

found to be furnished with a mass of tubers. These vary considerably in different varieties; some are few in number and very large, and some small in size but in large numbers. All alike are practically useless to the future plant, but are of immediate use in supplying moisture to preserve the vital parts, which are the necks, the portion of growth intermediate between the tubers and the stems. It is from this part that the future shoots spring. The loss of the plants follows injury to the neck, and this may ensue from the skin being eaten by slugs or woodlice—these latter being very partial to them—or from dry-rot, though seldom from wet-rot. If the roots are lifted and placed where there are woodlice they are sure to be injured. This may occur under trees or hedges. If stored in a dry shed they perish with dry-rot, and if stored outside they are injured by frost. The best thing for the amateur is to leave them in the ground. The tops should be cut off low down, and when quite dead lowered still more, so that the cut or broken parts may be quite covered with soil. Otherwise woodlice and slugs will injure them, woodlice particularly. They enter the hollow stems and eat the substance out, and decay from wet follows. If the above precautions are taken there will seldom be any losses.

*Primroses* and *polyanthus* may be divided and replanted.

*Auriculas* may be planted. These require a cool situation and a friable and fairly rich soil. The auricula is one of the most beautiful of hardy plants, thriving in cool surroundings only. It is not a plant for the warm parts of the Dominion, but is at its best in the coldest parts of the South Island, doing fairly well in Wellington Province, but failing farther north.

*Gладиoli* bulbs of the autumn-flowering species should not be allowed to remain in the ground over winter. They should be lifted, dried, and stored in a dry place. It is well known that these species, which are all hybrids, are very liable to deteriorate, reverting to something like the original type. This is largely attributed to want of proper cultivation, and particularly to neglect of lifting and drying off, with its accompanying annual rest. This determination is observable in the large numbers of *gandavensis* of a brick-red colour that are extant. No one willingly cultivates them; they are simply reversions to the old type.

*Borders* are now usually subjected to a general cleaning up and clearing out. Most plants and shrubs require some restriction to keep them in their place to prevent overcrowding. Many require renewal of some kind to prevent deterioration. This is the case with many herbaceous plants, phlox of the perennial type, Michaelmas daisy, rudbeckia, helenium, &c. A rough way of doing it is to chop away the outside, leaving as much of the centre as is thought will be sufficient. That is the wrong way to do it. The outside growths are the youngest