

# FLOWERS

## HOW TO PREPARE A HOTBED.

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FOR those that take a deep interest in horticulture, and wish to have a supply of plants at a very moderate price, the best plan is to attempt a hotbed, and find that he may grow early plants equally as well, and just as early as a market gardener or florist. As will be seen by the illustra-

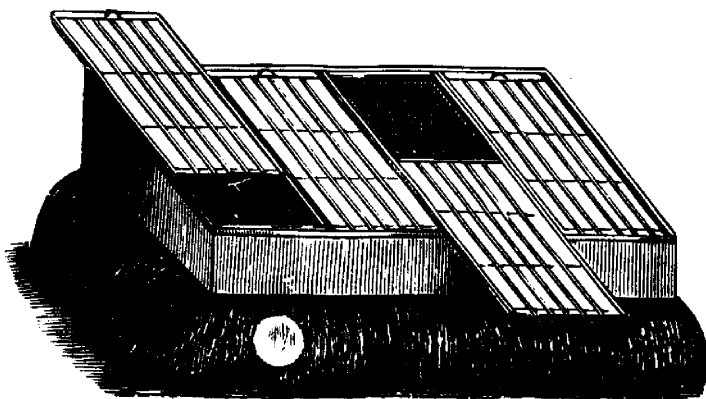


FIG. 32. — A HOT-BED.

observe the following instructions as to "How to prepare a Hotbed." No person can fully realize the great benefit of a hotbed until he has thoroughly tested it. When the amateur makes a purchase of a few packets of seed, and attempts to raise plants in a box in the house, probably before the plants have properly developed they would be in no better condition than if they had been sown in the open air; having been grown under disadvantageous circumstances. He may plant out a lot of puny plants, which would take half the summer to recover, if they ever live that long. Therefore with what satisfaction must any person

tion, the bed is made on the level ground, taking fresh strawy horse manure for the foundation of the bed. The manure should be thoroughly shaken up, whilst building the bed, so as not to allow any lumps to interfere with the heat, and thoroughly tramped to keep the heat together. The depth of manure required should be about eighteen inches, and when the manure has been thoroughly tramped, place the frame on this. The frame to be made three inches higher at the upper end than at the lower, to allow a slight fall. On the frame place the sashes, and allow the beds to remain in this condition for about ten days, when the