

and most vigorous. Chop out as large a piece from the outside as will suffice, dig out and destroy the remainder, and replant the young piece.

All *bulbous plants*, and others that die down to below the surface, should be distinctly labelled before removing the dead tops; otherwise they are likely to be injured or lost altogether. Often a man strange to the garden is employed to dig the beds and borders; he cannot know what is beneath the surface unless there is something to mark it. The very natural result is that many bulbs get turned upside down and are never seen again, or the crowns of *Dielytra* or *Solomon's seal* are cut off before he knows they are there. This leads to loss and disappointment, and frequently to false accusations of theft. Bulbs of lilies should seldom be disturbed if they are properly planted. They should be planted deeply, because, for one thing, they like to be cool and moist; another reason is that they make many roots at the base of the stems, immediately above the bulbs, and these require soil to work in. All the strong-growing lilies should be planted so as to have about 12 in. of soil above them. This indicates that the soil should be deeply cultivated and well drained, or the bulbs would be likely to lie in water during winter. *Lilies* seldom do their best the first year after planting; they take time to become established, and should not be disturbed until they show signs of deteriorating, which eventually happens, partly from overcrowding and partly because they get too near the surface, as increase is made in an upward as well as outward direction. Lilies require rich soil, and are benefited by liberal supplies of stable manure. Clumps of *Dielytra* and *Solomon's seal* may, if the soil is good and free in character, be allowed to increase to large dimensions. They do not become impoverished in the way that phlox does, and large clumps make an imposing display. A top-dressing of well-decayed manure mixed with good loam and wood-ashes will add to their strength. *Lily of the valley* having died down, remove the dead stems, and give a top-dressing of good loam and leaf-mould, with a little bone-meal—say, a 5-in.-potful to a barrow-load. Established clumps of *narcissi* may have a top-dressing of well-decayed stable manure, or a very light dressing of basic slag or bonedust.

*Roses.*—Continue to plant. When June comes in the bushes may be pruned before planting. There is no advantage in planting without pruning after autumn growth has ceased, and it is much handier to prune before planting than it is to prune the same bush in the ground, for there is danger of loosening its hold on the soil, as it has not the grip on it that established bushes have. Planting of all descriptions of trees and shrubs may be continued according as local conditions render it wise to do so. June is the dead month of the year, and in some places it is not wise to plant at that time. Everything, however, depend on local conditions.