

POLYANTHUS AND PRIMROSE.—Polyanthuses and Primroses should, during November, be divided and planted out in fairly rich soil. Any self-sown seedlings that may be found should be treated the same, and they will bloom better than the divided plants.

CLEAR - SKINNED POTATOES.—When the trench is opened for planting, give a very free dressing of wood ashes (made from burning old garden refuse, tree prunings, old Chrysanthemum stems, etc.), mixed with a little soot, not too fresh. Plant seed tubers in this, and cover with soil to half the depth of the trench. Give a dressing of kainit and superphosphate of lime, and fill in the remainder of the soil. Success in obtaining good shape and freedom from skin blemish is absolutely certain.

Everything has its use, and there is a use for everything. Some "Graphic" readers may know a wrinkle or two. Well, send them along to us for the benefit of others!

POTASH MANURE.

It is well known to cultivators that both garden and farm crops have to be supplied with manures in some form that contain nitrogen or ammonia, phosphate and potash; and that, if any one of these is deficient, the results will be more or less unsatisfactory. It is also generally known that there are various sources of nitrogen and phosphate, but that in the case of potash the only sources of importance are the deposits at Stassfurt, in Germany. Notwithstanding the last-named fact, potash is a common and widely-distributed substance and it has been estimated that it forms about 2.8 per cent of the crust of the earth. The whole of the potash can be traced back to the original rocks—granite and others of a similar composition—and to the more recent rocks of volcanic origin. Usually the minerals containing potash are associated with such large proportions of quartz that the percentage of potash is very small. There are, however, in various parts of the world large deposits of rocks and minerals containing much higher percentages. It is essential, in forming an estimate of the value of a material as a potash manure, to know not only the percentage of potash, but the condition in which it exists. The importance of this will be understood when it is stated that potash in a soil or manure may be in an available state in which the plant can take it up at once, or in such condition that some years' exposure is necessary to convert it into an available state. The availability of the potash is an important factor, as shown by the fact that a clay soil may contain 2 per cent of potash, and that, owing to it not being in a condition for the plant to utilise it, a dressing of soluble potash manure may be necessary to ensure a satisfactory crop. Potassic manures usually employed are kainit, sulphate, and muriate of potash, and these are so readily soluble in water that the plants can make use of them at once. It is of some practical importance to know that, notwithstanding their solubility, there is, owing to the absorbent properties of the soil very little risk of loss through drainage.—"Gardeners' Magazine."

DAFFODILS IN COMMERCE.

AN INTERESTING ANALYSIS.

Dear Veronica,—

For the benefit of those of your readers who may contemplate growing and showing narcissi, I send you an analysis of the varieties in commerce (or, rather, the better of them) exhibited in the principal stands at the recent Auckland Spring Show. The numbers indicate times shown, and the prices quoted are English.

Varities up to 2/6 dozen.

TRUMPETS.—Cernuus 1, Emperor 5, Empress 11, Michael Foster 2, Mrs Ware 10, Mrs Thompson 3, M. J. Berkeley 8, Portia 2, Princess 4, Queen of Spain 1, Sir S. Northcote 2, Vanilla 2, Victoria 12.

MEDIO-CORONATI, Etc.—Autocrat 6, Beauty 7, C. J. Backhouse 1, Codrins and Cream 2, Commodore 3, Cynosure 3, Conspicuous 2, Dr Fell 4, Dr Gorman 2, Edward Hart 1, Frank Miles 9, Gwyther 2, John Bain 4, King of the Netherlands 3, K. Spurrell 3, Leonie 7, Madge Matthew 5, Minnie Hume 6, Poet Recurus 1, Poet Ornatus 1, Orpheus 4, Princess Mary 1, Queen Bess 2, Sensation 2, Sir Watkin 9, Stella Superba 2.

MEDIO-CORONATI, Etc.—Bountiful 1, Blackwell 4, Flambeau 1, Constance Pierpoint 1, Firebrand 1, Horace 1, Lucifer 6, Sirius 3, Solfaterre 1, Gloria Mundi 8, Flamingo 2, Redcoat 6, Mars 1, Torch 1, Plumpo 1.

Varities from 2/ to 5/ each.

TRUMPETS.—Abna 1, Admiral Makarov 3, Admiral Togo 1, Duke of Bedford 4, King Alfred 7, Weardale Perfection 4, Lord Roberts 1, Hamlet 1, Rush Grant 1.

hold two daffodil shows, and consequently these later varieties are not so well known to the public. The numbers appended to the different kinds in the above list are not to be taken as a reliable indication of their popularity or otherwise, because soil, aspect, situation, etc., make a great difference with narcissi, and while with most growers particular sorts are quite past they may linger in one or two backward gardens, and in the same way the early gardens may produce a few blooms of later varieties in advance of the majority.



A PEAR TREE IN BLOSSOM.

Pear trees are now in full blossom. They give every promise of an abundant fruit crop, and at present are most attractive.

Varities over 2/6 and up to 5/ dozen.

TRUMPETS.—Capt. Nelson 3, Fairy 2, Glory of Leiden 7, Golden Bell 9, Grace Darling 1, Mdm. de Graaff 1, Mrs Cann 1, Queen of Holland 3.

MEDIO-CORONATI, Etc.—Argent 2, Ariadne 6, Artemis 4, Bridesmaid 4, Bellhinch 1, Constellation 2, Fairy Queen 3, Magog Imported 2, Lady Amott 1, Phyllis 1, Queen Sophia 2, Seagull 2, Queen Catherine 2, St. John's Beauty 1, The Sisterhood 2, Waterwitch 3, White Lady 4.

Varities over 5/ and up to 10/ dozen.

TRUMPETS.—Cornelia 1.

MEDIO-CORONATI, Etc.—Circlet 2, Dandy Dick 2, Long Tom 1.

Varities over 5/ each.

TRUMPETS.—Big Ben 1, Florence 2, King's Norton 1, Van Waveren's Giant 1, Isolda 2.

MEDIO-CORONATI, Etc.—Diana 1, Fleetwing 1, Homespan 3, White Queen 2.

Of course it will be understood that, as we have a succession of narcissi flowering till the end of October, the above list does not comprise all that are worth growing, but only those that usually flower about the first week in September, when the Auckland Show is held. Many of the best kinds have yet to bloom, but so far it has proved impracticable to

In the above list I have not dealt with Prof. Thomas's fine productions, for though I noticed two or three of them outside the Professor's grand exhibit, they can hardly yet be said to be "in commerce."

WOODSIDE.

[Our correspondent has done good service in compiling the analysis of the recent Auckland Show. Regarding the prices appended, our readers should bear in mind that these are the cost in England, and whilst many of the varieties enumerated may be purchased here at similar prices, others, more particularly the newer kinds, would probably rule 25 per cent higher in value here. English bulbs require two years to acclimatise. - VERONICA.]