

potted now to ensure early flowering. Stand these outside and give them the same treatment as the Freesia. Pelargoniums should be cut back to within an inch of the old wood. After the plants show signs of growth shake them out from the old soil and re-pot them into smaller pots in rather sandy soil. Give them very little water until well established after re-potting.

Gloxinias that are out of flower may be gradually dried off. Bunch roses must be kept well syringed and the buds picked off.

FLOWER GARDEN. Watering and keeping down the weeds will be the principal work this month. Attend to staking and tying tall growing plants.

VEGETABLE GARDEN.—Celery and late

Cabbage will require plenty of water. Celery may still be planted for late winter use. A row or two of Beets may perhaps give better results if sown now than will those sown in July. Spinach sown now often comes in for use in fall, and will sometimes stand through the winter as well as later sown seed. The end of August or early in September is about the best time to sow Spinach that is wanted for early spring use. Clear off all plants from which the crop has been taken; the ground will be useful for Spinach, Celery, Radishes, etc. Keep down the weeds and draw a loose mulch of earth up to the roots of growing plants where possible; it helps them through the dry weather.

HORTUS, Hamilton.

PREPARATION OF PLANTS FOR WINTER.

PLANTS intended for Winter flowering should be grown for that especial purpose. It is a mistake to think that plants not grown during the summer with this end in view can be made to do satisfactory work in the winter. As a general thing, plants flower best in summer, and if we let them have their way, they will bloom freely then and take their rest later on, when if we had our way they would be full of flowers. It will be seen, therefore, that we have to reverse the natural order of things, to a great extent, and oblige the plants intended for winter flowering to take what rest they receive during the season at the time when they would be producing flowers if left to themselves. This we must do, with most plants, if we expect them to make the window-garden attractive. We must look ahead—anticipate—and so treat our plants that they conform to our opinion of what is best for them. This they will do if we give them to understand that we expect them to be governed by us, for plants are generally tractable, but this they will not

do unless we hold fast to the treatment we set out with. Plants are like children. They are obedient when they know that we “mean it,” but if our government of them is half-hearted and vacillating, they are pretty sure to take advantage of our lapses from authority and insist on having their own way.

Some persons tell me that they do not understand why a plant should not bloom in winter after having been allowed to bloom all summer. These persons have given the subject but little thought, or the reason would be apparent to them with but little effort. It is not natural for a plant to keep on growing and flowering the year round, any more than it would be for us to keep on working from week to week, without stopping to sleep or rest. True, we might get along with less sleep than we are inclined to take—indeed, we might accustom ourselves to get along with but very little, but such a practice would result in the lowering of the vitality of the system to such an extent that we would be utterly unable to do good