

the one from which the plant is to be removed; no drainage is provided, but the already sickly plant is put into the large pot with the poor and too often sour soil, and then watered and watered; then because it does not grow it is given stimulant in the way of liquid manure, whereas most likely the only thing that the plant required was to remove some of the soil, put it back into the same pot with fresh soil, and water sparingly until such times as it had made a new growth.

Bulbs for house culture give excellent satisfaction, commencing with Roman Hyacinths and paper white Narcissi, a succession of showy bloom can be had from early November until the spring. No special preparation of soil is required; they do equally well in any kind of soil, or any situation. After being brought from the cellar they require an abundance of water and a moderate temperature to produce the best results.

Mr. WHYTE: What proportion of jadoo do you use?

Mr. GAMMAGE: Twenty per cent.

Mr. WOOLVERTON: Is it easily got?

Mr. GAMMAGE: Yes, from almost any seed house. It is sold at about three cents a pound, or \$27 or \$28 a ton. It has the appearance of peat. It undergoes some chemical process. It is imported from England. Speaking of watering plants Mr. Gammage said: Most people imagine that when a plant is potted in a large pot it needs plenty of water. That is not the case. After re-potting give it a thorough watering and allow it to dry sufficiently so that the roots will begin to work in it. If it is watered till the soil is soured the organic acid that is in the roots does not have power to make sufficient nutriment to take it up. People after watering plants think the soil is not rich enough and they go and give it liquid manure. This will almost always kill the plant.

Mr. BRODIE: Do you also attempt to use the bone meal as a fertilizer?

Mr. GAMMAGE: It depends on what you are going to use it for. We use tons of it every year, but we mix it with our soil for months before we begin to use it.

Mr. WHITNEY: In potting lilies do you place sand around the bulb?

Mr. GAMMAGE: Not necessarily. We use a proportion of sand in the soil, enough to cut it so that you can feel the sand.

Prof. HUTT: Mention the best dozen plants you consider most suitable for house collection.

Mr. GAMMAGE: In the way of decorative plants, the Palms, Ficus (rubber tree), Pandanus, Grevillea, etc. Here is one that will stand rough treatment in any situation whatever—the *Aspidistra*. The *Begonia* gives a good deal of satisfaction. Coming on at this time of the year we have the *Cyclamen*, and the *Calla* lilies. Nearly all the varieties of ferns are hardy; *Pteris tremula* is probably the best.

Mr. WHYTE: You shook the flowers of the *begonia* to show the injury done by gas light; was all that damage done since the flower came into this room?

Mr. GAMMAGE: Yes.

Mr. WHYTE: Was it not on account of the uneven temperature of the greenhouse?

Mr. GAMMAGE: No: take one of these *begonias* and put it into a room where there is a wood stove, and it will last for weeks and weeks without dropping either a leaf or a flower, but place it in a room where a gas or coal stove is burning, and oftentimes two hours will do it.

HARDY

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