



FIG. 2264. COMET ASTER.

Bulbs.—These should not be uncovered until danger of severe frost is over. Remove the covering by degrees, as sudden exposure to light and air (and perhaps late frosts) will likely injure the flowering heads.

THE WINDOW.

Late in March, or early in April, is a good time to re-pot all the hardiest kind of window plants, such as geraniums, cyperus, ferns, and plants required for summer decoration.

Tuberous Begonias.—Old tubers of these plants can be started into growth now. Shake out the old soil carefully from the tuber if it has been kept in the pot during the winter. Good, rich, loamy potting soil with a small quantity of soil mixed with it suits these pretty summer flowering plants splendidly. Soil that a geranium will grow well in will suit tuberous begonias. Use plenty of drainage in the pots, water the soil once thoroughly after potting. Water should then be given sparingly until the plants have well started into growth.

Summer Flowering and Foliage Begonias, including Rex varieties, can be potted. The same remarks regarding drainage and watering will apply as for tuberous begonias, but the soil, especially for the Rex varieties, should have about one-fourth part of leaf soil added to that recommended for the tuberous variety. Amongst the newer varieties of begonia suitable for the window are *B. Thurston*, *B. Haageana* and *B. nivea*, whilst older varieties such as *B. Sandersonii*, *B. fuchsoides* and of course *Begonia rubra* cannot be omitted.

Annuals.—Seeds of those can now be sown so as to secure early flowers. Although the antirrhinum is not classed strictly as an annual, it can be grown as easily and successfully as any of the annuals. The newly introduced dwarf flowering varieties make a splendid display as border plants and will give a supply of flowers during the burning days of July and August, when flowers are often scarce. These dwarf growing varieties also succeed splendidly in pots in winter. The beds of these plants at the recent Pan-American exhibition were very much admired and proved conclusively the suitability of the new types of these old favorites for bedding plants. They are easy to raise and a few plants should be found in every flower garden.

The *Scabiosa* is another annual that will give good results during the hot months of summer and on until late in autumn. A pot or two of these sown early in April and planted out the second or third week in May will, with very little care and attention, provide a bountiful supply of flowers for decorative purposes. A bunch of the multi-colored types of *scabiosa* with a few spikes of antirrhinums and mignonette sticking up above the somewhat flat flowers of the *scabiosa*, relieved here and there with a few sprays of fern or foliage will make a most acceptable vase of flowers for table or house decorative purposes. The *scabiosa*, like the