

require no coddling, get them rightly started and largely let them alone, if healthy, don't repot often ; you will be surprised how much neglect they will bear, but treat them properly and they will amply repay you, though you may not understand their "speechless eloquence," you cannot avoid observing their plump, shining bodies smiling their thanks for your care, and vieing with each other how best to reward you with flowers of satiny sheen in all the colors of the rainbow—flowers in your home such as have entranced travellers in Mexico or Brazil. Readers of the HORTICULTURIST, try them, subscribe for the "Baltimore Cactus Journal," only fifty cents a year, not gotten up to make money, but by a few cactus fanciers to increase the love for, and knowledge of, these curious plants. The articles are thoroughly practical, the answers to enquiries, yours and other beginners like yourself, are just the information you need. There are few families without at least one plant or flower lover. Parents, encourage your children in this, it is a pure and elevating taste ; get them some cacti, the interest in one plant or flower soon extends to others, they will make their home brighter and more attractive to themselves and all their friends, and you will soon be ready to admit that there are few things productive of as much pleasure as being a

CACTUS CRANK.

Gladiolus.—A few years ago there was a great wave of popularity in favor of the cultivation of the gladiolus ; but during the past few years, there seems to have been a falling off, judging from the reported sales by those who deal in flower roots ; but there seems no reason why this should be. Possibly there may be objection to the fact that the ground occupied by this plant seems so bare of plants until the gladiolus itself opens in late summer. But this can be remedied by planting something else with them, so that when the latter dies away, the gladiolus can succeed them. For this reason, they are often planted with tulips, hyacinths and other spring-flowering bulbs. The gladiolus soon follows into bloom after the other plants decay. A friend of ours plants them in the spaces between rhododendrons, and they add very much to the rhododendron garden, by blooming after the other flowers fade. The bulbs can easily be taken up and preserved through the winter.—Meehans' Monthly for June.

The chief beauty of the garden should lie in its flower colors and plant forms, and not in the symmetry of its beds and borders. If our ideas of a perfect garden include any rigid geometrical principles, we would better study nature and let our ideals go ! Our ideals, at best, are extremely limited, while nature's realism is immeasurable ; she puts so much variety into her reality that she is more beautiful than we can imagine, by sheer force of quantity ! . . . We should seek to display the whiteness and purity of the lily in the garden, and not trouble ourselves so much about the brown' earth patch from which it grows.—SCHUYLER MATHEWS.