

we sometimes have about that time are very hurtful to them, if accompanied with a low temperature; and when we get October here, we are never secure from a few degrees of frost. The after management will be to give water liberally to those most forward in blooming, to assist them in swelling their buds; those which do not show an inclination to flower until the spring, must have water more sparingly. Keep the syringe or garden-engine plied freely amongst those that are not in flower at least twice a-week, as a fine glossy foliage is not only more healthy, but more sightly than leaves covered with smut and dirt.

## WINTER-FLOWERING CARNATIONS.

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THE tree or perpetual flowering Carnations are rather more difficult to manage than a few other things, but their flowers are so useful during the winter season, that a few should be grown wherever proper accommodation can be provided for them.

For their successful cultivation, a house, the temperature of which is intermediate between that of the greenhouse and plant-stove, is necessary. Sufficient warmth must be afforded them to maintain a steady growth, but they do well in company with the Cyclamens and Bouvardias. In the greenhouse the warmth is not sufficient to maintain a steady growth, and unless they are kept in a progressive state, it will be of little use to expect many flowers, and, moreover, a danger will exist of their being attacked with mildew during the early part of the winter. The plants from which the flowers are to be obtained should be strong and well-rooted by the time they are started, and, if not already done, the strongest plants in five-inch pots should be at once transferred to pots two sizes larger, and placed in a warm sheltered position. Strong plants in three-inch pots may also be repotted. If this is done at once, they will be in good condition for producing an abundance of flowers. They succeed most satisfactorily in mellow turfy loam, broken up moderately, and then incorporated with a liberal proportion of sand and a moderate quantity of decayed manure. It is essential to have the pots well drained, to prevent the soil becoming sour, and the roots injured in consequence.

An open position out-of-doors, with the roots plunged in coal-ashes or some light material, is preferable for the summer quarters; and they should be taken indoors early in the autumn, so as not to expose them too freely to the autumnal rains. When first taken indoors, a light and airy position is the most desirable, and the assistance of artificial heat will not be necessary, until the second or third week in October. After this period the temperature should be maintained at 60° by day and 55° by night.

Carnations are somewhat expensive to purchase, and those who have a few plants, and are desirous of increasing their stock, should strike the cuttings in March or April. In purchasing at this season of the year, strong well-furnished plants must be selected, or they will not produce any flowers until next year.

The undermentioned are the best at present in commerce, which may be obtained at a cheap rate:—*Garibaldi*, purple; *Perfection*, white flaked purple and crimson; *Queen of Whites*, pure white; *La Belle*, the best of the white varieties. *Dragon*, *Jean Bart*, and *Boule de Feu*, are three good scarlet varieties. *Souvenir de la Malmaison*, rosy flesh, is very large and fragrant. *Prince of Orange* and *Ascot Yellow* are two robust-growing and perpetual-flowering picotees, with yellowish flowers edged with red. *White Queen*, white, and *Miss Joliffe*, deep pink, are both first-class, and in every way desirable in the smallest collection. The *Flower of Eden*, white, and *Coccinea*, crimson scarlet, are two fine forcing pinks, which do well in company with the carnations.

#### ON STRIKING GERANIUMS.



HUNDREDS of fallacies there are which we must sweep away, but first and foremost let me destroy that dogma which says scarlet geraniums are best propagated in the full sun, without the aid of a drop of water. Geraniums may be propagated that way, and in fact almost any way. The man who would lose one per cent. of geranium cuttings this time of year, no matter by what process he might endeavour to root them, would scarcely deserve to be admitted into any garden, for fear his presence should prove fatal to vegetation. But because you can root geraniums, or because they will of themselves make roots under almost any circumstances, does not prove that mode of propagating to be the best which is most exhaustive of the sap of the stem, and most destructive of the leaves, by means of which alone the cutting must live until it has made roots. That system of propagating is the best which exhausts the cutting least, which by taxing it very slightly allows it to retain a certain portion of its initial vigour until it has made new roots, and is enabled once more to draw nourishment from the earth by a truly natural process. Nor is it true that it matters not how many joints long a cutting is, nor what length of time elapses between making the cutting and the cutting making roots. The more quickly it is rooted the better. If shaded, kept suitably moist, and assisted with a temperature consistent with its nature, any and every kind of cutting, whether of a succulent or an erica, a geranium or a begonia, will do much better, both in making roots and afterwards as a plant, than if put to all sorts of trials, and allowed to make roots, as it were, only by the skin of its teeth. Make all your cuttings of geraniums short; two joints suffice—one joint in the soil, the other joint with its leaf out. Three, four, or five joints make nice plants, and you may, if you please,