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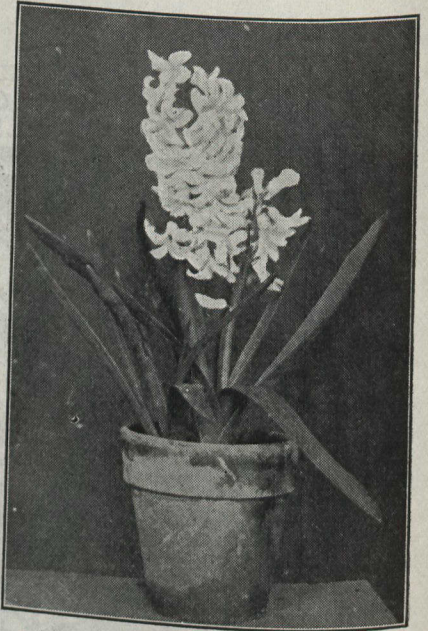
## Those Flowering Bulbs for Winter

"WHY is it we often have such 'bad luck' with bulbs after we get them safely planted?" we asked Professor Wm. Hunt, the florist at the O.A.C. early in October, when we were going through his greenhouses and we noticed him planting or potting his bulbs—hyacinths, daffodils, tulips and Chinese lilies.

And he replied:

"So much depends on the care of the bulb after it has been planted, for if neglected and uncared for, it will not thrive. Place the pots or boxes away at once in a cool, dark place in a temperature of 45. to 50°.

"A cool, damp cellar is the best place for them. Place the pots or boxes on the floor, and then cover or bury them with sand, light soil or coal ashes, so



One of the most attractive of the indoor plants is the White Hyacinth

that they are buried about an inch in depth. The covering of sand, ashes or soil should be packed well around the pots. If this covering is dry, it should be well watered.

"If a cellar or basement is not available, the pots may be placed in a dark cupboard, or even covered up with a close box, so as to obstruct the light. The reason for caring for bulbs in this way, is to secure a good development of roots before the top growth starts.

### Develop Root System

"THE development of a good strong root system before top growth starts, is one of the main points in the successful culture of bulbs. Do not be impatient for the little green shoots to appear. They will need three or four weeks or more, for the bulbs to put forth a good strong root, and seven or eight weeks before the top appears. Keep the earth moist but not soddened with water. Frost must not reach the bulb.

"To determine whether the bulbs have been in the cellar long enough, turn the pot upside down, placing the fingers across the top so as to hold the earth intact, and knock gently to remove the ball of earth. If earth in the pot is found to be filled with fine white roots, there can be no doubt that the bulb is ready for its next stage. Then the wise plan is to bring the pots up and place them in rather a cool room. Set them in a semi-dark place until the shoots have turned green.

### Getting Tall Spikes

"TO produce strong, tall flower spikes, place cones of paper or cardboard over the plants or if they can be had, the corrugated paper covers of bottles are just the thing to cause the flower spikes to grow up above the foliage. Water more abundantly as flowering period approaches. With very little care the flower stems will shoot up quickly and the blossoms soon unfold.

"It is bad for the plant to keep the pots in saucers filled with water. The saucers are good to prevent water from running through and soiling floor or window, but that is all.

"There is no better plan than to have a little tray board, have it lined with zinc, the tray then being lined with loose stones. If the pots are set on stones without saucers the surplus water will escape quickly by evaporation, and the bulbs will thrive better than when grown on a shelf or table."

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