

LILIES IN POTS.

THE genus *Lilium* comprises about forty-five species of hardy, half-hardy, or greenhouse bulbs, and generally the prettiest and most effective bulbous plants that can be grown, either under glass or in the open air. The white lily (*L. Candidum*) is always to be seen in the wholesale market when in season. Only during the past summer we had the pleasure of seeing a splendid display coming on in a little orchard. The soil was undoubtedly rich and well drained. In this situation, we were informed, a gorgeous display of magnificent blooms are cut season after season. We mention this fact to show that with proper conditions *L. Candidum* may be readily raised to perfection. It is a very handsome and popular species. We do not purpose lengthily reviewing the numerous species of this genus. A word or two, however, on *L. Speciosum* in pots may not be out of place. Most lilies are especially suitable for pot culture on account of their pretty foliage, and suitability generally for greenhouse or conservatory decoration. When growth commences they may be plunged in the open ground, and allowed to remain there till the blooms are ready to expand, when they should be taken under cover. For general purposes the bulbs should be potted singly, in 6in. pots, so that they may be readily shifted when in bloom, if required. This is a good way to raise them for decorative purposes.

Potting Lilies.—The simplest process is as follows:—When the bulbs are received they are laid on an outside border, and just covered with some light or

sandy soil. Then as the roots at the base commence to push freely they are potted. The best material is composed of loam, well-decayed manure and sand. The bulbs should be potted well down, so as to leave space at the top for additional soil as time goes on, that is when the root stems develop. After potting they should be placed on a bed of ashes, and be covered to a depth of three or four inches with the same material. When the tops are about to start through the soil the covering should be removed, when the pots may be plunged into the open ground to remain till the flowers are on the point of opening. It is important to remove the covering of ashes before the shoots make their appearance above ground, otherwise they will be blanched and will need protecting; whereas if exposed before the tops are above ground they will then push away sturdily from the very first, and, of course, resist the cold better. Under this system later blooms are obtained than if they were raised under glass, and consequently may be better appreciated by villa residents and suburban and amateur growers. In the summer they will simply need a little water, and as the pots get full a top dressing will be of great benefit to the plants. As the buds appear it is well to give manure water once a week. A stick for support is necessary. The flower is pure white, or more or less spotted with claret red. Large supplies come from Japan, and it is productive of fine, bold, handsome blooms.—*Fruit Grower.*