

be set in rows or in hills five feet apart. Seeds of melons—water, rock, and pie—can be sown, also cucumbers, squashes, and pumpkins. Water and rock melons should have six feet of space between each hill, and pie melons, pumpkins, squashes, and marrows nine to ten feet. All of these crops like plenty of well-rotted manure. Cucumbers and melons raised under glass should be planted out in genial weather after being well hard-

White Ground Fancy Carnations

The illustration of Delicia that is given herewith conveys an excellent idea of the white ground fancy carnations. Visitors to the carnation societies' exhibitions may have observed on examination of the exhibits, that all, or nearly all, the successful competitors choose yellow grounds, also buff or apri-

Lilium Odorum.

Whether *L. odorum* is considered as a distinct species or a variety of *L. Brownii* there can be no doubt that it is a lovely plant and well worth taking a deal of trouble about. In the writer's experience it is altogether easier to manage and keep than *L. Brownii*.

True, *L. odorum* has not the delicate grace of *L. Brownii*, being altogether of a sturdier build, nor is the bloom so long in the trumpet, so beautifully proportioned, or so deeply coloured on the outside, but the plant has the advantage of quite commonly throwing up two or three stems, each of which often carries three flowers, and occasionally four or five, whereas apparently *L. Brownii* can very seldom be coaxed into producing more than one or two stems with a solitary flower on each; the latter *Lily*, too, is not generous in the production of off-sets, while *L. odorum* or *japonicum Colchesterense*—to give the plant the name by which it is known at Kew—is lavish, almost as much so indeed as *L. Henryi*, which is saying a great deal.

As the photograph shows, the leaves are shorter and a good deal broader than in the typical plant; they clothe the stem from head to foot; while in the case of *L. Brownii*, as with some other Oriental species, the lower part of the stem is bare of leaves, for reasons that are obvious, though why *L. odorum* should be different in this respect is not clear.

The plant seems to do better in a lime-free mixture of leaf-mould, coarse grit and charcoal than in more earthy soils, and, like most stem-rooting lilies, benefits by the association of *Andromeda* or some other dwarf-growing shrub, the roots of which do not spread about and draw the moisture out of the ground as much as do those of other dwarf shrubs, for instance, some of the *Veronicas* or the *Daphnes*.

In the writer's experience, the bulbs may be planted quite 9 inches deep, and, if packed carefully with silver sand, they may be dug up as clean as a new-laid egg; bulbs imported from Japan, having had their roots prematurely shorn off in accordance with the detestable practice pursued by the bulb merchants of that country, do not usually survive after the

first season, but, in dying, they can usually be relied upon to leave behind a number of off-sets. These should be nursed for a year or two before being allowed to take care of themselves, and will generally flower in their third year.

Once started in the right way, the plant seems to be able to look after itself to better purpose than many of the lilies hailing from the East, and soon grows a yard and more high. The flowers of *L. odorum* are exquisitely fragrant, reminding one of *L. Washingtonianum*, and last fairly well if the plant blooms in a shady place.

The specimen from which the photograph was taken was beginning to go off, and for that reason the blooms will be seen to be slightly shrivelled.—A. Grove, in the "Gardeners' Chronicle."

PLANT BREEDING.

In the last issue of the "Journal of the Department of Agriculture" the Biologist, Mr. A. H. Cockayne makes out a strong case for the establishment of a plant-breeding station. The importance and vast possibilities of such a station has long been recognised by agriculturists and horticulturists throughout the Dominion, and we trust that the Minister in charge of this Department will, without delay, take steps for the establishment of such a station. For some years the Department has been testing a large number of varieties of potatoes, and so far as we know without any appreciable results. Had the time and money been expended in crossing and growing the seedlings, something of much more value might have resulted. Other vegetables could be taken in hand and crossed, and there is a wide field open to the plant breeder in securing some first-class apples and other fruits, whilst in agriculture there is no limit to the possibilities if wisely directed. Much has been accomplished in these directions in other countries, and our station could have a vast amount of information gathered from past experience to indicate the lines on which they should work.



CARNATION DELICIA.

A beautiful white-ground fancy variety, raised by Mr. J. Douglas; the flowers are large and richly marked with scarlet on a pure white ground.

ened off. A good plan of getting these well started into growth after planting out, is to procure small boxes and knock out the top and bottom, placing a sheet of glass over them. Slugs and snails Rough on Slugs for their destruction. Larks are very destructive to young peas and other seeds just pushing through the soil. Scatter a few grains of poisoned wheat, which will thin them a little.

The Flower Garden.

In the flower garden, bedding plants must be got in their places as soon as possible. Begonias, gladioli, and other bulbs should be got in this month. Dahlias should be propagated by cuttings from the old roots. Where this cannot be undertaken, the old tubers may be divided—using the parts showing buds or eyes—and planted in the garden. Dahlias can also be successfully grown from seeds, which should be sown without delay. Roses will benefit by a mulch; keep down green fly by syringing with Gishurst's Compound or Nicotine Soap. Sweet peas are now advancing in growth. These should be staked or supported by some simple contrivance, and lightly tied with raffia till the tendrils get a good hold. Carnations require attention to keep the slug pest down. Get ready stakes for supporting the flower stems, and tie these up as soon as ready. Seeds of annuals of many kinds can be sown, not forgetting a patch of mignonette. Ornamental grasses are very useful for decorations, and a few varieties should be sown in every garden where cut flowers are in demand. Late flowering bonvardias should be pruned close, and any vacancies filled with new plants. Lawns require frequent mowings and also rolling. Walks and edgings kept clean and trim. Narcissus, which have finished flowering, must be left to ripen, and on no account should the foliage be cut till quite ripe.

ecot grounds, variously marked with rich colours. The white grounds are left severely alone, judges and exhibitors alike favouring the coloured grounds. It is scarcely a matter of taste, for exhibits quite as tasteful might be made of white ground fancies, as witness the group of nine stems of Delicia, an exquisitely beautiful seedling raised by Mr. J. Douglas in his nursery at Great Bookham.

There are many very beautiful white ground varieties in cultivation. One named Willie has been in evidence for a number of years. Besides Delicia, which is new this year, another fine variety is The Bride, a pure white ground lightly marked with rose flakes. Sweet Biar is another very charming white ground, marked with lavender and rose. Caesar and Pompey are two distinct varieties, but both are pretty, and if you have Caesar one year it may be Pompey the next, or vice versa. Charm is another delicately coloured white ground of merit. Hon. Dorothy Legge is a distinct variety, white, very freely marked with bright rose. Rhoda (Taylor) is a quite distinct and charming white ground, the petals very freely marked with lavender and rose. The Nizam is also a beautiful variety, quite distinct in its pure white ground and scarlet markings. There can be no doubt that it is possible to make a stand of single flowers or a group in vases of white grounds to equal, if not to surpass the coloured grounds, and the special societies should give such encouragement to them as would give them due prominence. There seems to be a general feeling that self-coloured carnations and fancies are quite out of place displayed on cards. These classes might be eliminated from the schedule of the National Carnation Society, and a class for vases of white ground varieties be provided, the blooms to be shown as grown, like the group of Delicia. The vases would certainly form an attractive and interesting feature.



LILIUM ODORUM, SYN. JAPONICUM COLCHESTERENSE.

Flowers pale yellow, outside streaked with reddish-brown