers that this has already been attempted, and with a very good amount of success, in a much more unhealthy locality. A parish clergyman has got up a flower exhibition this year in dismal, dirty, muddy Giles's, and the visitors have been agreeably surprised by the pretty specimens which