

CACTI.

paring off the grass the under part is a net-work of fine fibrous roots in sandy loam in which they thrive. The strap leaved varieties can have some leaf mould added as they can stand richer soil. Formerly cacti were kept in pots the year round, but now nearly every one plants them out in summer. Mix the ordinary garden soil with an equal quantity of sand, and have the situation elevated so that water will run off. They enjoy the sun and rain and the growth they make is surprising. Their fresh healthy appearance is a contrast to the shrunken specimens in pots. Phyllocactus when planted out enjoy the heat, but should be shaded from direct sunlight which is apt to scald and burn them. Regarding the different varieties, these are so numerous and varied that time will only permit the briefest mention. The Phyllocactus the flat or strap leaved spineless family are the best known, easily grown and generally most satisfactory. Some are day and others night bloomers, and all are very floriferous. The variety Latifrons, or the Queen cactus is one of the best when a good size

can be depended on for plenty of flowers every summer. They are pure white, six inches in diameter, fragrant, opening

at night and closing next morning. This plant is often wrongly called "The Night Blooming Cereus," which is an entirely different plant, it is *Cereus*

Grandiflora of a semi-climbing habit with rope like stems, seldom thicker than a man's thumb, having four to eight slight angles or ridges. The flowers are ten inches in diameter with a rich perfume, but while this plant is very easily grown and largely used to graft other varieties on, flowers are very rare, so that *Latifrons* is a

much preferable plant to grow. The *Epiphyllums* or crab or lobster cacti are easily grown, and profuse bloomers in February and March, being of a rather drooping habit they are improved by being grafted on the *Pere-*

skia stock, or on some of the *Cereuses* and make handsome umbrella like plants and less liable to damp off at the neck. The *Cereus* are a large and very varied family, from the creeping *Flagelliformis* or Rat tail up to *Cereus giganteus* fifty to seventy feet high in a straight unbranched column, all are easily grown and mostly free bloomers.

There is a subsection of which *Pilocereus senilis* "The old man Cactus" is the best known representative being covered with long white

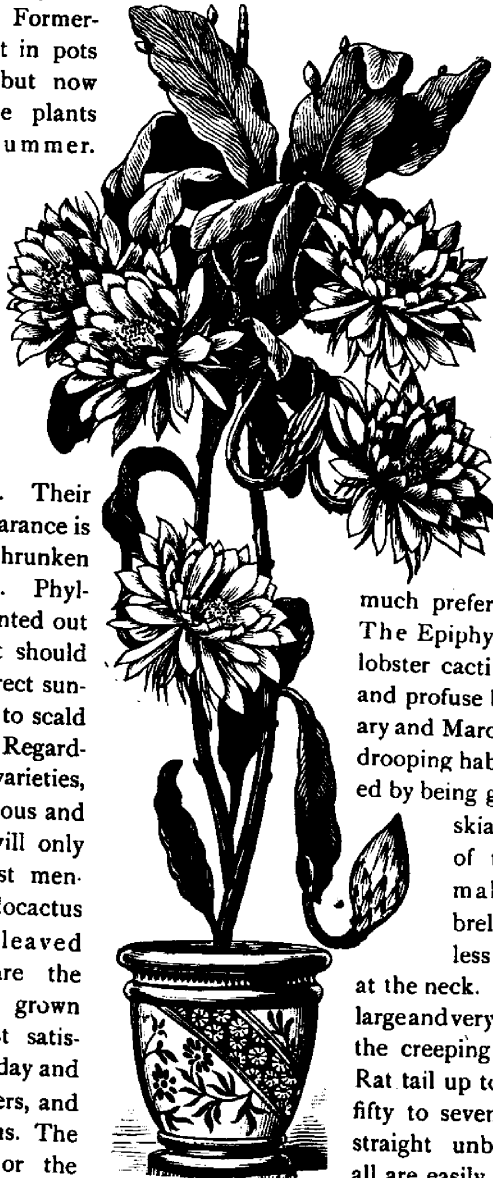


FIG. 1288.—PHYLLO-
CACTUS LATIFRONS